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THE PRESIDENCY

MINISTRY OF DEVOLUTION AND PLANNING

PARTICIPATORY POVERTY ASSESSMENT V

**UASIN GISHU COUNTY SITE REPORT –
CHARAR NORTH CLUSTER**



OCTOBER 2014

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FOREWORD

Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA) is a mechanism through which identified groups of people/community give their own definition and understanding of poverty. PPA V 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 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 that many in the clusters visited did not understand how the pro-poor initiatives operate. On crosscutting issues such as HIV/AIDS, drug and substance abuse, gender disparity on property ownership, degradation and poor governance on devolved funds and pro-poor initiatives were reported to be on the rise.

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 businesses. 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 Uasin Gishu County Participatory Poverty Assessment is the first of its kind that has the County as the key reference point on poverty profiling since the promulgation of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and ultimately the formation of County Governments after the general elections of 2013. It is derived from the fifth National Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA-V) Report whose findings have been published simultaneously with 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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Finally, the Ministry is grateful to the respective County Governments and their staff, National Government staff in the Counties, communities and their leaders as well as key informants especially in their role in community mobilization and laying of logistics for a successful poverty assessment exercise within their areas of operation. Specifically, we thank targeted communities for turning up in large numbers and participating with enthusiasm during Focused Group Discussions (FGD) sometimes often late into the evenings thus making the work of our facilitators a success.

Engineer Peter O. 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 dynamics and diagnostics, and the provision and impact of selected wellbeing services including agriculture, education, healthcare, 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 Charar cluster of Uasin Gishu County which was conducted in November/December 2012. Charar cluster is a rural community in Moiben division, Eldoret East 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 sub-county technical experts in the subject areas of the survey.

Uasin Gishu County covers an area of 3,345.2 km² and had a population of 1,002,153 in 2012 (503,211 males and 498,942 females). It was projected to increase to 1,123,165 in 2015 and 1,211,853 in 2017. The 1999-2009 inter-censal population growth rate was 3.8 percent per annum, which is higher than the national average of 2.9 percent. The high population growth rate is mainly due to natural increase and immigration from other regions notably Western, Nyanza and Central parts of the country.

Some of the causes of poverty in Charar include poor returns on farm produce, unemployment, lack of education, alcoholism, high cost of farm inputs, ignorance, and high cost of education.

Generally, health services are available, accessible and affordable to the community except for referral cases which are far and expensive. There are no health facilities within the cluster. In case of referrals, they seek medical attention from Moiben Health Centre located about 10 km from the community.

Education services particularly those for primary education are generally accessible and affordable. However, most education facilities are in poor state and are inadequate.

The community is aware of the available agricultural services. The services are accessible, though not affordable with the extension services being demand-driven. Among the agricultural services offered are extension services, field demonstrations, field days, farm visits and workshops to train farmers. Agricultural services provided are targeted to individuals and farmer groups.

There are several major water schemes within the locality, namely, Chepng'oror and Chemusham boreholes which are active although Chemusham borehole is not yet equipped. Other projects include Cheptigit water project, Kaoni, Moiben, Chepkoilel, Arangai, Kapngetuny, Kaplolo, Kapkei, Koitoror, Leltot and Masise. It should be noted that most of these programmes are not located within Charar. The sanitation facilities available include pit latrines and pits for disposing waste.

There is awareness of the existence of several pro-poor initiatives and devolved funds in this community including cash transfers, YEDF, WEF and CDF. However, procedures for accessing these funds and general negative attitude towards loans limit the uptake of the funds.

HIV/AIDS, high population growth, high poverty incidences and gender inequality were identified as major crosscutting issues of concern. The community noted that increased population growth is expected to put pressure on the natural resource base and social amenities and thus hinder quality services. They also noted the impact of poverty on the vulnerable including PWDs, the elderly, female-headed households, the landless, the youth, the unemployed and OVCs.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AI	Artificial Insemination
AFC	Agricultural Finance Corporation
AMREF	Africa Medical Research Foundation
ATDC	Agricultural Technological Development Centres
CBO	Community Based organization
CDF	Constituency Development Fund
CHW	Community Health Worker
CT	Cash Transfers
DDO	District Development officer
DSO	District Statistics Officer
ECDE	Early Childhood Development Education
ESP	Economic Stimulus Programme
FBO	Faith Based organization
FGD	Focused Group Discussion
FPE	Free Primary Education
KCPE	Kenya Certificate of Primary Education
KCSE	Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education
KESP	Kenya Education Support Programme
KIHBS	Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey
KKV	Kazi Kwa Vijana
LATF	Local Authority Transfer Fund
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NAAIAP	National Accelerated Agriculture Input Access Project
NACC	National AIDS Control Council
NALEP	National Agriculture and Livestock Extension Programme
NASSEP	National Sample Survey and Evaluation Programme
NCPB	National Cereals and Produce Board
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
NHIF	National Hospital Insurance Fund
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PEC	Poverty Eradication Commission
PPA	Participatory Poverty Assessment
PTA	Parents Teachers Association
PWD	Persons with Disabilities
RA	Research Assistant
STI	Sexually Committed Infection
TOWA	Total War against AIDS
VCT	Voluntary Counseling and Testing
WEF	Women Enterprise Fund
YED	Youth Enterprise Development Fund

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

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

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

The PPA-V was necessitated by the fact that inequality and poverty remain among key development challenges that the Government of Kenya continues to confront and address. While 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 exist large disparities in incomes and access to education, health, and to basic needs including clean water, adequate housing and sanitation.

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

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

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

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

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

Since the fourth PPA, the government has initiated a number of programmes aimed at alleviating poverty, inequality and ameliorating the suffering of the vulnerable sections of the Kenyan citizens. The fifth Participatory Poverty Assessment mainly focused on the impact of the various pro-poor policies, strategies, programs and projects aimed at reducing poverty and improving welfare.

