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**THE PRESIDENCY
MINISTRY OF DEVOLUTION AND PLANNING**

WEST POKOT COUNTY PPA V

PALAKUMI CLUSTER

KENYA 
VISION 2030
Towards a Globally Competitive and Prosperous Kenya

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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 Cross-cutting issues such as HIV/AIDS, 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. This will be upgraded to other notable initiatives and training Counties to benefit from UWEZO devolved 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

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The West Pokot 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 Directorate. The Directorate of S&G provided the secretariat that was charged with the responsibility of undertaking the exercise and finally the production of both the National Report and the County specific Reports covering the 47 Counties,

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Engineer 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 on their own perspectives.

The overall objective of the PPA-V is to contribute to Kenya's poverty reduction strategy by providing a richer and a 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. The survey sought the community perspective on poverty and provision 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 services, accessibility and affordability.

This report presents the findings of the PPA-V survey in Chepngonochpogh cluster of West Pokot County which was conducted in November/December 2012. Information from the cluster was provided by the community through Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) and household questionnaires and was complemented by the information from key informants (KI) who were mainly technical experts in the subject area of the survey.

West Pokot County is one of the 14 Counties in the Rift Valley region. The county lies within longitude 34° 47' and 35° 49' East and latitude 10° 0' and 20° 0' North. The county covers an area of about 9,169.4 km² stretching a distance of 132 km from north to south.

The manifestations of poverty are lack of access to amenities such as health, education, safe drinking water and sanitation, conflicts over natural resource use and insecurity. Therefore, high incidence of poverty in the county is associated with drought, high illiteracy levels, traditional culture of cattle rustling and poor infrastructure. This deprives the community of their livelihood, destruction of property, reduced economic activities and low investment in the area. Other causes are lack of employment opportunities, slow uptake of new agricultural and livestock technology.

Generally, there is a challenge in the health status of the community due to lack of adequate personnel, drugs and modern equipments and machinery in the available health facilities.

Irrespective of the many challenges facing the education sector such as average distance from one institution to another being about 20 km, congestion and teachers shortage, it has recorded some remarkable progress in the last 10 years. More schools have been established, current facilities have been expanded, and in general enrollment rates have gone up across all the levels. In addition, the transition rates have also improved.

Agricultural sector has grown tremendously overtime. The community has embraced crop farming and maize, sorghum and fruits and vegetables are now grown and also sold to the nearby markets. In addition, small scale irrigation projects have been started. New livestock breeds have been introduced.

While the government has mounted serious investments in the water sector in the county to ensure water for all, the situation is still below average. Most of the water pans, wells and springs have dried up due to climate change. In addition population increase and growth of urban centers have expanded the demand while the sources are drying up. The community is still below the average performance in regard to sanitation because many have not constructed toilets.

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 attitude towards loans affect the uptake of these funds.

On crosscutting issues, insecurity has negatively impacted on socio-economic development in the county. This include loss of lives and livelihood, disruption of provision of basic services and other social amenities and high dependency on humanitarian assistance. The community reported that HIV/AIDS had affected them as it had left many homes without breadwinners. A lot of resources and time is also spent in taking care of persons infected with HIV/AIDS.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS.

ACK	Anglican Church of Kenya
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ART	Antiretroviral Therapy
CDF	Constituency Development Fund
CHW	Community Health Worker
CT	Cash Transfers
DAO	District Agricultural Officer
DDO	District Development Officer
DGSDO	District Gender and Social Development Officer
DSO	District Statistics Officer
DYO	District Youth Officer
ECDE	Early Childhood Development Education
FGDs	Focus Group Discussion
FPE	Free Primary Education
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
KARI	Kenya Agricultural Research Institute
KEMSA	Kenya Medical Supplies Agency
KI	Key Informant
KIDP	Kenya Italy Department for Development
KIHBS	Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey
KKV	KazikwaVijana
KMTC	Kenya Medical Training College
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
KPHC	Kenya Population and Housing Census
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NALEP	National Agriculture and Livestock Extension Programme
NASSEP	National Sample Survey and Evaluation Programme
NCPD	National Cereals and Produce Board
NGO	Nongovernment Organization
NHIF	National Hospital Insurance Fund
OBA	Output Based Approach
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PPA	Participatory Poverty Assessment
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
PTA	Parents-Teachers Association
PWD	People with Disabilities
RA	Research Assistant

SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SSDE	Subsidized Secondary Day Education
TBA	Traditional Birth Attendant
URTI	Upper Respiratory Tract Infection
WEF	Women Enterprise Fund
YEDF	Youth Enterprise Development fund

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA) is a mechanism through which identified groups of people 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. Four PPAs have been undertaken in Kenya so far.

The first Participatory Poverty Study was carried out in 1994 and covered 8 districts (seven of the poorest districts and two low income areas in Nairobi). This study collected information using participatory rural appraisal (PRA) tools, and a substantial amount of quantitative data. The study had two objectives: (a) to understand poverty from the perspective of the poor and those providing services to the poor, and (b) to start a dialogue between policy makers, district level service providers, and the poor.

