

Kenya's *Vision 2030* and the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 1 place a premium on eliminating the deepest forms of poverty by 2030. The Government of Kenya (GoK) recognises that despite steady economic growth and an overall decline in poverty incidence in the last decade, the country continues to experience high levels of inequality and large pockets of deep poverty. It is estimated that some 3.9 m Kenyans are living in extreme poverty¹. The recent significant expansion of the government's social protection systems, particularly the National Safety Net Programme (NSNP), and the HSNP, represents a major step forward in reducing poverty in Kenya. Resilience, livelihoods programming by development partners has also played a role in reducing levels of extreme poverty, Nonetheless there has been increasing recognition that other services or support are required by many of the extreme poor households, and there is a need for co-ordination in efforts to target and to provide appropriate, contextualized assistance to transition out of poverty.

The Working Group (WG) has been formed to support the Government of Kenya (GoK) to achieve graduation/transition from poverty at scale, with an imperative to eliminate *extreme poverty*² by 2030.

The WG will have the following priorities;

- To promote a shared understanding of the scale and nature of poverty in Kenya through awareness raising and engagement with a broad number of stakeholders
- To improve co-ordination in the planning and delivery of poverty reduction initiatives at national and county level to achieve impact at scale
- To align with and inform GoK national social protection policies, plans and systems.

Activities the Working Group will undertake could include the following:

1. To promote a shared understanding of the scale and nature of poverty in Kenya

- Develop a shared understanding and awareness of the different definitions, forms and distribution of poverty in Kenya (extreme, absolute, food poor).
- A forum for stakeholders to share their programming learning and evidence on the impact of poverty reduction efforts particularly on the extreme poor, and to integrate this with county level (including a knowledge management platform).
- Disseminate and promote understanding and awareness of GoK initiatives and systems (including the Harmonised Targetting Methodology) to reduce poverty. This would also include policies and strategies, in particular the National Social Protection Policy, the EDE strategy, the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Zero Hunger Strategy.
- To create an environment in which stakeholders investing in poverty reduction can more easily understand the landscape and play a coherent role complementing those of existing institutions.

¹ The KNBS Basic Report on Wellbeing in Kenya 2018 (based on the 2015/16 Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey (KIHBS))

² The WG adopts the KNBS definition of Extreme poverty as 'all food and non-food expenditure combined still fails to meet the minimum daily calorific requirement (adult equivalent of 2,250 Kcal)'

- Develop deeper knowledge and evidence in different contexts in Kenya, including deep dive studies and pilots where useful, to develop policy and improve programming, and production of short briefings and guidance notes on issues as necessary.

2. To improve co-ordination in the planning and delivery of poverty reduction initiatives at national and county level to achieve impact at scale

- Encourage the design and development of WG members' poverty reduction/livelihoods programmes to align with and enhance GoK policies and systems (eg the single registry) at both national and county levels.
- Support initiatives at the county level which enhance the co-ordination and learning of multiple stakeholders and programmes to maximize effective use of resources and impact for poor households.
- Avoid the duplication of GoK and donor funding, at national and county level, and identify resource gaps in order to maximize synergy and impact.
- Provide technical guidance to implementers in i) alignment of selection and registration of poor households ii) categorization of household poverty characteristics iii) the range of appropriate interventions and support to different categories of poor households who have the potential for graduation/to transition out of poverty in socio-economic inclusion programmes.
- Co-ordinate and encourage harmonization of M&E to ensure that progress in reducing absolute and extreme poverty as defined by KNBS.

3. To align with and inform GoK national policies, strategies and plans

- Learning and experience from this WG will both inform and refer to national and county government policy and practice, in particular the National Steering Committee on Social Protection.
- Inform national economic and social planning and high level development dialogues, including Social Protection Policy, the EDE, the National Food Security and Nutrition Policy, the Zero Hunger Strategy, Vision 2030, and others which are relevant.
- Seek to ensure greater accountability for the delivery of interventions which reduce extreme poverty at county level and national level.