

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



**THE PRESIDENCY
MINISTRY OF DEVOLUTION AND PLANNING**

**PARTICIPATORY POVERTY ASSESSMENT V
MANDERA COUNTY REPORT**

TOWNSHIP 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 Mandera County Participatory Poverty Assessment Report is the first of its kind that has the County as the key reference point on poverty profiling since the promulgation of COK, 2010 and ultimately the formation of County Governments after the general elections of 2013. It is derived from the 5th 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 Stephen Wainaina, the Economic Planning Secretary and Moses Ogolla, the Director Social & Governance Department. The Department of S&G provided the secretariat that was charged with the responsibility of undertaking the exercise and finally the production of both the National Report and the County specific Reports covering the 47 Counties,

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Engineer Peter 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.

The report presents the findings of the PPA V survey in Township 1 cluster in Mandera Central Sub County. Information from the cluster was provided by the community members through Focused Group discussions (FGDs) and household questionnaire and was complemented by the information from key informants who were mainly technical experts in subject areas of the survey.

The study reveals that the poverty levels in the county are very high. 89% of the county population is extremely poor contributing to 1.6% to the national poverty figure. The persistent drought conditions often destroy livestock and lead to rangeland ruin causing lack of pasture and lack of water. Moreover, insecurity is high as a result of clan clashes due to competition over pasture and water points when the communities migrate from one place to another in search of pasture.

The major health concerns in the area are diseases like malaria, HIV/AIDS, cholera, diarrhea, typhoid, diabetes, tuberculosis, cancer and yellow fever. Other prevalent diseases are upper throat infections, skin diseases and colds. Wild animals are also seen as a health concern. It emerged that health services in the area have improved slightly over the years.

Illiteracy was cited as major cause of poverty in the area. This is caused by pastoralist lifestyle, high levels of poverty, shortfall of teachers, retrogressive cultural practices like early marriages. Most parents do not value education and hence do not see the purpose of sending their children to school. Though the introduction of Free Primary Education (FPE) has led to an increase in school enrolments a lot still needs to be done in influencing the community perception towards educating their children.

The water table is very high in most parts of the area and the water from the shallow wells is too salty for drinking. Most settlements are concentrated in places where boreholes and wells are found. Scarcity of water leads to many conflicts due to competition for pasture and water sources resulting to theft and death of animals and human beings.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CDF	Constituency Development Fund
CHWs	Community Health Workers
CTs	Cash Transfers
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
ITNs	Insect Treated Nets
KDHS	Kenya Demographic Household Survey
KEMSA	Kenya Medical Supplies Agency
KIHBS	Kenya Integrated Household Baseline Survey
KKV	Kazi Kwa Vijana
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
KPHC	Kenya Population and Housing Census
LATF	Local Transfer Funds
MOE	Ministry of Education
NASSEP IV	Fourth National Sample Survey and Evaluation Programme
NASSEP V	Fifth National Sample Survey and Evaluation Programme
NER	Net Enrolment Rate

NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
NHIF	National Hospital Insurance Fund
OBA	Output Based Approach
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PPA V	Poverty Participatory Assessment Five
PWDS	People Living With Disabilities
RA	Research Assistants
SSDE	Subsidized Secondary Day education
TBAs	Traditional Birth Attendants
UNICEF	United Nations Children's' Fund
URTI	Upper Respiratory Tract Infection
UTI	Urinary Tract Infection
VCT	Voluntary Counseling and Testing
VIP	Very Important Person
WEF	Women Enterprise Fund
YEDF	Youth Enterprise Development Fund

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Participatory Poverty Assessments (PPAs)

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 idea 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 to other basic needs, including; clean water, adequate housing and sanitation.

In addition, there exist other remarkable intra and inter-regional and gender disparities in quality, accessibility, affordability and availability of services. These disparities become more pronounced among vulnerable groups such as people with disability, youth, people living with HIV and AIDS, orphans and the elderly.

1.2 PPP V Study Objectives

The overall objective of the study is to contribute to Kenya's poverty reduction strategy, by providing a richer and more informative 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) focuses on two main areas:

- The impact of the various policies, strategies, programmes and projects aimed at reducing poverty and improving welfare; and
- Capture the voices of the poor among the communities with a special focus on social protection initiatives to inform policy planning and targeting.

More specifically, the participatory study seeks to:

- i. Gain deeper understanding of the impact of the pro-poor initiatives based on the perceptions of the people themselves, especially the poor and vulnerable groups.
- ii. Broaden the process through which policies are developed by engaging ordinary citizens in real debates to come up with the best ways of reducing poverty.
- iii. Identify and prioritize policies, strategies, programmes and projects which support poor communities would improve their wellbeing, focusing on pro-poor initiatives.
- iv. Integrate the respective contributions of participatory and qualitative approaches in the overall M&E strategy for Kenya.
- v. Monitor impact to identify what outcomes are important to those affected by policy interventions themselves to help untangle complex processes of individual and community change.

- vi. Enrich understanding of the lived realities of poverty and arriving at policies which make sense to those affected to ensure equity and improvement of wellbeing in a clean and secure environment.

1.3 County/Cluster Profile

Mandera County is located in the North Eastern part of Kenya. It borders Ethiopia to the North, Somalia Republic to the East, and Wajir County to the South West. It lies between latitudes 2° 11` North, and 4° 17` North, and longitudes 39° 47` East and 41° 4.8` East. The County covers an area of 25,991.5 Km². The county is divided into six sub-counties, 22 divisions, 97 locations and 141 sub-locations.

The 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Survey (KPHC) indicated that the county population was 1,025,756 persons which comprised 559,943 males (54.6%) and 465,813 females (45.4%). The population has been projected to be 1,152,506, 1,294,917 and 1,399,503 by the year 2012, 2015 and 2017 respectively. The county has inter-censal growth rate of 3.96% which is higher than the national population growth rate (2.9%).

Temperatures are relatively very high with a minimum of 24°C

in July and a maximum of 42°C in February. Rainfall is scanty and unpredictable averaging 255mm. The long rains fall in the months of April and May while the short rains fall in October and November.

Most of the land is communally owned and used for grazing. The average farm holding in the irrigated agriculture ranges between 0.4 ha –1.0 ha while that of rain fed agriculture ranges between 2ha - 4ha.

