

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



Radio personalities during the implementers' workshop.



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# Community Media Mobilising for Accountability in Kenya ISIOLO COUNTY (011)



## COUNTY PROFILE

Isiolo County has 3 sub counties of Isiolo, Marti and Garbatulla with wards of Wabera, Bulla Pesa, Burat, Ngaremara, Oldonyiro, Chari, Cherab, Kinna, Garbatulla and Sericho. According to the 2019 Population and Housing Census, the population of Isiolo County is 268,002. The population consists largely of Oromo-speaking Borana and Sakuye and the Turkana, Samburu, Meru, Somali and other immigrant communities from other parts of the country. More than 80% of the land is communally owned and is under the trust ship of the county government. Public land constitutes 10 percent of total land and includes land for schools, administration, army barracks, health facilities, and game reserves. The remaining less than 10% of the land is under private ownership and was alienated for private investment in housing, industrial, and commercial purposes. Over 80 percent of the land cannot support crop farming and is used as grazing land by the pastoralists. In some wards, areas such as Kinna and along Ewaso Ngiro River, agro-pastoralism is practised on small scale.

A large portion of the county is arid and cannot support rain fed crop farming. However, irrigation farming is practiced along Ewaso Ngiro River, Isiolo central, and Kinna. Agriculture is both rain fed and irrigated, the hectares under food crops is small. The crops produced include maize, sorghum, beans, green grams, nerica rice, cowpeas, dolicos, kales, tomatoes, onions, and watermelons. The fruit trees grown include pawpaw, avocados, citrus, mangoes, and guavas. They are usually grown together with crops for subsistence and commercial purposes. They

act as windbreaks and improve on soil fertility.

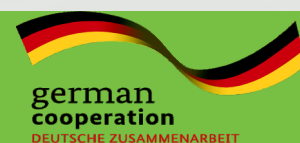
The backbone of the county's economy is livestock sub-sector. Over 80 percent of the inhabitants rely on livestock for their livelihoods. Nomadic pastoralism is prominent in the county and defines the lifestyle of most of the county's inhabitants.

The county is endowed with lots of minerals, which has significant economic importance and left untapped and poorly explored. Geological surveys have shown that the county has untapped deposits of mineral such as blue and yellow sapphire, in Duse location, ruby in Raspu and Korbesa locations, limestone and biromix in Merti, and gas in Merti and Alango locations. The county has huge sand potential and the on-going exploitation in the central wards is haphazard and environmentally unsustainable. The county government needs to explore the available environmentally sustainable opportunities in the mining industry to identify and regulate all mineral resources in the county. This should then be linked to market the available small-scale extractions going on in different parts of the county for the benefit of the local community and county economy. The community developed the map below, which shows few places with mineral resources that can be exploited to create wealth for the county.

There are patches of areas in the county where mining is an alternative livelihood for residents e.g., Duse mines where blue and yellow sapphires are extracted. The government is currently prospecting for petroleum oil in Chari and Cherab wards in Isiolo North Constituency. Sand harvesting is much done in most parts of the county but commercial one is done in Burat, Ngaremara, and Kinna. (Source: Isiolo County CIDP, 2018 - 2022)



Our County, Our Responsibility



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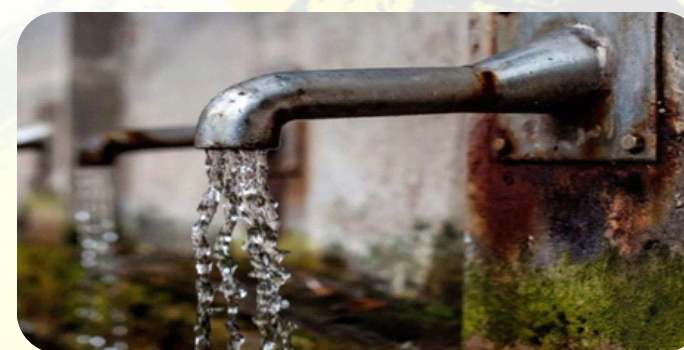
## Isiolo County Budget Breakdown as Per the County CIDP 2018 – 2022



## Development Priorities that are Important to the Citizens

### 1. Water

Isiolo is one of the most vulnerable counties to climate change in Kenya, and the key vulnerabilities emanating from climate change. Drought and unpredictable rainfall affect negatively on the economy of the county leading to reduced crop yield, low livestock productivity, high livestock mortality, and loss of income for farmers, famine, and malnutrition whose impacts are exacerbated by unsustainable use of ground water. The county lacks access to safe and clean water within 5 km reach and over 175 (73%) villages rely on water sources that are unsafe and beyond 5 km reach. Some villages in Modogashe area are about 25 km from the nearest safe water source while the maximum distance cattle can walk without stressing them is 10 km. People, who rely on piped water account for 39%, bore hole 34%, river 10%, water pans 4%, Rainwater 2% and 11% on any other means of getting water during dry seasons. During wet season, 37% is from piped water, boreholes 25%, river 11%, rainwater 10%, water pans 7% and the remaining 10% is sourced from any other source. Up to 58 % of the water sources are saline hence limiting the availability of potable water, especially for human consumption. (Northern Water Service Board [NWSB]).



### 2. Education

Education is very critical for economic development. The county has 160 ECDE centres of which 42 are private and according in 2017, the total enrolment is 16,295 pupils with the teacher pupil ratio in the ECD centres is 1:87. There is need for rapid infrastructure development, increase teaching work force in ECD centres to accommodate this high number. Others include introduction of school feeding programmes to improve enrolment levels such as reintroduction of mid-morning snack (porridge) and lunch. There are two operational youth polytechnics in the county and with respect to post-secondary education; the county has one youth polytechnic in Merti Sub-County, which is not operational.

### 3. Agriculture

Agriculture is both rain fed and irrigated, the hectares under food crops is small. There are only 1,500 ha under food crops production. The area under food and cash crops is Game Galana; Gafarsa, Malkadaka, and Rapsu, irrigations schemes are rehabilitated. The backbone of the county's economy is livestock sub-sector with over 80% of the inhabitants rely on livestock for their livelihoods. Nomadic pastoralism is prominent in the county and defines the lifestyle of most of the county's inhabitants. It has had a negative impact on the environment due to the tendency of

overgrazing caused by overstocking. The residents wish the county government to establish a conducive business environment where the add value to their animal products before selling to markets in Nairobi.



### 4. Health

The County's health system is largely affected by competing challenges not meeting the standard number in any of the orientation area as per the health systems building blocks. Indigenous cultural practices encourage high birth orders, early marriage, teenage pregnancy, cultural barriers like female-genital mutilation have contributed to the high maternal and neonatal mortality. Over 68% of people in the county live in the rural areas where health facilities are inadequate, sparsely distributed and understaffed. . Most of the primary health care facilities lack adequate personnel and health commodities. The doctor: population ratio for the county is about 1:5000 while the nurse: population ratio 1:1500. Lack of enough health facilities, personnel, inaccessibility of some health facilities due to the poor terrain and distances explains why it has been possible to dispense services to the locals on time. The average distance to a health facility is 20 km and due to the fact that there are inadequate health facilities in the county

### 5. Roads

The county has a road network of over 1275.5 km, out of which only about 42 km are bituminised. All the earth surface roads are impassable during the wet season and therefore call for continuous upgrading of these roads to all weather roads standards. Most roads are not all weather and thus high costs of transport and reduced connectivity. Paved roads account for only 0.2% of the total roads in the county and good to fair roads account for 67.5 of the total road network in the county. Poor transportation raises costs of doing business and which in turn impedes economic growth in the county.

