

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**



**THE PRESIDENCY  
MINISTRY OF DEVOLUTION AND PLANNING**

**MARSABIT COUNTY PARTICIPATORY POVERTY  
ASSESSMENT REPORT**

**ELBESO CLUSTER**



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## FOREWORD

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

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

The definition of poverty varies from one community to the other. From their point of view, poverty was generally defined as inability to meet basic human needs such as food, shelter, clothing, education and health.

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

The findings from the study will be used as lessons learnt in designing County based programmes. For example, communities have come up with diverse coping mechanisms on poverty. Some of these include women merry-go-round and small scale business. This will be upgraded to other notable initiatives like table banking concept and training Counties to benefit from UWEZO and other related funds. They will be a reference point in designing current and future interventions on reducing poverty and regional disparities. I call upon our internal and external stakeholders to utilize the respective PPA-V county reports to inform policy and decision-making.

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

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Marsabit County Participatory Poverty Assessment is a pioneer publication in the sense that it takes the County as the key reference point on poverty profiling. This comes in the wake of the promulgation of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and the formation of County Governments after the general elections of 2013. It is derived from the fifth national Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA-V) Report whose findings have been published simultaneously with the 47 County-specific 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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**Eng. Peter Mangiti**  
**Principal Secretary**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA) is a mechanism through which identified groups of people give their own definition and understanding of poverty based on their own perspectives. The government conducted PPA I in 1994, PPA-II in 1996, PPA-III in 2001 and PPA-IV in 2005/06.

Between November 2012 and February 2014, the national Government conducted PPA-V whose overall objective is to contribute to Kenya's poverty reduction strategy by providing a richer and more informative database on the living standards, aspirations and needs of the poorer sections of the population. In particular, the survey sought the community perspectives on poverty dynamic diagnostics and the provision and impact of selected wellbeing services including agriculture, education, health, social protection and other devolved funds. Perspectives of the community were sought on the awareness of the availability of these services, accessibility and affordability.

This report presents the findings of the PPA-V survey in Elbeso Cluster of Marsabit County which was conducted 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 sub-county technical experts in the subject areas of the survey.

Elbeso cluster is a rural community in Darate sub location, North Horr location, North Horr division in Chalbi sub-county. The main economic activities/industries in the county includes livestock rearing, small-scale fishing, sand harvesting, salt mining, stone mining, mining of gems and precious stones, and small scale trading.

Elbeso community defined poverty as the situation where one has very few livestock. They gave characteristics of the poor in the community as those people with no cattle, live in traditional houses, are unable to access adequate food, and sometimes look thin and malnourished. The main causes of poverty are drought and insecurity.

The main health concern in the community was cancer and majority of those affected by the disease are the elderly. Livestock also are mainly affected by lung diseases and anthrax. The community has few health facilities to access healthcare and they are limited by lack of good road network. They said that they use herbs in cases where they cannot access the hospitals.

According to Elbeso community, there is improvement in the education sector overtime. They felt that education was more accessible today than it was ten years ago, with improved education infrastructure;

The community practice livestock keeping as the main economic activity. It was established that there are limited livestock extension services from the government save for VSF Germany which provide most of the services needed by the community. The challenges affecting livestock production are drought, diseases, wild animals and cattle rustling. The community suggested that they needed linkages with markets through creation of safe corridors for their animals especially towards Ethiopian border where there is a ready market.

Water was not a problem for the Elbeso community since they had settled near the water points. Access to water becomes a challenge when the communities are forced to move out of the village in search for pasture. Also housing was not given any great importance by the community since majority build traditional houses using locally available materials and they can easily be moved. These houses face great challenge of being blown away by strong winds in the area.

There is low awareness on government pro-poor initiatives save for the youth fund though the youth said they have not yet benefited from the fund. The community indicated that they benefited more from the NGOs more than the government since almost all the institutions in the sub-county have had NGO support. They asked for the government to open up Chalbi Sub-county headquarters by tarmacking the main road to the headquarters and supplying with electricity.

## ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ART	Ant-Retroviral Therapy
CDF	Constituency Development Fund
CT	Cash Transfers
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
DYO	District Youth Officer
FGD	Focused Group Discussion
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
MLND	Maize Lethal Necrosis Disease
NASSEP	National Sample Survey and Evaluation Programme
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
PLWD	People Living With Disabilities
PPA	Participatory Poverty Assessment
PTA	Parents Teachers Association
RA	Research assistant
SHOMAP	Small Holder Marketing Programme
TBA	Traditional Birth Attendant
URTI	Upper Respiratory Tract Infection
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WEF	Women Enterprise Fund
YEDF	Youth Enterprise Development Fund



## CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 BACKGROUND OF PPA-V

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

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

### 1.2 COUNTY/CLUSTER PROFILE

Marsabit County borders Ethiopia to the north and northeast, Wajir County to the east, Isiolo County to the southeast, Samburu County to the south and southwest, and Lake Turkana to the west and northwest. It covers an area of 70,961.3 km<sup>2</sup> and has 4 Constituencies, namely, Moyale, North Horr, Saku and Laisamis.

The county experiences temperatures ranging from a minimum of 10.1°C to a maximum of 30.2°C, with an annual average of 20.1°C. Rainfall ranges between 200mm and 1,000mm per annum. The infrastructure development is poor with road network encompassing zero bitumen surface, 397 km gravel surface and 2,034 km earth surface.