The main crops produced are sorghum, millet, simsim, maize, vegetables (sukuma wiki, cow peas, onions, spinach, tomatoes) and fruits (guavas, mangoes, bananas, lemons, paw paws, water melon). The common types of livestock reared are goats, cattle, camels, sheep, donkeys and chicken.

Prolonged droughts and flooding leading to severe famine, disease outbreaks, loss of livestock, and human-wildlife conflicts over resources are some of the effects experienced due to climate change.

Township I Cluster is an urban cluster in Mandera Central Sub County, Mandera County and is has up of 102 households. This being an urban cluster, the community is involved in small-scale businesses and casual jobs. The roads in the county are sandy and dusty. They are all weather roads and makes it easy to access the community.

1.4 Selection of the Cluster

Selection of the cluster was done using two stage purposive sampling that was super-imposed on agro-ecological zones to cover common characteristics across similar zones. The aim was to capture as much variation as possible among the poor communities in a given County. The Fourth National Sample Survey and Evaluation Programme (NASSEP IV) maps from Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) were used to demarcate the boundaries of the selected cluster because the county had not been covered during the Fifth National Sample Survey and Evaluation Programme (NASSEP V) due to security reasons.

One cluster was selected for the detailed study in which specially designed participatory assessment tools were administered. 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 March/April 2012 and the main survey in this cluster was done in November/December 2013. Information from the cluster was provided by the community members through Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) and household questionnaire and was complemented by the information from key informants who were mainly technical experts in the subject areas of the survey. The main policy areas of focus were Health Care, Basic Education, Agricultural Services and Inputs, Water and Sanitation, Housing, Cash Transfer (CT), Roads 2000, Devolved Funds such as Constituencies Development Fund (CDF) and Kazi Kwa Vijana (KKV).

In preparation for the survey, the Research assistants (RAs) were introduced to the use of survey tools by the supervisors/trainers. Advertisement for Research Assistants (RAs) was done one week prior to recruitment through the 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 were selected to assist in data collection in the county.

The training for research assistants 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.

1.6 PPA V Methodology

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 so as to understand the community boundaries and the facilities within. Wealth Ranking was used to establish how the community categorizes itself economically. There was a deliberate attempt to identify households which were benefiting from cash transfers so that they could participate during the administration of the specific data collection check lists.

A 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, DDOs and the Sub County Commissioner.

1.7 Report Organization/Outline

The report is divided into six (6) chapters including chapter one (1) which covers the Introduction. Chapter two (2) highlights the survey findings on poverty and inequality in Mandera 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 on selected pro-poor initiatives (policies and programmes) such as Cash Transfers (CT), Kazi Kwa Vijana (KKV), Roads 2000, and devolved funds such as CDF, Women Enterprise Fund (WEF), Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF) etc. and other pro-poor interventions. Chapter five (5) gives the conclusions and recommendations. Chapter five (5) presents cross cutting and emerging issues. Lastly, Chapter six (6) outlines the conclusions and recommendations

CHAPTER TWO: POVERTY DYNAMICS AND INDICATORS

2.1 Introduction

Poverty levels in Mandera county are very high, at 85.7%. Most families cannot afford minimal basic needs for a dignified life. More importantly they cannot afford to educate their children which further contributes to poverty by limiting the economic opportunities available to them. 85.7% (2014) of the county population is extremely poor contributing to 1.6% to the national poverty figure. High poverty levels experienced in the county pose a great challenge to development.

2.2 Definition of Poverty, Classification and Characteristics

The community members pointed out that poverty is a situation whereby a household has no livestock (goats, sheep, cattle and camels), lacks food, has poor shelter and members wear tattered clothing. The community refers to such a person as "eri" in Somali.

2.3 Classification of Poverty

The community grouped the residents occupying the area into three distinct social classes, namely; the poor 'eri', the rich and those people who cannot be described as either rich or poor referred to as middle class.

2.4 Characteristics of Poverty

They gave the characteristics of poor person as follows:

- Has tattered clothes;
- Has no livestock;
- Has nothing or little to eat and normally has one meal a day;
- Does not have good shelter;
- Unable to pay rent; and
- Does not have any source of income.

The characteristics of a rich person include:

- Owning hundreds of livestock (cattle, camels and goats);
- Has other sources of income other than livestock e.g. formal employment or a big business;
- Owns vehicles (personal and commercial);
- Has a lot of savings in the bank;
- Has rental houses;
- Their children attend private schools some of which are in Nairobi;

- They have medical cover; and
- Can afford to give the family three good meals a day.

The community added that those in the middle class have the following characteristics:

- Have few number of livestock (at least 5 camels 30 cows and 50 goats);
- Can manage to educate their children in public schools without much strain;
- Can afford to give the family good healthcare;
- Can afford decent clothing for the family; and
- Have motorcycles for business.

2.5 Categorization of Poverty

2.6 Causes of Poverty

The community noted that persistent drought conditions often destroy their livestock and lead to degradation of rangeland thus causing lack of pasture and lack of water. Moreover, they experience clan clashes due to competition over pasture and water points. Overall, Conflict and drought lead to cattle rustling to restock after death of animals which occurs as a result of drought or diseases because the community values livestock highly.

The community members felt that the most pressing issue is insecurity. It noted that with security, all the other problems would eventually reduce. Given the pastoralist nature of their life, security especially for their livestock is paramount.

High illiteracy levels were said to be another major cause of poverty. Because lack of education access to jobs is difficult thus leading to high unemployment rates in the area.

The community also feels that high dependency rate is another cause of poverty since those who earn are expected to cater for the extended family. This is usually aggravated by polygamy where a man can marry up to four wives.

Other causes identified were livestock diseases, human wildlife conflicts, flush floods which wash away the animals. Retrogressive cultural beliefs where some jobs are the preserve of men is another cause of female poverty. It was noted that abusing drugs such as khat (miraa) encourages laziness.

2.7 Impact of Poverty

According to the community members, poverty burdens women and children more than men. This is because women have the responsibility of taking care of children. Further, in times of hunger or drought girls are withdrawn from school to assist their mothers in looking for food. Young girls are not considered as part of the household since a time comes when they will get married.

Children are affected in terms of their health due to insufficient food culminating to high malnutrition rates.