The study recorded the respondents' vision of the future where overall 86.7% thought their situation would get worse. In some villages the figure was 95%. This meant that in some areas of Kenya, almost every person thought the situation was hopeless. It is important to point out that the PPA also targeted female-headed households in the slum areas of Nairobi as a special category in an effort to understand how vulnerable groups fared relatively. Indeed the PPA produced a wealth of data on the disadvantaged position of poor women in the country including family breakdown, inability to inherit, lack of access to capital and credit, and discrimination in education and employment. Four major long range factors emerged from PPA-I, each contributing independently to increasing poverty across the country, namely, inflation, social breakdown, cost sharing strategy and demographic characteristics.

The second PPA was carried out in 1996 and covered 7 districts. The purpose of this study was to provide a deeper understanding of poverty from the perspective of the poor and to fill gaps that quantitative studies could not readily explain. It also aimed at enhancing capacity of Government staff in the application of participatory methodologies used to study poverty. The study looked at people's perception of service delivery. The poor knew they were poor because they were unable to control access to and use of basic services such as education, health, water and extension service and needs such as food, housing and clothing. Their potential for moving out of poverty was reduced by poor infrastructure, declining government (service) institutions, and lack of income earning opportunities and, in a number of cases, insecurity and political unrest. From the study, it was clear that while the poor were desperate to improve their conditions, they did not subscribe to the strategy of handouts from government or other benefactors. They also pointed out that existing safety net initiatives did not assist the poor.

The third PPA carried out in 2001 covered 10 districts with the objective of enriching the information collected countrywide for the preparation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). The PRSP built on past efforts aimed at poverty reduction, and in particular the IPRSP which identified measures and strategies necessary to facilitate sustainable and rapid economic growth, improving governance, raising income opportunities of the poor, raising quality of life, and improving equity and participation.

The first three studies focused mainly on poverty diagnostics (characteristics of the poor and causes of poverty), but had no explicit link to policy and therefore did not adequately address the impact of pro-poor policies. These studies raised numerous concerns on service delivery and therefore could be seen as informing the interest in ensuring that policies are not only pro-poor but also that their impact is felt by the poor thus indeed laying useful foundation for the enquiries of both PPA-IV and PPA-V.

The fourth PPA was conducted in 2005/06 alongside the Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey (KIHBS). The two studies were meant to complement each other. The PPA focused on three main areas of policy relevance: 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 (agriculture and livestock extension services, healthcare, education, water and sanitation, and access roads). To complement the quantitative data, PPA-IV investigated the extent to which households in the communities have moved in and out of poverty in the past.

The need to carry out the fifth Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA-V) was mooted by the Ministry of State for Planning, National Development and Vision 2030. Participatory approaches add value in policy formulation and planning by enriching understanding of the lived realities of poverty and arriving at policies which make sense to those affected. They increase the confidence and 'voice' of people in poverty while also acting as a learning process for those not in poverty who are involved, 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 meant to evaluate the impact of pro poor policies with special focus on social protection initiatives.

1.2 BACKGROUND OF PPA-V

The Kenya Vision 2030, and its First Medium Term Plan aim at raising the average annual incomes per person from an estimated USD 650 in 2006 to above USD 992; reducing poverty levels from 45.9 percent to 28 percent; reducing rural and urban inequality as measured by the Gini index from the current levels of 0.38 and 0.447 to 0.34 and 0.407, respectively; and raising the level of Human Development Index for Kenya from about 0.532 in 2007 to between 0.6 and 0.7. In order to achieve these targets, the flagship projects to be implemented by Government include profiling of the poor and their needs, a comprehensive study and analysis of poverty reduction initiatives, and promotion of pro-poor growth through targeted poverty programs and projects among others.

The Kenyan Constitution 2010 recognizes the rights of poor and vulnerable citizens. These include the right to access services that guarantee a minimum standard of living. Furthermore, the Constitution identifies several vulnerable groups including Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC), older people, people with disabilities and the marginalized, who have a right to receive support from the Government. Specifically, the Constitution commits the government to providing social security to its citizens (Article 43(1) (f) and 43 (3)).

Citizen participation is embedded in the Kenya Constitution 2010. As indicated in Article 232 of the Constitution, participation of the public in the exercise of the powers of the state and in making decisions through indirect and direct involvement of the people in the process of policy making is now a key value and principle of the public service. As such citizen involvement in the prioritization, planning, ownership and sustainability of local and national development is an imperative which we have no choice. It also encourages public participation in the management, protection and conservation of the environment. Further, the Constitution in Article 201 (a) requires openness and unlimited accountability. As part of these processes the vulnerable and the poor should be fully and effectively involved in the country's development agenda. Citizen participation is crucial in ensuring the protection of rights, transparency, accountability, equity, self-determination, influencing decision making, effective democratic citizenship and meaningful dialogue.

The social protection strategies, the development of the second MTP, and the implementation of the Constitution all need to be informed by a sound understanding of social protection programming in Kenya.

Although various interventions have led to the reduction in poverty and improvement in equity particularly in rural areas, poverty and inequality levels prevailing in various regions of the country are still high. Hence, more effort needs to be made under the second MTP to reduce these levels even further. This is possible with tangible data to support policy directions.

A comprehensive study and analysis of the diverse poverty eradication initiatives in the country originating from the Government, NGOs, private sector, development partners and faith-based organizations need to be undertaken to enable the government understand their effectiveness. This will enable the government reformulate and update the National Poverty Reduction Strategy including using poverty data to guide allocation of resources to areas and regions with high poverty levels.