1.2 PPA-V OBJECTIVES

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

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

More specifically, the participatory study sought 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.
- iii. Identify and prioritize policies, strategies, programmes and projects which would support poor communities to improve their wellbeing, focusing on pro-poor initiatives.
- iv. Integrate the respective contributions of participatory and qualitative approaches in the 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.
- vii. Respond to the Bill of Rights and other articles enshrined in the Constitution of Kenya 2010 e.g. public participation.

1.3 COUNTY/CLUSTER PROFILE

According to the 2009 Population and Housing Census, the population of the county was 894,179. This population is projected to increase to 1,002,153 in 2012 (503,211 males and 498,942 females), 1,123,165 in 2015 and 1,211,853 in 2017. The 1999-2009 inter-censal population growth was 3.8 percent per annum, which is higher than the national average of 2.9 percent. The high population growth rate is mainly due to natural increase and immigration from other regions notably Western, Nyanza and Central parts of the country.

Uasin Gishu County is a highland plateau. Altitudes fall gently from 2,700m above sea level at Timboroa in the East to about 1,500m above sea level at Kipkaren in the West. The county can roughly be divided into two broad physiographic regions, with Eldoret (2,085m) forming the boundary between the regions. The topography is higher in the east and declines towards the western borders. The plateau terrain allows easier construction of infrastructure such as roads and use of modern machinery for farming.

The county is in the Lake Victoria catchment zone and therefore all the rivers from the county drain into Lake Victoria. Major rivers include Sosiani, Kipkaren, Kerita, Kipkuner, Nderugut, Daragwa and Sambu rivers. The rivers provide water for livestock, and domestic and industrial use.

The county experiences a high and reliable rainfall which is evenly distributed throughout the year. The average rainfall ranges between 624.9mm-1560.4mm. It occurs between March and September with two distinct peaks in May and August. The areas with relatively higher rainfall are found in Ainabkoi, Kapsaret and Kesses Divisions whereas Turbo, Moiben and Soy Divisions receive relatively lower amounts of rainfall. The dry spells begin in November and end in February. Temperatures range between 7⁰C and 29⁰C. The rainfall and temperatures in the county are conducive for both livestock and crop farming.

1.4 METHODOLOGY

1.4.1 Selection of the Cluster

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

1.4.2 Process, Study Instruments and Fieldwork

This 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 and pair-wise ranking. The Village Resource Map was introduced before the introduction of other PPA tools, and Wealth Ranking was used to establish how the community categorizes itself economically. Attempt was made to identify households benefiting from the cash transfers so that they could participate during the administration of the specific data collection checklists.

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

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

1.4.3 Field Logistics

The PPA-V was conducted in two phases: Phase one was conducted between November and December 2012 while phase two was conducted between November and December 2013. Information from the clusters was provided by the community members through Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) and household questionnaire

and was complemented by the information from key informants who are the technical experts in the subject areas of the survey. The main policy areas of focus were Healthcare, Basic Education, Agricultural Services and Inputs, Water and Sanitation, Housing, Cash Transfer (CT), Roads 2000, devolved funds such as Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and Kazi Kwa Vijana (KKV).

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

The training for researchers ran for five (4) 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. This report presents the PPA-V survey findings. It uses poverty perceptions as recorded from Charar North to draw inferences about the county.

1.5 REPORT ORGANIZATION/OUTLINE

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

CHAPTER TWO: POVERTY DYNAMICS AND INDICATORS

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The overall absolute poverty was estimated at 49 percent in 2012 up from 47.6 percent in 2003. High poverty levels in the county limit the capacity of the people to exploit economic opportunities. Those most vulnerable to poverty include persons with disabilities, the elderly, women (particularly female-headed households), the landless, the youth, the unemployed, and Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC). The poverty incidence is spread across the county, with severity in parts of Kapseret (Langas), Turbo and Moiben.

The major causes of poverty in the county include high levels of unemployment and poor business skills, high costs of farm inputs and poor food storage facilities, lack of markets for farm produce, low and inequitable access to education, limited access to credit facilities, and poor delivery of services, among others.

2.2 DEFINITION OF POVERTY

The community defined poverty as the state or condition of having little or no money, goods or means of transport. In the community, poverty is referred to as 'sinet', 'pananda' or 'nyalilda'.

2.3 CHARACTERISTICS OF POVERTY

The characteristics of poverty according to them include insufficient food, lack of decent clean clothes, frequent illness, having land but cannot afford to cultivate, and not being able to take children to school.

2.4 CLASSIFICATION OF POVERTY

The community classified their states of poverty as very poor, poor and rich. The rich constitute 2 percent of the community, 80 percent are poor and 18 percent are very poor. In the community someone is referred to as being rich if he/she can afford good food, shelter, clothes, send their children to private schools, have farm machinery, go to private hospitals, hire labourers to work on their farms, and can purchase farm inputs.

Those considered as poor send their children to public schools, cannot afford farm inputs such as fertilizer, provide labour for themselves, and go to public hospitals. The

very poor lack food, shelter, clothes, have land but cannot afford to cultivate, and their children do not go to school.

2.5 CAUSES OF POVERTY

According to the community, the main causes of poverty are low prices of farm produce, unemployment, lack of education, lack of farming skills, alcoholism, high cost of farm inputs, ignorance, and high cost of education.

Table 1: Pair-wise Matrix on Causes of Poverty

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	SCORE	RANK
Unemployment	//// //	2	3	1	1	1	1	8	4	2
Lack of education	//// //	//// //	2	4	5	6	7	8	2	6
Alcoholism	//// //	//// //	//// //	3	5	6	7	8	2	6
High cost of farm inputs	//// //	//// //	//// //	//// //	4	4	4	8	4	2
Lack of skills	//// //	//// //	//// //	//// //	//// //	5	5	8	4	2
Ignorance	//// //	//// //	//// //	//// //	//// //	//// //	7	8	2	6
High cost of education	//// //	8	3	5						
Low pricing of farm produce	//// /	//// /	//// /	//// //	//// //	//// //	//// //	//// //	7	1

According to the community members, over 70 percent are educated but lack employment. This has demoralized the younger generation from performing well in school when they see the educated unemployed. Comparing lack of employment and alcoholism, community members were of the opinion that lack of employment was causing idleness, and hence hopelessness in life. Some fall victims of alcohol. They said that the high cost of farm inputs was their major problem compared to lack of employment because they mainly depend on agriculture for a living. They argued that if farm inputs prices are lowered, their living standards would improve.

