

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



**THE PRESIDENCY
MINISTRY DEVOLUTION AND PLANNING**

**MAKUENI COUNTY
FIFTH PARTICIPATORY POVERTY ASSESSMENT (PPA V)**



OCTOBER 2014

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FOREWORD

Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA) is a mechanism through which identified communities give their own definition and understanding of poverty. This PPA covered 47 counties unlike previous one which covered selected sub counties.

The main objective of this exercise was to establish the impact of various Government policies, strategies, programmes and projects aimed at reducing poverty. It further sought for capture of voices of the poor in the communities with special focus on social protection initiatives. In particular the study covered the following broad issues: poverty dynamics and indicators; provisions of government services in health, education, agriculture, housing, and water and sanitation; and pro-poor initiatives and devolved funds.

The study found out poverty level from a community perspective has been rising despite various pro-poor initiatives undertaken by the government over the years. It is worthy to note many in the clusters visited did not understand how the pro-poor initiatives operate. On crosscutting issues such as HIV/AIDS, drug and substance abuse, gender disparity on property ownership, degradation and poor governance on devolved funds and pro-poor initiatives were reported to be on the rise.

These findings from the study will be used as lessons learnt. They will be a reference point in designing current and future interventions on reducing poverty and regional disparities. I call upon our internal and external stakeholders to utilize the respective PPA-V county reports to inform policy and decision-making.

Ann Waiguru, OGW
Cabinet Secretary
Ministry of Devolution and Planning

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

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

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

The Ministry also recognizes varied support provided from time to time by the following officers; Director, KNBS (for cluster sampling and identification), Florence Juma (Secretary), Matilda Anyango (Secretary), Florence Natse (Secretary), Tallam (driver), Dequize (Driver) and Alphine (Office Assistant).

The Ministry is also indebted to the team of consultants comprising Munguti K. Katua in the lead assisted by John T. Mukui and George Mbate. Their experience in similar work in the past as well as their policy guidance was instrumental in the production of key documents and tools that were utilized during the field exercise and in the finalization of both the National Report and individual 47 County Reports.

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

Engineer Mangiti
Principal Secretary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Makueni County covers an area of 8,034.7 Km² and borders Kajiado to the West, Taita Taveta to the South, Kitui to the East and Machakos to the North. It lies between Latitude 1° 35' and 3° 00' South and Longitude 37°10' and 38° 30' East. The county categorized as one of the arid and semi arid zones of the eastern region of the country. The County is currently divided into nine sub-counties and twenty five divisions.

In the year 2012 the projected population in the county was 922,183 consisting of 449,036 males and 473,147 female. Its annual population growth rate is estimated at 1.4 per cent. The county is sparsely populated with a fairly high population density projected of 296 and 203 persons per square kilometres in 2012 respectively. The county has high poverty level of 64.3 which is above the national average of 46.7 percent

Makueni County has experienced some challenges in term of high population growth, high poverty levels, inadequate water supply, population pressure on arable land and poor road network. The main cross-cutting issues are HIV/AIDS, gender concerns, environmental conservation, people living with disabilities, and disaster reduction.

Drought is a major cause of poverty in the county. The most vulnerable groups are women, children, the aged and the disabled. Many families lose their livestock during prolonged dry spells when water can only be gotten from very far. Funds earmarked for gainful development activities is usually spent on providing relief food to the people during dry period. This has impacted negatively on the efforts being made to reduce poverty. A drought monitoring system has been put in place to provide early warning especially on food security.

During this study, the poor were defined as those people who lack food, and money, have poor housing, those unable to take their children to schools, live in poor sanitation environments, have poor access to health care and lack adequate education. The main causes of poverty in the county are harsh weather conditions that do not support agricultural activities, long periods of drought, high prevalence of HIV and AIDS, lack adequate food almost throughout the year, high unemployment rate, lack of culture to work, lack of farm inputs, high rate of school drop outs, lack of adequate potable water and ignorance.

Notable coping mechanisms to mitigate poverty included men working as casuals carrying out odd jobs such as shoe shining, fetching water for the local hotels, touting and hawking items such cigarettes, sweets and other small wares. Children opt to stay in school in order to be fed during lunch time, thanks to the school feeding programme. Members of the community form groups and practice merry-go-rounds to lessen the

severity of poverty. Overall poverty levels in the county were felt to be reducing. This was attributed to improved education, better farming methods, and planting of citrus fruits including mangoes.

The respondents recommended that to tackle the challenge of high poverty levels the community should be provided with adequate water for both domestic and agricultural. Other recommendation included enhancement of rural electrification, rural access roads construction of markets for agricultural produce, creation of jobs for youths and availability of loan facilities.

The residents of the county stated that the health, education, and agricultural services had improved over time. They recommended the county be supplied with clean and safe drinking water to stir growth and improve the living standards of its people.

Lastly on other pro-poor initiatives, the residents felt that there was need to improve on awareness creation and revise the management procedures of some of the programs notably CDF, Cash transfers, WEF and YEF.

ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYMS

| | |
|--------|---|
| A.I.C | African Inland Church |
| AIDS | Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome |
| ART | Ant-Retroviral Treatment |
| CDF | Constituencies Development Fund |
| CT | Cash Transfer |
| DC | District Commissioner |
| DDO | District Development Officer |
| DEO | District Education Officer |
| DPHO | District Public Health Officer |
| DSDO | Divisional Gender and Social Development Officer |
| DSO | District Statistics Officer |
| DWO | District Water Officer |
| FGD | Focused Group Discussions |
| FPE | Free Primary Education |
| GDI | Gross Domestic Income |
| HDI | Human Development Index |
| HDR | Human Development Report |
| HIV | Human Immunodeficiency Virus |
| KARI | Kenya Agricultural Research institute |
| KKV | Kazi Kwa Vijana |
| KNBS | Kenya National Bureau of Statistics |
| LATIF | Local Authority Transfer Fund |
| M&E | monitoring and evaluation |
| NASSEP | Fifth National Sample Survey and Evaluation Programme |
| NGO | Non Governmental Organisation |
| PLWD | People Living With Disability |
| PPA | Participatory Poverty Assessment |
| PTA | Parents Teachers Association |
| RAs | Research assistants |
| WEF | Women Enterprise Fund |
| YEDF | Youth Enterprise Development Fund |

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA) is a mechanism through which identified communities give their own definition and understanding of poverty based on their own discourse. Hence PPAs are aimed at understanding poverty from the perspectives of poor people including gaining a clearer notion of what their priorities are for improving their livelihoods. There is need to conduct regular PPAs in order to inform policy makers on decision making process regarding various interventions that help to get the poor out of poverty.

