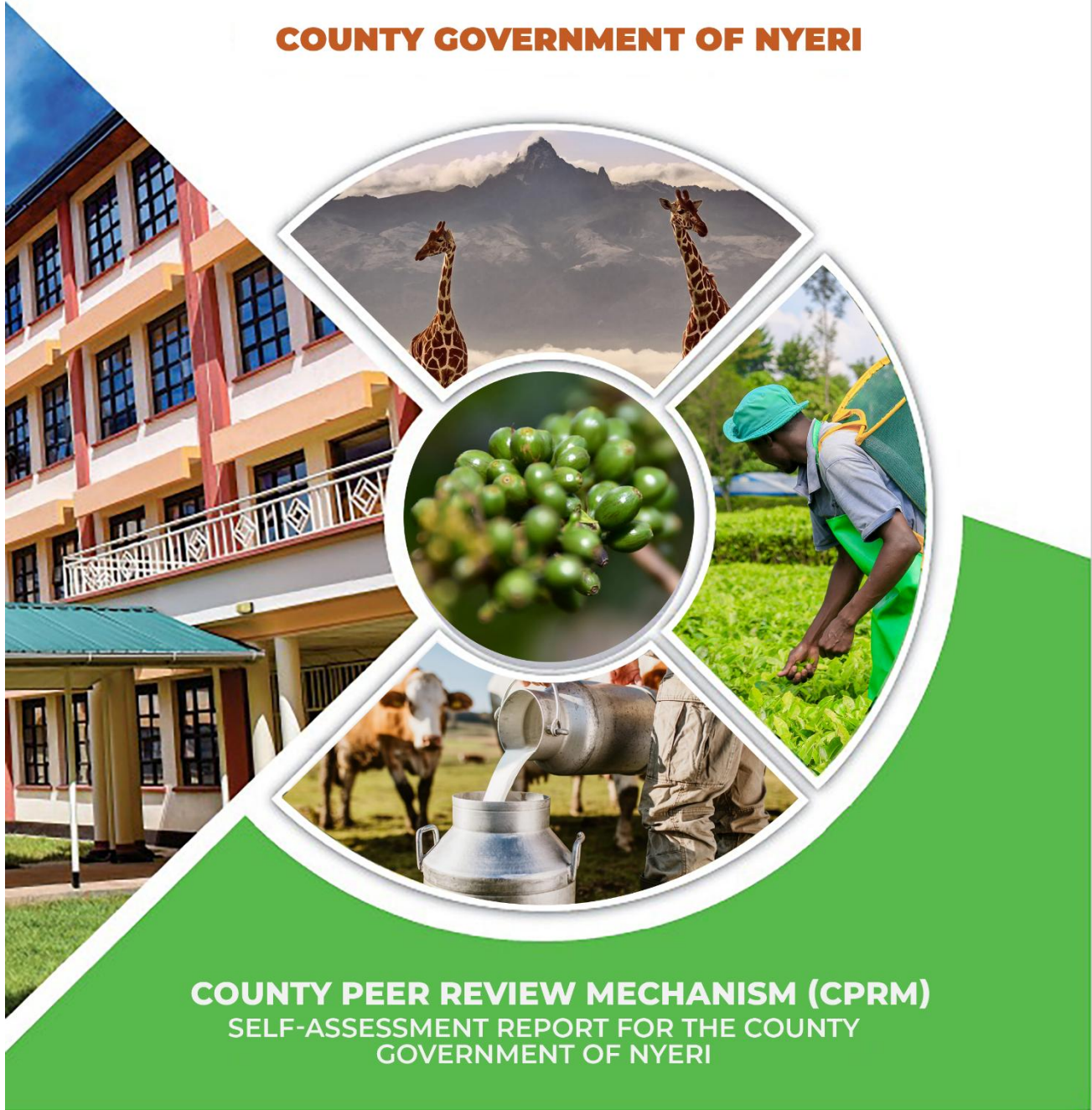




REPUBLIC OF KENYA



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYERI



COUNTY PEER REVIEW MECHANISM (CPRM) SELF-ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYERI

APRIL, 2024

It's all about you

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

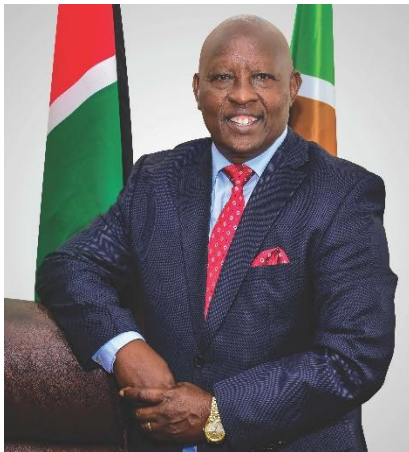
ABDP	Aquaculture Business Development Program
AGPO	Access to Government Procurement Opportunities
AIA	Appropriation in Aid
AMBT	Appropriate Building Materials and Technology
AMC	Antimicrobial Consumption
AMR	Antimicrobial Resistance
AMREF	African Medical and Research Foundation
AMS	Agricultural Mechanization Services
AMU	Antimicrobial use
ANC	Antenatal care
ASDSP	Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme
ATC	Agricultural Training Centre
CASIC	County Antimicrobial Interagency Stewardship Committee
CASSCOM	County Agriculture Sector Steering Committee
CBA	Collecting Bargaining Agreement
CBC	Competency Based Curriculum
CBD	Central Business District
CCCAP	County Climate Change Action Plan
CCCF	County Climate Change Fund
CDC	Centres for Disease Control
CHRAC	County Human Resource Advisory Committee

CHS	Center for Health Solutions
CIDP	County Integrated Development Plan
CPSB	County Public Service Board
CREAW	Centre for Rights Education and Awareness
CRH	County Referral Hospital
DPP	Director of Public Prosecutions
ECDE	Early Childhood Development and Education
EDF	Enterprise Development Fund
EMT	Emergency Medical Technicians
EOC	Emergency Operations Centre
FGD	Focus Group Discussions
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Geographic Information System
HDU	High Dependency Unit
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HMIS	Health Management information system
HRM	Human Resource Management
HSHC	Help Self-Help Centre
ICU	Intensive Care Unit
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IPPD	Integrated Personnel Payroll Data

IRA	Insurance Regulatory Authority
ISMS	Information Security Management System