In this regard, participatory approaches would provide in-depth information about realities and how to address the underlying processes or dynamics of poverty. They help in gaining a deeper understanding of poverty based on the perceptions of the people themselves especially the poor. It also provides a richer dataset on poverty dynamics. With the help of such studies, it improves targeting of pro-poor policies and management of the scarce resources available in an equitable manner. In addition, following the effects of the disputed 2007 elections as well as the global financial crisis, erratic weather conditions (droughts, floods, etc) and the high fuel prices, the poverty situation in the country has obviously changed.

Participatory approaches to monitoring impact can also identify what outcomes are important to those affected by policy interventions themselves. And they can help untangle complex processes of individual and community change.

1.3 COUNTY/CLUSTER PROFILE

The cluster area of Chepngonochpogh village comprises 43 households, and is located in Karameri Sub location, Kodich Location, Kacheliba Division, Pokot North District of West Pokot County about 71 km from Kapenguria town. It is situated in the North Rift along Kenya's Western boundary with Uganda. West Pokot County borders Trans Nzoia County to the south, Elgeyo Marakwet and Baringo counties to the southeast and Turkana County to the north and northeast. The county lies within longitude 34° 47' and 35° 49' East and latitude 10° and 20° North. There are four districts in the county with 13 divisions, 61 locations and 222 sub-locations covering an area of about 9,169.4 km².

The county is characterized by a variety of topographic features. Its altitude ranges between 3,370m in the Cherangani Hills to less than 900m above sea level in the northern and northeastern dry plains. The high altitude areas have high crop potential while medium to low altitude areas receiving medium to low rainfall are predominantly pastoral land.

The main drainage rivers in the county are Suam, Kerio, Weiwei and Muruny. Rivers Muruny, Kerio and Weiwei drain northwards into Lake Turkana, while other small rivers join and drain into River Nzoia which in turn drains into Lake Victoria. River Suam drains into Turkwel dam that generates hydroelectric power.

The county has a bimodal type of rainfall. The long rains fall between April and August while the short rains fall between October and February. There is however great variation of rainfall received in the county. The lowlands receive 600mm per annum while the highlands receive 1,600mm per annum. The temperatures vary from a high of 30 °C in the lowlands to a low of 15 °C in the highlands.

According to the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census, the population of the county was 512,690 persons comprising 254,824 males and 257,863 females, giving a sex ratio of 100:101. The intercensal growth rate is 3.6 percent per annum which is above the national average of 3.0 percent. There are 149,754 youth aged between 0-30 years forming 26 percent of the population. The youth population is currently projected to be 573,726 (18-35 yrs).

1.4 PPA-V OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the study is to contribute to Kenya's poverty reduction strategy by providing a richer and more informative database on the living standards, aspiration, and needs of the poorer section of the population. More specifically, PPA-V assessment sought to:

- i. Gain a deeper understanding of the impact of the pro-poor initiatives based on the perceptions of Chepngonochpogh people themselves, especially the poor and vulnerable groups.
- ii. Broaden the process through which policies will be developed by engaging Chepngonochpogh cluster in real debates to come up with the best ways of reducing poverty.
- iii. Identify and prioritize strategies, programmes and projects which would support poor people within the cluster to improve their wellbeing focusing on pro-poor initiatives.
- iv. Provide appropriate information/data to inform policy, planning, prioritization and targeting of pro-poor initiatives and address inequity and improve the wellbeing of the poor.
- v. Inform the various aspects of participatory and qualitative approaches in the M&E strategy for Kenya.
- vi. 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.

1.5 SELECTION OF THE CLUSTER

This report is based on PPA research conducted in Chepngonochpogh cluster within West Pokot County. The Chepngonochpogh cluster lies in the arid and semi-arid ecological zone. The selection of the cluster was done using two-stage purposive sampling that was superimposed on agro-ecological zones to cover common characteristics across similar zones. The aim was to capture as much variation as possible among the poor communities in a given County. The fifth National Sample Survey and Evaluation Programme (NASSEP-V) maps from Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) were used to demarcate the boundaries of the selected clusters. The cluster has 43 households.

1.6 FIELD LOGISTICS

The PPA-V was conducted between November and December 2012. Information from the clusters was provided by the community members through Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) and household questionnaire and was complemented by the information from key informants who are the technical experts in the subject areas of the survey. The main policy areas of focus were 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 KaziKwaVijana (KKV).

An advert was posted to each of the DDOs for the recruitment of six research assistants to undertake the study whose minimum qualification was at least a university degree, relevant experience from similar assignments, and if possible be from the cluster area. For West Pokot County, 10 research assistants were shortlisted from the larger West Pokot given that the above minimum criteria were not met even when it was lowered to Diploma level. Of the ten, six best suited were recruited, trained on the key research methods for a two days session by the Nairobi team who had themselves undertaken a TOT course on the same.

The training for researchers ran for five days and data collection and report writing was done in four days. During the training, RAs were taken through Participatory Poverty Assessment and methodologies, guiding principles for participatory data collection, and the data collection instruments.