Participatory approaches add value in policy formulation and planning by enriching understanding of the realities of poverty and formulation of policies which address the plight of the poor. They increase the confidence and 'voice' of the poor while also acting as a learning process for the non-poor and often resulting in the creation of new networks. In addition, participatory approaches influence the images of poverty and public debate.

The PPA V 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 other basic needs, including; clean water, adequate housing and sanitation and hygiene.

In addition, there exists 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, the youth, women especially headed households, people living with HIV and AIDS, orphans and the elderly.

1.2 County/Cluster Profile

Makueni County is located in the southern end of Eastern Province and covers an area of 8,034.7 Km². The county is subdivided into nine (9) sub-counties, namely Makueni, Kilungu, Mukaa, Kibwezi, Kathonzweni, Makindu, Mbooni East, Mbooni West and Nzau. There are six parliamentary constituencies, namely Kaiti, Makueni, Kibwezi East, Kibwezi West, Mbooni and Kilome. Makueni county has 30 county assembly wards.

The county had a population of 884,253 persons in 2009 comprising 430,567 males and 453,686 females. The 2012 projected population stood at 922,183 consisting of 449,036 males and 473,147 females. The annual population growth rate stands at 1.4 per cent while the male-female sex ratio stands at 100:105.

The county has a highland zone that grows coffee, and horticultural crops. It also have large lowland zones where maize, pulses and fruit such as mangoes and citrus fruits. The County suffers prolonged droughts from time to time. The rainfall regime is bimodal with the long rains occurring between March and May (**/April**) and the short rains occurring in November/December. The hilly parts receive 800-1200mm of rainfall per year. High temperatures of 35.8⁰C are experienced in the low-lying areas.

The county has a total arable land area of 5,042.69 Km² . This constitutes 74% of the total area. A total of 1,762.71 km² is non- arable accounting for 21.9% of the total area of the county.

The area under cash crop production is 23,356 Ha while that one of food crop production is 65,453 hectares y which is 2.9% and 8.1% respectively. Livestock production is the main economic activity in the county where the main breeds reared include dairy and beef cattle, sheep, goats and donkeys, poultry and pig farming, bee keeping and fish raring. The main crops produced in the county are maize, green grams, pigeon peas and sorghum. Grafted mangos are vastly gaining momentum due to high demand and favourable conditions.

The county has experienced some challenges in term of high population growth, high poverty levels, inadequate water supply, population pressure on land and poor roads network. The main cross-cutting issues are HIV/AIDS, gender mainstreaming, environmental conservation, people with disabilities, youth unemployment, and disaster management.

Drought is a major cause of poverty in the county which disproportionately affects the most vulnerable groups such as women, children, the aged and the disabled. Many families lose their livestock during prolonged droughts when domestic and livestock water can only be obtained from very far as most rivers are seasonal. Funds earmarked for gainful development activities is spent on providing relief food for the people during drought period

This has impacted negatively on the efforts being made to reduce poverty. A drought monitoring system has been put in place to provide early warning especially on food security.

This study was carried out in Yenganga cluster. This is a rural settlement in Kathonzweni location, Kathonzweni Division of Kathonzweni sub-county. The main economic activity is dryland agriculture although the area suffers from prolonged periods of drought.

1.3 The Study Objectives of PPP V

The overall objective of the study is 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. In this context, the Fifth Participatory Poverty Study (PPA V) focused on two main areas:-

- The impact of the various policies, strategies, programmes and projects aimed at reducing poverty and improving welfare; and to
- Capture the voices of the poor among the communities with a special focus on social protection initiatives to inform policy and planning, and improve 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 and to help them untangle complex processes of individual and community change; and
- vi. Enriching understanding of the 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 Selection of the Cluster

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

One cluster per county was selected for the detailed study in which all specially designed participatory assessment tools were implemented. In the cluster, a household survey was

undertaken and a household questionnaire administered to selected households, especially those benefiting from cash transfers and those in extreme poverty.

1.5 Field Logistics

The PPA-V pilot study was conducted during the month of November 2012. Information from the cluster was provided by the community members through Focused Group Discussions and household questionnaire. This was complemented by information from key informants who included technical experts in the subject areas of the survey. The main policy areas of focus were Health Care, Basic Education, Agricultural Services and Farm 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, Research assistants (RAs) were introduced on the use of survey tools through training. 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 were selected to assist in data collection in the county.

The training for researchers took five (5) days. 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 taking of notes, facilitating, observing and administration of the household questionnaires.

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

1.6 PPA V Methodology: Process, Study Instruments and Field Work

The 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. There was an attempt to identify households **that** 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 Informants provided technical information about their particular areas of operation. Those interviewed included officers responsible for Public Health/Medical Services, Water, Agriculture/Livestock, Gender and Social Development, Basic Education, opinion leaders, DDOs and the District Commissioner.

1.7 Report Organization/Outline

This report therefore presents the PPA V survey findings of Yenganga Cluster of Makueni County. The report is divided into five (5) chapters including chapter one (1) which covers introduction. Chapter two (2) highlights the survey findings on poverty and inequality in Makueni County while chapter three (3) presents findings on provision of public 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 selected pro-poor initiatives (policies and programmes) such as Cash Transfers (CT), Kazi Kwa Vijana (KKV), Roads 2000, and devolved funds such as CDF, Women Enterprise Fund (WEF), Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF) and any other pro-poor interventions. Chapter five (5) outlines the conclusions and recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO: POVERTY DYNAMICS AND INDICATORS

2.1 Definition of poverty

The residents of Yenganga community defined poverty as the lack of basic necessities such as food, water and shelter. They said poverty is “*kukosa kindu kikuutetheesya yila wina thina*” (*lack of support in times of need*). They added that poverty is mind-set that is most people become poor as a result of being lazy and ignorant. If one does not work hard, then, one is bound to be poor. This was further exemplified by respondents who argued that failure for a parent to encourage his or her children to work hard leads to poverty. The District Commissioner (DC) and the Divisional Gender and Social Development Officer (DSDO) were in concurrence with the resident’s opinion on definition of poverty. The DSDO said the number of NGOs working in the area to eradicate poverty was an indicator that indeed there was need for poverty eradication.

