

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.



Content development workshop in Garsen Town



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Community Media Mobilising for Accountability in Kenya TANA RIVER COUNTY (004)



COUNTY PROFILE

Tana River County is one of the six Counties in the Coast Region. It borders Kitui County to the West, Garissa County to the North East, Isiolo County to the North, Lamu County to the South East and Kilifi County to the South. The county has a total area of 38,862.2 Km² with a projected population of 349,338 people (KNBS, 2018) and covers about 76 kms of the coastal strip.

It comprises three administrative sub-counties namely: Bura, Galole and Tana Delta, and three constituencies namely: Galole, Bura and Garsen with 15 electoral wards. The most striking topographical feature is the River Tana that traverses the county from the Aberdares in the North to the Indian Ocean in the South covering a stretch of approximately 500Km. The county is divided into four agro- ecological zones namely:

1. Coastal Lowlands (CL) 3 Coconut – Cassava zone (non ASAL)
2. CL4 Cashew nuts- Cassava zones where the main economic activity is peasantry mixed farming
3. CL5 Lowland Livestock zone
4. CL6 Lowland Ranching zones where the locals are involved in pastoral activities.

The region has a hot and dry climate within ecological zones ranging from III (in the very high grounds) to VII (in the plains or lowlands). The population of Tana River County in 2019 is estimated at 315,943. The county has two urban areas namely Hola and Madogo having a total projected population of 41,586 in 2018.

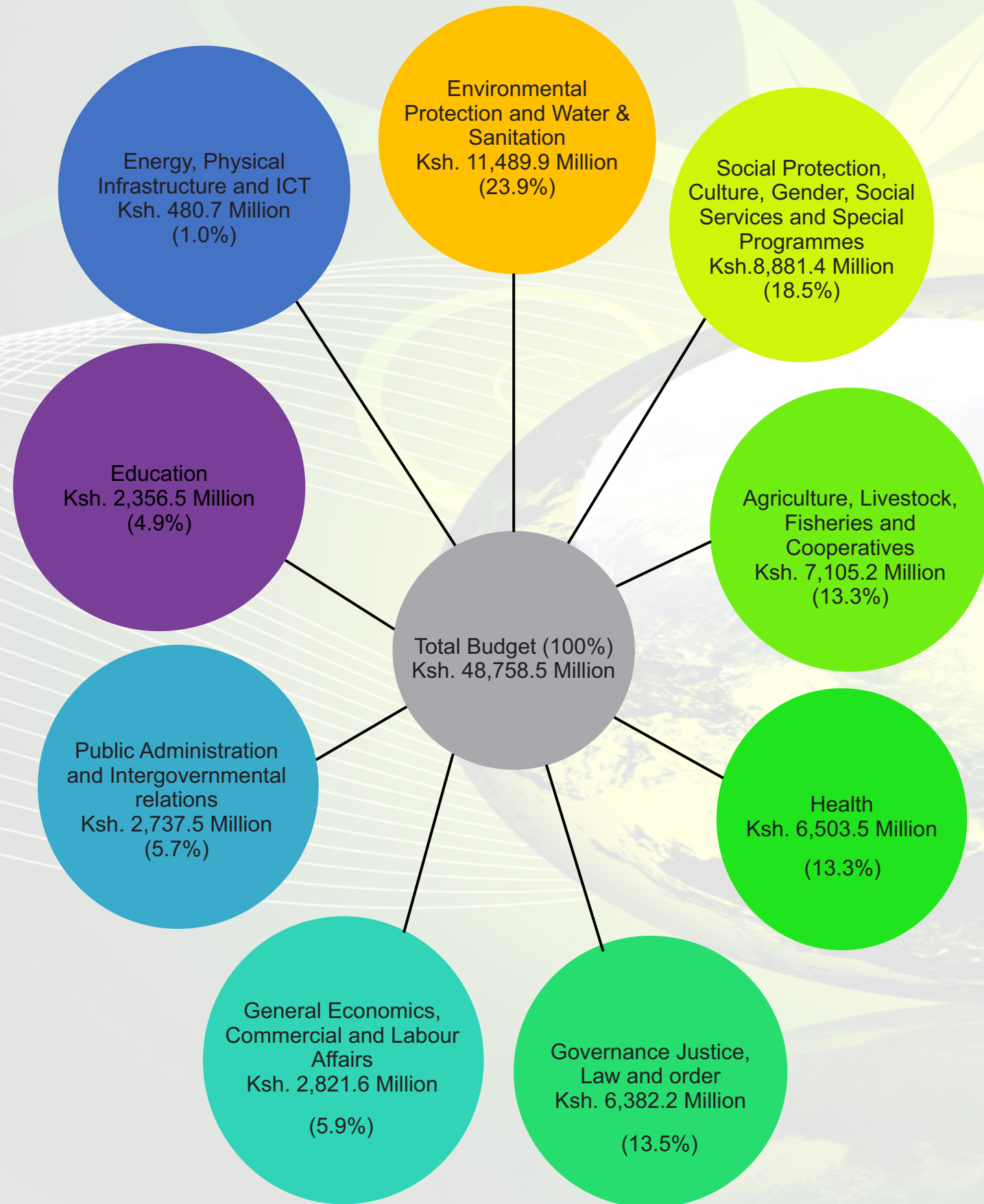
The total rural population is estimated at 47,244 in 2018 representing about 15 per cent of the total population of the county. The county has a life expectancy of 53.8 years compared to the national life expectancy of 57.9 years. The Labour Force is between the age group 15-64 years: This is the economically active age