Men felt that the role of man as the household head puts him under pressure to provide for the family. They also walk long distances in search of food, water and pasture for the animals. Sometimes men find themselves in perilous habits like cattle rustling which endangers their lives and those of their families.

2.8 Coping Mechanisms

The following were identified by the community as some of the coping strategies they use when they are faced with challenges in providing for their needs:

- Migration with their animals to far places in search of pasture especially during drought periods;
- The community members engage in small businesses to diversify their sources of income such as operating tea kiosks, firewood vending, milk trade, burning and selling charcoal, trading in gum Arabica (a plant whose gum is used to process perfume that the community uses), selling vegetables and miraa (khat). Weaving traditional thatching materials for sale by women is a business that also thrives well in the community;
- Diversification of livestock to mitigate the effects of drought. Unlike cattle, camels and goats are not easily affected by drought as they can survive with little food and water for a longer periods;
- Doing casual labour such as house helps especially women and children. Others look for casual jobs in construction, working in garages and off-loading of goods from Lorries. The well to do household provide employment to the poor.
- Marrying off young daughters for dowry;
- Forming welfare groups such as merry-go-rounds where a member contributes a little money every week and the amount given in turns to each member;

- Some men resort to banditry while others use unconventional ways of getting wealth;
- Men sometimes opt to desert their families to fend for themselves when the situation gets deteriorates; and
- Benefit from relief food from government through food-for-work (assets) and other general relief programmes. The community emphasized that food relief is not a reliable means of survival, though it is a timely intervention during times of drought.

2.9 Assets Ownership

It was reported that most assets are owned and controlled by men. Women have to get authority from men before they make any decision regarding assets. The main assets of the community include Livestock, Manyattas and fire wood.

2.10 Poverty and Gender

Poverty impacts more on women and children than on men. This is because women are responsible for looking for food, water and firewood for the family while men are busy looking after livestock. When a child is sick, it is the responsibility of a woman to take care of it whether she has money to seek health care or not. During drought, men move with the livestock in search of pasture and leave the women behind to take care of children despite having no food in the household.

2.11 Poverty Trends

The community members feel that there has been no major change in the poverty situation over the years though they are optimistic since new developments by people from outside the area have started to invest there. Drought has become more frequent than before thus increasing the poverty in the area.

2.12 Interventions targeting the poor in the community

The community indicated that Free Primary Education and the school feeding programme had helped them save some money to cater for other urgent needs. This has enabled children from poor families access school. It was reported that children look forward to attending classes daily as there is free food being provided as compared to their homes where they can even go a whole day without eating.

2.13 Recommendations

The following were the community recommendations made to improve their welfare:

- i. Security should be beefed up in the area to protect the community investments;
- ii. More boreholes should be dug to reduce the time used looking for water and use that time for other productive activities that have direct benefit to the households. This would also reduce clan conflicts. and
- iii. School feeding programmes should be enhanced especially during droughts.

CHAPTER THREE: FINDINGS ON PROVISION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES

3.1 Health Care

3.1.1 Introduction

According to Mandera County Development profile 2013-2017, there are six Level IV facilities in the county, nine level III facilities, 24 Level II facilities, six Nursing homes and 60 Private clinics. The doctor/population ratio is 1:1,152,506 while the nurse/population ratio is 1:3,822. It should be noted that there is only one doctor in the whole county.

The five most common diseases in order of prevalence are Disease of Upper Respiratory Tract Infection (URTI), Malaria, Pneumonia, Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) and skin diseases. The vaccination coverage is 7.6 per cent in Mandera County for children aged between 12 and 23 months (KIHBS 2005/06).

The total fertility in the county has greatly decreased from 7.0 children in 2003 to 5.9 children per woman as per the 2008-09 Kenya Demographic Household Survey (KDHS) which is higher than the national average of 4.6 children. Only four per cent of married women use modern methods of family planning. This has minimal impact on overall population growth rates in the county. Injection contraceptives are the most popular type of family planning method used. Two per cent (2%) of the married women use them while 1% uses implants, which is the second most popular method.

The study aimed at generating information on availability of public service facilities and where they are located, how the facilities are managed, creation of awareness of the kind of services offered, affordability and other interventions which have led to improvement in the standards of services in the community. It also sought to establish the trend of service provision for the past ten (10) years and recommendations for improvement.

3.1.2 Major Health Concerns

The major health concerns within the community are diseases like malaria, HIV/AIDS, cholera, diarrhea, typhoid, diabetes, tuberculosis, cancer and yellow fever. Other prevalent diseases are upper throat infections, skin diseases and colds. Wild animals are also seen as a health concern.

3.1.3 Provision Health Services

The nearest public health facility (health center) is located 2 km away from the cluster. However, within the area, there are private clinics, a chemist and several pharmacies. There is a dispensary constructed by World Vision, 1 km away built five years ago and is being operated by a community volunteer who has little training on health matters. Public health officers occasionally visit the dispensary.

The public health center has basic drugs and a few health personnel. It has a laboratory but no theatre. The Sub County hospital is approximately 6 km away and has all the health care facilities including maternity, theatre and a laboratory.

The community reported that the charges in accessing healthcare have been on the increase due to various levies which they felt were unaffordable. Availability of drugs is sometimes an issue forcing the community to rely on expensive private chemists.

A receipt is issued for all the payments made. Services in the government dispensary are relatively cheaper than in private clinics. The community does not feel that it receives value for money.

The community that access the Sub County hospital reported that the quality of services is average but better than before. This is because one takes less time to be attended to than before. However, they noted that some health officials practice nepotism and kinship when attending to patients. There is also congestion due to the large number of patients and inadequate staff.

Drugs are not always available at the Sub County hospital partly because of corruption. The community said that most health workers at the hospital own private clinics, which they stock with drugs from the Sub County hospital. A key informant at the hospital denied these sentiments and stated that basic and essential drugs are always available. The key informant concurred that there are times when they do not have certain drugs because of delays in delivery from KEMSA.

3.1.4 Interventions towards Improvement of Health Services

The community reported that Sheikhs and Imams teach them about HIV/AIDS in the mosques, while the chiefs sensitized them during barazas. The information shared includes behaviour change, need for VCT services and how to care for the affected and the infected persons. According to a key informant, they sensitize people on the dangers of engaging in premarital sex and the importance of using condoms if one has to have sex.