After the training, with the help of the DC's office, the village elders were asked to mobilize about forty five members of the cluster community for a focused group discussion, an exercise that took about two days. Then the research assistants with the help of the area managers and KNBS enumerators selected 20 households in which the household questionnaires were administered. With the help of the DDO's office, the interviews with the key departmental heads/staff were arranged as the key Informants of the study.

1.7 PPA-V METHODOLOGY

The study was undertaken through focus group discussions, household questionnaires and key informant interviews. It employed nearly the entire key research instruments including Social mapping, Pair-wise Matrix Ranking, Wealth ranking, Focus Group Discussion, Observations, Gender analysis, Venn(Chapati) diagrams, Transect walks and participatory transects, Seasonal Calendars, Household questionnaires, and key informant interviews.

1.8 REPORT ORGANIZATION/OUTLINE

This Report has been organized into six chapters. Chapter 1 provides the introduction, background information on key socioeconomic indicators of the county, the objectives of PPA-V, field logistics, and research methodologies employed. Chapters 2 to 4 provides key findings on the status of poverty, its characteristics, impacts and coping mechanisms, interventions targeting the poor and recommendations to enhance their impacts in reducing poverty levels and associated impacts. They also provide an analysis of the provision of government services under various sectors and the pro-poor initiatives by both the government and the development partners including the devolved funds. Chapter 5 gives an analysis of the crosscutting and emerging issues whose impacts on the implementation of various development programmes and projects by the government and development partners must be internalized and mainstreamed for them to realize the intended targets. Chapter 6 provides conclusion and key recommendations arising from the study findings.

CHAPTER TWO: POVERTY DYNAMICS AND INDICATORS

2.1 DEFINITION OF POVERTY

The community defined a poor person as one who has few or no cattle, goats and sheep or somewhere to call home (shelter). The community in Chepngonochpogh cluster defined poverty as lack of capital or resources that could be sources of earning a living and uplifting their lives.

2.2 CLASSIFICATION OF POVERTY

They classified the poor into three classes, that is, the rich, poor and very poor depending on the number of livestock e.g.cattle, sheep and goats one owns.

2.3 CHARACTERISTICS OF POVERTY

Characteristics of a Very Poor Person

- Has one/two cows; no goats, less than six sheep and one or two chicken;
- Sometimes goes without food;
- Has no decent clothing;
- Has no children

Characteristics of a Poor Person

- Has five to ten cows, 15-20 goats, 10sheep, and less than six chicken;
- Sometimes goes without food;
- Has fewer children

Characteristics of a Rich Person

- Has 20-30 cows, 40-80goats,not less than a flock of 15 sheep, and over ten chicken;
- Has enough food;
- Has more than one wife;
- Has decent shelter and clothing;
- Has many children;
- He has authority and respect.

2.4 CAUSES OF POVERTY

- ` Animal diseases that are brought by ticks;
- Persistent drought and famine;
- Human diseases;
- Alcoholism;
- Human-wildlife conflict;
- School fees;
- High levels of illiteracy;
- Poor infrastructure;
- Shortage of arable land;
- Cattle rustling;

- Poor community leadership.

2.5 IMPACT OF POVERTY

Men

- Men engage in cattle rustling;
- Others leave home for greener pastures especially in the nearby administrative headquarters where they get employed as casual workers or in the neighboring agricultural rich Trans Nzoia where they work in the farms.

Women

- High maternal mortality;
- Too many children.

Youth

- High school dropout rates;
- Engage in cattle rustling;
- Boys seek employment in towns as watchmen or herds boy in Trans Nzoia and UasinGishu while girls get married off or become housemaids.

Although poverty affects every member of the community in one way or another, the most affected are the elderly, disabled, young children and women.

2.6 Coping Mechanisms/Strategies

The community pointed out in the FGD that different groups of people have different coping mechanisms.

- Tapping and selling of aloe vera to earn income;
- Crop production during rainy seasons;
- Seeking assistance from government and relief agencies during periods of drought and hunger.

2.7 ASSET OWNERSHIP, ACCESS AND DECISION MAKING IN THE HOUSEHOLD

From the FGD, it emerged that men are the major property owners in the family and are the ones who make all the major decisions on education, family size and disposal of livestock. Livestock is the conventionally recognized property within the community. This includes cattle, goat, sheep and chicken. Women have a say only in chicken and livestock products i.e. milk. The youth and children do not own any property as illustrated in the table below.

Property Ownership

Property	Men	Women	Children
Cattle	√		
Goats	√		
Sheep	√		

Chicken		√	
Animal products		√	

2.8 POVERTY AND GENDER

Poverty affects the women and the girl child. As shown above, it is only men who own property. In addition, it is only the male child who inherits from the father ones he reaches maturity. Thus poverty among women has been perpetuated by tradition. They have few years of education if ever they are taken to school; and they get married off as teens hence never have a chance to advance. Once married their role is to tend to the small crop farms and give birth, and they have no say in the family size. During periods of droughts, the men move in such of pasture, and women are left behind to await relief supplies. In addition, they travel for long distances in such of water and food. The community has clear defined roles among its members within each household. As in asset ownership, the men's role runs across most of the major activities in the community.