Comparing lack of employment and lack of skills, it was largely agreed that the major problem was lack of farming skills and other adequate knowledge on other means of improving their living standards. In the case of lack of employment and high cost of

education, they said that they would be comfortable with the school fees charges if they were employed, meaning that their major problem is unemployment.

Between lack of employment and low pricing of farm inputs, poor prices are a major problem because they mainly rely on agriculture as their source of livelihood. When comparing lack of education and alcoholism, it is noted that many people including the educated take alcohol. This results to wastage of resources hence the high rate of poverty.

They said that the high cost of farm inputs denies them the chance to practice quality agriculture that would help them be able to pay school fees and thus this is more a problem to them than lack of education.

Despite having educated their children, they felt that they lack the required skills, a greater problem than lack of education as some would argue. They said that they lacked adequate skills in major sectors of life. According to the community, the high cost of education has denied many of them the chance to go to school.

The low pricing of farm outputs was another subject of concern as many of them said that this was their livelihood and the poor pricing of their produce affects them negatively. Despite the high cost of farm inputs, they said that they could work harder in their farms but alcohol has enslaved many of them and many resources have been wasted in alcohol that could have been used to purchase farm inputs.

Alcoholism, they said, does not hinder them so much as compared to lack of skills. They argued that alcoholism can be there but they can survive the wrath of poverty if skills are adequate. They said that the high cost of education has contributed more to poverty than alcoholism. This is because the little they get is all directed to education that they cannot even afford after a hard struggle.

Unfavourable markets that offer a low pay to their produce is to blame for their problems than can alcoholism simply because they all depend on the sale of their produce to better their lives. Ignorance, they said, is not a problem as such. They argued that farm inputs were out of reach due to high prices. This being a necessity in farming; it affects their production because the majority will forego them.

They however agreed that lack of skills was a problem in comparison to the prices of farm inputs. Someone argued that even though some members can access the inputs, they do not have good knowledge on how to use them hence causing waste that lead to poverty.

When compared to the high cost of education, the cost of farm inputs had greater weight since they could get good produce and hence be able to access education if they were affordable. The low pricings of farm produce had a high score than the high cost of farm inputs. This, they said was because they depend on the sale of the produce in order to plan for the next planting season.

They claimed that lack of skills was much a problem than ignorance because if they had the knowledge, they could cope with life easily. They said that they could not afford the cost of education hence the major problem between cost of education and ignorance is the high cost of education. The low price of farm produce was more a problem to them than ignorance. This was argued that a better pay would reduce the level of poverty in the society.

When compared with the high cost of education they said that lack of skills is more a problem to them because adequate skills could help them afford the education charges.

The low price of farm produce was their major problem because they felt that this was like a waste after the hard toil in the farm. When we compared to the high cost of education and the low pricing of farm produce, they were all in consensus that they rely on agriculture as their economic backbone and if not well rewarded, they fail to elevate in life. They said that this has contributed many of the problems among them, including failure to pay loans, inability to pay school fees, and the inability to cater for their basic needs.

In summary, the community identified low pricing of farm produce as the leading cause of poverty followed by high unemployment rates and high cost of farm inputs.

2.6 IMPACT OF POVERTY

According to the community members, poverty has led increased alcoholism, low transition rates in education and low agricultural productivity.

2.7 COPING MECHANISMS

According to the community, the coping strategies include looking for seasonal casual jobs, operating small businesses such as *boda boda* and kiosks, and planting vegetables for sale. They also sell other farm produce such as maize although the prices are low compared to production costs.

2.8 ASSET OWNERSHIP, ACCESS AND DECISION MAKING IN THE HOUSEHOLD

The main assets in the households are land, houses, farm produce, cows, goats, sheep, poultry and bicycles. They pointed out that men own assets such as land, cows, sheep, goats and farm produce while the women own poultry only. The community said that, according to their culture, the man (the head of the household) has absolute power of disposing off of the assets. However, the young families said that both spouses agree before disposing off the assets.

2.9 POVERTY TRENDS OVER TIME

According to the community, the status of poverty has increased in the last ten years because of increase in population while the resources remain the same. Also, parents invest everything on paying the children's school fees which the children are not able to pay back due to unemployment. The cost of living has been high to an extent that parents cannot provide adequately for their children. For example, in the past parents used to buy clothes for their children during Christmas but nowadays they cannot afford, hence the responsibility is transferred to the children to look for casual jobs and buy clothes.

2.10 INTERVENTIONS TARGETING THE POOR

The community noted that there was no programme or projects directed to aid in alleviating poverty and assisting people with disabilities.

2.11 RECOMMENDATIONS

The community recommended the following measures to reduce poverty:

- i. Increase accessibility to loans so as to provide capital to the hardworking and deserving youth. If possible, allow the youth to access Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) loans without collateral;
- ii. The public should be educated on how and why they should elect good capable leaders;
- iii. The government should reduce prices of farm inputs and increase prices of farm produce.

CHAPTER THREE: FINDINGS ON PROVISION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES

3.1 HEALTHCARE

3.1.1 Introduction

According to the Uasin Gishu County Development Profile, the county has 100 health facilities: 6 public hospitals, 8 private hospitals, 2 NGO hospitals, 8 public health centres, 4 private health centres, 55 dispensaries, 2 nursing homes and 15 outpatient clinics owned/managed by the government and private sector. The county's doctor-population and nurse-patient ratios are 1:10,034 and 1:2,331, respectively. Access to healthcare in rural areas is however limited because of bad roads, long distance to health facilities, and inadequate equipments and personnel.

In Charar, however, there are no health facilities within the cluster. They seek medical attention from Moiben Health Centre located about 10 km from the community. The community relies on this facility in most of the time. Apart from Moiben Health Centre, some community members go to Iten District Hospital located in Elgeyo-Marakwet County. Other facilities include Tugen Estate Dispensary in the neighbourhood which is a private facility.