The community reported that they consider HIV/AIDS as a normal disease these days unlike in the past when they thought it was a disease of other people but not for them.

The members of community reported that they are aware of malaria and its symptoms. They get information on malaria despite cases of malaria being common there. Most community members visit the hospital while others seek local herbs in case one suspects malaria.

Tuberculosis (TB) was mentioned as a common disease. Most people were aware of the relationship between HIV/AIDS and TB.

The members of community reported that there are herbalists and traditional birth attendants (TBAs) within and outside the area. The Ministry of Health through its field officers trains the traditional birth attendants although they encourage expectant mothers to visit the Sub County hospital.

The members of community said that they are aware about child immunization, especially with respect to measles and polio. However, very few take their children for immunization because they do not see its usefulness. Some communities have started village health committees, with the support of CBOs and NGOs, to create general awareness on health issues.

3.1.5 Poverty and Health

According to the community members, diseases have a big impact on household income and welfare. The major concerns are time lost (distance to health facilities and long queues at the health facilities), inadequate healthcare (shortage of health personnel, drugs and diagnostic equipment), and costs (especially at the private clinics) associated with seeking treatment. The money they would have used to buy food goes to drugs since seeking medical attention is given priority.

Healthcare causes poverty because the sick cannot work and have to be taken care of by other household members. HIV/Aids leads to orphans who become a burden to the guardians and sometimes drains the available income by providing special diets and other needs for patients.

3.1.6 Ideal Family Size

The members reported that the Somali community and Muslims in general live together in extended families. This is also the case because they are polygamous. They noted that the ideal family size depends on the number of wives and other relatives one is living with in the homestead. Most of the families have children ranging from 5 to 12

per household. They added that there is advantage of having many children because they can provide labour in future. The girl child will also attract wealth in terms of dowry.

3.1.7 Relationship between Household Size and Poverty

The community members reported that the larger the household size the more their needs. The members stated that this may lead to poverty if the breadwinner is not well off. The household needs to be kept healthy and educated, two quite costly undertakings especially if the household is large. This can exhaust the family income and assets. Men are generally responsible for paying for healthcare when a family member falls sick while women are responsible for nursing the sick. Most community members have not been trained on how to care for the sick.

3.1.9 Opinion on status Healthcare Services overtime

According to the community, health services in the Sub County hospital have improved slightly over the years. However, the charges on healthcare services have increased mainly due to reduced funding by the Government. There are also more drugs at the Sub County hospital now compared to 10 years ago, which the community attributed to close supervision at the hospital.

According to the field health officers, trends in healthcare at the health center have improved tremendously for the last ten years and more dispensaries have been constructed to decongest the Sub County hospital. The key informant indicated that bad roads and poor communication network lead to the dispensary running out of basic drugs especially during the rainy season. Some community members reported that the services at the health center are of good quality since it they are relatively cheap (Kshs 10) compared to other facilities. The charges are used for enhance basic services at the facility. There is also a volunteer community health worker who offers basic services at the facility.

3.1.10 Recommendations

The community proposed the following interventions to improve health care delivery :

- The government should provide equipment, drugs and post enough and qualified health personnel to the local dispensaries;
- The Government should improve on road accessibility in the area;
- Health workers should change their attitude and behavior towards the public and create a working relationship with the community;

- Community health workers should be trained to give basic healthcare and first aid treatment, and to raise awareness on immunization and prevention of malaria and HIV/AIDS;
- The Ministry of Health should be consulted when decisions to construct a new dispensary using CDF funds is made so that the ministry can plan to provide health personnel and equipment.

3.2 Basic Education

3.2.1 Introduction

According to Mandera CIDP, the literacy rate for the county is 25.4 per cent compared to the national average which is 79 per cent (Basic Integrated Household Survey 2005/2006 Revised Edition). This is caused by pastoralist lifestyle, high levels of poverty, shortage of teachers, and retrogressive cultural practices such as early marriages.

The county has 167 primary schools. The total enrolment is 71,506 with 47,451 boys and 24,045 girls. There are 808 teachers with a shortfall of 703 teachers thus giving a teacher pupil ratio of 1:88. The dropout rate is 6.6 per cent. The Primary Education NER for the county is 42.4 per cent (53.4 per cent boys and 29.8 per cent girls) compared to the national average of 77.2 per cent (76.2 per cent males and 78.3 per cent females) as per the spatial analytical report for North Eastern region (2011) and Ministry of Education EMIS (2009).

There are 30 mobile schools, eight in Mandera East, seven in Lafey, two in Mandera West, eight in Banissa and five in Mandera North constituencies. There are also a total of 27 low-cost boarding schools that are fully funded by the government.

There are 31 public secondary schools in the county with Moi Girls and Mandera Boys Secondary schools being National Schools. The total enrolment is 8,798 (6,592 boys and 2,206 girls) and a total of 264 teachers with a shortfall of 171 teachers thus giving a teacher student ratio of 1:33. The Secondary Net Enrolment Rate (NER) for the county stood at 5.2 per cent (7.6 per cent boys and 2.2 per cent girls) compared to the national rate of 24.0 per cent (22.2 per cent boys and 25.9 per cent girls) as per the Ministry of Education (MOE) spatial analytical report for North Eastern region (2011) and Ministry of Education EMIS (2009).

3.2.3 Status of Education Facilities

The community members said that teachers, classrooms and desks are not adequate, thus causing congestion. One teacher pointed out that overcrowding was because of

the drought and poverty which were mitigated through the provision of food from the school-feeding programme.

3.2.4 Provision of Educational Services

There is one primary school near the area. There are other schools where children from the community access education at short distances. There are several private primary schools (academies) and private secondary schools accessible to the community. It was reported that public primary schools are free.

Other education facilities within the area are '*dugs*' where children memorize the Koran and 'madrassa' where they learn Arabic. The schools enroll both boys and girls.

Those who can afford prefer taking their children to private schools because they have enough teachers, have quality education, perform well, have enough and sizeable classrooms and adequate learning facilities.

The distance to schools is a big challenge in accessing education leading to very low enrolment rate in the Sub County. Most people do not know the value of education and value livestock more than anything else.

