

An information sharing tool for the Kenya Social Economic Inclusion Project (KSEIP) stakeholders

Makueni County Social Registry to Spur Social Protection Interventions



Makueni County Governor, Prof Kivutha Kibwana consults with Assistant Director, Social Development, National Social Protection Secretariat Stefanie Bitengo (left) and Josephine Gitonga from Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) during a visit to the County offices on 30 March, 2022 (Photo courtesy, Makueni County)

Social protection sector players now have an up-to-date data bank of poor and vulnerable households in Makueni to guide rollout of various interventions in the county.

National Social Protection Secretariat (NSPS) official Stephanie Bitengo said the data of the county's poor and vulnerable households was available through the Enhanced Single Registry (ESR).

Ms Bitengo, an Assistant Director for Social Development said the data collection exercise in Makueni County completed last year led to the registration of 86,996 households that have now been included in the ESR.

“We already have a registry that can be able to guide rollout of interventions in Makueni County.”

Stefanie Bitengo

The ESR is a data bank of current and potential beneficiaries of the Government's cash transfer programmes and is part of the Kenya Social and Economic Inclusion Project (KSEIP).

“We now have a registry that can be utilised to guide rollout of interventions in the county,” she said when she led a Government team to the office of Makueni County Governor Prof Kivutha Kibwana.

Ms Bitengo was accompanied by other officials from the Ministry of Public Service, Gender, Senior Citizens Affairs and Special Programmes, World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

The meeting was held to discuss modalities of strengthening Makueni County's customised social protection programmes and their inclusion into the ESR. It was also meant to assess how the county has been utilising the already collected data in its programming. Ms Bitengo said: “We really hope that all stakeholders will come out to utilise the ESR to guide their different programmes.”

Continues on page 3

100,000 ASAL Households Receive Cash Transfers to Mitigate Climate Effects



HSNP beneficiaries queue to receive their shock responsive cash transfer payments through Hunger Safety Net Project

The Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP) has disbursed KSh 537 million to 99,494 poor and vulnerable households in Marsabit, Wajir, Mandera and Turkana counties.

The four counties are among those with huge populations of people in dire need of relief assistance as per a food security and nutrition security assessment report released in February 2022.

The programme is managed by the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) and each enrolled household is entitled to KSh 5,400.

County	Beneficiaries	Amount (KShs)
Mandera	Over 19,000	107 million
Marsabit	Over 19,000	104 million
Turkana	Over 35,000	189 million

“This will go a long way in ensuring food is on the tables of the vulnerable households in these four counties, which are among the most affected by drought which has been occasioned by three consecutive failed rain seasons,” said NDMA CEO Lt Col (Rtd) Hared Hassan.

The cash disbursements under the HSNP are part of the larger Kenya Social and Economic Inclusion Project. HSNP beneficiaries started receiving their payments on 2 March, 2022.

“We can only say thank you. I will now be able to buy food for my children whose eating has been erratic over the past few months,” said Mama Nale Bartigo, a beneficiary in Korr, Laisamis in Mandera County.

An evaluation of HSNP I showed that most beneficiaries spend their cash stipend on food, debt repayment, clothing, health, education and livestock.

According to the evaluation report, HSNP was making a significant contribution to household consumption especially to food consumption in addition to offering a stabilising effect for beneficiaries as a safety net.

The NDMA is currently undertaking registration of poor and vulnerable households in Isiolo, Garissa, Samburu, and Tana River counties.

The exercise will bring on board an additional 32,000 households as beneficiaries under the Hunger Safety Net Project.

We can only say thank you. I will now be able to buy food for my children whose eating has been erratic over the past few months.”

Mama Nale Bartigo, Beneficiary

The current programme beneficiaries are 101,800 households on the regular cash transfer portfolio in Marsabit, Turkana, Wajir, and Mandera counties.

Alongside registration, HSNP is conducting targeting, an exercise of identifying potential beneficiaries of the third phase of the HSNP.

The registration of the four counties brings to eight, the number of ASAL counties where HSNP is being implemented.

About the Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP)

HSNP is one of the four cash transfer programmes under the National Safety Net Programme (NSNP) collectively called Inua Jamii, whose objective is to deliver regular and emergency cash transfers to poor and vulnerable households in ASALS.

New Enrolment, Payment Solution Developed



State Department of Social Protection officers at a workshop held in March 2022 in Naivasha for them to learn about the new enrollment and payment system for Economic Inclusion Programme

The Government has developed a new payment solution to manage enrollment and payments of Economic Inclusion Programme beneficiaries.

Developed under the Kenya Social and Economic Inclusion Project (KSEIP), the new solution will support processes of asset transfer and consumption support payments to enhance access of target participants to social and economic inclusion services.

“Currently, economic inclusion participants have been identified and are now awaiting payment of both consumption support and asset transfer to start business enterprises,” says Susan Munguti, Assistant Director for Social Development, Directorate of Social Development in the State Department for Social Protection, Senior Citizens Affairs and Special Programmes.

After the payments, expected between April and May 2022, participants will undergo coaching and mentoring as part of skills enhancement in the process of implementing their business enterprises, she said.

All participant households - both National Safety Net Programme (NSNP) and non-NSNP - will receive asset transfer of KSh 30,000 either in one or two tranches, while non-NSNP households will also receive a monthly consumption support of KSh 2,000 payable bi-monthly for a period of one year. The NSNP participant households will continue receiving their usual cash transfer stipend.