3.1.2 Major Health Concerns in the Community

The most common diseases in the county in order of prevalence are malaria flu , stomach-ache, respiratory diseases and diarrhoea. In Charar, the most prevalent diseases include malaria, cholera and typhoid.

3.1.3 Provision of Health Services

Moiben Health Centre and Iten District Hospital are managed and run by the government. Tugen Estate Dispensary is a private institution managed by the owner. Moiben Health Centre is the most accessible to the community. The services offered are satisfactory and of good quality despite some challenges like shortages of medicine in some seasons when there is a disease outbreak. The community was in agreement that they can afford the services offered in the public institutions where they are charged a fee of Kshs 50 for registration.

3.1.4 Interventions towards Improvement of Health Services in the Community

Among the interventions that have facilitated the improvement of health standards in the community are provision of treated mosquito nets, vaccination of children under the age of 5 against diseases like measles, free spraying of mosquito breeding areas to reduce the spread of malaria, and availability of Community Health Workers (CHWs) who despite their laxity have helped teach and sensitize them on some hygienic measures.

3.1.5 Decision Making on Health Issues in the Family/Community

The elderly said that women are responsible for decision making on health concerns in the households. The youth were of a different opinion saying that decisions are made after consultations.

3.1.6 Ideal Family Size

The community members had different opinions concerning an ideal family size. The youth were of the opinion that the ideal family size is five (5) because they want a manageable family. The elderly said that the ideal number depends on one's ability to support them.

3.1.7 Relationship between Household Size and Poverty

They indicated that the family size is related to poverty in the households in the sense that wealthy families have smaller families and vice versa because the rich can afford modern family planning methods. In the case of the poor, idleness and lack of knowledge are to blame for the high number of children.

3.1.8 Access and Decision Making on Family Planning Services

The youth said that they access family planning services at a fee of Kshs 100 offered in the health centres they visit. The women in most cases are responsible for decision making on family planning because they want a household they can manage well, and with ease.

3.1.9 Opinion on Status of Health Services over time

The status of health services in the region has improved majorly brought about by the different interventions they have received so far. Availability of learning facilities has also contributed to this by creating awareness.

3.1.10 Recommendations

The community recommended that the following measures be taken in order to improve the health standards further:

- A health centre be put up within the community;
- The existing health centres be well stocked with drugs;
- The community should have more active CHWs;
- Access roads should be rehabilitated;
- The consultation hours between the patients and the doctor should be enough and stipulated under law since doctors do not normally attend to patients at the Tugen Estate health centre and if one is attended to, the health personnel restrict the time allocated for consultation

3.2 BASIC EDUCATION

3.2.1 Introduction

According to the Uasin Gishu County Development Profile, there are 576 Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) centres in the county, with a total of 967 teachers and an enrolment of 29,047. The gross enrolment ratio is 78.5 percent and the teacher-pupil ratio is 1:31. The county should establish more ECD centres to meet the growing number of children of preschool age.

The county has 422 primary schools with a net enrolment rate of 89.5 percent at primary level, with 88 percent for boys and 91 percent for girls. This high enrolment rate can be attributed to the introduction of Free Primary Education (FPE) programme. There are 4,377 teachers with a teacher-pupil ratio of 1:43. The county has a gross enrolment rate of 65 percent in secondary education level, consisting of 129 secondary schools and 1,221 teachers, and a teacher-pupil ration of 1:20. These statistics do not compare well with the national averages.

In Charar, the education facilities available include Torochmoi Primary School and Torochmoi Secondary School. The two are located within the community at a distance of 200 m to 300 m, respectively. According to the community, FPE means all children of school-going age acquire education without discrimination and free of charge. The children are given stationery, that is, books and pens. The enrolment in the schools is increasing each year due to the understanding of the importance of education in the community. The transition rate is also improving every year due to the increased number of students who proceed to secondary schools.

3.2.2 Status of the Education Facilities

Parents are required to buy their school going children personal lockers/desk for use and are taken back home after completion of primary school. Although the schools are public, the community manages the facilities. They are easily accessible but the quality of the services is poor both in primary and secondary schools.

According to the District Education Officer, learning facilities have improved especially since the introduction of devolved funds such as the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and the Local Authority Transfer Fund (LATIF). These funds have been used in construction of classrooms, buying of desks, and purchase of books and teaching materials. The education facilities are managed by the school management committees which comprise the head teachers, the community and sponsor, for instance, religious organization.

3.2.3 Provision of Education Services

In terms of affordability, each pupil is expected to pay Kshs 150 per term in the primary school which they feel is not affordable if one has many children going to school. Parents pay between Kshs 2,500 and 3,000 for the PTA teachers per student. The community, however, reiterated that they really work hard to meet the costs for the benefit of their children.

According to the key informant, primary school education has become more affordable since the introduction of FPE. Secondary schools are also fairly affordable since the government caters for tuition and also due to availability of CDF and bursaries for needy students.

3.2.4 Interventions towards Improvement of Education Standards in the Community

Some of the interventions that have facilitated the improvement of education standards in the community include bursaries which have assisted many households who could not afford to take their children to school. The criteria used to allocate the CDF bursary is based on the poverty level of the household. Children from extremely poor households are given the first consideration. The chiefs and the village elders identify the needy students and forward the names of the eligible students. The bursaries are only issued to those in secondary schools and in the universities. There is no consideration for the poor in terms of extra charges for primary education.

3.2.5 Relationship between Education and Poverty

The community was of the opinion that education is highly related to poverty. The community noted that education eliminates poverty through employment thus improving the standard of living in the community at large.

3.2.6 Opinion on Status of Education Over time

According to the community, the status of education in the community over the last ten years has improved. They attributed this to better performance and increased transition to higher education, reduced school dropout due to FPE, and increased school enrolment.