ISSB	Inter-locking Soil Stabilized Blocks
ISUDP	Integrated Strategic Urban Development Plan
KCSAP	Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project
KDHS	Kenya Demographic and Health Survey
KDPL	Kieni Dairy Product Limited
KDSP	Kenya Devolution Support Programme
KEFRI	Kenya Forestry Research Institute
KFS	Kenya Forest Service
KHIS	Kenya Health Information System
KISIP	Kenya Informal Settlements Improvement Project
KISM	Kenya Institute of Supplies Management
KNATCOM	Kenya National Commission for UNESCO
KWS	Kenya Wildlife Service
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTEF	Medium Term Expenditure Fund
NACADA	National Authority for the Campaign against Alcohol and Drug Abuse
NARUWASCO	Naromoru Water and Sewerage Company
NCD	Non-Communicable Diseases
NETFUND	National Environment Trust Fund
NHIF	National Hospital Insurance Fund

NWHSA	National Water Harvesting and Storage Authority
OPD	Outpatient Department
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
OVC	Orphan and Vulnerable Children
PCRA	Participatory Climate Risk Assessment
PFM	Public Financial Management
PLWD	Persons Living with Disability
PPP	Public Private Partnerships
PPRA	Public Procurement Regulatory Authority
RBA	Retirement Benefits Authority
RRI	Rapid Results Initiative
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIVAP	Small Scale Irrigation and Value Addition Projects
TEAWASCO	Tetu Water and Sewerage Company
TVETA	Technical and Vocational Education and Training Authority
UTANRMP	Upper Tana Natural Resource Management Project
VTC	Vocational Training Centre
WIBA	Work Injury Benefit Act

FOREWORD



The Constitution of Kenya 2010 established the devolved system of governance to bring government services nearer to the citizens. In particular, chapter eleven of the Constitution defined the process of devolving strategic government functions to the county level. The fourth Schedule of the constitution sets out the distribution of functions between the National Government and the County Governments.