2.2 Classification of Poverty

The community said that the members of Yenganga were either rich, poor or very poor, they further gave the characteristics of each as:

The rich have, permanent housing, food security, take balanced diet, own private vehicles, take their children to expensive schools, have access to quality convectional medicine, use recommended farm inputs and have white collar jobs. The Poor on the other hand have a few assets e.g. a few animals, take their children to public day schools, live in semi-permanent housing, some have middle level jobs and can access middle level health care. Lastly, they said that the very poor have Poor sanitation, live in temporary housing, cannot afford to take their children to secondary schools, they lack education and adequate food, have no assets, are casual labourers. This category of the poor mostly use local herbal treatment.

2.3 Characteristics of Poverty

According to the residents of Yenganga, the characteristics of poverty are:-

Lack of food: Most households lack food whenever rainfall fails. This results to lack of food for both human and livestock. Due to this inadequate rainfall, there is inadequate farm produce and hence any household assets are usually sold to purchase food and also meet other household needs leading to increased levels of poverty.

Lack of money: The residents of this community depend on agriculture as their main economic activity. There are no employment opportunities in the area and residents have no other source of income. In the recent past, agriculture has not been performing well.

Residents said that lack of adequate rains result to lack of surplus farm products for sell and hence have direct influence on availability of money.

Poor housing: The poor were said to have poor housing. This include semi permanent building sometimes grass thatched and mud wall. A temporal housing and semi permanent structure was therefore a sign of poverty.

Inability to take children to school: The poor cannot take their children to school. Although the government provides Free Primary Education (FPE), residents complained of many charges or levies in the nearby school. An example was given of the Thavu primary school where children are always send home to collect such levies. Respondents felt that failure to take children to school was a sign of poverty.

Poor sanitation: It was the opinion of the residents that if a household could not afford to dig a pit latrine or proper waste disposal, then this household is considered to be poor.

Access Health care: If a household cannot access health care services, it was considered to be poor. Those who are able to access private health care services were considered as rich.

Lack of education: The poor in the community were mainly associated with poor access to education.

2.5 Causes of poverty

The community listed the main causes of poverty as being harsh weather conditions that do not support their agricultural activities, high prevalence of HIV and AIDS, lack of food, high unemployment rate, laziness, lack of farm inputs, high rate of school drop outs, lack of water and ignorance.

2.6 Impact of poverty is missing

The impact of poverty in the community varied among the demographic groups. The Youth said that they engage in alcoholism, drug and substance abuse

2.7 Copying Mechanisms

The residents of Yenganga mitigated the problem of inadequate food by getting assistance from their neighbours, relief food from NGOs, food for asset/work and casual labour. Most men in the area depart their homesteads early in the morning and go to the nearest market center to perform odd casual jobs such as shoe shining, fetching water for food-hotels, touting and hawking wares such as cigarettes, sweets and other small items. It was noted that the few men who are able to save enough money usually buy bicycles and even

motorcycles to carry out boda boda business. Similarly, children opt to stay in school to benefit from the school feeding programme. Members of the community were also organized in Merry-Go-Round Groups as a means of reducing poverty.

2.8 Assets Ownership, Access and Decision Making in the Household

The residents have parcels of land registered under their own names; some have farm animals and business set ups.

Asset ownership – by gender

The County residents rely heavily on small-scale farming and livestock rearing for their livelihood. About 80 per cent of these activities are managed and carried out by women. Unfortunately the reason why rural based development activities have remained low is due to the position that women hold in the family set up and in the community. Although women provide labour and manage development activities, they do not have control of the productive assets such as land and capital. They are, therefore, constrained by lack of authority to control and make decision on the utilization of assets. In many cases property (land) is registered in the name of males, either husband or the first born son. This tradition locks out women from access to credit facilities due to lack of collateral. This has also tended to propagate poverty in the County especially among the female headed households. Though women have not been participating in development committees, this situation is changing with the adoption of the Constitution 2010. Women usually own less valued assets like poultry.

2.9 Poverty and gender

According to the daily calendar, work schedule and assets ownership women are more overworked and have less than assets ownership. This means that they are more prone to poverty than men. The same applies to girl child and people leaving with disability.

2.10 Poverty Trends over Time

The respondents were of the view that poverty was gradually diminishing. Reasons for this reduction were attributed to improved education, better farming methods, planting of citrus fruits /plants and on-going Government interventions including social protection schemes. The DC concurred with the respondents when he admitted that poverty levels were generally on the decline although in a measured manner.

2.11 Interventions Targeting the Poor in the Community

The community pointed out that Orphans and PLWDs within the area of study were being given monetary support by the government through CTs on quarterly basis. The

PLWHIV/AIDS had access to ARTS from government facilities. The FPE and school feeding programme had reduced student dropout rate.

The District Commissioner (DC) confirmed that currently the number of dropouts has gone down especially in the primary schools mostly as a result of the school feeding programme which retained the numbers. However, the transition rate was low as some parents could not afford the post primary education fees. The residents were of the same opinion although they complained that the number of girls completing class 8 was less compared to the boys.

2.12 Recommendations for Improvement

The respondents were of the opinions that if adequate water was provided for both domestic and agricultural use, poverty would drastically reduce. Again they felt that if schools were constructed nearer to their community, it would reduce the levels of poverty. In addition, they were of the view that both rural electrification and rural access roads improvement would reduce poverty. They further said that if markets for the agricultural produce were made available, this would reduce poverty. They pointed out that any time they made harvests, produce was destroyed by pests, which have become resistant to insecticides. Further they recommended that if jobs were made available for professional youths, this would also curb poverty. Lastly they recommended that loan facilities be made available to for investment as a way of reducing poverty.

The administration admitted that the residents were very hard working people. However, over the last 3 years, there was no enough rains to sustain agricultural activities. The administration therefore recommended that the government should come plan and implement a major irrigation programme for agricultural purposes.

CHAPTER THREE: FINDINGS ON PROVISION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES

3.1 HEALTH CARE

3.1.1 Introduction

The aim of the health sector is to create an enabling environment for the provision of sustainable, quality health care that is affordable and accessible to the residents. The Health sector will involve all stakeholders in promoting and providing curative and preventive health care in the County.