3.2.7 Recommendations

To improve the education standards, community members felt that there is need to:

- i. Employ more teachers on permanent basis to eliminate the use PTA teachers hence reducing the expenses they pay for the employment of PTA teachers;
- ii. Build more classes to cater for the increased number of children every year;
- iii. Provide the community with water for irrigation purposes to enable them engage in agricultural activities.
- iv. Increase the number of day schools since they are cheap and hence increase accessibility and affordability of education;
- v. Bursaries to be given to the needy student and improve accountability in their allocation.

3.3 AGRICULTURAL SERVICES AND INPUTS

3.3.1 Introduction

According to Uasin Gishu County Development Profile (CDP) 2013-2017, the main economic activity in the county is agriculture. The major crops grown include maize, wheat, beans and horticultural crops such as passion fruits. All these crops grow in any part of the county, but maize does well particularly in Kesses, Kapseret, Turbo and Ainabkoi areas, while wheat does well in the relatively dry areas of the county, notably Moiben and Ziwa. Horticultural crops such as passion fruits are also grown in the county.

According to the Charar community, the provision of agricultural services and inputs are not found within their community. The community felt that Agricultural Officers within the district have had no impact in ensuring that the community is aware of agricultural services offered by the ministry, and had found it difficult to access them. In addition, services may be available after a long struggle, but access may be hindered by un-affordability.

3.3.2 Provision of Agricultural Services and Inputs

According to the community, the government does not provide agricultural services and inputs to the farmers aimed at improving agricultural productivity within the community. However, according to the District Agricultural Officer, services touching on crops are free of charge but farmers have to pay for veterinary services.

3.3.3 Interventions towards Improvement of Agricultural Standards in the Community

Uasin Gishu County is pivotal in the achievement of affordable and sustainable food security in the country. The key informant noted that extension services are provided in the form of training target groups, field days demonstrations and ASK shows, farmers' field schools and land settings that enable farmers to monitor the crops grown from day one to its harvest time. These services are not paid for, but the farmers are charged a fee in the case of veterinary services to cater for the expenses incurred.

Some of the interventions aimed at improving agricultural production are the National Agriculture and Livestock Extension Programme (NALEP) funded by the Kenyan government through the Ministry of Agriculture, and National Accelerated Agriculture Input Access Project (NAAIAP) funded by the government through the ministries of Agriculture and Special Programmes. This programme aims at resettling the internally

displaced persons by making them work in their farms and contribute to the national food granary.

Njaa Marufuku Kenya is another intervention which was started in 2005 with the aim of encouraging farmers to produce more to boost food security. Others include extension services which are offered free of charge apart from the veterinary services that see farmers pay a fee, provision of Warehouse Receipt System and subsidized fertilizer by the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB), and introduction of Urban and Peri-Urban projects which aims at teaching the urban population not to depend on food from the rural folks but to also concentrate on using the available space in town to produce food.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries through various radio and TV stations has been updating farmers on prices of various produce in various market fields. This is mainly aimed at informing the farmers about the market trends. The coming up of Agricultural Technological Development Centres (ATDC) has also encouraged production by coming up with small farm implements that are used in value addition.

The key informant indicated that the community was being sensitized on the availability of livestock services through the media, public baraza, demonstrations, farmers' field school and field days. They noted that the accessibility of these services is still a problem due to ignorance from the farmers, poor infrastructure, and lack of enough personnel and finance in the department. Most of these services are subsidized by the government and therefore are affordable while the veterinary services are partially privatized and therefore very expensive to the economically challenged farmers.

Interventions meant to improve livestock production include training local personnel on how to carry out various services like Artificial Insemination (AI) and providing farmers with AI kits to ensure that farmers are reached easily, encouraging farmers to form cooperative societies for a stronger purchasing and selling power, and promotion of livestock services through baraza, field days, demonstrations and farmers field schools.

This has been made possible through the Food and Agricultural Organization and the European Union which has been sponsoring radio programmes aired through Milele FM. The programmes being carried out by the ministry are mainly implemented to target a certain group, for instance, the radio programmes sponsored by the European Union aims at the dairy farmers irrespective of their gender, and IFAD that targets the vulnerable members in the community.

3.3.4 Target Group for Agricultural Services

The community indicated that the government has introduced programmes for the elderly people who were supposed to be in groups. Such programmes include bee keeping for the elderly men. Each group gets twenty beehives. There existed also programmes for the widowed who are given water tanks for rainwater harvesting.

In the agricultural field, the key informant indicated that most programmes are aimed at farmers irrespective of gender. In addition, there are interventions to ensure that groups such as urban population, large, middle and small scale farmer are reached to boost food security.

3.3.5 Relationship between Agriculture and Poverty

According to the community, agriculture is related to poverty in that those who do not have land to cultivate are normally poor. This is because they get other basic needs from the sale of farm produce and if there is no harvest, they will lack basic needs. The key informant was in agreement and added that agriculture is strongly related to poverty because if farmers are not producing enough, then that will hit hard the farming and consuming community. Imports are very expensive, therefore, depending on them would drag the community into poverty.

3.3.6 Opinion on Status of Agriculture Over time

Agricultural services in the community have been improving since the year 2002. This can be seen through increased output over the years except the year 2004 and 2009 when the area was hit by drought. In addition, the prices of agricultural outputs such as maize have been rising. For example in 2004 and 2009, maize prices rose to a staggering Kshs 3,500 and Kshs 4,500, respectively, compared to Kshs 1,800 in 2008.

On the other hand, the amount harvested depend on the amount of fertilizers applied and weather conditions, e.g. in 2008 the weather was favourable which resulted to higher yields.

According to the key informant, agricultural services have improved for the past ten years due to:

- i. The formation of strong farmers groups. Farmers are more knowledgeable and are using that to cope with the changing climatic conditions. In addition, farmers go to inquire more from the ministry unlike in the past where the ministry used to go to the farmers;
- ii. Accessibility of timely inputs such as subsidized fertilizer; and

- iii. Urban population using their small available land productively.

The key informant in the livestock sector said that livestock services have improved due to:

- i. Increased supply of livestock products;
- ii. High prices of livestock products;
- iii. Increased number of cooling plants;
- iv. Provision of loans to livestock farmers at low interest rates; and
- v. Control of inbreeding.

