

Marsabit County Scoping of Socio-Economic Inclusion Efforts For the Working Group on Ultra Poverty in Kenya

<p>Key Messages</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Marsabit County is 14th in terms of numbers of extreme poor and 6th in terms of % of population in extreme poverty. ✓ The CIDP prioritises health, food security, youth employment, water and energy. NHIF coverage is being rolled out for 500HH per ward. ✓ Several infrastructural projects are planned or underway. ✓ HTM roll out has begun due to the presence of the HSNP and adoption and use of the single registry is fairly advanced. ✓ Marsabit is a KSEIP pilot county. ✓ The County Government are also planning a SEI pilot and have ringfenced 30 million shillings. ✓ There are a range of county, national and development partner initiatives that could form components of a graduation approach.
<p>Background</p>	<p>The County has the largest land area (70,961 km²), of which three quarters is rangeland (non-arable land) and one of the lowest county populations. Marsabit forms a major part of Kenya’s 861 km border with Ethiopia, and borders Lake Turkana to the west. An ASAL, with no permanent river, and an estimated population of 322,567 in 2018. Whilst Marsabit is 14th in terms of numbers of extreme poor with an estimated 75,000, this equates to 23.8% of the population facing extreme poverty (one in 4) making Marsabit 6th highest for the proportion of population living in extreme poverty. Food poverty is experienced by 83% of the population according to the CIDP. Marsabit currently has an NSNP caseload of 55,701. The county has four sub-counties and 20 wards.</p> <p>Only 2% of the land in the county is registered, lack of clear land rights remains a primary disincentive for communities to embrace best land use practices. Nutrition indicators are poor at 27% stunting compared to a national average of 26% in 2013ⁱ. Pastoralism and livestock keeping is the main source of livelihood. Transformative infrastructure projects, and market development, with some agri or fish processing/value addition activities envisaged by the county government. The A2 Isiolo to Moyale tarmacked road which, along with USAID installed livestock market infrastructure, is reported to improve livestock trade.ⁱⁱ Additional infrastructure development in the pipeline includes 2 dams to be built in Loisamis and Sololo to harvest rainwater, the Lake Turkana wind power project, a proposed EU supported fish processing plant in Loiyangalani, a World Bank supported renewable energy project (KOSUP) by 2021; and LAPSETT which is envisaged to bring both a SGR and the oil pipeline through the county over the coming decades.</p> <p>Moyale town on the border, which in 2009 comprised 27,387 inhabitants (more than twice that of Marsabit town) is projected to grow the fastest both in population and economic terms; and settlements are growing rapidly along the A2.</p> <p>The CIDPⁱⁱⁱ focus on poverty <i>per se</i> is not specific, vulnerability is the main lens and within this the focus on disability is strong. The CIDP stated priorities are on health (which accounts for 10.4 % of CIDP budget), food insecurity, youth employment, water and energy security. Land, physical planning, energy,</p>

	<p>urban development account for 41% of the projected CIDP budget. Agriculture, livestock and fisheries accounts for 3.2% of the CIDP budget. A priority of the Tourism, Culture and Social Services pillar (with 1% of the County budget, 1.74 million KES) is <i>'to enhance quality social service delivery for improved livelihoods through focused social protection programmes'</i>. The NDMA are the secretariat of the County Steering Group.</p> <p>The county's government's main source of local revenue is from CESS. In 2013-2017 the total revenue collected from CESS was KSh 385 million. In the period 2018-2022 the aim is to increase this to KSh 775 million. The county equitable share is KSh 40 billion plus conditional grants of 1.87 billion. The CIDP budget is only 25% funded with a current deficit of 75.67%.</p>
<p>County 'Graduation' Pilots</p>	<p>Marsabit is more advanced than West Pokot and Kakamega in the adoption and use of the single registry, probably due to the active presence of NDMA and the HSNP. The NDMA is performing a re-certification of all households in the county, using Proxy Means Testing (checked by barazas where community validates whether household is poor) and the HTM. They have so far covered 1 out of 4 sub counties, visiting every household. WFP data is also added to the single registry. It is estimated that an additional net 10,000 households will be added to the current registry.</p> <p> NHIF registration is currently being rolled out to 500 households per ward, who will each receive an NHIF card which covers up to 5 members of the household. It is not clear how targeting of these households is done (one of the Planning department representatives thought this was through the Chiefs) and whether there is any link to the NSNP targeting processes.</p> <p>The National Council of People Living with Disabilities in 2016 registered 2,500 PWDs and issued them with NCPLD IDs. Intention to expand numbers of PWDs receiving the PWSD CT to 4,500.</p> <p> A county social protection policy was developed and a social protection fund for 2 years or so which ended in FY 2017/18 because National Government questioned the mandate of counties to do CTs. The initiative reached 750, and costed KSh 20 million. The county government, in consultation with MCAs in March 2019, intends to adapt the social protection policy to focus more on socio-economic inclusion (SEI). The CEC has ring fenced 30m KES in the CIDP to do a SEI pilot; early thinking is to target 80 women's groups (20 per sub-county each with 3 women per group), with around KSh 50,000 to each group, in tranches of 30, 10, 10. The funds allocated for this can be carried forward in the county budget to next FY.</p> <p>Marsabit is one of the five counties designated for the KSEIP economic inclusion pilots.</p> <p>Government staff (NDMA and county Planning) were aware of the KIHBS Basic Study on Wellbeing in Kenya 2018 and the poverty definitions, they expressed a preference to focus on absolute as well as extreme poor.</p>