The health sector has played a major role in ensuring that the county population can access affordable healthcare services. The county has Makeni level five hospital, six level four hospitals at Kilungu, Makindu, Mbooni, Kibwezi, Mukaa and Nzau. The county also has 21 level three, 113 dispensaries and eleven private clinics. Most of the public health institutions lack sufficient drugs, equipment, transport and health personnel.

The research team established that there were no health facilities in the study area. The residents access these services from neighbouring Kanzokea Health Centre which is about 3 kilometers away. Alternatively, the residents also access such services from Kathonzweni Health Centre which is 11 kilometers away.

3.1.2 Major Health Concerns in the Community

According to the respondents, the most prevalent diseases in the community are; Amoeba, which is the most common disease associated with dirty drinking water. The main sources of drinking water are open shallow wells dug in the Syatu and Londokwe streams. Malaria, Brucellosis due to the consumption of contaminated animal products such as milk and meat and HIV/AIDS are also prevalent.

Further the DPHO stated that according to their records, diarrhea is the most prevalent disease in the area followed by, respiratory tract diseases mostly affecting children, pneumonia, eye and ear infections, injuries both internal and external, intestinal worms and malnutrition. The community said that these diseases have a negative impact on the infected and affected households thus they lead to orphan headed households, disease weakened bodies and deprivation of household income due to high transport and hospital bills.

3.1.3 Provision of Health Services

The community said that health facilities are managed by the government through the Ministry of Health. The health officer confirmed that the 12 facilities are managed by management committees while the faith based is managed by the Catholic Church.

Accessibility of the facilities

The respondents said that the health centres are fairly accessible. The sentiments were confirmed by the health officer,.

Quality

The community assessment of the quality of services offered in the facilities are fair although there are no adequate drugs. Patients are given prescription to buy drugs from private pharmacy/chemists. But the health officer said that they offer quality health care services but they face constraints of drugs supplies from the government.

Affordability

The respondents said that the services offered in the government facilities are free but they are unaffordable to the community due to expenses incurred while paying for drugs, diagnosis charges for Ksh.50 and Ksh.40 for each card. However, the health officer indicated that the costs of the services should be affordable since they are determined by management committee in consultation with the community.

3.1.4 Interventions towards Improvement of Health Services

The community noted that there has been free health care for under-fives but one has to buy drugs from private chemists. They also benefit from free insecticide treated mosquito nets, Tuberculosis (TB) treatment, free Family planning services, measles campaign and recently the Malezi bora campaign (May and November 2012), free de-worming services, quality maternal health care, and Anti-Retroviral drugs. The area has also seen the rise of new private health facilities.

3.1.5 Decision Making on Health Issues in the Family/Community

The community said anyone who is an adult in the household can make decisions regarding medical care and services but must consult with other household members especially the head on the money for treatment.

3.1.6 Ideal Family Size among the Households in the Community

Most members of the community and the sub county health officer said that 2 or 3 children are preferred by the community as the ideal family size because it is affordable

in terms/provision of education, health, shelter and food. The national family size average is 6 children.

3.1.7 Relationship between Household Size and Poverty

Most community members agreed that the household size is directly related to poverty in the household. This is due to the economic situation of the area and the ever rising expenses incurred during the provision of basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing and education.

3.1.8 Access and Decision Making on Family Planning Services

Members of the community said that they access free family planning services at the nearby public health centres. This was confirmed by the sub-county health officer.

It was reported that family planning decisions are agreed upon by both partners but in case they fail to agree, the female partner does it secretly and may lead to separation if the male partner discovers.

3.1.9 Opinion on Status of Health Services

The community agreed that over the last 10 years, provision of health services has improved due to the introduction of free health care services by the government.

The health officer said that the introduction of community health workers, malezi bora health programme and improved infrastructure has contributed to the improving trends in health care.

3.1.10 Conclusion and Recommendations for Improvement

The community members and the sub-county health officer reported that the following recommendations would improve the health standards of the community.

- a) More awareness on family planning and HIV/AIDS.
- b) Provision of free treatment and free drugs.
- c) Setting up a health facility within the study area.
- d) Provision of clean and safe drinking water to counter water borne diseases.

3.2 BASIC EDUCATION

3.2.1 Introduction

The county has 982 primary schools, 339 secondary schools, 7 tertiary institutions and two university satellite campuses. There are no public universities or privately owned universities to accommodate the high numbers of students leaving secondary schools. In addition, the county lacks a teacher's college and a medical college to train professionals in these sectors.

With a total enrolment of 75,985 students in secondary schools and 269,752 in primary schools, there is a great need to invest in institutions of higher learning. There are Twenty Eight (28) Public Registered Youth Polytechnics in the County

According to the DEO, who was a key informant, there are adequate schools in Kathonzweni district within reasonable distance for children to access education. Where there are shortages, the Ministry, through the District Education Board, is always ready to work with communities to start new schools.

However, during the social mapping and the ensuing discussion with the members of the community, it emerged that there are no educational facilities within the Yenganga community. Children from the community attend schools located in the neighboring villages, that is, Kanzokea, Thavu, Syatu, and Kathamboni villages. The schools are roughly three kilometers away from the Yenganga community.

3.2.2 Status of the Education Facilities

From the focus group discussions, the members of the community stated that, most classrooms were in good condition though they could further be improved with availability of funds. However, the DEO said that the condition of the schools in terms of equipment and classroom was poor in the whole sub-county. The officer added that the classrooms are not adequate and that some had no windows, doors and while others had few desks.

3.2.3 Provision of Education Services

Management of education facilities

According to the members of the community, all the schools attended by pupils are public schools managed by the Government in collaboration with the members of the community. The parents of the pupils elect members of a committee to assist in running of the schools. According to the DEO some schools are also sponsored by churches which assist in their management, for example Kathonzweni A.I.C Boarding Primary School.

Access to Education

Since there are no schools within the area of study, pupils walk for long distances about three kilometers to attend to the nearest schools. During rainy seasons, it becomes harder for the pupils to get to schools as most of them have to cross rivers which have no bridges, and therefore their parents have to take them to and from school. The DEO said that the schools were accessible although there was none in the study area.

Quality of Education

Most parents from the community held the opinion that the quality of education is good in most of the schools since they perform well in national examinations. However they said that the dropout rates and mostly that of the girl child was on the increase. The girl child is expected to perform most of the household chores after school. This limits her time to concentrate on her studies which affected their performance as compared to that of boys. The residents attributed the poor quality of education to increased dropout especially among the girls. On the contrary, the DEO observed that girls enrollment in Day Secondary Schools has been on the increase. This implies that there are more girls completing primary school. The DEO and the community felt that the quality of education had improved in the area, a fact that was confirmed by the documentation of the gradual increase of the average mean score of all secondary schools in Kathonzweni sub-county since 2008.