3.3.7 Recommendations

The community gave the following recommendations.

- i. The prices of fertilizers should be reduced to make it affordable;
- ii. The prices of farm produce should be increased to enable them to meet input expenses and cater for other basic needs;
- iii. The government should construct new storage facilities which are only intended to benefit those who produce in small scale;
- iv. Access to subsidized farm inputs should be improved;
- v. Government should come up with strategies or ways to market their produce;
- vi. The government to assist the community in terms of vaccination during instance of foot and mouth diseases and anthrax;
- vii. The Ministry responsible agriculture should be allocated more than 10 percent of the national budget;
- viii. Students should be encouraged to major in agriculture as a profession;
- ix. Importation of wheat should be discouraged since it can be produced locally;
- x. There is need to discourage changing of agricultural land into commercial land;

3.4 WATER AND SANITATION

3.4.1 Introduction

According to the Uasin Gishu County Development Profile, the main water resources in the county include; dams, rivers, boreholes, shallow wells and springs. There are over 120 dams which were constructed by the colonial government for recreation and boat rowing, but now are water sources for most households. The county is drained by four major rivers, namely, Moiben with its three tributaries, Sosiani with its three tributaries, Sergoit with two tributaries, Kipkaren with nine tributaries, and river Nzoia. There is also abundant good quality groundwater that has been the major source of water for the rural population who depend on shallow wells, hand dug wells and springs.

Wells are the main source of water within Charar, of which most of them are sustainable since each can be found in every household. They also harvest rainwater during rainy season. According to the District Water Officer, Eldoret East District, there are several types of water facilities which include boreholes, dams (artificial), springs and roof catchments.

The key informant reported that majority of the community members can afford to pay for water services while some are not able to pay for water connection and hence use alternative sources such as rivers. Although some cannot afford the services, those who are able to pay get value for their money because the services are good and reliable. It was noted that the lifestyles of people living in water available areas are different from those in areas where water is scarce.

3.4.2 Types of Water Programmes in the Community

Most of the water projects and programmes that were started in the year 2009/2010 have been completed and others are ongoing. These projects include Chepng'oror and Chemusham boreholes which are active although Chemusham borehole is not yet equipped. Other water projects include Cheptigit, Kaoni, Moiben, Chepkoilel, Arangai, Kapngetuny, Kaplolo, Kapkei, Koitoror, Leltot and Masise. It should be noted that most of these programmes are not located within Charar.

These programmes were funded by different donors. For instance, Arangai and Kapngetuny were funded by CDF while Kaplolo, Kapkei, Koitoror and Leltot water projects were funded by Water Service Trust Fund (WSTF). There are also other water programmes that are institutional and funded by different institutions.

The community defined safe drinking water as water which can be drunk and no harmful effect is felt. Health officers used to come and train them on how to treat water before drinking, but no attempt has been made by these officers in providing chemicals used for treatment e.g. chlorine.

Most of the community members boil drinking water but some use without boiling despite the fact that they have been taught on the dangers of drinking unsafe water. The community noted that there was no water programmes or projects within the community, but the neighbouring community have water project funded by Eldoret municipal council which has since been stop due to low level of water table. The community further noted that they are not involved in the identification and implementation of the projects.

However the key informant noted that the community is normally consulted during the design and implementation of projects and programmes. The involvement is mostly during proposal writing, provision of labour and provision of local materials. The community manages the water services through their committees and report to the ministry whenever necessary. Other water services are provided by Eldoret Water Services (ELDOWAS). The community's major role is to make good use of the services and to ensure that the facilities are not tampered with. The community is responsible of repairing and maintaining projects/programmes.

However, the community indicated that although they are aware of programmes like the Tugen Estate water project, they were not involved in decision making regarding the discontinuation of the project. They assumed that the funds were embezzled by the management.

The community members have never been involved in writing of project proposal or involved in management since they do not have any project to undertake. Although they have heard about other programmes like water projects that was stopped in Tugen Estate they were not mobilized in terms of what was required if they wanted to benefit from such projects.

3.4.3 Type of Sanitation Facilities

The community defined sanitation and hygiene as '*tililindo*' which refers to the state of being in a clean environment, proper disposal of waste and maintaining body cleanliness. The sanitation facilities available include pit latrines and pits for disposing waste. They find it difficult in accessing sanitation facilities within urban areas since there are no county council toilets, sewerage or other facilities within their region.

According to the community, sanitation facilities like sewerage services are only meant to be used by those who live in urban areas and they therefore ignore the importance of these services being offered by the municipality.

Health officers sensitize the community on the importance of maintaining proper hygiene and sanitation but it has been a while since they did the exercise. Some of the ways taught by the health officer include digging of latrines away from the source of water like wells, and having pits for disposing waste.

The community uses a combination of materials in the construction of latrines. Most of the latrines are mud-walled and grass thatched, others are wooden and iron sheet roofed, while others use bricks for walls and iron sheets for roofing.

3.4.4 Relationship between Environmental Degradation and Water Availability

According to the community, cutting down trees results to reduction in the amount of water since trees attract rainfall. At the same time, water table becomes low and the amount of water available in wells reduces. The community is aware of the impact of water pollution, e.g. digging of latrines or disposing of waste near water sources contaminates water.

The key informant indicated that there is a relationship between environmental degradation and water availability, in that most rivers originate from protected forests. However, when the forests are destroyed there is depletion of water sources hence leading to shortage of water for use in the community. Pollution of water through discharge of wastes to the rivers and dams has also led to shortage of clean water for domestic and agricultural use.

3.4.5 Relationship between Water and Sanitation and Poverty

The community believes that water is related to poverty because if there is no water they cannot do agricultural activities like farming which is the main source of food and the main economic activity that can be practiced in the area.

According to them, water unavailability has affected their livelihoods negatively since no activity can be done without water and also they said that "No water no life". In addition lack of water in the region has made the youth become idle since farming is the only activity they can involve themselves in. For example, if water was available, youth could have engaged themselves in irrigation which could have been a source of income for them.

