

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.

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Participants during a focus group discussion (FGD)



**german
cooperation**

DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

Community Media Mobilising for Accountability in Kenya **KAJIADO COUNTY (034)**



COUNTY PROFILE

Kajiado County is one of the 47 counties with its headquarters in Kajiado town. It is located in the Southern part of Kenya. It borders Nairobi County to the North East, Narok County to the West, Nakuru and Kiambu Counties to the North, Taita Taveta County to the South East, Machakos and Makueni Counties to the North East and East respectively, and the Republic of Tanzania to the south. The county covers an area of 21,900.9 square kilometres (Km²). It is divided into 5 sub-counties and 25 Wards with Kajiado West being the largest and Kajiado North Sub-county being the smallest in terms of area in Km². It enjoys the benefits of being within the Nairobi Metropolis which consists of 4 counties; Nairobi, Kiambu, Machakos and Kajiado.

According to the 2019 housing and population census, the county has a population of 1,117,840. Males 557,098(49.8%), Females 560,704(50.1%) and Intersex 38(0.003%).. The total urban population is 395,051 representing 35 percent of the total population. This constitutes of 199,738 males and 195,314 females. The urban population is projected to increase to 439,700 in 2020 and 489,399 in 2022. The 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census indicated that 17,466 persons representing 2.8 percent of the population were living with different types of disabilities across the county. The county is highly cosmopolitan with almost every ethnic community in Kenya represented in the major urban areas.

Pastoralism is a major economic activity in the county with major stocks being cattle, sheep and goats. Livestock trade, livestock products that include milk, beef and chevrons, hides and skins

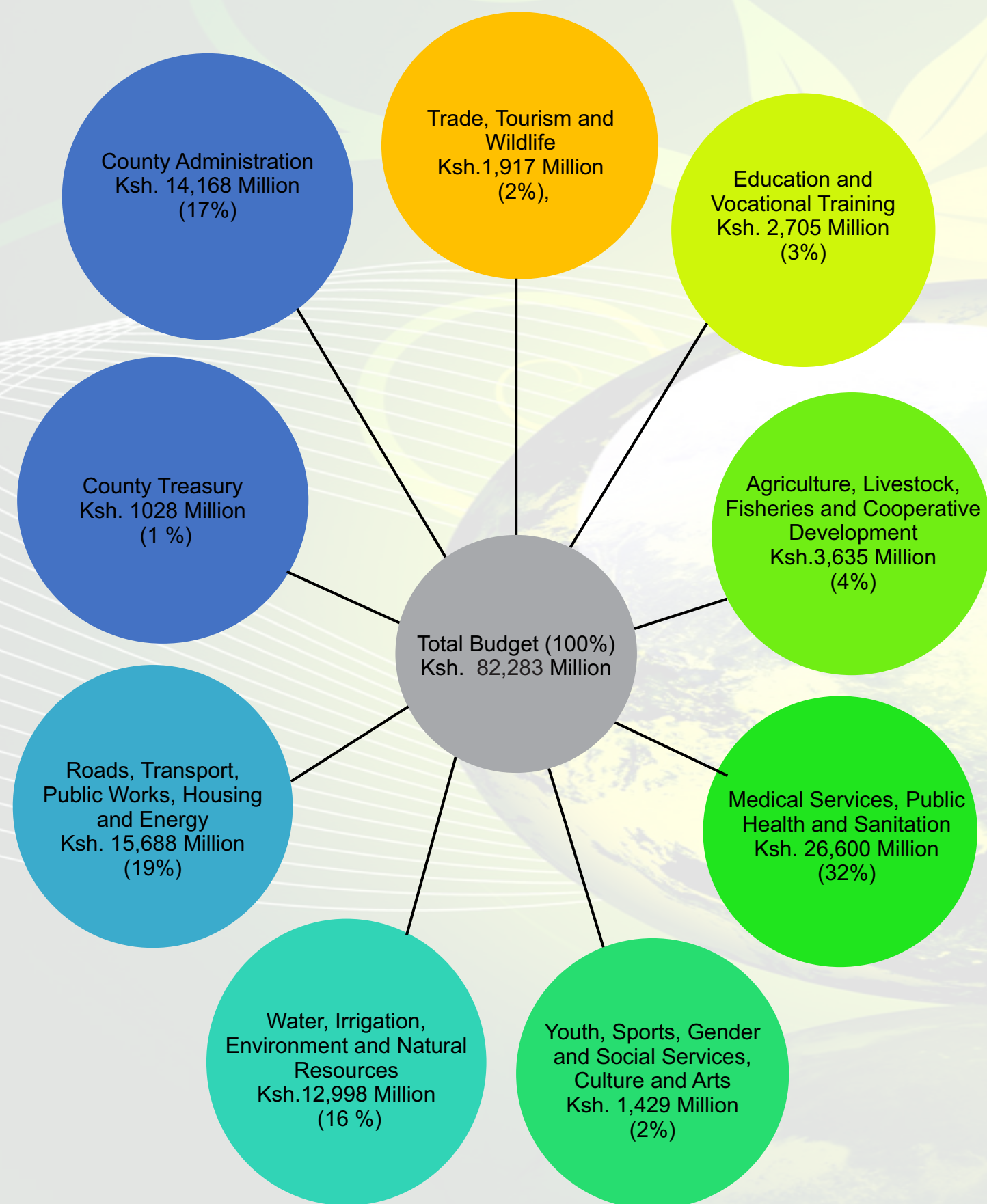
forms the main part of employment contributing to a higher percentage of the household incomes. Other sectors that have developed includes real estate development in major towns (Kitengela, Ngong, Ongata Rongai, Kiserian and Isinya) and the extraction industry. The County is also mineral-rich with soda ash found in Lake Magadi, marble stones in Loodokilani; Limestone and sand extracted from the many seasonal rivers which traverse the county. The County has three geological regions namely Quaternary volcanic, Pleistocene and basement rock soils.