Affordability

Since the introduction of the free primary education in the country, most of the parents felt that education had become more affordable. However, the parents said that they were supposed to pay some charges so as to facilitate the schools in operating smoothly. The parents stated that they are for example compelled to employ additional teachers through the Parents Teachers Association (PTA) so as to cater for shortages of teachers in the schools. Further they contribute towards the school feeding program and the school's security among other expenses which some parents could not afford. The DEO concurred and asserted that the parents pay some money for the running of the school feeding program. The DEO also confirmed that there was shortage of teachers in the area and that the parents had to pay more money to hire extra teachers.

3.2.5 Interventions towards Improvement Standards

The members of the community said that the education standards were improving slowly over time. However, the DEO said that the improvement was not slow as they had improved significantly. Some of the interventions that have contributed to the improvement include the following: The introduction of the Free Primary Education by the government, School Feeding Program though it is not adequate, and Bursaries from CDF and LATF initiatives to needy pupils. The parents have also hired additional teachers through Parents Teachers Association and efforts by the DEO's office to create awareness on the need for education in the community.

The DEO also said that the introduction of Day Secondary Schools had encouraged many girls to work hard and complete successfully primary education as they are assured to join Day Secondary Schools because they are affordable.

Specific interventions towards vulnerable children

As earlier mentioned, there has been an increase in the school dropout rate specifically among girls which has required parent intervention so as to contain the situation. The parents have resolved not to over burden the girls with the household chores, for example, cooking, fetching firewood and water. Orphans and vulnerable Children from poor background receive bursaries though not all the needy children are able to get the bursaries. The DEO said that there was an NGO called Dorcus Aid International which has been helping children orphaned by HIV/AIDS.

3.2.5 Relationship between Education and Poverty

The community was in agreement that poverty and education are directly related. They said that most of the households that they termed as very poor do not have a single educated member. They added that households with educated members are likely to improve their standard of living as they can get good paying jobs.

The DEO on her part said that education is related to poverty in that poor parents cannot afford to educate their children due to lack of fees, uniforms, sanitary towels and other requirements hence they perform poorly or drop out of school altogether.

3.1.7 Opinion on Status of Education

The community was in agreement that the status of education services had improved over the last ten years though at a slow pace. The improvement has been contributed by the following factors:

- Introduction of Free Primary Education which has increased the enrollment of pupils within the area;
- More primary schools had been built and others were still under construction funded by CDF and LATIF;
- Schools were nearer as compared to the earlier years;
- Some needy students receive bursaries from CDF and other sources
- Parents have contributed to hire additional teachers;
- Enrolment of girls in the Free Day Secondary schools thus improving the education status of the area; and
- Creation of awareness on the need for education.

The combined impact of these factors have improved educational standards of the county.

3.2.8 Conclusion and Recommendations for Improvement

As much as the community agreed that the standard of education were improving though at a slow pace, it gave some suggestions which they felt can further improve the standards of education. This included the following:

- Employment of more teachers by the government;
- Laxity by the teachers should be addressed by the relevant authorities as some of them waste a lot of time by leaving the schools before the required time;
- The government should ensure that the School Feeding Program is regular and available at all the time;
- The respondents also suggested that the government should build more schools in their village to avoid children from travelling long distances to attend schools;
- The issuance of government bursaries should be more transparent to ensure only the deserving students benefit;
- Funds given to schools should be utilized well for the intended projects; and
- The government should fund drilling boreholes in the schools to avoid pupils from abdicating classes to fetch water for the schools.

3.4 AGRICULTURAL SERVICES AND INPUTS

3.4.1 Introduction

The main crops produced in the county are maize, green grams, pigeon peas and sorghum. Mangoes, pawpaw and oranges are also being produced. Grafted mangoes are vastly gaining momentum due to favourable weather conditions and high market demand.

3.4.2 Provision of Agricultural Services and Inputs

The community members said that some of them are not aware about availability of agricultural services in the area since the information is only disseminated to a few groups. Though the community members said that they do not get the information effectively, the DAO, Kathonzi district said that they have different awareness program campaigns which enable them to reach all members in the community.

Access

The community reported that they access services from Kenya Agricultural Research institute (KARI) , Ministry of Agriculture, the World Vision and Amref. The DAO reiterated that they employ different mechanisms for the people to get access to their services, that is: individual or group farmer training, farmer field days, farmer barazas and farmer field schools

Affordability

The community said that the cost of farm inputs such as certified seeds and subsidized fertilizers are expensive. Furthermore, relief seeds provided by the government through the Ministry of Agriculture do not reach all vulnerable people, this is contrary to the DAO's remarks that their extension services and relief seeds are free while the fertilizers are on subsidized prices.

3.4.3 Interventions towards Improvement of Agricultural Standards

Most members of the community stated that the government through the Ministry of Agriculture and KARI has been undertaking free training, planting crops as demonstration sites and supply of relief seeds. The DAO also added that there are other various interventions by the ministry. These are :

- Provision of subsidized fertilizers;
- Training on drought resistant crops;
- Soil and water conservation that is zai pits, terracing and organic manure;
- Value addition on mangoes (Kathonzweni plant), Mbuvo cassava processing, cotton handloom at Mavindini; and
- Campaign on forestry cover where every farmer should have at least 10% of his land area planted with trees

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3.4.4 Target Group for Agricultural Services

The community said that only informed groups are targeted whereas the DAO insisted that registered groups, needy farmers and mostly women are targeted. Interestingly it was revealed that it is mostly women who attend barazas frequently so they get a chance to benefit from the information and relief seeds given by the government.

3.4.5 Relationship between Agriculture and Poverty

Most members of the community agreed that agriculture is directly related to poverty in the households, a sentiment that was confirmed by DAO, moreover he pointed out that without food, poverty will escalate to unimaginable levels since it is the backbone of food security hence eradicating poverty.

The community members said that they mostly depend on agriculture as their main source of income. In the absence of good yields they have no food and nothing to sell thus remaining poor. This situation is also accelerated by prolonged droughts.