The County Government of Nyeri continues to make strategic collaborations for development with private as well as national government agencies to forge appropriate synergies for development. The collaboration with NEPAD APRM Kenya Secretariat which is tasked with undertaking national peer review and establishing a National Plan of Action (NPOA) is crucial.

In the spirit of devolution, the consideration of Nyeri by the NEPAD APRM Kenya Secretariat as the pioneer Counties to participate in the peer review exercise will eventually provide a roadmap for the County Plan of Action (CPOA).

This report has been developed with direct extract sentiments of Nyeri Residents drawn from across all the 30 ward administrative units that provide us with timely feedback on areas where we can improve service delivery which is the main focus of my administration.

Since the inception of devolution, implementation of the first and second-generation CIDPs has been undertaken by four Governors namely; H.E. the late Nderitu Gachagua, H.E. Ambassador Samuel Wamathai, H.E. the late Wahome Gakuru and currently by myself (H.E. Edward Mutahi Kahiga, EGH).

In the spirit of achieving coordinated development between the two levels of government, the County Integrated Development Plan 2013-2017 and 2018-2022 was developed and aligned to the Fourth Medium Plan (MTP II & III) of Kenya's Vision 2030 which is the national government's long term development agenda. Further, to ensure that the County Government of Nyeri contributes to the attainment of agreed international aspirations, the objectives, strategies, and programmes as set out in those two five-year plans are linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other regional and international agreements that affect lives of our people.

The implementation of the first and the second development plans were based on

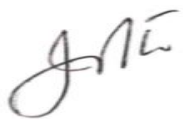
specific activities. This is as required in the guidelines provided by the State Department of Economic Planning to expedite this process. The new methodology aims to ensure that the objectives are linked to the expected outcomes and development goals. The County Government has come up with five sectors that will enable the attainment of the county's overall vision of “a wealthy county with healthy and secure people for shared prosperity”. These sectors are; Public Administration and Governance; Agriculture and Rural Development, Infrastructure, Energy, Rural and Urban Development; Social Services; and General Economic and Commerce Affairs.

Importantly, my government has achieved great milestones in all spheres over the last five years despite the externalities. This has created a foundation on which the third-generation CIDP will be anchored to guarantee transformation and shared prosperity in the next phase. These achievements were made possible due to our commitment to accountable and transparent leadership as well as sustainable growth.

The successful implementation of this integrated plan was necessitated by immeasurable commitment, consultation, and cooperation from all stakeholders within and outside government.

I appreciate all the County Government's entities, the political leadership, Civil Society Organizations, private sector groups and the Nyeri County residents for their respective roles during project planning, execution, monitoring and evaluation. Their input subsequently led to; job creation, improved livelihoods as well as attainment of the envisaged social-economic transformation for our people.

I also wish to appreciate the efforts and resources that went into the development of this report provided by the NEPAD APRM Kenya Secretariat as well as the dedication, sacrifice and commitment from our officers.



H.E. Mwalimu Edward Mutahi Kahiga, EGH

The Governor, Nyeri County

1. COUNTY PROFILE

1.1. Background

Nyeri County, situated in Kenya's central region, spans 3,325 square kilometers and is with a population of approximately 828,805 persons consisting of 49 percent male and 51 percent female according to the projections by KNBS, 2022. Most of the inhabitants of the County are from the Kikuyu community who are predominantly farmers growing tea and coffee as cash crops. They also engage in subsistence farming of crops such as maize, beans, assorted vegetables, and sweet potatoes as well as small scale livestock farming. Other communities living in the county include Luo, Meru, Kamba, Embu, Borana, Somali and virtually all Kenyan communities who are mostly engaged in own businesses or employed by the government.

Kikuyus traditionally believed in one god, called Ngai (the provider), living at the top of Mount Kenya. However, most of them have today abandoned their traditional beliefs for Christianity. The most dominant Christian faiths are the Presbyterian, Methodist, Catholic, Anglicans, Pentecostals and Akorino denominations. There's a small number of residents, mainly found in major urban centers, who ascribe to Islam and Hindu religions.

