

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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Radio personalities during the implementers' workshop.



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Community Media Mobilising for Accountability in Kenya **SAMBURU COUNTY (025)**



COUNTY PROFILE

Samburu County is within the northern parts of Great Rift Valley in Kenya, laying within an Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) region covering an area of 21,022 km², and is bordered by Turkana County (Northwest), Baringo County (Southwest), Marsabit County (Northeast), Isiolo County (East) and Laikipia County (South). Eighty percent is pastoralists' economic livelihoods. The County falls on the northern interface between highlands and lowlands. To the extreme west is Suguta Valley, which is bounded on both sides by fault escarpments and floored by red clays, boulders, and gravel fans. In the East of Suguta Valley, the County is characterized by repeated extensive high-level plateaus that have been built by repeated floods of lava from the Rift valley. The highest parts of these plateaus are the Kirisia Hill, rising to 2000m above sea level. In the North of Baragoi - Tuum and South - Horr axis, the area rises to Mount Nyiro tapers northwards and falls steeply southwards. South and west of Mount Nyiro are peneplains, which have been eroded to plains of lower levels ranging from 1000-1,350 m above sea level.

The county has 3 sub counties of Samburu West, Samburu East and Samburu North, and 15 wards of Lodokejek, Suguta Marmar, Maralal, Loosuk, Poro, Waso, Wamba West, Wamba East, Wamba North, El Barta, Nachola, Ndoto, Nyiro, Angata Nanyokie and Baawa. According to the 2019 Population and Housing Census, the population of Samburu County is 310,327 and the population is projected to increase to 399,378 by 2022 and 456,418 by 2025. KNBS- 2017.

About eight (8%) / 139,000 ha of the County is classified as arable

land with adequate moisture to support crop farming. Currently 28,500 ha of land is being utilized for crop farming and the main crops grown in the County include maize, beans, wheat, barley, pyrethrum, and millet. These crops are grown in the highland areas of Poro in Kirisia Division. This is due to its fertile soils and adequate rainfall sufficient for rain fed agriculture. Being a pastoralist community, ninety-two percent (92%) of the county land is rangeland suitable for livestock production and supports cattle, sheep, goats, camels, and donkeys. Apiculture is an upcoming animal production system that is practiced as an alternative production livelihood to livestock production. Aquaculture is an emerging livelihood production system that the County Government through the Directorate of Livestock Production is promoting.

The county has a wide range of mineral resources that includes sand, stones, ballast and quarry building stones, precious stones (e.g. ruby, sapphire, and garnets). The county has deposits of fluor spar, vermiculite, gypsum for cement production, manganese, and possibility of oil too. The county has abundant and high diversity of wildlife as it is home to a number of wildlife species rarely found elsewhere which include Grevy's zebra, reticulated giraffe, beisa Oryx, gerenuk and Somali ostrich. The wildlife coupled with magnificent physical features and the incredible cultural heritage of the Samburu community is an important part of tourism attraction and development. Sporting activities such as Maralal International camel derby also form an important tourist attraction. (Source: Samburu County CIDP, 2018 - 2022)

Our County, Our Responsibility



Our County, Our Responsibility

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



Development Priorities that are Important to the Citizens

- 1. **Health:** Environmental, social cultural, negative cultural practices and beliefs, low literacy levels and high fertility rates as per the KDHS 2014 influence health status of the people in Samburu County. The County has one level four hospital situated in Maralal town, one faith based hospital in Wamba and one sub-county hospital in Baragoi town in Samburu North. The county also has 15 level three-health facilities, 54 dispensaries, and 15 private clinics in the county. The doctor patient ratio stands at 1: 10,000 and nurses' patient ratio stands at 91: 100,000, which is below the accepted national standards of 1:1000 for doctors and 55: 100,000 for nurses. The average household distance to health facility is 20kms, which is way above the national recommended distance of 4km.



- 2. **Education:** The literacy level is approximately 34% of the population has the ability to read and write. Education is the foundation of upon which we build our future, there is need to channel more resources especially in rural areas to ensure that all the children under 5 years are enrolled in Early Childhood Education (ECD) centres and employ more teachers to reduce the teacher pupil ratio. The total number of ECD centres in the County is 529 with a total enrolment of 42,938, with 470 teachers translating to teacher/pupil ratio of 1:91 as at 2017. The teacher pupil ratio is not in line with the ECDE policy and this can be attributed to inadequate number of teachers. Not all pupils transit from pre-primary in some of our areas due to insecurity, drought, illiteracy, and ignorance. The county has one youth polytechnics in Maralal with total enrolment of 51 students with six instructors. In addition, there are other private polytechnics where basic technical are offered to students. The county has one vocational training, which is privately owned hence majority of youths are left out or seek the skills outside the county. There is therefore a need from the resident for the government to develop these institutions.

- 3. **Agriculture:** The Agriculture Sector comprises of four subsectors of Agriculture, Livestock, Veterinary, and Fisheries. The sector contributes about 60% to the County economy and therefore plays a major role towards poverty reduction and creation of employment opportunities. It also contributes to economic growth through forward and backward linkages with other sectors. There is need to improve the livelihood by promoting competitive crop and livestock farming as a business through an enabling environment,

effective support services and sustainable natural resource



management which in the long run will contribute in making the county food secure.

- 4. **Roads:** The county's total road network length is 1,606.6 km, out of which the Tarmac road (probase) covers a length of 10 km, improved (gravelled) road covers a length of 1,081 km, and new (Opened) roads cover 515.6 kms. Most of these are rural access roads and those linking to major urban centres within the county. To enhance transportation network, there is need for the county government to increase financial resources for road construction and maintenance, construct new rural roads, expand and maintain existing roads, fast track road construction works and improve drainage along the roads. There are several seasonal "laggas"



which during rainy seasons are filled with runoff water, making roads impassable and often leaving the area cut-off from the rest of the country.

- 5. **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:** The main water sources in the county constitute surface and ground water. The Ewaso Ng'iro River flows northwards about 30 km, and then changes the direction to flow eastwards. The County government needs to develop a Water Master Plan, invest in the provision of clean water for domestic use as well as for irrigation, and protect the water catchment areas. The provision of clean water and reduce distances to water points to serve a population of 150,000 people. There is need for rehabilitation of urban water supplies in Maralal, Wamba, Archers Post, Kisima, Suguta Maralal and Baragoi, which will in turn increase the number of households connected to piped water from a population of about 200,000 people. Construction and desilting of dams, which will help in