Generally, water availability within the area depends mostly on weather condition in a given year and therefore it has been varying over the past ten years depending on the amount of rainfall i.e. if the rainfall is high, water availability increases. The water services in the area have not changed over the past ten years since people in the area still use the same sources of water i.e. wells.

According to the community, sanitation and hygiene are related to poverty in that a person who does not have money cannot afford to buy the construction materials e.g. the wood or iron sheets, and as a result such person would have poor hygiene.

3.4.6 Opinion on Status of Water and Sanitation Over time

Water availability and water services in Eldoret East District have improved over the past ten years. This is due to the fact that many people have received piped water to their homes or to common collection points for the community, for example, when Kipkabus Water Project was started, only 20 households were connected but the number has increased to 70 households at the moment.

Within the community, the Meibeki water project which was funded by World Vision has also promoted water availability in the community since many households have received piped water hence it has improved water access for many households.

Generally, sanitation services have been improving for the past ten years. This is due to the fact that many community members have gained knowledge through sensitization.

3.4.7 Recommendations

The community gave the following recommendations;

- Health officers should sensitize community on the importance of sanitation and hygiene since a few people usually attend such meetings;
- The government should subsidize the cost of construction materials. Most people within the village are poor and cannot afford construction materials like iron sheets;
- The government should come up with water programmes since the area is prone to dry spells. The community indicated that they can provide land to construct the dam;
- The Municipality should decentralize its services to cover the rural areas and not to concentrate on urban areas only;

- The municipal council should allow community participation in design and implementation of projects.

3.5 HOUSING

3.5.1 Building materials

According to the Uasin Gishu County Development Profile, 45.6 percent of the houses in the county have mud/wood as the main walling material, followed by brick/block (25.4 percent), stone (12.3 percent), and mud/cement (5.8 percent). The main roofing materials are corrugated iron sheets (84.4 percent) followed by grass at 7.7 percent. The county should come up with strategies to encourage more investments in the housing sub-sector to deal with the shortage of housing units especially in Eldoret Municipality and other towns within the county.

According to the Charar community, the main building materials in the area are mud, grass, iron sheets, wood and bricks. They pointed out that most of the houses are semi-permanent and are iron sheet roofed and mud or timber walled. Others are grass thatched while a few are permanent with iron sheet roofs and brick walls.

3.5.2 Sources of Building Materials

The grass used for roofing is fetched from road sides and swampy areas at no cost. Wood is fetched from individual farms while others buy timber at a price ranging from Kshs 15 to 28 per foot. The iron sheets are bought from hardware shops even though not affordable, and hence are forced to sell the little farm produce to be able to purchase them.

3.5.3 Type of Housing and Household Headship

Generally, according to their culture the man is the head of the household and therefore is responsible for building the house. However, in cases where the man is deceased or the woman is not married, then the woman is responsible for building the house. Most of the households headed by female, PWDs and the elderly are grass thatched with mud walls.

3.5.4 Housing Status in the last ten Years

The housing standards have improved over the last 10 years since many people used to live in grass thatched houses but now most of them live in iron sheet roofed houses. In most cases, the kitchen is grass thatched but the rest of the houses are semi-permanent and a few have managed to build permanent houses.

3.5.5 Recommendations

According to the community, the government should regulate /control prices of building materials so that people can afford to build decent houses. The government should further consider assisting PWDs and the elderly by issuing iron sheets to them. Lastly, the government should provide free tree seedlings to ensure that community members have enough trees for construction.

CHAPTER FOUR: PRO-POOR INITIATIVES

4.1 PRO-POOR INITIATIVES

4.1.1 Cash Transfers

The community reported not being aware of cash transfers for OVCs. However, Christian based organizations have assisted them through the Africa Inland Church (AIC) and Reformed churches in terms of clothing, school fees and food.

It was reported that there were some children with physical disabilities but some members of the community prefer to hide them because they believe that PWD's are outcasts and try to hide the shame from the community. For example, one of the community members who had a disabled child refused to be assisted.

There is a special school for the disabled which was started by the community but families with disabled children refused to take them to the special school. As a result, the money allocated by the government was used for other purposes unknown to the community.

The elderly (above 65 years) were given cash transfers amounting to Kshs 1,500 per month. Only one elderly person benefited from this program within Charar and he is the one who normally collects and signs for the money. Normally the beneficiary is paid through Posta. In cases where the caregiver is to assist the beneficiary in collecting the cash transfer, he is expected to go and take a letter from the social service with an identity card of the beneficiary or any other legal document.

The cash transfers are not timely in that one has to wait for six months to receive payment after application. The amount that is paid cannot meet basic minimum needs.

The chief and the village elders, in consultation with the Charar North community, prepares a list of all the elderly people above the age of 65 years after which a person from the social service categorizes them based on the level of poverty, the number of children or grandchildren who are either employed or unemployed, and those with other sources of livelihoods.

Some 18 widows from Charar have benefited from water tanks donated by Christian NGOs

Recommendations

The government should increase the number of beneficiaries and the amount of money offered. There should be a way of informing potential beneficiaries of the availability of the fund. The funds once allocated should not be returned back but should be channeled to other economic activities that benefit the needy people in the community.

4.1.2 Kazi Kwa Vijana

The community is aware of the KKV programme. They reported that it does exist but it has been subjected to a lot of politics. The programme started in the year 2009 in the region. Public works done under this project include road repairs, bush clearing along the roads, planting trees in public institutions such as Torochmoi primary school, and cleaning drainages and repairing culverts.

Those who benefited from the programme are the youth from poor families and those who do not have any other source of income. The youth are paid a wage of Kshs 200 per day after completion of the works. They however indicated that the payment is delayed at times. Those engaged come and sign themselves in the chief's office for the cash payment. The beneficiaries are selected through secret balloting.

Recommendations

They noted the need for implementation of long term projects that can sustain them for a longer period. The youth requested for training in order to acquire skills to enable them to earn a living in a sustainable manner. They further recommended for the introduction of a framework to enable them secure loans at low interests for them to start up businesses.