Role Analysis by Gender

Activity	Men	Women	Children
Livestock	√		
Education	√	√	
Fees payments	√		
Family planning	√		
Farming	√	√	√
Farm products		√	
Self-help groups		√	
Children	√		
House	√		

2.9 POVERTY TRENDS OVER TIME

The participants said that poverty level has worsened in the last ten years. They associated the high incidence of poverty in the county to drought, high illiteracy levels, traditional culture of cattle rustling and insecurity. However, according to the key informants, the communities have abandoned pastoral farming and have embraced crop farming hence getting enough food. Infrastructure has also improved hence transport and communication network has been enhanced. In addition, security has been boosted through disarmament and deployment of police reservist within the County. All these have improved the standard of living for most community members.

2.10 INTERVENTIONS TARGETING THE POOR IN THE COMMUNITY

The county has a number of key partners implementing programmes targeting the poor. Some of the key players engaged in programmes in the county include the Red Cross providing relief food to the poor and disabled; World Food programme, Action Aid, World vision and ACTED involved in water provision in food-for-work programmes and commercial destocking; and the government through the CDF has funded the construction of schools and health facilities. Other poverty intervention programmes being implemented by CBOs include I.O.M 2010, SIKOM and Jitokeze Wamama among others.

2.11 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- Recruitment of community animal health workers;
- Construction of water dams and drilling of boreholes;
- Recruitment of local livestock and agricultural extension officers;
- Improvement of nearby health facilities;
- Integrating the efforts of the key players to avoid duplication;
- Development partners, CBOs and FBOs to supplement government efforts in implementing the planned development activities.

CHAPTER THREE: FINDINGS ON PROVISION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES

3.1 HEALTHCARE

3.1.1 Introduction

There is no health facility in the Chepngononochpogh cluster and the nearest public facility is Kodich Dispensary 10 km away. Health services are also available at Kachilba and Orolwo while Kapenguria is the nearest referral health facility. The main prevalent diseases include malaria, typhoid, kalaazar, anemia, TB and brucellosis among others.

3.1.2 Major Health Concerns in the Community

The cluster area has a number of health issues including:

- Lacks of health facility in the Chepngononochpogh cluster as the nearest public health services are available at Kodich Dispensary 10 km away;
- Lack of motorable road network to facilitate communication from the cluster to Kodich dispensary;
- Shortage of essential drugs and other provisions in the public dispensary at Kodich;
- There are language barriers given that the health officer in the dispensary is not a local;
- Shortage of health personnel, there is only one health worker;
- The dispensary lacks other key essential services like wards and blood transfusion;
- The user fees of Kshs 50 scares away many who may want to seek health services especially postnatal services hence high instances of under-five mortality in the area.
- Although the public dispensary is cheaper they opt for private dispensaries since they get better services at Orolwo which is 15km away;
- Family planning services are not available in the dispensary hence high birth rate.

3.1.3 Provision of Health Services

There is no health facility in the Chepngononochpogh, and they seek health services from Kodich Dispensary 10km away. However, mobile clinic services are offered within church and school compounds. There is no access road and means of transport to the village in case of emergencies. In addition, the services available are inadequate in terms of equipment, essential drugs and other healthcare services like maternity, ART, family planning and blood transfusion. Although the public dispensary is cheaper they opt for private dispensaries since they get better services at Orolwo which is 15km away. Children under five years do not get free clinics as they initially pay Kshs 50 for the clinic card/book history and Kshs 5 for subsequent visits.

3.1.4 Interventions towards Improvement of Health Services in the Community

As already mentioned, health services can be accessed at Kodich dispensary or at Kapenguria, or seek private healthcare services at Orolwo. To improve on healthcare, the ministry has established mobile clinics which are normally conducted in churches and school compounds.

3.1.5 Decision Making on Health Issues in the Family

The decision makers in matters pertaining to healthcare and treatment are men. It is them who decide where to seek healthcare services and also make payments for the services provided. In addition, because of its expensive nature, sometimes cattle have to be sold to meet healthcare costs. This has to some extent worsened the poverty situation in the cluster and the county in general.

3.1.6 Ideal Family Size among the Households in the Community

The average family size in the county is at least five children. In general the community is polygamous and the number of wives depends on the ability of the man to raise dowry and provide for them. Hence a good number of men interviewed were polygamous, some with even up to five wives hence a family of about 20 children per a family.

3.1.7 Relationship between Household Size and Poverty

There is a clear relationship between household size and poverty. The more children a family has the lesser the possibility of taking them to school. Even raising the minimal charges for primary kids becomes a problem hence worsening poverty. At the same time poverty prevents others from seeking healthcare services even for the common ailments because of the Kshs 50 user fees.

3.1.8 Access and Decision Making on Family Planning Services

In the community men hold the responsibility to dictate the number children to have hence they decide whether one should go for family planning services or not. They confessed that they pay a huge dowry for their women hence women should give birth to as many children as possible so as to get back the value of their dowry. They perceive having many children as wealth especially having many girls. Even when the community has a low demand for family planning, its accessibility is not certain. Kodich dispensary does not offer family planning services hence one has to go all the way to Kapenguria or the mobile clinics.

3.1.9 Opinion on Status of Health Services overtime

There are no marked improvements in the health status of the community. One has to travel for over 10 km to access healthcare. In addition, the available health facilities lack adequate personnel, drugs and modern equipments and machinery. At the same time, services such as maternity, family planning and ART are not available in the nearby dispensary. On a positive note, however, mobile clinics have been organized occasionally hence saving the people from travelling far in search of medication.