3.4.6 Opinion on Status of agriculture

The agriculture officer reported that the trend has been improving in terms of production per unit area citing embracing of the use of certified seeds and inorganic fertilizers. The increment of extension service officers have been able to train more farmers leading to high quality yields. However on the contrary the community said that their yields and proceeds from the farms have been going down due to poor weather conditions and use of fertilizers.

3.4.7 Recommendations for Improvement

The community and the agricultural officer proposed various recommendations that should be adhered to improve agriculture in the area: These include:

- Harnessing of Athi river and other rivers water, construction of water pans and dams and provision of drum kits to facilitate irrigation agriculture; and;
- Provision of relief seeds and food to the community whenever it is necessary;
- Promotion of technological advancements such as encouraging green houses, and use of inorganic fertilizers and certified seeds

The deputy agricultural officer said that you can't always give someone fish. Its good to teach him/her how to fish for sustainability.

3.5 WATER AND SANITATION

3.5.1 Introduction

The county has two permanent rivers; Athi and Kibwezi; Thwake is a semi permanent river. . . Other big rivers include Kaiti, Muooni and Kikuu all of which are seasonal. Households with piped water are 12,671 while 27,752 households have access to potable water. The water demand in the county is 22,113m³/day while the developed sources have an average production of 13,607m³/day, creating a deficit of 8,506 m³/day.

There are 278 earth dams with a storage capacity of 3,265,543 m³ while the sand dams are 118. In addition, there are 289 water pans, 159 surface dams, 117 boreholes and 4 protected springs.

t All the major towns lack sewerage facilities and the sanitation condition is worsened by water shortage .The local community has however embraced the use of toilets and currently about 80 per cent of the households have access pit latrines. The district water officer confirmed that most of the community members had pit latrines in their households.

3.5.2 Types of Water and Sanitation /facilities

Boreholes

The research team established that there are no boreholes in the study area. They access water from Kathamboni borehole which is 2 kilometers away. The borehole was constructed through community initiative and funded by the Kenya Red Cross. Some members of the community reported that they have sunk wells along Syatu and Londokwe rivers which is availed to the public at a fee of Ksh.5 for every 20 litre jerrican. The district water officer confirmed the presence of the Kathamboni borehole which serves community members of the study area.

Water pans/dams/protected springs etc

The community members said that there is Kwa Musele seasonal pan which holds water for 4 months, sand dam built by Mukusya and 2 seasonal rivers namely Syatu and Londokwe. The sub-county water officer confirmed the presence of perennial and seasonal rivers, rock catchment areas, sand dams, earth dams, shallow wells and pans in the district.

3.5.3 Water and Sanitation Programmes in the Community

The community said that a borehole and a water pan which supply them with water were started in 2010 and completed in 2011. They reported that most households have a pit latrine. The DWO added that the latrine programmes were started under the community's initiative.

The community said that they came up with proposals and sent them to donors for funding. When the proposals were approved the community supplied land, labour and other local building materials. It set up a committee to implement the proposal. The district water officer confirmed that the same process is mandatory for project funding and implementation.

Provision water and Sanitation services

The members of the community said that water services in the community are managed by a gender sensitive committee selected by the community members.

Role of the community

The members of the community said that their role is on proposal formulation and implementation and eventually managing the project, the DWO reaffirmed their sentiments.

Capacity building of community

The community members noted that they are assisted in proposal development and resource mobilization and are later offered free training on management and operational skills.

Affordability

The community members reported that paying for water was straining their resources since they had to purchase water for domestic and animal consumption at Ksh. 5 per 20 litre jerrican. Contrary to this, the DWO said that the services are affordable since it is the community together with the committee who set the prices for the services which are later sent to the water board for approval.

The members of the community said that they get value for their money since the services offered are up to their satisfaction. The district water officer confirmed that and said that since they fix their prices, it satisfies their wants.

Sanitation interventions which have improved the community welfare

The community pointed out that the government through the ministry of water and other non-state actors have involved the community in the provision of water facilities e.g boreholes, sand dams and water pans.

The DWO said that operations changed dramatically in 2002 when the Water Act came into existence because many stakeholders were involved in provision and management e.g water service providers.

The DWO added that during the dry spells, they provide subsidies to cushion the community on the cost operations e.g provision of funds for fuel and other operational costs, provision of plastic water tanks for water tracking and storage.

3.5.4 Relationship between Environmental Degradation and Water Availability

The DWO said that water availability is related to environmental degradation since more people tend to build near water sources hence depleting vegetation cover and putting pressure on water sources in the area.

3.5.6 Opinion on Status of Water and Sanitation Overtime

The members of the community said that the availability and provision of water services have improved due to the construction of boreholes, water pans and sand dams in the area hence reducing the distance which is now 5 to 10 kilometres.

3.5.7 Recommendations for Improvement

The community and the government through the Ministry of Water proposed the following recommendations:

- Reduction of charged levies for water services;
- Provision of piped water to all areas and treatment plants for safe drinking water;
- Construction of a sewerage system especially in Kathonzwani town;
- More awareness on construction of ventilated pit latrines (VIP); and
- Increment of the allocation of funds awarded to the district water office.

Water is everything; if we get water in Kkathonzwani we are going to fully realize vision 2030 by DAO

3.6 HOUSING

Attempt to profile housing facilities in the county generally.

3.6.2 Types of Building Materials

Most of the housing structures in this area are built using iron sheets for the roof and mud for the walls, few have grass thatched roofs and a few are also brick walled.

3.6.3 Types of Housing and Household Headship

Most of the men headed houses are in good condition and are brick walled with iron sheet roofing, while female, elderly headed households have grass thatched and mud walled houses.

3.6.4 Opinion on Status of Housing Overtime

The residents said that they do not give priority to housing structures as long as they have a roof under their heads, they said that with the improvement of their education status and subsequent improvement of standards of living, some residents in the community are now building more permanent homes.

CHAPTER FOUR: FINDINGS ON PRO-POOR INITIATIVES

4.1 PRO-POOR INITIATIVES

Efforts have been put to increase agricultural productivity through various programmes in the county. The revival and expansion of extension services has facilitated the transfer of modern technologies in agriculture and livestock. The government has been issuing subsidized fertilizer through the agriculture department. This combined with the stabilized prices of cereals through the National Cereals and Produce Boards (NCPBs) is meant to reduce the cost of production and increase returns for the farmers.