4.2 DEVOLVED FUNDS

The Charar community has benefited from various kinds of devolved funds. They include CDF and LATF (road construction). They are also aware of other devolved funds like YEDF and WEF. The programmes that have been initiated through CDF include awarding of bursaries to needy children, and construction of classrooms at Torochmoi primary and secondary schools. Ongoing projects include the construction of Torochmoi primary and secondary schools, Asis dispensary and Mosop dispensary.

Community members are involved in the programmes through employment i.e. some members of the community were employed in the construction of classrooms in Torochmoi primary and secondary schools. They are also involved in provision of services such as being awarded tenders to supply building materials like ballast.

Most members of the community are aware of YEDF and WEF. The fear of inability to repay the loans has made them not to benefit. The few who are willing to borrow lack the requisite information on how to access the funds. For example, women in the community lack information regarding the procedures involved in accessing the WEF.

The community reported that devolved funds have positively impacted on their livelihoods in that their children can study comfortably. The construction of classrooms has increased enrolment in the nearby school. Moreover, the health centre in Tugen Estate put up through CDF has improved their lives in terms of accessing healthcare and they do not have to travel long distance to access medical services.

Recommendations

The community was of the opinion that the government need to create awareness on the availability of devolved funds and ways to access them. The government should also consider increasing monies allocated as bursary to ensure that many students from the poor families benefit.

CHAPTER FIVE: CROSSCUTTING ISSUE AND EMERGING ISSUES

The following cross cutting issues were identified from the report:

5.3 GENDER INEQUALITY

Gender parity has positive effects on economic development and poverty reduction. However in Uasin Gishu County, gender inequality is quite high. This is a cultural issue as women are not allowed to own and make decisions on strategic resources like land. In addition, access to and control over land is still highly skewed in favor of men, thus limiting participation of women in the county's development process. It is important that the roles and activities of each are taken into consideration if both are to be effectively integrated into and benefit from the development process. Mitigating gender concerns will therefore help the county promote gender equality and empower women.

CHAPTER SIX: RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

6.1 Recommendations

The following are the key recommendations to improve livelihoods of the community members:

1. Increase accessibility to loans so as to provide capital to the hardworking and deserving youth. If possible, allow the youth to access Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) loans without collateral;
2. The public should be sensitized on accountability while electing leaders;
3. The government should reduce the prices of farm inputs and increase the prices of farm produce;
4. The government should construct a health facility within the community, equip it and provide adequate drugs;
5. There is need to construct/rehabilitate access roads to reduce transportation cost and time;
6. There is need to employ more teachers on permanent basis to eliminate the use PTA teachers hence reducing the expenses they pay for employment of PTA teachers;
7. There is need to build more classes to cater for the increased number of children every year due to FPE and SSE;
8. There is need to designate more day-schools since they are cheap hence increase accessibility and affordability of education;
9. There is need to increase monies meant for bursaries to benefit more poor students;
10. The government should construct new storage facilities which are only intended to benefit those who produce on small scale;
11. Government should come up with strategies or ways to enable farmers market their produce;
12. The government should assist the community to vaccinate their livestock during instances of foot and mouth diseases and anthrax;
13. The Ministry responsible for agriculture should be allocated more than 10 percent of the national budget in order to facilitate the provision of services;
14. Students should be encouraged to major in agriculture as a profession;
15. Importation of locally produced farm products should be discouraged;
16. There is need to discourage changing of agricultural land into commercial use;
17. There is need to sensitize the community on the importance of sanitation and hygiene since a few people usually attend such meetings;

18. The government should come up with water programmes since the area is prone to dry spells. The community indicated that they can provide land to construct the dam;
19. The Municipality should decentralize its services to cover the rural areas and not to concentrate on urban areas only;
20. The government and other local authorities should allow community participation in design and implementation of projects;
21. The government needs to create awareness on availability of devolved funds and ways to access them. The government should also consider increasing monies allocated as bursary to ensure that many students from the poor families benefit.

6.2 CONCLUSION

In Charar, the poverty incidence is high and the causes are varied, and include poor prices of farm produce, unemployment, lack of education and farming skills, alcoholism, and high cost of farm inputs, ignorance, and high cost of education.

Generally health services are available, accessible and affordable to the community except for referral cases which are far and expensive. There is therefore need for a health facility in the community given as the nearest health centre is 10 km away.

Education services particularly at primary level are generally accessible and affordable. However, most education facilities are in poor state and are inadequate. The community was also not satisfied with the low quality of services offered brought about by understaffing, poor learning environment and extra charge for PTA teachers and development levy.

The community is aware of the available agricultural services. The services are accessible though not affordable with the extension services being demand-driven. Among the agricultural services offered are extension services, field demonstrations, field days, farm visits, and workshops to train farmers. Agricultural services provided are targeted to individuals and farmer groups.

There are several major water schemes within the locality but most of these programmes are not located within Charar. The sanitation facilities available include pit latrines and pits for disposing waste. There is awareness of the existence of several pro-poor initiatives and devolved funds in this community including cash transfers, YEDF, WEF and CDF. However, procedures for accessing these funds and general negative attitude towards loans limit the uptake of the funds.

The major crosscutting issues of concern were identified as HIV/AIDS, high population growth, high poverty incidences and gender inequality. The community noted that increased population growth is expected to put pressure on the natural resources and social amenities and thus hinder quality services. They also noted the impact of poverty on the vulnerable including PWDs, the elderly, female-headed households, the landless, the youth, the unemployed and OVCs.

From the findings of the survey, the bulk of the poor in the county are found in the rural areas. The most affected categories of persons being the disabled, women headed households, slum dwellers, the landless, the aged, the OVCs and unemployed youth. The findings also indicate that prevalence of poverty is closely linked to access to provision of services. The study therefore recommends that efforts should be made by both the county and national government to ensure implementation of the community recommendations so as to graduate them from poverty. Such efforts include; Road network must be improved to spur economic activities this could contribute greatly to improving access to markets particularly for horticultural produce; rural electrification in the constituencies should be accelerated and empowerment of the youth and women

Figure 1: Social Map of Charar North