3.1.10 Conclusion and Recommendations for Improvement

The following recommendations were provided:

- Deploy more qualified personnel staff to the existing facilities;
- Equip them with relevant modern equipment and machinery;
- Expand the range of healthcare services in Kodich dispensary to include ART, family planning and maternity;
- Supply adequate drugs especially for the common diseases like typhoid, malaria, TB, etc.

3.2 BASIC EDUCATION

3.2.1 Introduction

There was no educational facility in the cluster area. The nearest primary schools are in Kalas and Kodich, and hence children trek long distances to reach the schools. Educational standards especially in the cluster region are quite low. None of the 43 households have educated their children beyond Standard Six. School enrollment is also very poor as most parents prefer their children to look after their livestock. The benefits of free primary education have not been enjoyed by the community. Thus serious sensitization on rights of the child must be undertaken in order to improve enrollment as well as ensure that the lives of the young generation are secured in future.

3.2.2 Status of the Education Facilities

While there have been improvements in terms of establishment of more schools, the area has not benefited much. The available schools are far from the village, and most have dilapidated classrooms, desks, chairs and other facilities. Even the learning materials are few and hence shared among a large number of learners. In addition, there is no ECD center in the area.

3.2.3 Provision of Education Services

The two nearest schools are Kalas and Kodich primary schools, with an average distance of about 10 km from the cluster. They lack enough teachers and PTA boards are forced to employ teachers whose salary is borne by the parents. This means that even though primary education is free, the parents pay quite a lot in terms of other charges to meet the salaries of the PTA teachers and other support staff. In addition, the girl child is quite disadvantaged as they spend time fetching water before attending school and therefore get late for school.

3.2.4 Status of Education Services

The education services are average, with the average distance from one institution to another being about 20 km. In terms of essential learning materials, the ratio of pupil to textbooks is 1:4. While most of the classrooms are permanent, they are congested. There is a severe shortage of TSC teachers and parents are footing the salaries of many teachers employed by PTA in the cluster area as well across the entire North Pokot District.

3.2.5 Interventions towards Improvement of Education Standards in the Community

The key interventions geared towards the improvements of educational standards in the county includes schools improvement programme through construction of schools, school feeding programme, as well as the food security initiatives by the ministries of Education and Special Programmes.

3.2.6 Relationship between Education and Poverty

According to the outcomes of the focus group discussion, the community is of the opinion that there is no relationship between education and poverty. According to the community, wealth is measured in terms of the number of livestock one owns. Moreover, most of those who have attended school only reached standard six and are hence not any better than those who never attended school at all. However, there were some who viewed getting educated as the key to the future of many of the youths in the community.

3.1.7 Opinion on Status of Education Overtime

Irrespective the many challenges facing the education sector, it has recorded some remarkable progress in the last 10 years. More schools have been established, current facilities have been expanded, and in general enrollment rates have gone up across all the levels. In addition, the transition rates have also improved.

3.2.8 Conclusion and Recommendations for Improvement

- Establishment of more boarding schools;
- Improvement of infrastructure i.e. roads to schools and buildings;
- The government in conjunction with the community to construct an ECD center and a school at Chepngonochpogh cluster;
- One of them reminded the provincial administration to pressurize the community on the importance of education through baraza and firm action taken to those who disobey;
- Enforcement of the rights of a child in regard to education;
- The government should drill a borehole near the proposed site for establishing the school so that children get ample time attending school instead of babysitting as their mothers go and look for water;
- Need for the Ministry of Education to deploy more teachers into the area.

3.4 AGRICULTURAL SERVICES AND INPUTS

3.4.1 Introduction

Agriculture is a key sector in the lives of many community members. The most common agricultural practice is subsistence agriculture where they rear livestock and food crop farming. The main challenge facing the sector is lack of water and pasture as a result of frequent drought given that much of the county is arid and semi-arid. Animal diseases include East Coast Fever for cattle and Rift Valley Pneumonia (RVP) can wipe a whole herd of goats. The major crops grown include maize, vegetables and fruits such as mangoes and oranges.

3.4.2 Provision of Agricultural Services and Inputs

The farmers are mainly livestock keepers and subsistence crop farmers. The major livestock includes cattle, goats and sheep, and in recent times camels and beekeeping. Camel farming is being promoted in Kasei and Kamketo. They have also embraced new breeds especially the Galla goat in Alale, Sasak, Konyao and Orolwo among other areas. Beekeeping and honey processing has been promoted in Konyao.

According to the community, extension services are very rare and no officer from the District Agricultural Office has ever visited the cluster in recent times. The cooperative sector is not also very vibrant in the county hence farmers do the storage and marketing of farm produce on their own. The farm produce is mainly sold in the major market centers of Kacheliba, Orolwo, Kodich and even in the Suam area mainly to middlemen. Farmers have been resistant to adopt drought-tolerant cereal crops like sorghum and insist on planting maize, leading to repeated crop failure due to the arid conditions of most of the county.