According to the Marsabit County Development Profile, the county has a population of 291,166 (52 percent male and 48 percent female) and population density of 4 people per km<sup>2</sup>.

Poverty levels are high above the national level at 92 percent. The main economic activities/industries in the county includes livestock rearing, small-scale fishing, sand harvesting, salt mining, stone mining, mining of gems and precious stones, and small scale trading.

The county is endowed with natural resources such as wildlife, Lake Turkana, forests, rangelands, and wind and solar energy. Some of the tourist attractions are Marsabit National Park and Reserve, Sibilo and South Island National Park, Lake Sokote and Lake Paradise. The county has limited education and health facilities with prevalent diseases such as malaria, intestinal worms, diseases of the respiratory tract and diarrhea.

### **1.3 PPA-V OBJECTIVES**

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

- i. Gain a deeper understanding of the impact of the pro-poor initiatives based on the perceptions of the people themselves, especially the poor and vulnerable groups;
- ii. Broaden the process through which policies will be developed by engaging ordinary citizens in real debates to come up with the best ways of reducing poverty and preventing people from falling into poverty;
- iii. Identify and prioritize policies, strategies, programmes and projects which would support poor communities in their escape from poverty, focusing on social protection initiatives;
- iv. Integrate the respective contributions of participatory and qualitative approaches in the M&E strategy for Kenya;
- v. Evaluate impact and identify what outcomes are important to those affected by policy interventions themselves to help untangle complex processes of individual and community change;
- vi. Enrich the understanding of the lived realities of poverty and arriving at policies which make sense to those affected to ensure equity and improvement of wellbeing in a clean and secure environment; and
- vii. Respond to the Bill of Rights and other articles enshrined in the Constitution of Kenya 2010 e.g. public participation.

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

The sampling process was guided by the fourth National Sample Survey and Evaluation Programme (NASSEP-IV) maps provided by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics which were also used to demarcate the boundaries of each of the selected clusters.

A sample of one cluster per county was selected for the detailed study in which all specially designed participatory assessment tools were implemented. In Marsabit County, Elbeso community (rural cluster) in North Horr sub-county was selected to represent the views of the county. A household survey was also undertaken and a household questionnaire administered especially to those benefiting from cash transfers.

## 1.5 FIELD LOGISTICS

The PPA-V study in Marsabit County was conducted in November and 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 are the technical experts in the subject areas of the survey. The main policy areas of focus were Healthcare, Basic Education, Agricultural Services and Inputs, Water and Sanitation, Housing, Cash Transfer (CT), Roads 2000, devolved funds such as the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and Kazi Kwa Vijana (KKV).

In preparation for the pilot survey, the supervisors were introduced to the use of survey tools by the consultant. Advertisement for Research Assistants (RAs) was done one week prior to recruitment through the District Development Officer (DDO) and District Statistics Officer (DSO). The recruitment interviews were conducted to all the applicants and six (6) research assistants per county were selected to assist in data collection in that specific county.

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

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

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

The team carrying out this study in Marsabit County encountered several challenges. Notably, the poor road network forced the team to travel for three days to reach the cluster. Secondly is adverse hot weather condition reducing working hours from noon to 3 o'clock and forcing the team to travel either early in the morning or late evening to avoid excess heat that can make tires burst.

During the interviews for the Focused Group Discussion, the community initially felt that the resource map was setting boundaries for the community and refused to give information. However, after indulgence of the area chief, they cooperated and the exercise continued without a hitch. Another notable challenge was that most of the key informants were staying in Marsabit town which is the county headquarters and is more than 220 km away from North Horr town. This therefore forced the team to carry out the key informant interview at Marsabit town away from the cluster.

## **1.6 PPA V METHODOLOGY**

The field study used PPA tools and instruments including semi-structured oral interview questionnaires, focus group discussions, key informant interviews and observations. The specific tools used included resource mapping, wealth ranking, Venn/chapatti diagrams, the mood barometer and pair-wise ranking. The Village Resource Map was introduced before the introduction of other PPA tools, and Wealth Ranking was used to establish how the community categorizes itself economically. There was an attempt to identify households which were benefiting from the cash transfers so that they could participate during the administration of the specific data collection checklists.

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

The key informants provided technical information about their particular areas of operation. Those interviewed included officers responsible for Public Health/Medical Services, Water, Agriculture/Livestock, Gender and Social Development, Basic Education, opinion leaders, DDO, Youth officer and CDF manager.

## **1.7 REPORT ORGANIZATION/OUTLINE**

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

## CHAPTER TWO: POVERTY DYNAMICS AND INDICATORS

### 2.1 INTRODUCTION

The Marsabit County Development Profile 2013 indicates that the County has over 80 percent of the population living on less than a dollar per day. According to the Kenya Integrated Household Survey (KIHBS) 2005/06, absolute poverty, food poverty and hardcore poverty in the county are 92 percent, 83 percent and 68 percent, respectively. There is high incidence of poverty in urban areas like Marsabit and Moyale towns where people who have lost their livestock arising from insecurity challenges have sought refuge and settled.

The main causes of poverty include poor road network, persistent drought, environmental degradation, insecurity and HIV/AIDS. Other causes of poverty are overdependence on rain-fed agriculture, high level of illiteracy, and inadequate water for domestic and livestock use. There are also a high number of orphans due to HIV/AIDS thus aggravating poverty levels in the county.