It was reported that in some primary schools there were more girls than boys because most boys were out with their fathers looking for pasture for livestock.

The nearest public secondary school is approximately 12 km from the community.. Most members reported that it was the preferred choice due to the high cost of education in the private schools.

In general, the community members reported that Free Primary Education (FPE) was beneficial to them as more children were enrolled in school. Some added that households were able to meet other needs like food and extra uniforms for their children.

3.2.5 Interventions towards Improvement of Education Standards

The school feeding programme has enhanced enrollment and retention rates of students.. The pupils receive all the meals in school, encouraging them to attend school.

Free Primary Education (FPE) and Free Tuition for Secondary Education have relieved a huge burden from the parents. The money used to pay fees is utilized in the improvement of the welfare of the households. FPE policy has also encouraged adults in

the community to join adult education classes to learn functional literacy, and how to read and write.

Some NGO, CBOs and FBOs give bursaries to the potentially bright children from the poor households. Others mostly target the girl child due to their vulnerability. These organizations also support the school feeding programme.

Bursaries by the Ministry of Education, Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and other corporate organizations such as Wings to Fly (Equity) and Cooperative Bank have played a big role in the education sector in this community. The community noted that several pupils had benefited from bursaries and scholarships.

The free sanitary towels for female pupils have also greatly influenced the education of the girl child. This programme is undertaken by the Government in collaboration with UNICEF and the World Vision.

The community members reported that they were involved in the management of schools. Parents with children in a school appoint one parent to represent them in the school management committees. It was reported that in some schools, parents appointed to the school management committees are never consulted when decisions are being made by teachers. Parents only go to the meetings to listen to what has been decided. However, they noted that in some schools, parents are fully involved in the management of the school enabling them to ensure transparency in the management of school funds and projects. They are sometimes even involved in building classrooms and providing free labour when need arises.

3.2.6 Impact of Poverty on Education

Illiteracy was cited as a major cause of poverty as most parents do not value education and hence do not see the purpose of sending their children to school. They perceive education as an unnecessary expense.

The community explained that early marriages, child labour and early pregnancies are some of the main reasons that make the girl child drop out of school. Retrogressive cultural practices such as parents marrying off their daughters (as young as 13 years) for dowry affect female education. The community believes that a household cannot benefit from a girl's education since she will be married off to another family. They therefore find it uneconomical to educate a girl child. The main cause of boys dropping out of school is the nomadic life where they go with their fathers and livestock in search of pasture. The community values livestock more as compared to other assets.

Due to high levels of poverty, it was reported that parents are not concerned about the education of their children and only send them to school because of food. It was added that there are no efforts in place to encourage and motivate children to attend school except the feeding programme.

3.2.7 Trend on Education Overtime

According to the communities, in the past generation did not take education as an important component of child development as they do now. Most of the children were attending 'dugsi' and 'madrassa' while others were herding livestock. There was one public primary school that had a handful of pupils but now it is full. The adult education programme was also not there then.

Due to Free Primary Education (FPE) policy, families can afford to move with their animals as education of their children is catered for. Before there were no private schools and the few public schools were poorly attended. The trend has changed over the years and now there are private schools in Mandera town. Public schools are inadequate due to increase in the number of pupils.

The introduction of Free Primary Education (FPE) has led to an increase in school enrolments, as the community now understands the importance of education. Children who could not access education due to the burden of school levies are now able to access. It was reported that the FPE policy has influenced adults to join adult education classes to learn functional literacy and how to read and write.

Support given in form of providing female pupils with free sanitary towels has improved the education of the girl child.

3.2.8 Recommendations

The community made the following recommendations towards improving the education sector:

- Nursery and secondary education should also be entirely free;
- More schools should be constructed and the existing schools expanded since enrolment is increasing yearly;
- More teachers should be employed and those already in employment be provided in-service training, particularly female teachers, to act as role models for the girl child;

- More effort and emphasis be placed on maintaining girls in schools and cases of early marriages dealt with, and
- There should be more awareness campaigns on the respective roles of parents and the government in the implementation of the FPE policy.

3.3 Agricultural Services and Inputs

3.3.1 Introduction

According to Mandera County Development profile, the main crops produced are sorghum, millet, sim sim, maize, vegetables (sukuma wiki, cow peas, onions, spinach, tomatoes) and fruits (guavas, mangoes, bananas, lemons, paw paws, water melon). The main cash crops are horticultural and oil crops (Sim sim, Sun flower and groundnuts). Kiliwehiri in Banisa Constituency; Rhamu and Guticha in Mandera North have potential for growing oil crops under irrigation.

The common types of livestock reared are goats (Galla breeds), cattle (boran breeds), camels (Somali breeds), sheep (Somali black head breeds), donkeys (Somali breed) and chicken (indigenous breed).

Traditional granaries are the main storage facilities commonly used in the county. This is due to the climatic conditions leading to nomadic way of life and high costs incurred in setting up modern facilities.

Majority of residents in Township 1 cluster are nomadic pastoralists of the Somali ethnic group. They rear herds of camels, cattle, sheep and goats and their livelihood strategies revolve around sale of livestock and livestock products, and purchase of grain and other commodities.

3.3.2 Status of Provision of agricultural services

Some community members are aware that there is an Agricultural Office in Mandera but are not sure of the services they offer since they rarely visit the office for any services. However, a few community members noted that they normally consult the office when their livestock is sick on the appropriate drugs to administer. The office also gives information about livestock diseases and good livestock keeping practices.

Communities reported that they do not get extension services on a sustained basis. According to the Sub County Agricultural Officer, the main challenges in providing extension services are lack of transport, inadequate staff, poor road network, and the nomadic life of the community as it is very difficult to provide extension services to

people who are not settled in one place. Other reasons cited were illiteracy and lack of communication facilities. One community member reported that the reason why they do not get agricultural extension services is because there is no established linkage between the community and agricultural extension staff.

According to the community, extension services are important as they play a great role in improving productivity and general animal health. However, the community reported that the agricultural extension services they get are inadequate and ill timed. Those that have received extension services reported that they get the information from the Government and NGOs. The communities want to be provided with information on drought management, animal treatment and de-stocking.