Other programmes in agriculture and livestock including Njaa Marufuku Kenya, Smallholder Marketing Programme (SHOMAP) and National Agriculture and Livestock Extension Programme (NALEP) which have been ongoing were designed to ensure that the county is food secure and that farmers get maximum returns from their farming enterprises. The Cash Transfer Programme (CTP) for the elderly, orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC) and persons with severe disability has ensured that the vulnerable members of the society afford to meet basic needs and supplement the income they get from other sources. The introduction of devolved funds which includes LATIF, CDF, Roads 2000, and others in the county have also helped in the fight against poverty.

4.1.1 Cash Transfer

Types of Cash Transfer Programmes in the community

The residents said that cash transfers to the OVCs and PLWDs were being implemented in the community as some of the households were receiving these transfers.

The residents admitted that community barazas were held to create awareness, they then participated in the selection exercise. The DGSDO concurred with this and said that awareness was created among the respondents through public barazas. Six households with OVCs benefit in the area through this programme. Each is given Ksh 4,000 on quarterly basis through their caregivers. This money is remitted through the post office. The DGSDO was of the opinion that though the beneficiaries acknowledged that the money indeed helped them. It was not sufficiently enough due to the increase of costs of living. Through the public barazas, residents agreed upon the selection criteria within which the most needy were identified.

CT to Persons with Severe Disabilities (PWD) awareness creation had PWDs participated in the process. The respondents said that there was stigmatization to PWDs and as a result, many children were not brought by their parents during the selection. They also said that PWDs were identified through community barazas.

The key informant was of the opinion that stigmatization regarding this PWDs are reasonably reducing. Specifically from the area of study there were two beneficiaries whose attendance was through caregivers. Money is remitted through the post office, Ksh 2000 monthly. In one case a thirteen year old girl with hydrocephalus condition and a beneficiary of the programme died four months prior to this work of research.

The key informant said that there was awareness creation to **CTs to Elderly** in the community through public barazas. However, the area of study was not covered as the neighboring was more vulnerable in which 260 beneficiaries were identified, further the selection criteria was tailored to capture individuals who were 65 years and above and needy. During the need assessment, an elderly was supposed to be disadvantaged in the following ways:

- Had no pension benefit;
- Had no formal earnings;
- Had no support from children; and
- Not a beneficiary of any other programme.

Preferences given to elderly care givers of OVCs

Each received Ksh 4,000 after every 2 months through their caregivers who were first to be accredited by the area chief. The payroll was then audited for and every beneficiary received the amount within the appropriate time. However, the key informant said that there were bureaucracies that delayed the money making it only available at the expiry of the 2 months.. The DGSDO was of the opinion that though the beneficiaries acknowledged that the money indeed helped them, it is still very little to cater effectively for their needs.

The respondents said that they were aware of the programme but none of them benefits from the programme since their area was left out.

Other sources of livelihood for the beneficiaries

According to the respondents, the money got through the cash transfers developed some income generation activities through the purchase of the farm animals specifically goats and poultry whereas the key informant confirmed the respondents report.

Opinion on cash transfers

The key informant was of the opinion that cash transfers had helped to improve the welfare of the beneficiaries. He however admitted that regardless of this fact, the amount was low to meet the basic minimum. Again, it has never reached all the vulnerable children.

- According to the respondents, they were satisfied that the CTs had helped them although the funds were not adequate to meet the basic minimum.

Impact

The key informant said that, since the inception of the cash transfers the livelihoods of beneficiaries and community had improved. This was marked by improved nutrition were beneficiaries could access balanced diet, convectional `medicine, improved love/family cohesion among the care givers and the beneficiaries and also the spouses. The OVC beneficiaries had benefited through school levies being paid using the funds whereas the respondents were of the same view.

Recommendations for improvement of cash transfers

For improvements on cash transfers, the respondents and the key informant recommended that:

- The amount disbursed should be increased to meet the basic needs;
- More vulnerable people should be targeted and incorporated in the various cash transfer programmes;and
- The community needs to be educated on stigmatization and the rights of the elderly, the disabled and children.

4.1.2 Kazi Kwa Vijana (KKV)

From the discussion with the members of the community, a number of them knew about the existence of **KKV** programme but majority of them seemed not to know about it. On the contrary, the key informant, who is the sub-county Youth Officer, said that almost all the members of the community were aware of the program. He added that he had organized for tree planting activities in 72 schools across the district.

According to the Sub-county Youth Officer, the KKV program in the area started in the year 2009. The community members who had some knowledge on the KKV program said that a few youths had been called to make a rural road in the neighboring village. They also said that some few ones were called upon to dig holes and plant trees in a neighboring secondary school.

The Youth Officer said that he was working under the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs and they were mainly involved in environmental conservation through planting trees across the district especially in the schools. He also noted that KKV program in the area is run by various ministries .The roads had been upgraded under the KKV program by the Ministry of Roads. The drainage systems in the towns have also been unblocked under KKV program by the area County Council. Sand pans have also been desilted under KKV through the Ministry of Water.

The members of the community said that only two youths had worked under the KKV program on two different occasions. The Sub-county Youth Officer said that the beneficiaries of the program were mainly the youth from the area. He added that the KKV program adheres to the gender rule whereby more than 1/3 of the beneficiaries are women. The

members of the community said that they only heard of the KKV program in the other neighboring villages.

The community was not aware of how much is paid in the KKV projects. But the Sub-county Youth Officer said that the youths who worked are paid Ksh. 250 per day. The amount is constant regardless of the type of work or the season of the year.

On the awareness of the prevailing KKV rates, members of the community did not know about the prevailing KKV rates but the Youth Officer said that it is still Ksh.250 a day. According to the Youth Officer the KKV project of planting trees (the only project undertaken) is done only during the rainy seasons. The area has two rainy seasons in a year, the short rains and the long rains. For each season, the project runs for three months with the youths working for two days a week. During that period the youths are paid at the middle of the project and at the end of the project.

The Youth Officer said that each individual collects his/her money either from the Office or from the field and signs against their names. The payment is usually on cash basis.

The Youth officer said that although the amount paid (Kshs.250) was not very little, it is not sufficient to meet the needs of the youth as they work for only two days a week for a about three months.

On the awareness of selection criteria of the casuals, the community members said that they do not know the criteria used in selecting the very few who benefit from the KKV program. They added that only a few are called to report to the work site. The District Youth Officer said that when the program started, he used the local administration e.g. village elder, sub-chiefs, chiefs and faith based leaders to identify the needy who should benefit from the program. Currently they are selected by the youth committees from each location. The youth committee is elected by the youths from each location.