### 2.2 DEFINITION OF POVERTY

The Elbeso community defined poverty as the situation where one has very few livestock (cows, goats, sheep and camels) as those who lack livestock live miserable lives. The DO-1 concurred with the community and defined poverty as lack of animals like camels, sheep and goats. The KI noted that in most cases these animals are kept by the community for status and pride and rarely do they sell them to uplift their living conditions. He noted extreme cases where the locals survived from hand to mouth, and yet they had large stocks of livestock worth millions of shillings.

### 2.3 CLASSIFICATION OF POVERTY

The Elbeso community classified poverty into three main classes: very poor, poor and rich. The very poor are referred to as *Kole*, the poor as *Iyes* and the rich *asthuress*. According to them, it is difficult to differentiate among the very poor and the poor because they all have similar living standards. More specifically, the very poor do not ordinarily stay in that condition for a long time because they usually receive assistance from the rest of the community.

### 2.4 CHARACTERISTICS OF POVERTY

The community gave the characteristics of the very poor as those with no cattle, live in traditional houses, have no houses, are unable to access adequate food and medical care, wear tattered clothes, are unable to educate their children, and sometimes look thin and malnourished. The poor are unable to raise money for medical services, live in temporary shelter, and have few livestock of roughly around 20 goats/sheep, two camels and no cows. The rich have proper housing, wear good

clothing, they seek good medical care and they have more livestock estimated to be above 200 goats, 20 cattle and 30 camels.

## **2.5 CATEGORIZATION OF POVERTY**

The Elbeso community gave the percentages of the very poor, poor and the rich as 0 percent, 80 percent and 20 percent, respectively. The reason for the zero percent very poor was given as a reflection of the culture of the community to always help the needy. They said that those considered very poor are given animals to tend for some period and once the animals reproduce they return them to the owners and are left with the offspring which they keep for restocking.

## **2.6 CAUSES OF POVERTY**

The key Informant stated the main causes of poverty in North Horr community are prolonged droughts that in most cases wipe out animals leaving the community vulnerable to hunger. In these circumstances, the community relied entirely on relief food. Retrogressive cultures that dictate that all first-borns should not go to schools but herd family livestock so as to be available to take part in cultural rituals also had a strong bearing on poverty levels.

The community identified causes of poverty in the area as illiteracy leading to unemployment for those who do not go to school and conflicts emanating from neighbouring communities. Specifically, the community is often forced to close businesses and migrate to safer places during conflicts. The prevalence of livestock diseases such as anthrax, foot and mouth, lung diseases and liver diseases often killed large herds of livestock thus reducing their source of livelihood. Lastly, the community faulted poor infrastructure in the county since it limits movement of goods and services from one place to another thereby limiting access to markets and to other services.

## **2.7 IMPACT OF POVERTY**

Generally, the Elbeso community felt that poverty has negatively impacted on the majority in the county because many households cannot afford basic needs such as food, clothes, medical-care and education. The most affected groups are women and the aged. However, children and people living with disabilities were not severely affected since they often got assistance from the community, NGO and CBOs. The assistance ranges from food, clothes, medical care and education support.

## **2.8 COPING MECHANISMS**

The locals identified some of the coping mechanism as soft loans from among the community, relief food and food supplements from the government/NGOs, sharing milk and meat among the families, living in the same village, obtaining livestock drugs on credit, and use of traditional herbs for treatment of both humans and cattle. Other families take their children to primary and secondary

schools due to availability of free boarding facilities and day feeding programmes which are in almost all the schools in the sub-county. Furthermore, Elbeso communities help each other by giving out cattle to those who do not have them to restock.

## 2.9 ASSETS OWNERSHIP, ACCESS AND DECISION MAKING

Household assets in the community were classified between men and women in terms of ownership, access and decision-making. Men owned livestock, traditional chairs, ceremonial sticks, ceremonial whips, and special milk containers called “*chicho miju*”, while women own traditional gourds, clay pots, radios and traditional bags. The decision on disposal of assets is consultative among the men and women.

## 2.10 POVERTY AND GENDER

The KI noted that there are cultural practices that affect the development of the girl child. The predominant cultures are chasing away girls from the family whenever they give birth before marriage, and early marriage with girls married as young as 13 years. This practice is supported by the belief that young girls (11years) when married early will give birth to many children before menopause and the children are viewed as a sign of progression and wealth. It was revealed that if a family refuses marriage for their daughter, then their sons cannot marry from any family in the community.

During the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) it emerged communities in Marsabit county practice Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). Women said this practice is allowed by their customary and cultural practices and it was viewed as a taboo for girls to be uncircumcised. They added that those girls who go contrary to the practice are not supposed to be married by men from the community. When asked about whether they would consider stopping the practice of FGM they insisted that they will **never stop practicing it**.

Early pregnancies are forbidden and not acceptable in the community. For women who find themselves victims, they are chased away from the family to go and live in the urban centers for they are regarded as outcasts.

The Elbeso community was well informed about HIV/AIDS but they said that the health facilities are far away from the community and they last accessed the services in 2010 during a health mobilization campaign. During the FGD women were asked whether they or their mature girls use sanitary towels and they said majority have no access to sanitary towels and hence end up soiling themselves or using simple alternatives such as tattered clothes.