3.3.3 Interventions towards Improvement of Agriculture Services

NGOs offer livestock extension services awareness creation on the livestock diseases, ministering of drug, re-stocking and de-stocking. Some provide them with drugs and spray their livestock.

The ministry of agriculture through its field office offers livestock extension services and gives information about livestock diseases and good livestock management practices.

3.3.4 Impact of Poverty on Agriculture

The main causes of poverty to many people in the area is drought, flush floods and cattle rustling which affects their livestock and leaves people with no means of survival except relying on relief food.

According to the community , the number of livestock has been decreasing due to droughts and floods. The number of livestock declined considerably in 1997 due to the El Nino rains but the production was high in 2000. However, there was a big decline from 2004 to 2006 due to prolonged drought. The trends can be attributed to a number of factors, which include droughts, livestock diseases, overstocking and pasture scarcity.

3.3.5 Status of Agriculture Services Overtime

Members of the community noted that there is little or no produce from farms due to unreliable rains. Poor farming methods also contribute to low yields in subsistence farming. They added that there is no known extension service in aid of farming practices apart from veterinary extension services.

3.3.6 Recommendations

The community gave the following recommendations to improve agriculture and livestock production:

- More extension officers be deployed to the area;
- Control on settlement around water sources to avoid conflicts caused by competition for pasture;
- The community should be educated on keeping drought resistant livestock;
- Provision of information on drought management, animal treatment, re-stocking and de-stocking;
- Drill additional boreholes to have enough water for domestic use as well as for livestock; and
- Introduce irrigation using ground water in the area.

3.5 Water and Sanitation

3.5.1 Introduction

According to Mandera County Development profile, the main water resources in the county are rivers, ponds, streams, earth pans, boreholes with pump, protected dug wells and unprotected dug wells. The quality of water from these resources is poor and residents are advised to treat it before use.

There is one main water supply scheme namely Mandera Water and Sewerage Company that serves Mandera town and its environs.

The average distance to the nearest water point is 25Kms. The distance reduces in rural areas during rainy seasons and vice versa. Presence of piped water in the constituency headquarters shortens the distance considerably.

According to the Basic Report – KIHBS 2005/06, the main types of toilet facilities in the county are pit latrines (38.9%), uncovered pit latrines (34.8%), VIP latrines (19%), and covered pit latrines (4.1%). The other 42% have no access to toilet facilities. In terms of waste disposal methods, 82.2% of households burn their waste, 12.2% use garbage pits, 3.9% use public garbage heap, 0.8% dispose by using private firms, 0.5% by local authorities while 0.4% by neighborhood community groups.

3.4.2 Status of provision of water and sanitation services

The water table in this county is very high with water from shallow wells being too salty for drinking. Most settlements are concentrated in places where boreholes and wells are found. The water is used both for domestic and livestock. Troughs developed a few meters from the borehole are used by livestock.

Water from wells and boreholes is accessible and reliable throughout the year. Water from wells is free for both animals and domestic use but water from the borehole is charged for livestock watering. A goat/sheep is charged two shillings, one cow five shillings and a camel is charged ten shillings.

A key informant reported that constructing a pit latrine is a problem due to the nature of soils in the area and the water table which is very high. Some people use bucket latrines, which are emptied daily by the County Council. The council charges a monthly fee of Kshs. 2,500.

3.4.3 Types of Water and Sanitation Facilities

The communities rely on water from boreholes and shallow wells. There is a borehole within the area that was constructed by World Vision. There is also a protected well fixed with a hand pump just outside the cluster though water from the well is very salty even for animals to drink.

Some community members consider safe water to be that which is not muddy and salty, specifically they said that safe water should not have germs or visible dirt and should be treated with chlorine, water guard or boiled. People get the information from public health officials and NGOs.

The community described sanitation as ensuring that people and their surroundings are clean by washing clothes, bathing, eating clean food, cleaning the compound, burning garbage and proper disposal of human waste. Majority of the community members use pit latrines.

Women are responsible for collection of water. According to the community, women are liable to punishment if they do not fetch water. Water is collected using 20-litre jelly cans carried on their backs or heads. The other means of collecting water is by use of donkey carts and camels for those who can afford. This is done mainly by men and the youth who fetch water for commercial purposes. Those who come from far villages also use donkey carts and camels.

The communities are responsible for maintaining their water sources, mainly through elected committees. The committee ensures cleanliness and hygiene is observed. The charges collected by the committee are used to buy fuel for the pumps and salary for the watchman and the engine operator. However, according to the key informant, it is his office that bears the responsibility of maintaining and treating water, installing water pumps and reservoir tanks and fencing the water sources; but it is not possible for his team to reach all the water sources in the Sub County. The community believes that rains would be more frequent and reliable if the forests were preserved.

3.4.4 Impact of Poverty on Water and Sanitation

There have been incidences of diarrhea and cholera outbreaks in the community; associated with water and sanitation issues. The outbreaks mostly occur during rainfall seasons after prolonged periods of drought. During droughts, animals die and their carcasses are scattered all over. These carcasses are carried to the water sources by the surface runoff water from rain. During dry seasons, water from most of the wells is so salty that it might kill livestock.

Most of the livestock perish due to lack of water during periods of drought hence affecting people's livelihoods. When there is rainfall some communities start re-stocking through cattle rustling. Scarcity of water also leads to numerous conflicts due to competition for pasture and water sources resulting to theft and death of animals and human beings.

3.4.5 Opinion on status of water and sanitation Overtime

The community reported that there has been improvement in water availability over the years because ten year ago there were fewer wells compared to today. There were no boreholes. It was reported that more dams and boreholes have been constructed in the neighboring villages hence decongesting the population that is dependent on the borehole within the cluster. However, rainfall has decreased in recent years leading to reduced water levels in the wells.

The community further said that other than the changing weather patterns and conflicts, there has been improvement in methods of water storage and water treatment compared to the past.

Water reliability does not vary much over the long span but varies significantly between dry and wet seasons.

3.4.6 Recommendations

The community gave the following suggestions and recommendations to improve on water and sanitation:

- More boreholes should be constructed in the Sub County to not only reduce the population of people and livestock using the existing ones but also to reduce the distance some people travel reach water a point;
- There should be awareness campaigns to sensitize people on water sanitation related problems and safe water usage practices;
- Construction of water storage tanks and piping in area to reduce distance to access safe water and ensure water availability; and
- Desalination and disinfection of contaminated water sources.