The County lies between two water towers i.e., Mount Kenya and the Aberdare ranges with agriculture as the main economic activity. The County is renowned for horticultural farming. Other agricultural activities which act as a source of income include dairy farming and fish keeping. There are a number of light industries, tea and coffee factories providing a market and employment to the locals. The County headquarter is located in Nyeri Town which is easily accessible from all the eight sub counties. Nyeri is also a home to re-known personalities including the late President Mwai Kibaki, Nobel Peace Prize laureate the late Prof. Wangari Maathai and renowned Olympic (Boston and Chicago) marathon medalist Catherine Ndereba.

The county is easily accessible by road from Nairobi and the neighboring counties. It takes about two hours travel to Nyeri from Nairobi (approximately 150km), two hours from

Nakuru (approximately 167km), 45 minutes from Nanyuki (approximately 60km) and one and a half hours from Nyahururu (approximately 100km). There is no regular transport by air to Nyeri although there are three airstrips namely Mweiga on the Nyeri-Nyahururu highway, Nyaribo on the Nyeri- Nanyuki road about 15km from Nyeri town and the Nanyuki air strip near Nanyuki Town.

Nyeri County forms part of the Central Region Economic Bloc (CeREB) that is made up of 10 counties. The regional block provides a means of promoting harmonized trade and economic development within the region. The other counties that make the economic block include Kiambu, Kirinyaga, Murang'a, Nyandarua, Meru, Tharaka Nithi, Embu, Nakuru and Laikipia.

1.2. Position and Size

Nyeri County is one of the 47 counties in Kenya and is located in the central region of the country. It covers an area of 3,325 Km² and is situated between longitudes 36°38" east and 37°20" east and between the equator and latitude 0° 38' 0" south. It borders Laikipia County to the north, Kirinyaga County to the east, Murang'a County to the south, Nyandarua County to the west and Meru County to the northeast.

Figure 1 Location of the County in Kenya



1.3. Physical and Topographic Features

Nyeri County lies within the central highlands of Kenya and is divided into two main topographic regions which are plains and highlands. The topographic features in the county include the mountain, rivers, water bodies and hills. The highest point in the County is Mount Kenya which is 5199m above sea level while the lowest point is at Sagana river in

Mukurweini Central ward which is 1192m above sea level. The County has an average slope area of 8.8%.

The main physical features of the county are Mount Kenya at the eastern side and the Aberdare ranges (3,999m above sea level) to the west side of the County. The northern part is flat (Kieni East and Kieni West Sub counties), whereas the southern part of the county has steep ridges and valleys, with a few hills such as Karima, Nyeri and Tumutumu. These hills affect the pattern of rainfall, thus influencing the mode of agricultural production and the type of agricultural produce.

The county has a forest coverage of 38% which is above the recommended minimum level of 10%. There are two gazetted forests, Mt. Kenya Forest and the Aberdare Ranges. In each of the forest, there are various forest sub stations which include Nanyuki, Gathiuru, Naromoru, Kabaru, Hombe, Ragati and Chehe in Mt. Kenya and Muringato, Kabage, Zaina, Zuti, and Kiandongoro in the Aberdares. However, the forest cover is under threat of decreasing due to increased deforestation and human encroachment.

The major rivers found in the county are Ewaso Ng'iro, Chania, Gura and Amboni from Aberdare Forest and Nairobi River from Mt Kenya. Sagana river is jointly fed by rivers from both Mt. Kenya and Aberdare rivers. Among other rivers found in the county are Ragati River. The permanent and seasonal rivers in the County are the main source of water for agricultural, domestic and industrial development across the County.

1.4. Ecological Conditions

The county has two forest eco-systems, namely Aberdare and Mt. Kenya. The county has twelve (12) isolated forested hills under the management of County Government. The major ones based on their sizes are Gachirichiri, Karima and Tumutumu. The forests are a valuable resource to the County as they are a source of products such as timber, fuel, fodder, herbal medicine among others. In addition, these forests play vital roles which include maintenance of water cycle, wildlife habitat and are also repository of a wide range of biodiversity. Since soil conditions in the county are almost similar, agricultural productivity is influenced by rainfall intensity and temperature conditions.