<p>Other poverty focused programmes in the County¹</p>	<p>The county government is supporting a number of other poverty focused efforts which could form part of graduation programming. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Scholarship programmes 193 students currently enrolled; targets poor families- any girl or boy who scores 350 marks in primary school, the county government will pay school fees at secondary and university. ✓ Vocational centres (one per sub-county) courses are free to participants, government pays the fees and food for those who can attend. Selection criteria not clear. ✓ Football leagues established for youth to join (as part of offering youth activities) 10m KSh set aside for this. Joint project between national and county to build a football stadium. ✓ National Development Fund for Persons with Disabilities; distribution of equipment (e.g. sewing machines) to PWDs. ✓ School feeding programme - WFP and County government support to ECD centres. ✓ Support to farming in Logologo- drip irrigation (GiZ supported) <p>Other relevant programmes identified include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Presidential Secondary School Bursary for Orphans and Vulnerable Children programme – 43 students per sub county. DCS oversees. ✓ UNICEF NICHE proposed extension to Marsabit under KSEIP ✓ Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project – aims to train 7,500 in agri/livestock climate smart approaches. ✓ WFP – resilience programmes and value chain development (honey, fodder and animal products). ✓ BOMA is reaching 31,590 women and children through the establishment of 1,755 diversified businesses and 262 savings groups in 29 village clusters. Uses cash grants and training, mentoring. Interest from County government to fund expansion of their model. ✓ PACIDA (NGO) - Training in business development, financial management for women; agriculture, apiculture, livestock, trade. ✓ Business skills forecasted to 1,200 beneficiaries, and Business Development Services Centre in Moyale – by County Govt and SNV ✓ Establishment of local agri co-operatives – fisheries, milk (MoALF) ✓ CIDP states the intention to Implement the 30% access to government procurement for youth, women and PWD.
<p>Gaps/ challenges</p>	<p>Concerning graduation programming the county government recognises weaknesses in their capacity in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Developing a socio-economic inclusion policy. ✓ Supporting households and groups to develop business and entrepreneurial skills and financial literacy. ✓ Meeting gaps in poverty reduction efforts including those provided by NGOs; specific assistance request for the Illeret area. <p>Other gaps and weaknesses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Need for improved coordination and communication between national and county government on a sectoral basis.

¹ Please note this is not a comprehensive overview of initiatives but a snapshot gained through a brief county visit and secondary data review.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ County planning has responsibility for county level M&E but recognise that it is only able to do limited monitoring, leaving this in the main to state agencies such as NDMA, and no evaluation capacity. Specific request for support on monitoring and reporting on achievement towards SDGs 1, 3 and 17 – Marsabit is one of five counties selected for data in Kenya’s report to the UNGA. ✓ National focus on avoiding double dipping by NSNP beneficiaries.
<p>Recommendations to the Working Group</p>	<p>The proposed county socio-economic inclusion intervention is a potential example of a county led and funded initiative on graduation. The county has requested assistance from BOMA and GDI to design and implement this. The legal process to amend the current social protection policy is due to get underway shortly, and the budget is allocated.</p> <p>Effective coordination is central to any efforts to develop graduation programming and in general to ensure the more efficient and targeted use of resources across county government and between county and national government. A co-ordination function in the form of a Social Protection Working Group for Marsabit did exist, it was more focused on cash transfers in a drought – and included any actor involved in food and cash transfers. CEC agriculture was chairing a group on social protection set up in 2016, very active in 2017, in 2018 it became dormant when the drought ceased. Attempts to revive it were not successful, now composed of NDMA, DSD and DCS but it is not really active.</p> <p>The County Governor is currently considering a proposal for 6 ‘nexus groups’, which are cross-departmental co-ordination functions, and would be open to donors, NGOs and other stakeholders. The group most relevant for SEI efforts would be the nexus on Trade-industry- enterprise- development-education – youth – ICT – environment, chaired for the interim by the CEC Education.</p> <p>The Working Group on Ultra Poverty/ DFID could consider engaging with the county as a pilot county led graduation initiative. A discussion could be held as to whether this pilot could function as an early stage, very small-scale pilot to contribute learning towards the establishment of the KSEIP economic inclusion pilot in Marsabit. The Working Group/DFID could consider the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Support for county level policy development, (including provisions for targeting and harmonised methodology), as a framework for other government and non-government actors to coalesce around.</u> 2. <u>Develop a technical assistance facility which has several components including:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) <u>Basic guidelines (not an elaborate toolkit) on undertaking county socio-economic inclusion initiatives. Including how to build on and leverage existing programme resources at both national and county level to support SEI pilots.</u> (ii) <u>Support to developing monitoring systems and capacities and more independent and regular impact evaluation of SEI.</u> (iii) <u>Support for developing financial literacy, business development and entrepreneurial skills amongst SEI beneficiaries.</u>

	<p>3. <u>Explore how best to ensure the effective integration of learning from county pilots into national level policy and co-ordination frameworks and other county development plans.</u></p>
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ⁱ Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Health, National AIDS Control Council, Kenya Medical Research Institute, National Council for Population and Development and ICF International. 2015. Kenya Demographic and Health Survey 2014.

ⁱⁱ Reports from local NGOs including BOMA.

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.marsabit.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/MCIP-FINAL-Rev-1.pdf>