3.5 Housing

3.5.1 Introduction

According to Mandera County Development profile, the main types of houses commonly used are 'manyatta,' traditional huts, used by 73.8% of the households and shanty structures (19.7%). The main walling materials for the houses are grass/straw and mud/wood with permanent structures mainly found in urban centers (KIHBS 2005/2006).

3.5.2 Types of Building Materials

The area was an urban cluster where most residents have rented. Majority of the houses are built using iron sheets for roofing and stones for walling. However, a few are of the manyatta type put up using grass, straws and wood.

3.5.3 Status of provision of provision of housing

The community members noted that building materials are scarce and inaccessible. This makes the community incur huge cost of building the few structures in the area. Building is also affected by the way of life since most of the people do not stay in one place as they move in search of water and pastures for their livestock . The structures build do not have security reinforcement such as strong doors, walls and fences and therefore increased fear of internal and external attacks. Congestion in the houses has led to spread of communicable diseases. Poor ventilation of the houses has led to increases cases of TB and Asthma.

3.5.4 Opinion on housing over time

Housing has deteriorated over time as the cost of living is rising day after day. This is also attributed to changing and unpredictable climate where residents are forced to nomad way of life. But there is notable improvement for the few structures that are outstanding due to availability of iron sheets compared to the period when the community used grass and thatched roof.

3.5.5 Types of household headship

Members in the community construct their own houses since there is no known housing programmes that partner with local people to build houses. Men are responsible for building houses but in the case of mud- built houses, women are the one who are responsible for building them.

3.5.3 Recommendations

The residents gave the following recommendations:

- i) Security patrols should be intensified in the area due to the high population;
- ii) The area should be well planned and development controlled; and
- iii) A sewerage system should be constructed.

CHAPTER FOUR: PRO-POOR INITIATIVES AND DEVOLVED FUNDS

4.1 Pro-Poor Initiatives

Pro-poor initiatives include the cash transfers, kazi kwa vijana, road 2000, devolved funds, uwezo funds and huduma centers.

4.1.1 Cash Transfer

Cash transfer is the money disbursed by the Government targeting the vulnerable in the society. These include cash transfer to Persons with Disability (CT-PWDs), cash transfers to the elderly (CT-Elderly) and cash transfers to orphans and vulnerable children (CT-OVCs).

The Township I, community members reported that they have heard about the cash transfers to the elderly, the PWDs and Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) but have not benefited from it. They lamented that despite the community having a high number of OVCs and elderly, they have never been considered as beneficiaries. They noted that the area chief had requested for the information of the OVCs and the elderly but no feedback has been given. The community members are aware of the CTs but they complained of preferential treatment whereby village elders select their own people even those who are not orphans.

According to the Key Informants, there are cash transfer programmes available for the OVCs, elderly and persons with disability. Cash transfers programmes in the Sub County started in 2008. The beneficiaries are located all over the Sub County and chosen using well specified criteria. The beneficiaries receive Kshs.2, 000 per month but disbursements are done once in two months through the post office. He added that those members of Township I who are eligible may not have benefited since the amount released could not cover all the deserving cases. With the expanded programme, he hopes that all the deserving cases will benefit.

The Key informant reported that the selection criterion is straight forward. It is issued from the headquarters and are supposed to adhere it. The process is participatory and thorough vetting is done for the beneficiaries.

However, it was evident that that there is need for intensified sensitization of the public so that they are aware of the cash transfer programmes and the targeted groups. Some community members perceive that as long as one is over 65 years, he/she

automatically qualifies regardless of the status. It was recommended that the government should try to centralize and automate the system of documenting the beneficiaries.

4.1.2 Kazi Kwa Vijana (KKV)

The programme targets the youth between 18 and 35 years. The programme entails casual work such as tree planting, road maintenance, unblocking sewer lines, bush clearing, among others.

The members said that they have participated in the KKV programmes in the past. They were given jobs of cleaning their environment, road maintenance and construction and cleaning public areas including institutions, later they were paid Kshs. 160 per day which they felt was not enough.

The key informant noted that the main challenge with the youth is that sometimes they are very lazy hence they are not willing to do manual work like digging hence fail to turn up for work. Some programmes were not viable in the community due lack of water such as planting trees and seedlings. Youths have turned to charcoal burning which negatively affects the environment they are supposed to conserve. The key informant added that there was need for consultations with the communities on the viable programmes in the Sub County. Moreover, more programmes should be brought on board and awareness creation on KKV enhanced.

4.1.3 Roads 2000

The community noted that they were involved in repairing some of the roads in the area through food-for-work programmes and KKV.

4.2 Devolved Funds

The community noted that the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) was known to have funded a lot of activities in the area. According to the key informant, CDF has funded various projects in the educational, health, environmental and agricultural sectors in the Sub County. Projects such as building classes, laboratories, administration blocks and dormitories have been funded in the education sector. Bursaries from the fund are also given to needy students. In the health sector the fund has assisted in construction of dispensaries and paying medical bills for the poor.

The community said that it had benefited from CDF in many ways although there were issues of transparency and accountability which needed to be addressed. It was reported the fund's greatest challenge was political influence.

Women Enterprise Fund (WEF)

The community members said that they were aware of Women Enterprise Fund but there are no women groups formed or those that were benefitting from such funds.

Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF)

The key informant noted that Youth Enterprise Development Fund is meant to enable the youth start or boost their businesses. The youth are advised to form groups, make businesses proposal(s), register the business(s) and then apply for funding from the YEDF. The absorption is low in the Sub County but awareness creation is going on and the impact is being felt now as more youth are getting interested.

According to the community members, these funds exist in the community. They have made the proposals but have never received the funding. They said that they were waiting for approval. However, they were aware of youth groups which had benefited and are doing quite well. These groups engage in carwash, taxi business, water vending, garbage collection and disposal, video halls and selling vegetables, among others activities.

A key recommendation is to enhance sensitization on the existence, ways of accessing and best practices in using the funds considering the alarming number of people who are not aware of these funds.

4.3 Uwezo Fund

The community members reported that they have never heard about the fund and were confusing it with the youth fund. This fund is currently being established.