1.5. Climatic Conditions

The county being located within the highland zone of Kenya, receives conventional rainfall in most of its parts. The rains are experienced in two seasons, long rains occurring from March to May while the short rains are experienced from October to December. This pattern however has been adversely affected by the recent climatic changes being experienced globally.

The annual rainfall ranges between 1,200mm-1,600mm during the long rains and 500mm-1,500mm during the short rains. In terms of altitude, the county lies between 3,076 meters and 5,199 meters above sea level. The precipitation is highest in the month of April and lowest in the months from June to September.

The County's monthly mean temperature ranges from 12.8 0 C to 20.8 0 C with February and March being the hottest months while July is the coldest month of the year. However, areas around Mount Kenya experience low temperatures throughout the year.

1.6. Administrative and Political Units

Nyeri County is currently under the leadership of **H.E. Governor Mutahi Kahiga**. Other governors who have led the county include the late Nderitu Gachagua, Wamathai Samuel Githaiga, and the late Wahome Gakuru. His Excellency the Governor is assisted by the **Deputy Governor (H.E. David Kinanire Waroe)**, the County Assembly, County Executive Committee Members, County Secretary, County Public Service Board, Chief Officers and Nyeri Municipal Board.

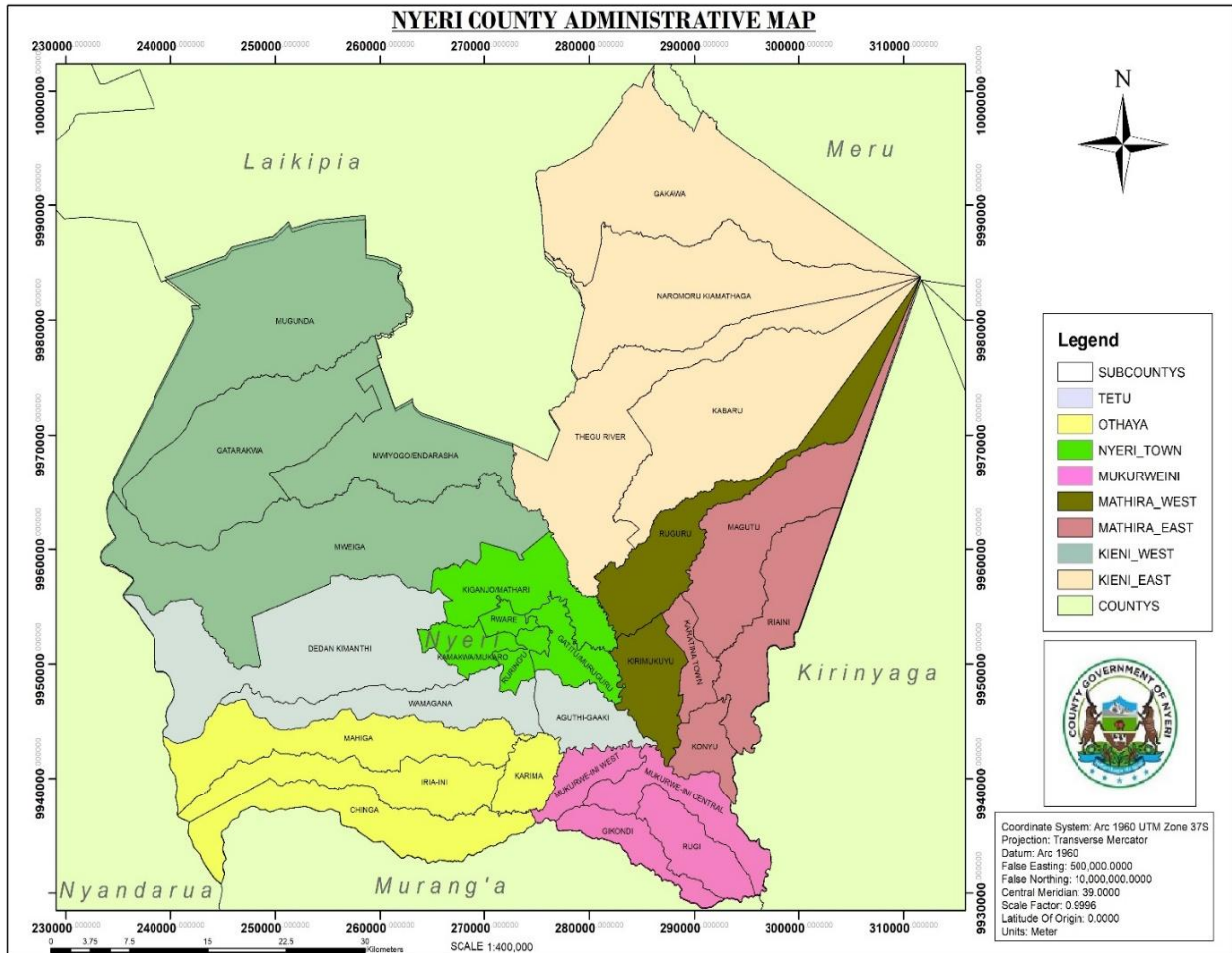
Nyeri County is sub-divided into various administrative and political units. These administrative and political units are very fundamental for the management and service delivery to the citizenry.

