

About the Project

“Our County – Our Responsibility“ aims at building the capacity of the staff in community radio stations to enable them to contribute towards ensuring that responsible citizens actively participate in the democratic process and demand transparency and a voice in the planning and implementation of development policy goals. The direct target group of the project is about 200 programme staff in 14 community radio stations and theatre groups located in eight counties: Nairobi, Samburu, Homa Bay, Taita Taveta, Tana River, Isiolo, Kajiado and Wajir. The indirect target group is the potential audience of around 2.2 million people.

The project is implemented by Jesuit Hakamani Centre and Kenya Community Media Network. The project is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.



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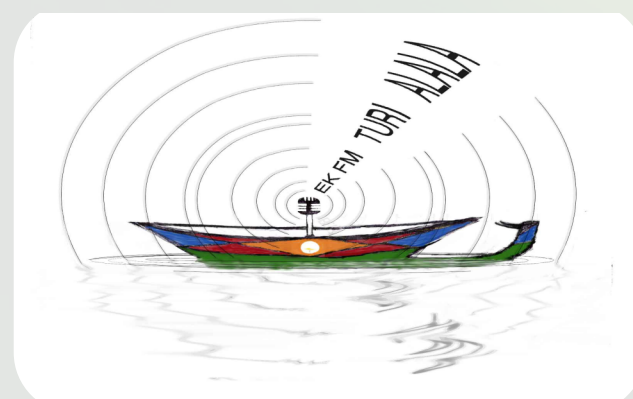
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Participants during a content development workshop in Homa Bay town.



Ekalokiola Centre



Community Media Mobilising for Accountability in Kenya **HOMA BAY COUNTY (043)**



COUNTY PROFILE

The County covers an estimated area of 4,267.1 km² constituting 2,696 km² of land area and the largest freshwater lake in Africa of surface area 1,227 Km². It is located in South Western Kenya along Lake Victoria where it borders Kisumu and Siaya counties to the North, Kisii and Nyamira counties to the East, Migori County to the South and the Republic of Uganda to the West. Homa Bay consists of 8 constituencies covering a total of 3182.3 Km². The constituencies are further divided into 40 wards. Each constituency has at least 4 wards, Karachuonyo and Ndhiwa has the highest number of wards at 7 while Rangwe, Suba, Kabondo Kasipul and Mbita have the lowest number of wards at 4.

Ndhiwa has the largest area coverage at km² 711.4 whereas Agricultural activities in the County vary with the seven Agro-ecological Zones namely: Upper Midland (UM1), coffee-tea-zone, Upper Midland (UM3), marginal coffee zone, Upper Midland (UM4), sunflower-maize zone, Lower Midland (LM2), marginal sugar zone, Lower midland (LM3), cotton zone, Lower Midland (LM4), marginal cotton zone and Lower Midland (LM5), livestock-millet zone. Homa Bay County has an inland equatorial type of climate.

According to the 2019 Census, the county's population is 1,131,950. Males 539,560(47.7%) , Females 592,367 (52.3%)and intersex 23(0.002%)

Homa Bay County as reported by NCPWD Demographic Survey, 2015, has 200,000 people living with disability (PWDs) including deaf, blind epilepsy, mentally challenged, Autism Down Syndrome(ADS) intellectual and emotional disability. The county scores a 0.46 on the Human Development Index (HDI) a composite measure of development that combines indicators of life expectancy, educational attainment and income. This is below the national average of 0.56. Fishing and Agriculture are the main economic activities in Homa Bay County.

The county enjoys mobile phone penetration of 85.6%. Possession of mobile phones is at 54% averagely in the county, while this has significantly increased for the urban households with 9 in 10 urban households (94 percent) owning a mobile phone. Majority of Homa Bay county residents rely heavily on fuel wood (84%) and charcoal (13.4%) for cooking. Homa Bay is one of the counties with a negative biomass net balance represented by an annual deficit of 257,706 cubic meters. The county is not doing well in terms of efficient use of paraffin for lighting, with 94.6 per cent of households using it for lighting. The vast majority of housing units in the county are earth-floored (74.7 per cent), mud-wood walled (65.6 per cent) and iron-roofed (82.3 per cent). According to the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census, 11.2 per cent of the housing in the county was classified as permanent. (Source: Homa Bay CIDP, 2018 - 2022)

Homa Bay County Budget Breakdown as Per the County CIDP 2018 – 2022



Development Priorities that are Important to the Citizens

1. Industry for Fish and juice processing

i.e. storage facility, value addition, marketing, and linkage to sell the fish at a better price. Traditionally the Wasuba tribe are angler. They fish for 'omenda' sardines at night, Nile Perch and Tilapia. Fish caging is a new concept that is bridging the gap in fish production as demand continues to outstrip production. The island boost of many mangoes that is perishable after a short period.



2. Agriculture i.e. maize.

The average farm size for small-scale farmers is four acres while that of large-scale farmers is 10 acres. The main food crops grown are mainly maize, beans, green grams, sorghum, finger millet, kales, cassava, sweet potatoes, and cowpeas. Maize does well given that they do not use fertilizer for farming. The vast majority (80%) of the farmers produce maize and beans. Maize and beans are considered the staple food of the county thus the need for the county government to provide the farmers with quality certified seeds and fertilisers for increased production.



3. Education

the existing colleges are not enough especially in Mfangano Island. The training is mostly fishing. The island has two vocational training centres, one is privately owned while the other is for the county government. Schools. The county has 50 youth polytechnics and 2 public technical training institutions: Mawego and Wanyama, and 1 public Teacher Training College at Asumbi.

4. Health

The department of health needs upgrading as sector plays an important role in the county's economy through both preventative and curative services. All sectors in the County are dependent on responsive and fully functional health services. Hospital, not equipped in terms of human resource and medical testing equipment's, the wards are inadequate. An ambulance for emergency given that they rely on a boat managed by EK to ferry patients to Mbita "cases are referred to Kisii or Tenwek hospitals in Bomet county" Biopsy test cannot be done at Mbita and Homa Bay hospitals. The current health centres are inadequate and they lack drugs to dispense to patients after diagnosis.



5. Morgue Service

Given Mfangano is an island, the area has no access to a health facility offering storage of human corpses awaiting identification or removal for autopsy or respectful burial to the locals. Incase of death, the islanders are forced to ferry the deceased to the main land in Mbita Town where their loved ones can be refrigerated to delay decompositions.