## **2.11 POVERTY TRENDS OVER TIME**

The Elbeso community said that for the last ten years poverty trends have gradually increased due to seasonal droughts occurring in the county that affected livestock production which is the major economic activity in the larger Marsabit County.

## **2.12 INTERVENTIONS ON POVERTY REDUCTION**

There are many interventions targeting the poor in the Marsabit County from the government and non-state actors like CBOs, NGOs and FBOs. Elbeso community pointed out CARE International as one of the leading NGOs assisting the community with relief food and provision of water, WFP assist in emergency food supply, and the Veterinaries Sans Frontiers (VSF)-Germany which provide animal health services. The Northern Water Service Board (NWSB) is very critical in provision of water services like constructing boreholes and water storage tanks.

## **2.13 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT**

Communities living in Marsabit County keep livestock as their main sources of income and food. To enable them improve economically they asked the government to create animal corridors to transport their animals towards Ethiopia to reach a ready market for their animals. They added that security should also be enhanced to prevent inter-communal conflicts.

## CHAPTER THREE: FINDINGS ON PROVISION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES

### 3.1 HEALTHCARE

#### 3.1.1 Introduction

According to the County Development Profile 2013, there are two Level IV hospitals, three mission/NGOs hospitals, one nursing home, eight Level III hospitals, three private health centres, 32 Level II hospitals and 15 private clinics in Marsabit County. The ratio of doctor to population in the county is 1:63,825 while that of nurse to population is 1:1,868. The five most common diseases in order of prevalence are malaria/fever accounting for 44.8 percent of the cases reported in medical facilities. In the county, 31 percent of the children under-five years are malnourished while 40 percent are stunted.

The immunization coverage stands at 63.6 percent. This is done through mobile services where community health workers visit households. Use of contraceptives is low at 8.3 percent due to cultural and religious beliefs. The HIV/AIDS prevalence is at 1.8 percent. The population that delivers in delivery points amounts to 76.2 percent.

There is no health facility in Elbeso and the community seeks medical attention from North Horr dispensary which is about 35 km away and costs Ksh 10,000 when hiring a vehicle in case of an emergency. Due to high transport cost the community use/hire camels as a means of transporting patients to hospitals while others ignore and treat patients at home using herbs.

#### 3.1.2 Major Health Concerns in the Community

The Elbeso community said that the main health concern was cancer and majority of those affected by the disease are the elderly. The community believes that chemicals and waste from oil exploring companies in the county disposed in 1989 at a place called Qilqile is the main cause of the disease. Other health concerns identified by the women FGD include malaria and URTI.

Their livestock are mainly affected by lung diseases and anthrax which may pose danger when consumed by human beings. Among the natural hazards affecting them are wild animals such as wild dogs and hyenas. Lastly, the community felt that the desert dust which is compounded by strong winds usually brings with it diseases to their animals and themselves.

#### 3.1.3 Provision of Health Services

There is no health facility in Elbeso cluster and the nearest health center is in North-Horr which is 35km away. There are difficulties in reaching the facility due to poor state of infrastructure and lack

of vehicles operating in that route. Further the costs of accessing and acquiring services are expensive to most of the community members. The hospital charges for health services are Kshs500for consultancy and Kshs 1,000for inpatient services per night. This forces the residents to opt out of going to hospital or use other alternatives.

The community said that the quality of services is poor and they are not contented with it. They also said that the dispensary is not well equipped with sufficient medical facilities such as Caesarian Section, X-ray, among other services as compared to other hospitals in the sub-county headquarters which are far away from the community.

#### **3.1.4 Interventions on Health Services**

There are several health interventions which the community felt had improved healthcare. They include free immunization services and provision of insecticide treated nets (ITNs). There are also NGOs such as FH which help in nutrition programs for the malnourished.

#### **3.1.5 Health Issues in the Family/Community**

The final decision maker is a man, but they sometimes consult with the family members including the woman.

#### **3.1.6 Ideal Family Size**

The community felt that the average family size is about six children per household but they said the ideal family size should be at least ten members per household. This is especially so since the families can acquire more wealth from dowry and more boys is seen as a sign of increased power and security in the family.

#### **3.1.7 Household Size and Poverty**

The bigger the family size, the higher the level of poverty and vice versa. This is because of the high cost of feeding and catering to the needs of a large family. On the other hand the higher the number of girls in the household the higher chances of the family getting rich.

#### **3.1.8 Access and Family Planning Services**

The family planning program has not reached Elbeso community and they use their own understanding of family planning depending on consultation between husband and wives. Also noted was that men of the same age groups are allowed to share wives and sire children.

Though the local community in Elbeso said they needed to be taught on family planning methods, they noted that they are currently not using them because majority is not aware where to access the services. The community had little knowledge on the use of contraceptives like condoms though women seemed to be for the idea of using them if and only if their husbands are not aware. Due to lack of family planning methods, it was found out that in many cases women give birth while still breastfeeding.

### **3.1.9 Status of Health Services Overtime**

For the last ten years, health services in the community had deteriorated due to few medical staff manning health facilities. The community felt that some personnel in the health facilities are unskilled especially in the local dispensaries. Also medics seconded to the area do not stay for long before being transferred and the local ones do not wish to work in their home area.

### **3.1.10 Recommendations for Improvement**

The Elbeso community recommended that dispensaries and health centers be established in the area with all medical services and equipment. The number of staff should be increased in existing hospitals and more ambulances be availed to serve the communities in cases of emergency. The government should also find ways of ensuring local medical professionals are retained at home as they understand the local lifestyles more.