1.7. Administrative Units

These units are the sub-counties, divisions, locations, and sub-locations. This is illustrated by figure 2, Table 1 and Table 2 below.

Nyeri County Consists of 30 Wards clustered under 8 Sub-Counties namely; Kieni West, Kieni East, Mathira West, Mathira East, Nyeri Central, Tetu, Nyeri South and Mukuruweini as shown in figure 2

Figure 2 County’s Administrative and Political Units



Source: County Government of Nyeri, 2022

Table 1 Area (Km2) by Sub-County

Sub County	Area (Km ²)	Divisions	Locations	Sub-locations
Mathira East	130.4	4	16	44
Mathira West	162.3	3	9	31
Kieni West	517.8	2	6	26
Kieni East	448.7	2	10	33
Tetu	216.5	2	8	35
Mukurwe-ini	179.1	4	15	32
Nyeri Central	167.6	1	4	22
Othaya	169.2	4	14	29
TOTAL	*1991.6	22	82	252
<i>*The total area excludes Mt. Kenya and Aberdare Forests (1333.4 Km²)</i>				

Source: KNBS, 2022

Table 1 shows that the county is divided into eight administrative sub counties namely, Kieni East, Kieni West, Mathira East, Mathira West, Nyeri Central, Mukurwe-ini, Tetu and Othaya. The county is further subdivided into 22 divisions, 82 locations and 252 sub-locations.

Kieni West Sub County is the largest with a land size of 517.8 Km² while Mathira East is the smallest with an area of 130.4 Km². Mathira East has the highest number of locations and sub locations while Nyeri Town has got the least.

Table 1 County Government Administrative Wards by Constituency

Sub County	No. of Wards	No. of Villages
Mathira East	4	343
Mathira West	2	258
Kieni West	4	221
Kieni East	4	294
Tetu	3	224
Mukurwe-ini	4	317
Nyeri Central	5	187
Othaya	4	291
Total	30	2135

Source: County Government of Nyeri, 2022

1.8. Political Units (Constituencies and Wards)

The Political units are represented by elected persons at the national and county level. Table 3 shows the distribution of electoral wards by constituency.

