



## Achieving Graduation from Poverty at Scale in Kenya

29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018, Movenpick Hotel, Westlands, Nairobi

*To shape a collective response to the complex problem of extreme poverty in Kenya, through building a shared vision of what graduation at scale from poverty might look like and identifying the means necessary to deliver this.*

### OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

To convene key stakeholders with experience and interest in the graduation agenda to:

1. **Consider** a future country-wide approach<sup>1</sup> to graduation and identify building blocks that could form part of a future multi-stakeholder effort.
2. **Share** evidence on what is working with graduation and identify where future efforts to trial approaches and gather evidence should be focused.
3. **Establish** a collective way forward and the means by which a multi-stakeholder effort might be organised.

### KEY QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

For some time, stakeholders in Kenya and beyond have asked the question *'Cash plus what' might eliminate extreme poverty permanently?* This forum will therefore consider;

- Could a second major ingredient, a package of measures supporting economic opportunity and graduation from extreme poverty, be made available to all that need it, and realised through a stepped process for scaling up?
- Does sufficient evidence exist to inform a collective agreement for an affordable and effective graduation package that could be made available country-wide? How might such a package vary across the country?
- Led by the Government of Kenya (GoK) with Development Partners and others, is there appetite to work together to overcome the hurdles that this ambitious agenda entails?

### FORMAT

The workshop will be designed to stimulate, challenge and inspire. Expect a professionally facilitated, engaging and participatory agenda, offering a rich space for interactive group working, compelling keynotes and networking.

### PARTICIPATION

Approximately 70 senior representatives and decision-makers from government, donor, implementer and research institutions will be invited to attend *by invitation only*.

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<sup>1</sup> This refers to a 'country-wide' approach, that encompasses the needs and interests of national and county governments.

## BACKGROUND

**Kenya is an economic powerhouse in East Africa**, and in 2014 was reclassified as a lower-middle-income country with a gross national income per capita of \$ 2,901<sup>2</sup>. Between 2004 and 2015, economic growth in Kenya averaged 5.5% per year, and poverty (measured against the official national poverty line) is estimated to have dropped from 46% to 36%.

**Whereas Kenya is becoming more prosperous, and building a reputation for innovation, 33.6% of its 46 million citizens live in poverty** (on less than \$1.90/day), and a further 28.3% are vulnerable to poverty (living on less than \$3.10/day)<sup>3</sup>. For those affected, the impact is acute, undermining health, nutrition and food security, life expectancy, education, resilience to economic shocks, and reducing opportunities for moving beyond poverty. Further, rising income inequality between counties and urban/rural areas exacerbates marginalisation of the poor, particularly in the Arid Semi-arid Lands (ASALs), and constitutes one of Kenya's most significant threats to future prosperity, peace and stability.

**Eliminating extreme poverty in Kenya by 2030 therefore remains an ambitious but vital goal.**

Growth in Kenya's economy is unlikely to achieve this on its own. One major ingredient to accelerate progress, led by the GoK, is the growing coverage, quality and integration of social transfers, part of an evolving social protection<sup>4</sup> and resilience agenda. Social transfers, as predictable cash payments, are in turn, unlikely to be sufficient on their own to enable sustainable graduation of people and families from extreme poverty. There is limit to the affordability of enduring social transfer programmes funded by GoK.

**In response to the complexity of the problem, there has been increasing interest by development partners, governments and implementing partners in new approaches to lift people out of poverty.** So called 'graduation models' apply a sequence of interventions over time to facilitate an exit of individuals or households from poverty and build resilience. Graduation programmes proven in Asia, and in Kenya, provide a multi-year package of assistance to enable participants to earn meaningful income. In Kenya, context-specific and local scale graduation pilots have demonstrated positive results and provide momentum and evidence to build upon when considering a much larger scale.

**Development partners, including the World Bank, DFID, USAID, BMGF and others are establishing multi-year poverty reduction programmes.** While active coordination is occurring between these partners and with Government, these programmes could benefit from and contribute to a strategic country-wide initiative for graduation from poverty.



The conference is organised and facilitated by Wasafiri Consulting – a consultancy and institute helping leaders and organisations tackle the toughest problems [www.wasafiriconsulting.com](http://www.wasafiriconsulting.com)

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<sup>2</sup> Human Development Index 2016, <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/KEN>

<sup>3</sup> Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (2017). "Kenya Country Briefing", Multidimensional Poverty Index Data Bank. OPHI, University of Oxford. [www.ophi.org.uk/multidimensional-poverty-index/mpi-country-briefings/](http://www.ophi.org.uk/multidimensional-poverty-index/mpi-country-briefings/).

<sup>4</sup> S.O. Bitengo "Social Protection in Kenya; The status, concerns, challenges and opportunities" presentation at the World Bank Kenya Social Economic Inclusion conference Mombasa, June 2017; Government of Kenya Social Protection Conference March 2018.