

Marsabit – County Government

Mandate: The devolved government, as espoused in the new constitution of Kenya 2010, is primarily geared towards achieving two main objectives; involve the people in governance and allow better supervision and implementation of policies at the grass root level. The county Government constitutes of a county assembly and county executive.

The county executive is charged with the responsibility of exercising executive power at the county level, implementing laws for administration of the county as well as carrying out other executive functions of the county. The county executive gives the people an opportunity to be more actively involved in law making. A governor who is directly elected by the people at the county level leads the county executive. The responsibilities of the county assembly include exercising the powers of enacting laws at the county level and acting as an oversight instrument on the county executive. Approval of plans and policies for smooth operation and management of resources and county institutions

Graduation lessons learned:

1. The realization that represent loss of control by the County but empower the beneficiary. The County is yet to undertake evaluation on whether the cash transferred is put to good use or they end up supporting substance abuses.
2. Need for the County to leverage technology in order to improve the cost effectiveness of dispensing the fund.
3. The social protection fund is not a devolved function and the process of the funds allocation and approval from the Controller of Budget to support the National allocation is a long and tedious process.

Scale: Local – Kenya, Marsabit County. Covering the entire county of about 70,000 sq kilometers, total population of about 300,000 persons (estimated 60,000 households). The staffs covering the directorate of social services in the department are 11 individuals (6 men and 5 women). The annual budget keeps on shifting but for 2016/17 it was KSH 20 Million (\$ 200,000) and current financial year it is KSH 30,000,000 (\$ 300,000). The number of beneficiaries is 750 individuals in 2015/16 and 2016/17. In 2017/18 no disbursement was made.

Initiation: County Government of Marsabit came into existence as a Sub National Government in 2013.

Graduation work: The Department is embarking on doing a survey to establish the number of needy cases in order to update its database. The last assessment was based on data from KEBS of 2012. Sharing of bio-data on beneficiaries with other partners supporting the elderly in order to establish cases of multiple payments

Where, as an organisation, would you like to be in 5 or 10 years?

The County has so far domesticated the national criteria in reaching the needy. This model is based on lessons drawn from research and programme implementation

across the diverse spectrum. The County will work towards strengthening these approaches.

The County will be glad to get technical support in order to map and reach all those who are eligible to access this funds and also identify the most cost effective means of accessing funds due to the vastness/poor terrain of the County.

The County supports those vulnerable in the community through cash transfers at sampled Household level in all the four sub Counties and all the 20 wards.

The lessons from the County engagement are intended to strengthen the policy practise at the National level. This will inform in future a more robust policy formulation at the County level. Marsabit County is aware of the national stream of the cash transfer and also other non-state actors supporting the vulnerable.

Knowledge based: Collaborative research is an area the County will be keen to engage in order to get an informed lessons to enhance the amount and also better management of the funds, how this fund will improve the well being of children, persons living with disability, persons living with HIV/Aids, orphans, households headed by children in relation to health, education, food security etc.

Partnership building: County will seek to rally all the players working in this area into an organized structure that can share register of those who are eligible in order to minimizing chances of multiple supports.

Capacity building: Capacity improvement of the human capital at the County level is yet to be enhanced.

Future plans: The County is eager and flexible in its approach of managing the funds as long as it is within the realm of the various guiding legal tools. Any collaborative approach towards enhancing better management of the funds will be supported.