Table 2 County's Electoral Wards by Constituency

Constituency	Electoral wards	Ward Names
Mathira	6	Ruguru, Kirimukuyu, Iria-ini, Karatina, Magutu, Konyu
Kieni	8	Gakawa, Naromoru/ Kiamathaga, Thegu River, Kabarua, Gatarakwa, Mugunda, Endarasha/Mwiyogo, Mweiga
Tetu	3	Aguthi/Gaaki, Dedan Kimathi, Wamagana
Mukurwe-ini	4	Rugi, Gikondi, Mukurwe-ini Central, Mukurwe-ini West
Nyeri town	5	Kamakwa/Mukaro, Kiganjo/Mathari, Rware, Ruringu, Gatitu/Muruguru
Othaya	4	Chinga, Mahiga, Iria-ini, Karima
Total	30	

Source: IEBC, 2022

Kieni with eight wards has the highest number while Tetu with three has the lowest. This is majorly attributed to the fact that Kieni is vast compared to other constituencies in the county. Consequently, Kieni has the highest number of registered voters. Therefore, there is need to intensify civic education, in Kieni Constituency, to ensure all the eligible voters are registered to enable them actively participate in the democratic process as well as channelling more resources towards development of the constituency.

1.9. Policies

Several policies have been formulated and legislated for the purpose of providing quality, efficient and effective services within the county.

1.9.1. The legal policy - The purpose of the legal services is to:

- a) Define the scope and responsibilities of the legal officers and/or external lawyers involved in the provision of legal services.
- b) Define the responsibilities of employees within the county government in accessing legal services.
- c) Establish procedures for the management of legal services and matters.

It covers all the operations of the legal office and the employees of the county government.

The County Food and Nutrition Security Policy- The County Food and Nutrition Security Policy adopts a wide range of approaches to address these challenges to attain the desired food and nutrition security status at individual, household, community and national levels.

The overall goal of the policy is to ensure that all Nyeri citizens throughout their lifecycle enjoy at all times safe food in sufficient quantity and quality to satisfy their nutritional needs for optimal health.

The Nyeri Forest Conservation and Management Policy- The Policy applies to Nyeri County Government, independent bodies, quasi-autonomous entities and agencies dealing with issues related to forestry in Nyeri County. This Policy aims to promoting and facilitating good governance in the protection, restoration, conservation, development and management of forest resources; equitable, sustainable forest management. The Policy will facilitate legal and regulatory reforms that promote sustainability of the environment and

forest resources, facilitate transition to green growth and chart ways of mitigating and adapting to climate change. More specifically, the Policy aims to:

- a) Protect and restore the community forests for the benefit of the present and future generations.
- b) Increase forest and tree cover in Nyeri County to enhance the social-economic benefits of Nyeri people and a healthy environment.
- c) Promote innovation and appropriate technologies for sustainable utilization of forest resources.
- d) Strengthen the institutional framework for efficient management of forest resources and effective service delivery.
- e) Promote research and innovations in forestry for enhanced environmental sustainability.
- f) Promotion of participatory methods to enhance sustainable management of forests.

ECDE Policy- The development of this Policy was informed by the need to provide quality, equitable, inclusive, and relevant Early Childhood Development Education services that are sensitive to both the national and local needs in the County to enable children to attain the highest age-appropriate competencies in their cognitive, affective, social-emotional and psychomotor domains. The Policy is divided into seven chapters.

Fisheries policy- The overall objective of this Policy is: - To enhance the fisheries sector's contribution to wealth creation, increased employment for youth and women, food security, and revenue generation through effective private, public and community partnerships". This policy focuses on the promotion, implementation and monitoring of sustainable management and responsible fishing practices. It also focuses on the promotion of fish consumption as a means increasing of food security, employment, income, foreign exchange earnings, arising from trade and related activities. It aims at securing the rights of vulnerable and fisher folk. This policy further states the Government's commitment to promote gender equity, and to integrate HIV/AIDS prevention and management.

Health Policy- This policy will guide Nyeri County Health for the period 2018 -2030. The policy defines the design, structuring, planning and management of health services. The

over-arching goal of Nyeri County Health Policy Framework is to attain the highest possible standard of health, in a responsive manner as provided in the Constitution of Kenya Article 43;1,

Disaster Management Policy- This policy is an effort to put in place systematic disaster prevention, preparedness, response and mitigation frameworks for the county. Institutions framework have been identified for each of the hazards that affect Nyeri County. The policy emphasize that the Directorate of Disaster Management shall coordinate all other institutions to establish mechanisms for monitoring, assessing and reporting on risk levels and actions being taken to minimize adverse effects.