Ms Munguti said the new payment solution was an upgrade of the Directorate of Social Assistance’s CCTPMIS. It was created owing to the fact that the Directorate of Social Development’s Community Development Management Information System (CD-MIS) was still under development. The payment solution has been deployed to enroll participants after successful User Acceptance Tests with stakeholders, which were carried out in March 2022. The Economic Inclusion Programme is implemented by the Directorate of Social Development in collaboration with Global Development Incubator (GDI).

NICHE Programme Scaled Up to Five Sub-Counties

The Government’s Nutrition Improvements through Cash and Health Education (NICHE) will be scaled up to five new sub-counties in the next financial year starting July 2022.

The sub-counties fall within the five counties of Kilifi, Kitui, Marsabit, West Pokot and Turkana where the programme has been implemented over the past three years. The target counties were those with the highest rates of malnutrition evidenced by stunting and wasting among children.

The scaling up brings to 20 the total number of sub-counties benefiting from the NICHE programme.

Consequently, the number of beneficiaries under the programme will rise from 13,800 to 19,500.

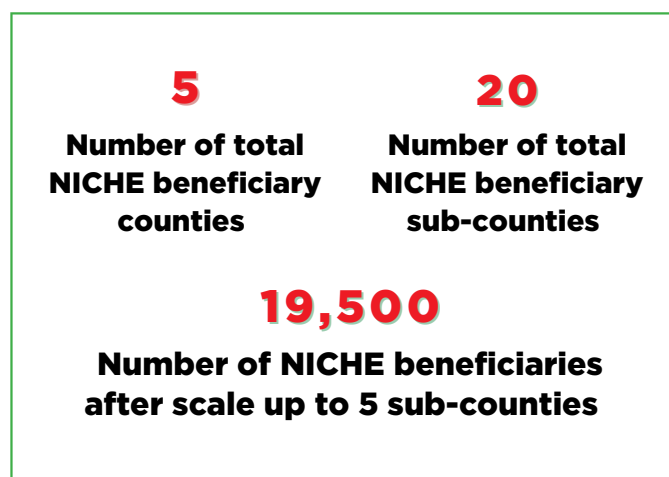
According to a Department of Children Services Director Jane Muyanga, the expansion follows a successful pilot of the NICHE programme in the first target counties.

She said the new sub-counties were selected based on the number of children under five, number of Inua Jamii beneficiaries and number of health facilities in the vicinity.

According to the Cost of Hunger report 2014, overall effects of child malnutrition on the various sectors were monumental. Results on the total effect on health, education and productivity show that Ksh 373.9 billion or US\$ 4.2 billion was lost in 2014 in Kenya as a result of child under nutrition.

“There’s need to educate communities within and outside of the KSEIP scope on innovative ways of boosting nutrition for children below the age of two,” Ms Muyanga said, adding that exclusive breastfeeding was key to provide children will all nutrients they require.

NICHE is designed to improve the nutritional status of children in their first 1,000 days of life. It aims to reach 23,500 households with nutrition-sensitive cash transfer as a means to improve well-being in nutrition, child protection and social protection.



Makueni Governor Lauds ESR Initiative

From page 1

She named social assistance, economic inclusion and resilience building activities within the different counties as some of the programmes that would utilise the ESR.

The ESR, she said, will provide a register for both beneficiaries of social protection, those already receiving cash transfers under the government. “The ESR will provide an important and critical platform for coordinating social protection,” said Ms Bitengo.

Prof Kibwana lauded the Enhanced Single Registry saying it will ensure transparency in social protection programmes.

“It delights me that Makueni is among pilot counties for rolling out the ESR,” he said.

A single source of information for all beneficiaries of social protection programmes will ensure transparency while making it a beneficial undertaking,” said Prof Kibwana.

Prof Kibwana added: “We are grateful for the support to ensure that in terms of social inclusion, we do the best we can to ensure protection of children and financial inclusion.”

Makueni is one of the counties where data collection for the ESR was collected. Other counties are Vihiga, Taita Taveta and Kisumu.

Chad Benchmarks on Kenya Social Protection Systems



State Department of Social Protection officials during an exchange visit in Chad

Chad is the newest African country to benchmark on Kenya’s Social Protection (SP) systems and interventions.

On 16-22 January, 2022, a delegation from Chad was in Kenya for an exchange visit, under the South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Social Protection Initiative, with a view to learn about the various interventions aimed at cushioning and improving the lives of the poor and vulnerable citizens.

“The Government of Kenya is happy that you are among the first countries to come and understand how our system works so that we can learn together the best practices in identifying and enrolling our less fortunate in social protection programmes,” said Nelson Marwa, PS, State Department for Social Protection.

With Kenya’s SP sector having grown tremendously since the enactment of the Social Protection Policy in 2014, the visit was also meant to share experiences on social protection systems in developing countries.

The South-South Triangular Cooperation plays a leading role in helping developing countries to achieve aspirations within their development blueprints.

Evidently, Kenya is a beneficiary in various fields including Social Protection. The State Department of Social Protection has modelled the learnings and developed functional social protection systems, which are effective and supportive in identifying the vulnerable population of Kenya.

Lauding the initiative, Cecilia Mbaka, Head, National Social Protection Secretariat commented: “We hope that this is just the beginning of a transformative journey designed within the Sustainable Development Goal 17 (SDG-17) for global cooperation and partnership.”



“We are confident that going forward, our cooperation between the two countries in promoting social protection interventions shall be better than it was before.”

A similar exchange visit for the Kenya delegation to Chad took place between 28 February to 5 March, 2022.