3.4.3 Interventions towards Improvement of Agricultural

A number of agencies supplementing government efforts have started agricultural projects. They include the National Accelerated Agriculture Input Access Programme from which 1,000 farmers benefitted through provision of 10 kg maize seed and 50 kg fertilizer for planting and top dressing each. They also are engaged in training and extension services. The government through groups provides grants and in 2011/12 financial year supported eight groups, where two engaged in crop farming got Kshs 120,000 each while six livestock based groups received Kshs 150,000 each. Equity Bank through KilimoBiashara loan programme is also offering credit for expansion of the sector. However, it has faced challenges including lack of collateral, knowledge and stigma associated with loan recoveries. Another key player in the sector is ACTED, an NGO which undertakes vaccination, early warning on disease outbreaks, and commercial destocking during droughts and restocking after droughts. There are also small scale irrigation activities along the Suam River.

3.4.4 Target Group

The target groups for agricultural services include the registered farmers groups especially livestock groups most of whom are men, and crop farming groups mostly formed by women. The youth and the landless do not own land or livestock and are hence quite disadvantaged.

3.4.5 Agriculture and Poverty

Agriculture and poverty are intertwined. Given that over 80 percent of the community is dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods, any issue affecting the sector always has devastating impacts on the lives of many. Livestock disease outbreaks, droughts and even cattle rustling have had profound impacts on the lives of the community. Thus, efforts to diversify their crops and livestock should be promoted. There is also need for abandoning pastoral lives and settle down to crop farming to supplement their food requirements and sell extra to earn incomes. This has ensured that they can now undertake livestock farming as a commercial venture while growing of crops and fruits ensures that they have their own food and also earn income from the sale of surplus.

3.4.6 Status of Agriculture overtime

The sector has grown tremendously overtime. The community has embraced crop farming and maize, sorghum and fruits and vegetables are now grown and also sold to the nearby markets. In addition, small scale irrigation projects along River Suam have been started. New livestock breed varieties such as the Galla goats have been introduced. Camel farming is now being encouraged and a few have taken up the challenge especially in Kasei and Kamketo.

3.4.7 Conclusion and Recommendations for Improvement

- Enhanced agricultural extension services;
- Improve road network to facilitated transportation of agricultural produce to the market centers in time;
- Encourage farmers to adopt drought-tolerant crops;
- Diversification of livestock farming to include camels and small stock like chicken and beekeeping; and
- Improve on value addition especially for honey.

3.5 WATER AND SANITATION

3.5.1 Introduction

The major development challenge facing the community is lack of potable water. The name of the village 'Chepngonochpogh' means "bitter water". The community is named after a place where the villagers used to live with no water. In search of water, they came to their present settlement and named it that way because they left where they used to live because of lack of water.

The main sources of water are in the district includes boreholes, shallow wells, rivers, springs and pans. There are three springs, 35 water pans and one major river (Suam) and 96 boreholes. Of the 96 boreholes, only 46 are functional. There are only two gravity water supplies in the district. Most of these sources are not safe for drinking hence require treatment. Sanitation is also low as most households do not construct toilets but use bush for calls of nature.

3.5.2 Types of Water Programmes in the Community

There are two gravity water supply schemes in the district, namely, Kanyeris and Lengbrok water schemes. In addition, there are two community water projects located in Alale and Kacheliba. During the dry spells, the government and other donor agencies provide water from water trucks.

3.5.3 Types of Sanitation Facilities in the Community

The community is yet to embrace hygiene as most of the households have not constructed toilets in their households. A CBO called Christian Community Services (CCS) which started in 2011 has come in handy in constructing toilets for the community by providing cement and iron sheets while the community digs the pits.

3.5.4 Relationship between Environmental Degradation and Water Availability

There is a clear relationship between environmental degradation and water availability. The water resources have dwindled overtime in the district. Besides, the available sources do not provide safe drinking water both for domestic and livestock use. Due to limited use of toilets, during the rainy season, most of these water sources get contaminated and cannot be used without treatment. The ministry provides aqua-tabs used for water treatment at home before use.

3.5.5 Relationship between Water and Sanitation and Poverty

The saying that water is life is real in the community. Water shortages in the community are a perennial problem year in year out. During the dry spells, men migrate leaving behind women and children and the elderly who solely depend on relief food and other essential provisions. In addition, women and children are traditionally the ones charged with fetching water.

Water scarcity encourages the spread of waterborne diseases hence morbidity levels and cost of treatment rises, worsening the poverty levels as households spend more of their earnings on treatment.

The community has not completely embraced sanitation and hygiene standards. Most of the households do not use toilets, preferring the bush which contaminates the water sources especially during the rainy season, leading to outbreak of diseases like cholera and typhoid.

3.5.6 Opinion on Status of Water and Sanitation overtime

While the government has mounted serious investments in the water sector in the county to ensure water for all, the situation is still below average. The community has not seen any remarkable improvement over time.

3.5.7 Conclusion and Recommendations for Improvement

- The government/NGOs can help the community to drill a borehole so that the people can access clean drinking water;
- The provincial administrations in collaboration with the Christian Community Service (CCS) to build capacity of the community on importance of having toilets;
- Adoption of modern rainwater harvesting techniques especially in public institutions.

3.6 HOUSING

3.6.1 Introduction

In the community it is the responsibility of the women to construct houses. The houses are mostly constructed using locally available materials. On average, it costs about Kshs 300 for purchase of posts and Kshs 700 for purchase of doors while the rest of the other materials are sourced locally.