The key informant recommended that there was need for awareness creation about the fund so that the communities and the public in general can understand what it is all about. It was also mentioned that even some people working with the Government were not aware of what the fund was all about.

4.4 HUDUMA Centers

The community was not aware of the Huduma centers. They requested to be educated more on the centers especially on what they were for. . After the explanations, they requested that such centers be opened in the area because it would bring the services near to the community.

4.5 Extraction of Mineral and Oils

The community reported that they were not aware of extraction of minerals and oils activities in Mandera County. However, a key informant reported that quarrying and sand harvesting are the main mining activities undertaken in the county. Moreover, oil exploration is currently being undertaken in some areas by companies to ascertain its technical and commercial viability. It was added that the county is believed to be rich in mineral resources such as oil, gold and coal. But there is abundance of limestone deposits from which cement can be produced.

CHAPTER FIVE: CROSS-CUTTING AND EMERGING ISSUES

5.1 HIV&AIDS

It was reported that Sheikhs and Imams teach about HIV/AIDS in the mosques, while the other source of information is during Chiefs' barazas. The information given includes behaviour change, need for VCT services and how to care for the affected and the infected. Some of the causes attributed to causing HIV/AIDS include cultural practices such as; high divorce and re-marriage rates, polygamy and arranged marriages.

According to a key informant, people are sensitized on the dangers of engaging in premarital sex and the importance of using condoms. In order to reduce prevalence rate, free antiretroviral drugs are provided to patients in designated health facilities throughout the county and voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) centers provide free services. HIV-positive patients are also provided with the necessary advice and enrolled in antiretroviral therapy (ART). The government is also supporting the OVCs through cash transfer.

The level of awareness creation on control and prevention of HIV/AIDS needs to be increased and support services provided and improved.

5.2 Disability

The community members reported that there are many families with People with Disability (PWD) and yet there are no interventions targeted towards them. The key informant reported that PWDs have in the recent times enjoyed recognition and involvement in most county activities and were also registered in all Constituencies.

However, even after the registration, the members reported that they have not received any support from the Government. They only receive support from religious organizations and NGOs.

5.3 Gender

It was reported that poverty impacts more negatively on the women. Women are responsible for looking for food, water and firewood for the family. Men are usually busy moving in search of pasture for livestock or in the market places. During droughts, men move with the livestock in search of pasture and leave the women behind with the children to take care of yet there is normally no food in the household.

Some of the basic gender concerns include limited access to economic assets and retrogressive cultural practices that discourage females from fully participating in the development activities and decision making. Men take leading roles in making major decisions. The KI added that the enrolment rates for both primary and secondary schools exhibited higher number of boys than those of girls. The dropout rate for girls at secondary school level is higher than that of boys and the completion rate for the girl-child is equally lower. This is due to the preference of the community to educate boys to girls. This hinders economic empowerment of women and exposes the young women to economic dependence and early marriages.

5.4 Insecurity

The Township I cluster is a security risk area. There is therefore the need to enhance security. The community was aware of community policing and noted that they have heard about the Nyumba Kumi programme which the Government requires people to know their neighbours.

CHAPTER SIX: RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

6.1 Recommendations

The following recommendations were made:

1. More boreholes should be constructed in the Sub County to reduce the congestion of the population of people and livestock using the existing ones. This will also reduce the distance some people travel to the water points. Availability of water will also minimize cases of conflict and insecurity in the region;
2. Education should be given more attention in this Sub County particularly towards the girl child by making nursery education free, constructing more schools and expanding the existing ones. More teachers should be employed and the existing teachers be given in-service training, particularly female teachers to act as role models to encourage the girl child;
3. There is need to sensitize communities on various available devolved funds and how they can access them;
4. CDF committees should involve the relevant government departments before engaging in any project to avoid cases of dispensaries with no personnel or drugs and schools without teachers;
5. Awareness campaigns on the need for keeping manageable number of livestock should be mounted;
6. Roads should be improved to reduce insecurity and to ease transportation of goods (human and livestock) and drugs to the region; and
7. There is need to fast-track the exploration of the mineral resources such as oil, limestone, gold and coal which would improve the well-being of the communities.

6.2 Conclusion

The community is nomadic and relies mostly on livestock for their livelihoods. When droughts, floods or diseases strike, most animals die, this in turn contributes to conflicts as a result of fighting for resources such as water and pasture, the communities further engage in cattle rustling to restock their herds. The cycle is repeated leading to increased poverty levels.

It emerged that many people in the area are illiterate. High poverty level in the county has led to low school enrolment rates and low transition to secondary schools. The

situation is further escalated by high dropout rates (4.5% in primary schools) which affect the levels of education in the county. This translates to very few accomplishing their secondary school education to enable them to join tertiary institutions; thus denying the county the much needed skilled manpower to spur economic growth.

The FPE policy is well received but most people do not know their responsibilities and those of the Government. Majority of the people in this Sub County do not know the value of education and thus do not see the need for educating their children. Culture is a major obstacle to girl's education since a girl child is not considered part of the family as she will get married.

Water is a rare commodity in the Sub County and congested settlements can be found around water points. This sometime leads to conflicts as disputes arise from herders when sharing the watering points. The water table in most parts of the Sub County is high making it a big challenge to put up pit latrines. Though sinking wells is not a problem in most parts of the Sub County, the water from most of these wells is too salty for human and livestock consumption.

The residents are optimistic that the recent oil explorations taking place in the county will present an opportunity for economic progression thus reducing the dependency on livestock.

Closing Statements

Mandera's population has its largest percentage living under extreme poverty, barely providing for themselves the most basic of needs. They also face challenges that range from food insecurity, environmental degradation, high poverty incidence, poor transport and communication infrastructure, droughts, insecurity, high illiteracy levels, water scarcity, and poor urban and rural planning. Children are unable to go to school because their parents are unable to pay for them school fees, this further encourages obstinacy of poverty reduction in the area. Drought often kills livestock, destroys pasture and causes lack of water. All these further encourage sustenance of poverty. Security in Mandera is very wanting and this discourages and creates conflict amongst the pastoralists, therefore discouraging development in the area. This are among the many problems faced in the county, the recommendations provided for each problem area will help address them.