## **3.2 BASIC EDUCATION**

### **3.2.1 Introduction**

According to the County development Profile 2013, the percentage of those with ability to read is 27.7 percent, while those who can write are rated at 22.9 percent.

There are 129 primary schools which are served by 680 teachers generating a teacher-pupil ratio of 1:60. Total enrolment in primary schools is 41,200 while gross enrolment rate is 43 percent. The dropout rate in the county is high at 43 percent and completion rate of 57 percent. There are 207 ECD centres, 261 ECD teachers, with a total enrolment of 12,218, and teacher-pupil ratio of 1:46. On average, the county has three years of school attendance.

The county has 16 secondary schools with 120 teachers, generating a teacher-pupil ratio of 1:26. The county secondary school enrolment is 3,131. Secondary school dropout rate is 10 percent, with four years of average attendance and 84 percent completion rate. The county has four youth polytechnics, and no colleges and universities.

The sub-county education officer in charge of North Horr said that there are 16 primary schools, 2 secondary schools, 23 Early Children Education (ECDs) centres and 3 adult centers. All the schools offer day and boarding facilities to enable those coming from long distance to access education services. He said although the schools are evenly distributed within the sub-county there was a big challenge of long distances the children travel to the nearest schools, some having to travel for 252 km for primary school and 500 km for secondary school. He said that provision of schools have reduced the movement of the community in search of pasture.

During the FGD Elbeso community said that they have one primary school with two classes which comprise ECD and Class One. The school is being run by the North Horr Catholic Mission with assistance of the community. So far a total of 28 pupils have enrolled. There is no secondary school in the area.

### **3.2.2 Status of the Education Facilities**

According to the KI, the education facilities within North Horr are good with only few schools that might be having poor facilities. This was contrary to what Elbeso community said as according to them education structures (classrooms) are up to standard but there are no equipment such as desks, books and writing boards.

The only school within the community started decades ago but since then the school has only Standard One and ECD. They said that the two classes were built by CDF, while Solidarities International (SI) and PISP, which are local NGOs, built two latrines and a water tank.

### **3.2.3 Provision of Education Services**

The Elbeso community was not aware that they had benefited from free primary education. Those who have children at the local primary school are supposed to pay Kshs 250 for their children. However, this was contrary to the KI who is the districts education officer who said that the government through free primary education has been supporting each child by paying Kshs 2,000 for tuition and other facilities. Other donors like FH, UNICEF and SIFA also contribute for the children's education in the sub-county.

Though there is FPE in this primary school the pupils incur boarding costs of up to Kshs 1,000 per term.

There are no day secondary schools in the area or the neighbouring areas, and learners progressing for secondary education are forced to access boarding schools outside the area. Most learners access primary and secondary boarding schools outside the area and mostly in the neighboring North Horr area which is 35 km away.

### **3.2.4 Status of Education Services**

The increase in number of schools and sensitization programs by the provincial administration on the importance of education has resulted to more children being enrolled in both primary and secondary schools. The school feeding programme has also improved the retention rate for the county since it encourages parents to bring their children especially during drought.

### **3.2.5 Education Standards in the Community**

During FGD, the Elbeso community said that their children in the local primary school have never benefited from bursaries, school feeding program, FPE, LATF or any other scholarship. Children who study outside the school sometimes benefit from these initiatives. It was also noted that each school in the area has a latrine facility and water tank attached to it, and thus water and sanitation issue is addressed to some extent.

### **3.2.6 Education and Poverty**

According to the community, since education is one of the long term poverty eradication strategies, lack of quality education will obviously contribute to poverty. This is because the only resources the community depends on are seasonal resources such as livestock, and being literate will therefore mean that their children acquire jobs to add on to what they have.

### **3.2.7 Status of Education Overtime**

According to the Elbeso community, there is improvement in the education sector over time since most parents are sending their children to school now. Further they have two modern classes with 28 pupils enrolled and two teaching staff available.

### **3.2.8 Recommendations for Improvement**

The community urged for the remaining eight classes to be completed in the village primary school. They asked the government to help in registering and posting of more teachers to the school so as to enable enrolment of more pupils. Lastly they recommended for more allocation of resources to facilitate boarding facilities by students, learning equipment, hire of a matron/ boarding master, and construction of enough toilets.

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

#### **3.3.1 Introduction**

According to the County Development Profile 2013, only two percent of the county population practice crop farming. However, the county has great potential of crop production with an area of 1,582,750 ha being arable. There are regions around Mt. Marsabit and Moyale where crop farming does well during rainy season. The main cash crops grown in the county include vegetables and fruits while food crops include maize, wheat, teff, beans and millet.

The total area under food and cash crop production is 5,060 ha. The average farm size in the county is 0.8 ha while farms with title deeds are about one percent. The farms are concentrated in the mountain regions of Saku and Moyale constituencies. The rest of the land is communally owned.

Livestock keeping is the main economic activity in the county. The main livestock bred include cattle which are about 424,603, 1,143,480 goats, 960,004 sheep, 203,320 camels, 63,861 donkeys and 50,690 poultry. There are 2,691 beehives/apiaries in the entire county. Lake Turkana is the main source of fish supporting 1,400 fishermen and 400 fish farming families. The main species of fish caught are tilapia, labeo and Nile perch.