group whose increase require a commensurate increase in creation of job opportunities. Of the total labour force, 51 percent are female and are projected to dominate the age group. Due to the expected increase in the labour force, the county will need to spur growth of many other sectors including manufacturing, processing and trade so that they become more productive. Currently, 83 per cent of the labour force is engaged in subsistence agricultural and livestock activities. Therefore, there is a need to ensure that these economic activities are profitable through the support of modern methods and value addition ventures. A majority of the labour force composed of 42.8 per cent in the county is unemployed. Unemployment levels are very high with poverty incidence standing at 76.9 per. The main crops produced are mangoes, cowpeas, bananas and green grams. Farmers in the county mainly rely on rain fed and flood recession farming systems with only a few practicing irrigated farming. Maize production also takes place in the irrigation scheme. The total acreage of farms under food crop production is 7,527 hectares while that under cash crop production is 7,063 hectares. The arable area in the county is 2,547 Km² with the average farm size being 0.71 ha.

Livestock keeping is practised mainly through pastoralism by the Orma, Borana, Wardei and Somali. The main livestock types are cattle, donkey, camel and goat. Poultry is kept at household level by all communities in the county. The main type of poultry kept is indigenous chicken and ducks. There are about seven ranches in the whole county namely Wachu, Kibusu, Haganda, Kitangale, Idasa Godana, Giritu and Kondertu. The main types of fish produced in the county include Tuna, Catfish & Rabbit fish (marine species), Tilapia, and Synodontis. The main fishing gear being traps, fishing nets, hooks/lines, fishing boats and marine seine nets. Fishing activities are carried along the river Tana and the ocean at Kipini, Ozi and Chara. (Source: Tana River CIDP, 2018 - 2022)



Tana River County Budget Breakdown as Per the County CIDP 2018 – 2022



Development Priorities that are Important to the Citizens

1. Water: Many areas in the county are water stressed i.e. many county residents lack access to clean and safe water. The *Prosopis Juliflora* tree commonly known as 'Mathenge' has invaded the water sources in the county thus blocking the flow of water. The recharge level of water sources in the county is very low due to prolonged drought spell, for example River Tana is at 25% of its normal level. There is need for the County Government to increase the number of water pans and boreholes as well as tap water from River Tana so as to increase the volume of clean and safe water for consumption and irrigation in agriculture.



2. Health: Health facilities especially in rural areas lack sufficient medical personnel, drugs and other medical machinery such as ambulances in case of emergency evacuation. For example, the maternity wing at Salama location is not equipped as well as lack of surgeons in spite of the hospital having a theatre but no personnel to perform surgeries. The county lacks a functional Accident & Emergency Unit in the available health facilities. Many county residents are usually forced to go to Holla or Malindi to seek medical attention. There is need for the County Government to equip and upgrade the available health facilities in the county.



3. Roads and Public Works: The total road network in the county is 3,377km with about 55 per cent in motorable condition. The total road network is composed of 1,108km (class A – E) of classified roads and 2,269km (class U) of unclassified roads. Out of this only 449km is bitumen surfaced. Most of the roads in the county are not accessible especially during the rainy season. There is need for the County Government to improve the drainage system

along the roads so as to prevent flooding during the rainy season as well as construct and upgrade the roads so as to ease transportation of goods and people.



4. Education: The low levels of education in the county are contributed by inadequate Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) centres as well as inadequate teaching staff. Low literacy levels among the county residents has disadvantaged most of them from accessing information and more so jobs. There is need for the County Government to increase the number of ECDE centres, complete stalled projects in the education sector such as the ECDE centre at Maua primary and provide education scholarships and bursaries to needy students as incentives so as to encourage the enrolment and retention of students to the highest levels of education.

5. Agriculture - The county residents are mostly farmers i.e. crop and livestock farming who produce: fruits such as water melons, keep livestock, plant rice at Gamba irrigation scheme, sugarcane, cotton, etc. However, most of the farmers rely on irrigation in which the county irrigation potential areas range between 180,000ha - 200,000ha, out of which only 2% has been put under irrigation development. There is need for the County Government to provide water for irrigation so as to be able to increase the county's food security.