Other sources of livelihood for casuals according to both the Youth Leader and members of the community include the following:

- Those near water points (especially along River Athi) practicing horticulture;
- Other youths employed as casual laborers in the households;
- Some male youths operate Boda Boda in the area to generate income;
- Female youths work as house helps which help in generating income;
- Those with some capital start small scale businesses; and
- Other youths have migrated to urban areas to look for employment opportunities.

They noted that unemployment was rampant in the area and most youths remain idle.

The Impact of KKV on livelihood of casuals and community since it started was negligible with only two people from the community who had been contracted to work under KKV program. They also added that within their area, no single project had been undertaken under KKV. The community therefore said that there was no impact from the KKV program. On the other hand the Youth Officer said that the program had a positive impact to the youths in the area and the community in general. He added that he pays the youths after working for several days so that they get a lump sum amount which they can invest in various projects or use the money to acquire assets. He advises the youth to spend the money wisely through investing in projects that can generate income.

The Youth Officer also said by planting trees in most of the schools under his area had improved the climate and conserved the environment. The trees also provide shade to the pupils, and reduce soil erosion. When the trees mature they are used for timber and firewood.

Recommendations for improvement of KKV

Though the community said that they almost do not benefit from the KKV project, they suggested that the selection should be transparent and they should be informed when there are projects to be started.

The District Youth Officer gave a number of recommendations which included the following:

- Availing more funds for the KKV program as it will initiate more projects for the youths;
- The youths should be thoroughly trained in entrepreneurship skills and financial management otherwise they should not be funded as groups but should look for other alternatives. He gave an example whereby, out of 27 youth groups funded through Youth Enterprise Fund in the area, none of them had succeeded.

4.2 DEVOLVED FUNDS

The residents were aware about CDF and YEF, on further probing they said to have only heard about the WEF and LATF.

4.2.2 Local Authority Transfer Fund (LATF)

There was no information provided under this.

4.2.1 Constituency Development Fund (CDF)

The community said that they benefit from CDF through bursaries they get for their children's school fees. The respondents were aware of the amounts of bursaries disbursed among various beneficiaries and admitted that the disbursement was fair.

The respondents had mixed opinions regarding the reporting, some said that they were not involved in the decision making regarding the projects funded by CDF.

4.2.4 Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF)

The youth of Yenganga admitted to have knowledge of the funds but they faulted the strict conditions put on accessing the funds. According to the Youth Officer, the youths are aware of the YEF and have funded a total of 27 groups in Kathonzweni division. Each youth group received about Ksh. 50,000.

However, none of the groups had utilized the funds well and were almost collapsing. He added that the youths do not use the money for the purpose indicated in their proposals. He said that 7 groups even went ahead and subdivided the funds among their members.

He attributed the failure to lack of business skills. He also said that some groups apply for the funds out of mischief. He suggested that the youths be trained on entrepreneurial skills and financial management. He further suggested that alternative ways of funding the youths should be devised.

Recommendations for improvement of Devolved Funds

The residents want the CDF to be continued in the devolved government as it is helping the community a lot in terms of bursaries for the needy and construction of schools.

The youth said that the government should explore options of giving loans to individuals rather than groups who might have divided intentions. They further want the government to ease on the qualification conditions for accessing the loan.

CHAPTER FIVE: CROSS CUTTING AREAS & OTHER EMERGING ISSUES

5.2 Persons with Disability (PWDs)

In the Yenganga community there are people living with disability. It however became clear that very little benefit from the cash transfer went to the disabled. The Community pointed out that though PWDs were involved in the awareness creation of the cash transfers, they felt that the identification of the beneficiaries was not done fairly.

5.3 Gender

In the gender analysis, it was found that women control very few assets of the household as compared to men. Women were found to consult men when disposing the assets they own. Although men are the main providers of the households in the community, women are over burdened with household chores and other assignments.

5.4 HIV and other Diseases

Most prevalent diseases in the Yenganga community are amoeba. This is associated with dirty drinking water whose sources are open shallow wells. Malaria, and brucellosis are also common due to contaminated animal products such as milk and meat and HIV/AIDS.

Other common diseases are diarrhea, respiratory tract diseases mostly children, pneumonia, eye and ear infections, injuries both internal and external, intestinal worms and malnutrition due poor dietary feeding. There are free health care for under-fives, free insecticide treated mosquito nets, tuberculosis (TB) treatment, free Family planning services, measles and polio vaccinations, free de-worming services, free maternal health care, Anti-Retroviral Drugs. The community noted that there is rise in HIV Aids infection.

CHAPTER SIX: RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

It was established that poverty levels in Makueni County were high and above the national levels. In particular Yenganga community said that there are three categories of people i.e the rich, the poor and the very poor. The characteristics poverty was given as lack of food, lack of money, poor housing, inability to take children to schools, poor sanitation, poor access to health care and lack of education. The main causes of poverty in Makueni are harsh weather conditions that do not support their agricultural activities, long periods of drought, high prevalence of HIV and AIDS, lack of food, high unemployment rate, laziness, lack of farm inputs, high rate of school drop outs, lack of water and ignorance.

The notable coping mechanisms reported are men working as casuals doing odd jobs such as shoe shining, fetching water for food hotels, touting and hawking cigarettes, sweets and other small items. Children opt to stay in school so that they can be fed at lunch time, thanks to the school feeding programme. Members of the community form groups and practice Merry go Round to eradicate poverty. Overall the poverty levels in the county were felt to be reducing. This was attributed to improved education, better farming methods, and planting of citrus fruits /plants.

The respondents recommended that in order to tackle the challenge of high poverty levels, the community should be provided with adequate water for both domestic and supplementary irrigation. Other recommendations included the enhancement of rural electrification, improvement of rural access roads, construction of markets to facilitate agricultural marketing of produce, creation of jobs for the youths and making of loan facilities available.

Though it was established that Yenganaga community felt that the health services have improved over time, they recommended more awareness on family planning and HIV Aids should be carried out and the community be supplied with clean and safe drinking water to counter water borne diseases.

On education the community agreed that the standard of education was improving though at a slow rate. They said that for the standards of education to improve, the government should employ more teachers, enhance school Feeding Programs and build more schools in the villages to prevent children from travelling long distances to attend schools.