The Elbeso community usually practices livestock keeping and no crop production due to the environmental conditions and infertility of the soils.

#### **3.3.2 Agricultural Services and Inputs**

The community does not receive any livestock extension services from the government save for the VSF Germany which provided de-worming and treatment services for their livestock in 2009. Other livestock services are secured individually or by buying medicine from local agro vets in North Horr town. These drugs are administered with the help of community animal health workers who are chosen by the community and trained by VSF-Germany to assist the livestock farmers.

#### **3.3.3 Interventions in Agriculture**

The community noted that the main player in the provision of livestock services is VSF-Germany which provides veterinary services. The other players, though not directly funding agriculture, are World Food Programme (WFP) which deals with emergency operation programmes by providing relief food for communities during drought, and Northern Water Service Board (NWSB) which provides water services during dry spells. These services enable the communities to move from one place to another in search of pasture for their livestock.

### **3.3.4 Agricultural Services**

All the above interventions target livestock farmers who are vulnerable during the dry seasons.

### **3.3.5 Agriculture and Poverty**

North Horr sub-county keeps livestock as the only source of income, and one was considered poor when he/she lacked some. The rich were defined by the number of animal shed (*milango /karr*) they had in their compound. The rich persons in the community have more animals and several cattle sheds.

Livestock production in North-Horr sub-county has declined due to perennial drought that has been occurring almost after every two years. There has also been emergence of animal diseases especially anthrax, lung disease and foot and mouth which have affected their livestock for some time. Other challenges include attack on livestock by hyenas and wild dogs and diminishing pastures for their cattle.

The community added that increase in animal raids and inter-communal conflicts have resulted to decline in animal production in Marsabit County. The community moves in search of pasture in other parts and they build temporally structures which are blown away by winds.

### **3.3.6 Recommendations for Improvement**

The community recommended that there should be government officials to control animal diseases. They added that the extension services should be enhanced by making sure that all the specialized personnel in the livestock sector are availed. The local leaders were urged to be alert and swift in relaying information on outbreaks of livestock diseases.

The community further recommended that there is need to improve on livestock marketing for the community to benefit from their livestock and improve the road network to enable access to the available markets.

## **3.4 WATER AND SANITATION**

### **3.4.1 Introduction**

According to the County Development Profile 2013, most parts of Marsabit county experience acute shortage of water and only four percent of the household use piped water. There are no permanent rivers in the county and 60 percent of the households rely on boreholes, springs and wells.

There are nine dams, 853 shallow wells, 18 protected springs, 17 unprotected springs, 53 water pans and 60 boreholes which serve as the main sources of water in Marsabit County. The piped water is treated at the water supply plant but the others are not treated and are saline. There is no established water supply services board due to the limited water resources. The water projects in Moyale and Marsabit are government and community initiated either through Ministry of Water or the Constituency Development Fund (CDF). The mean distance to the nearest water point is 25 km.

Only 34.3 percent of households have access to latrines. The toilets include pit latrine which account for 25.8 percent, uncovered pit latrines (13.5 percent), covered pit latrine (12.3 percent), bucket (12.3 percent), VIP (6.5 percent) and 0.2 percent flush toilets. Waste/garbage disposal is done by burning public garbage heaps which account for 19.7 percent, garbage pit (12.1 percent), farm garden (8.9 percent), public garbage heap (1.9 percent) and 0.4 percent disposed by local authority.

The communities in Elbeso areas get their water from boreholes where water is pumped to a water tank centrally placed in the area. There is also a dam and a river cutting through the village where they also fetch water during the wet seasons.

### **3.4.2 Types of Water Programmes**

The borehole within Elbeso community was constructed in 2011/12 by the Ministry of Water. Water is pumped from the borehole to a water tank and connected to a water kiosk where people can access. Further there is a water dam project that traps water from rivers during the rainy season. The community also undertook to dig shallow wells with some assistance from donors such PISP and VSF under the consortium of EU water facility.

### **3.4.3 Sanitation Facilities**

The community has three latrines though they prefer to dispose human waste in the bushes around the area. Due to the extensive size of the area which stretches into the Chalbi desert they dispose household waste anyhow oblivious of any dangers. There are no bathrooms that are constructed in the area, and most of them bathe when they take their animals to the water points.

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

The community usually cuts down trees to construct houses for themselves and livestock and use as firewood. The community was not aware of the dangers of cutting trees and they did not understand how that affects water availability in the area. They are also not aware that improper waste disposal can lead to water pollution during rainy seasons.

#### **3.4.5 Water and Sanitation and Poverty**

The community experiences waterborne diseases such as typhoid, cholera, amoebiasis and dysentery due to contaminated water. During drought livestock is affected and during prolonged drought many of their livestock die and those that remain are unhealthy and fetch low prices. Thus with lack of water the community suffers big losses resulting to high incidence of poverty.

#### **3.4.6 Status of Water and Sanitation Overtime**

The community has enough water for their domestic use as compared to ten years ago. Though the community does not have individual pit latrines there is one community latrine building within the village. Sanitation has greatly improved in the last ten years as pit latrines had been constructed in the village. However, during the focused group discussion for women it was established that the women do not have access to sanitary towels. They said that sanitary services are emphasized to the community through the awareness created by Veterinarian Sans Frontiers (VSF) Germany.