3.6.2 Types of Building Materials

Mostly walls are made of wood, sticks, mud and even stones and bricks in some instances. On the other hand, the roofs are made of grass and iron sheets. On average it costs about Kshs 2,000 to complete a mud-walled grass-roofed house and Kshs 7,000 to complete a mud-walled iron sheet roofed house.

3.6.3 Types of Housing and Household Headship

While it is the responsibility of women in building houses for their households, headship is still with the men in the Pokot community.

3.6.4 Opinion on Status of Housing overtime

There has been an improvement of housing in the county over the last 10 years. The size and shape of most dwelling units have changed overtime. They are now constructing bigger and more modern housing units. The grass roofed houses are being replaced slowly with iron roofed houses as the community abandons nomadic life to sedentary settled life. In addition a few stoned walled houses are coming up in the rural setting while it is the norm in the upcoming market centers.

3.6.4 Conclusion and Recommendations for Improvement

- Introduction of civil service housing scheme in the district to ensure that officers posted in the newly created administrative units are accommodated.

CHAPTER FOUR: FINDINGS ON PRO-POOR INITIATIVES AND DEVOLVED FUNDS

4.1 PRO-POOR INITIATIVES

4.1.1 Cash Transfer

There are two cash transfer programmes being implemented in the county. These are pilot projects targeting the elderly and the disabled in which 750 people are beneficiaries of the programme in West Pokot County. The programmes for the elderly started in 2009/10 and for the disabled in 2011/12. Each beneficiary is paid Kshs 2,000 per a month. This is normally collected after every two months from the Post Office. In case of delays the beneficiaries have a period two weeks to collect the money. In case of severe disability or old age, their caregivers can collect on their behalf.

Although the cash is quite low in the current economic conditions, the funds have gone a long way in improving the lives of the beneficiaries. They can be able to afford basic necessities like paying for medical care, food and clothing while others have even started income generating activities with it. It is felt that the allocation is low and need to be enhanced. In addition, the coverage and number of beneficiaries need to be increased.

4.1.2 KaziKwaVijana

While the KaziKwaVijana had programmes in the cluster area, the programme was being administered elsewhere within the County (meaning??). The programme engaged both men and women in the county where men had the highest share of about 70 percent of the available opportunities. Those employed were paid Kshs 229.70 per day.

4.1.3 Roads 2000.

There were no such programmes and the community had no idea they existed.

4.2 DEVOLVED FUNDS

The community within the cluster has heard about the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) but they have not benefited directly. However, the school in the neighboring village has received funds for the construction of classrooms which are not yet complete. The community had no idea that the Local Authority Transfer Fund (LATF) exists and have never known how it is utilized.

The report does not have any information on the Women Enterprise Fund (WEF) and Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF).

CHAPTER FIVE: CROSSCUTTING AREAS AND OTHER EMERGING ISSUES

5.1 POVERTY

There remains high incidence of poverty in the county is associated. This has been associated with drought, high illiteracy levels, gender disparity, HIV/AIDS, traditional culture of cattle rustling, poor infrastructure and insecurity. This deprives the community of their livelihood leading to lagging development in the community.

5.2 INSECURITY

These includes loss of lives and livelihood, disruption of provision of basic services and other social amenities and high dependency on humanitarian assistance e.g. relief food. This has negatively impacted on the community in socio-economic aspect.

5.3 HIV/AIDS

The major constraint in the fight against HIV/AIDS is stigma and inaccessibility to health services as most services are only offered at the sub-county hospital and the health centres due to shortage of trained personnel. This has led to high poverty levels that hamper the delivery of the services due to health illness. Some of the challenges that have been a threat associated to HIV/AIDS from the community is girl Child early marriages to older men who have been exposed to the virus; Polygamous families; loose morals and high levels of illiteracy hence not able to read IEC.

5.4 GENDER

Gender inequality is a major challenge in the community. For instance it was noted that most women are confined to domestic chores and a few are involved in decision making committees. There is also gender inequality in education enrolment where there are few girls going to school due to early marriages.

CHAPTER SIX: RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- The government through the relevant ministries should ensure that the community access and afford basic services like healthcare, education and water;
- The government through the provincial administration should carry out civic education campaigns to ensure that more children go to school thus reducing illiteracy levels;
- Through KaziKwaVijana the government should use the youths to open up new feeder roads to the cluster/village;
- The government/NGOs should drill a borehole in the village to improve the quality of drinking water;
- The government through the devolved funds should start up an ECDE centre and a primary school to reduce the illiteracy levels;
- The provincial administration should educate the people on the importance of latrines and proper waste disposal;
- The PPA process was tedious therefore it requires more days for the exercise to be carried intensively.

6.2 CONCLUSION

The community has not fully benefited from government services. The illiteracy level is still very high and health services are inadequate and far from the people. The climatic conditions have changed over the years and thus have affected agriculture. The bulk of the poor is found in rural areas.

In addition, only a handful of the elderly, OVC and people with disabilities have received government services more specifically the cash transfers.

The most affected by poverty in the community are of persons are the landless, the aged, the OVCs and unemployed youth. It has also been observed that prevalence of poverty is closely linked to access to health services, water and sanitation, education and agricultural inputs.