The County hosts a variety of wildlife including leopard, cheetah, wild dog, buffalo, elephant, giraffe, zebra, lion, hippos, hyenas, blue wildebeest, crocodile, mongoose, hyrax, gerenuk, lesser kudu, porcupine and a prolific birdlife that features over 600 species. There are 24 wildlife conservancies sitting on 314,691Ha with Amboseli ecosystem in Kajiado South having 18 conservancies with 190,607Ha and the rest of the county having 9 Conservancies of Shompole, Eselenkei, Olgulului Ololarrashi, Olkiramatian, Ilaingurunyoni, Kitenden, Empaash, Rombo Emampuli and Olenarika.

The county has 10 major manufacturing industries and factories, and 15 mining & Natural resources extractors. The factories and industries production range from plastics, glass, cosmetics, blocks, engineering, agro etc. The county HDI stands at 0.55 comparing to the national HDI which is 0.59. Human Poverty Index gives a focus to the most deprived groups in an area in the three essential elements of a human life reflected in HDI. The county HPI is 27.0 percent.

(Source: Kajiado CIDP, 2018 - 2022)

Kajiado County Budget Breakdown as Per the County CIDP 2018 – 2022



Development Priorities that are Important to the Citizens

1. Water- the issue of scarcity of water has contributed to high cost of clean water, which has forced citizens to opt for unclean water from untreated water point that led to cases of water bone diseases Kajiado being an Arid and Semi-Arid Land (ASAL) is characterised by prolonged periods of abnormally low rainfall and shortage of water. Largely, the county does not have a reliable source of water with the main sources of water being seasonal rivers, shallow wells, springs, dams, water pans, and borehole. The County is characterised by an acute shortage of clean and safe water for drinking and other domestic uses. According to County Statistical Abstract 2015, only 67.2% of the total population have access to safe water. The number of households (HH) with access to piped and portable water is about 36.8 percent of the total population. The main sources of water in the rural areas are water pans, dams and protected springs with the most reliable source being boreholes



2. Environmental Degradation- Drainage systems, control of effluent, pollution of water with sewerage, prevention of air pollution, clean markets. Being ASAL, the substantial impact on the ecosystem and agriculture is harming the local economy. The county has been highly degraded by illegal tree felling, charcoal burning, over harvesting of sand risking loss of bio-diversity, pollution and loss of aesthetic value. Flash floods are a common menace during long rains season mainly because of erosion and lack of vegetation cover. Urbanization is occurring at a rapid rate with major developments anticipated giving rise to an increase in effluents discharged, which will require effective disposal management system in all major towns. According to the county's CIDP, the percentage distribution of persons accessing toilets/latrines is at low of 26% in rural areas and 47% in the urban areas.



3. Health- The mandate health sector is to provide accessible, affordable and quality health services to all residents of the County which includes: county health facilities and pharmacies; ambulatory services; promotion of primary health care; cemeteries and control of undertakings and sanitation. The health facilities are there, but there is need for qualified personnel to work in the dispensaries and other health facilities. The county has 92 Community health units initiated out of which only 78 are active. The doctor population ratio is 1:26,094, Public Health Staff is 1:7,619, and the nurse population ratio is 1:1,068. The average distance to a health facility is 14.3 km with only 9.9 percent of the population within a distance of less than a Kilometer to a health facility.



4. Education- creation of TVETs (Vocational and Technical skills). Education is seen as a means of improving people's welfare as it provides an opportunity for people to access higher income and standard of living. In order to achieve and maintain a high Youth Development Index (YDI), there is need to ensure the youth complete the equitable and quality education, increase the percentage of youth with relevant knowledge and skills to promote sustainable development and achieve gender equality, and empower all women and girls. YDI measures progress on youth development in terms of the levels of education, health and well-being, employment and opportunity, as well as civic and political participation.

5 Roads Infrastructure Roads make a crucial contribution to economic development and growth, and bring important social benefits. They are of vital importance in order to make a nation/county grow and develop. In addition, providing access to employment, social, health and education services makes a road network crucial in fighting against poverty. Roads open up more areas and stimulate economic and social development. The total length of roads in the county is 2,419.2 Km, which include 1,111.9 Km of earth roads, 932.3 Km of murrum and 375 Km of bitumen (County Statistical Abstract 2015). The five major tarmac roads in the county are Emali-Loitokitok, Namanga-Kitengela, Isinya-Kiserian, MagadiMbagathi, and Kiserian-Ngong