#### **3.4.7 Recommendations for Improvement**

It was recommended that the community be encouraged to use the available pit latrine within the village. This was stressed after it came out from the FGD that the community was not using the latrine. The cluster has enough water though they recommended that the water pipes need to be replaced with wider pipes to improve the flow of water supply and extend the pipes to reach the community living far from Elbeso village.

## 4.1 HOUSING

### 4.1.1 Introduction

The communities in North Horr sub-county practice nomadic lifestyle forcing them to live in temporary houses. The community usually builds traditional houses which are made up of sticks, grass, polythene bags and rugs. Modern houses are made up of mud walls and roofed with iron sheets. Traditional houses can be moved anytime depending on water availability, and in search of pasture for their livestock. During the transect walk it was observed that majority of Elbeso community members have traditional houses and very few own modern houses.

### 4.1.2 Types of Building Materials

In Elbeso cluster building materials are acquired from simple natural resources such as sisal fibre, long strong and curved sticks, boxes and tattered clothes. A sample traditional house is round in shaped made of curved sticks and covered by clothes or papers. As a result of the interventions which have provided water at specific points, some residents near these water points have constructed mud houses with palm leaves roofing or iron sheets.



*A sample of traditonal house in Elbeso community*

### 4.1.3 Housing and Household Headship

The temporally structures house an average of six people which consist of the father, mother and children. Most of the families are headed by men. In cases where the head of the family passes on, the households are headed by the widow as she is not allowed to remarry, while the man is free to remarry incase the wife passes on.

At times men sleep outside near the livestock sheds to guard their animals. They construct open structures using polythene papers and rugs adjacent to the cattle shed. These are common during rainy nights to protect their animals from wild animals and cattle rustlers.



*A structure used by men to guard their animals at night*

#### **4.1.4 Status of Housing Overtime**

There has been no major change in the status of housing as the houses are built the way the ancestors of the community used to build. There has only been a slight change on walls which are built with mud for communities living around water points.

#### **4.1.5 Recommendations for Improvement**

The community reported that housing was not a priority to them since they live a nomadic lifestyle.

## CHAPTER FOUR: PRO-POOR INITIATIVES AND DEVOLVED FUNDS

### 4.1 PRO-POOR INITIATIVES

#### 4.1.1 Cash Transfers

The community has not benefited from any form of cash transfer, but in November 2013 five elderly people were registered for CT funding through the area assistant chief. However, registration is still in progress but no actual benefit has come forth.

#### 4.1.2 Kazi Kwa Vijana

The residents are not aware of any KKV initiative in the area.

#### 4.1.3 Roads 2000

The Elbeso community was not aware of the Roads 2000 and they did not benefit from it.

#### 4.1.4 Constituency Development Fund

The community could not identify any project undertaken by CDF in Elbeso village.

#### 4.1.5 Local Authority Transfer Fund

The awareness of this devolved fund was very low among the Elbeso community. During FGD the community response about the fund was that it has never benefited them in any way.

#### 4.1.6 Women Enterprise Fund

Women from Elbeso community have not been able to access the fund due to lack of information. They said that they were not aware of the fund and no efforts had been made to educate them on how to access the fund. They felt that Chalbi sub-county had been neglected and does not benefit from most of the government initiatives.

#### 4.1.7 Youth Enterprise Development Fund

The youth from North Horr were aware of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund though they have not benefited from it. They said that to access the fund one has to travel for more than 200 km to the county headquarters in Marsabit town since the officers who manage the fund have no offices in Chalbi sub-county.

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

### **5.1 HIV AND AIDS**

In Elbeso community HIV/AIDS was not a major health concern and was not common in the community.

### **5.2 PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

During FGD, the community reported that PWDs are helped by the community and they are encouraged to live a normal life including starting their own families. They said that they do not receive any help from the government in catering for the disabled.

### **5.3 GENDER**

Women in Elbeso community are considered as household helper for the head who are usually men. During the administration of the gender analysis tool it came out that women are overburdened with household chores while men do lighter jobs. In Elbeso women are supposed to construct houses for the family, cook and herd cattle. Men on the other hand provide security for the family and milk cows early in the morning.

## CHAPTER SIX: RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

### 6.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

The communities in Marsabit County keep livestock as their main source of income and food. To enable them improve economically they asked the government to create animal corridors where communities can transport their animals towards Ethiopia where there is a ready market for their animals. They added that security should also be enhanced to prevent inter-communal conflicts.

On the health sector the community recommended that dispensaries and health centers be established in the area with medical equipment and personnel. The government should also find ways of ensuring local medical professionals are retained at home as they understand their lifestyles more.

The road network need to be improved and the existing roads made to all weather status to enable flow of services to the community. Currently the main road connecting the sub counties in Marsabit County are not tarmacked.

According to the secondary data poverty levels are high in Marsabit. The communities interviewed however said that there are no very poor people in the County. They attributed this to the assistance given to those considered poor by other community members who help each other to restock cattle. Provision of government services in health, sanitation, agriculture, roads, water, cash tranfers, education, and Devolved funds were considered inadequate throughout the county.

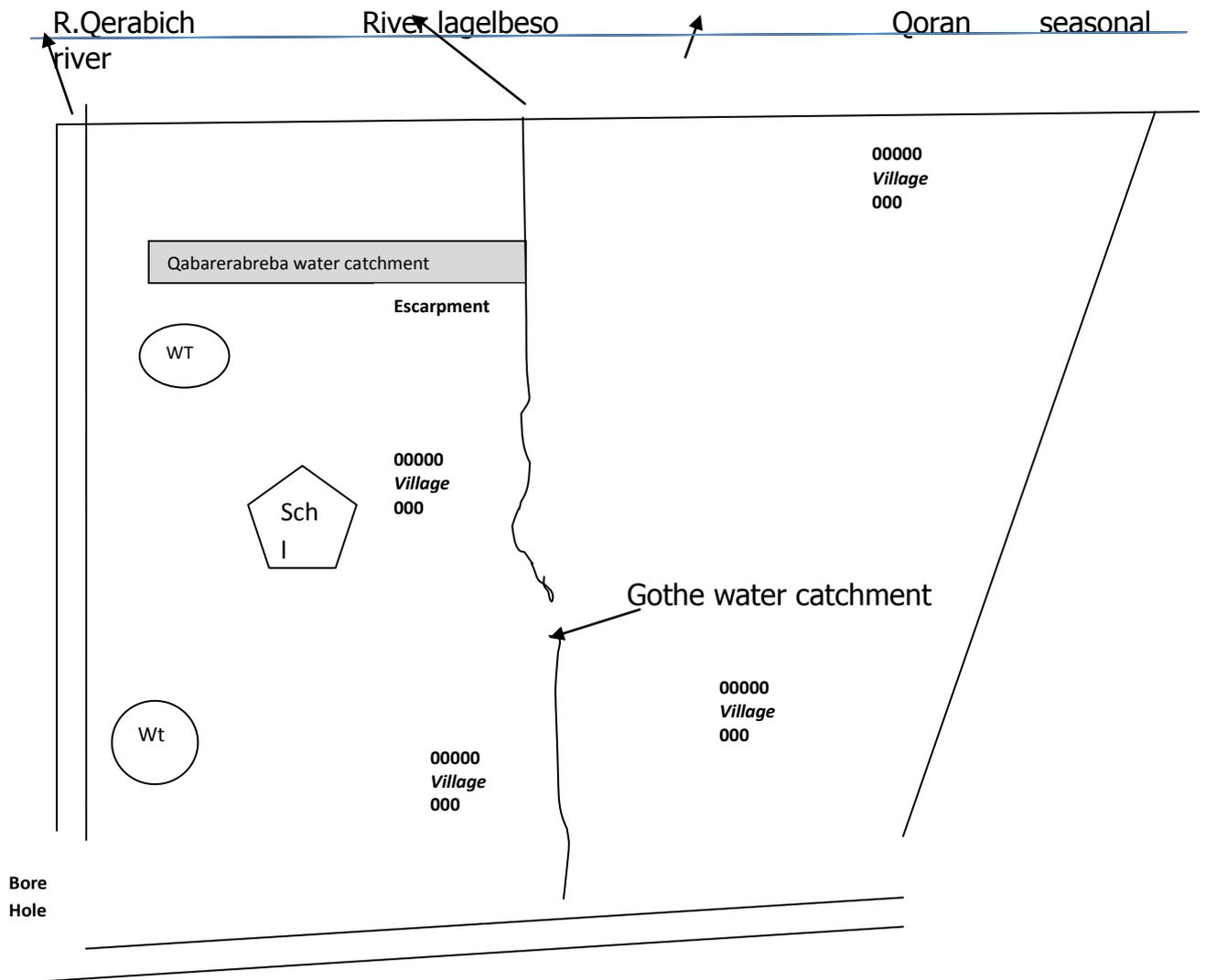
## 6.2 CONCLUSION

The key finding from Marsabit County was that though the poverty levels are higher than the national levels the people do not consider themselves poor. This is due to their own definition of poverty where they measure wellbeing in terms of the number of cattle one has.

The most pressing problem noted and expressed by the community was lack of road and poor road network coupled with lack of electricity and health facilities. Education facilities were of good condition and well equipped since most of the schools are funded by the local NGOs and offer boarding facilities for the students.

Water was not considered a main challenge for the community since most villages were served with boreholes or wells. Although water is not considered scarce, this may change when the communities move to look for pastures for their cattle. The area experiences perennial droughts, inter-communal conflicts and cattle rustling which pose a major challenge for development of the area.

ANNEX I: SOCIAL MAP FOR ELBESO VILLAGE



	Lack of education facilities	Lack of medical services	Diminishing pastures	Narrow piping comm. water	Insecurity	Poor infrastructure	Poor maintenance of borehole	Livestock disease	Rank	Posi
Lack of education facilities		Lack of medical services	Lack of education facilities	Narrow piping comm. water	Insecurity	Lack of education facilities	Poor maintenance of borehole	Lack of education facilities	3	5
Lack of medical services			Lack of medical services	Narrow piping comm. water	Lack of medical services	Lack of medical services	Poor maintenance of borehole	Lack of medical services	5	3
Diminishing pastures				Narrow piping comm. water	Insecurity	Poor infrastructure	Poor maintenance of borehole	Livestock disease	0	8
Narrow piping comm. water					Narrow piping comm. water	Narrow piping comm. water	Poor maintenance of borehole	Narrow piping comm. water	6	2
Insecurity						Insecurity	Poor maintenance of borehole	Insecurity	4	4
Poor infrastructure							Poor maintenance of borehole	Livestock disease	1	7
Poor maintenance of borehole								Poor maintenance of borehole	7	3
Livestock disease									2	6