Solid Waste Management policy - This policy seeks to provide the guiding framework for solid waste management in the county. It also guides the county solid waste management actors, providing effective, efficient and sustainable services while utilizing solid waste as an economic resource.

Assets Management policy - The type of assets owned by the county government is both movable and non-movable. The policy seeks to streamline the management of the county assets, whether inherited or acquired. It also seeks to assist in establishing the location, status and value of the assets.

Co-operatives Development policy - This policy is aimed at transforming the co-operatives societies in the county into vibrant socio-economic and commercial entities through cooperative extension services, business linkages, training, cooperative marketing and research promotion, external audit services, savings mobilization, credit facilities and Sacco front office services and promotion of good co-operative governance.

Vocational Training Centers policy - This policy addresses resource mobilization, infrastructural upgrades, training courses, and staffing of the county's VTCs.

Physical Planning Policy - This policy aims to develop a strategic approach to addressing the challenges in the county about physical planning activities. It seeks to ensure that there is consistency and fairness in terms of the preparation of physical development plans,

development planning standards, development control and approval of development applications.

CPSB Recruitment Policy - This policy aims to enable a shift in recruitment practices towards a result-oriented personnel management approach in the county public service.

CPSB Voluntary Early Retirement policy – This policy seeks to ensure that there is improved efficiency and effectiveness of the county public service while addressing the escalating wage bill while at the same time transforming the county public service through improved efficiency and effectiveness.

Market Area Management policy - The policy seeks to streamline the management of the market area in the county to secure an organized and orderly business environment. It also aims at ensuring that there is a fair and equitable market division in the county to establish, refurbish, renovate, maintain, manage and regulate public markets for use and sale of marketable commodities.

Street Lighting policy - The purpose of the street lighting policy is mainly to prescribe standard levels for designing, installation maintenance, and illumination levels for street lighting in the public right of ways.

Transport Management policy - The policy seeks to address the challenges faced by the Department of Transport, Public Works, Infrastructure and Energy such as congestion, encroachment on roads, uncontrolled picking and dropping areas, presence of cartels, and other enforcement issues.

County Records Management policy - It seeks to facilitate standardization in the application of procedures and practices in records and archives management in the county. It lays a suitable institutional framework that will support the effective management of records in the county.

Fleet Management policy - This policy seeks to increase capacity through training and recruiting drivers and plant operators. It also seeks to address the challenges faced by the county such as;

- a) Lack of fleet management system
- b) Poor maintenance of fleet
- c) Outdated vehicle models
- d) Inability to account for fuel and maintenance of all vehicles due to lack of a proper vehicle records management process among others.

Risk Management policy - This policy is intended to provide a framework for managing risk associated with changing roles and responsibilities within the county government. It sets out the process to manage and mitigate against.

The Nyeri County Youth Development Policy – The policy seeks to provide a strategic approach to the challenges facing the youth in Nyeri County. In addition to this, is the high expectation of the Youth, disappointing employment and life prospects, and marginalization among young people that has fueled frustration and desperation leading to grave effects such as depression, radicalism, criminal behavior, violence, substance abuse, and commercial sex work. These activities have negative repercussions on the young people themselves and contribute to growing physical insecurity for society as a whole. This policy addresses issues affecting the Youth in Nyeri by providing broad-based objectives and strategies that will be implemented to give the youth meaningful opportunities to reach their maximum potential.

1.10. Methodology

The study employed a diverse range of methodologies to comprehensively gather insights from various segments of Nyeri County residents regarding their state of well-being and the progress made on governance issues. The approach prioritized grassroots involvement, ensuring a thorough representation of perspectives. Primary data was meticulously collected to corroborate secondary information, promoting the reliability of the findings. The methods utilized were desk research, Key Informant Interviews and Focus Group Discussions facilitated by the NEPAD/APRM Kenya Secretariat in collaboration with the Nyeri County Government. This multi-faceted approach was orchestrated to ensure inclusivity, transparency, and accuracy in the study's outcomes.

1.10.1. Data Collection Instruments

A Focus Group Discussion Guide and Key Informant Interview guide were developed through a consultative process spearheaded by NEPAD /APRM Technical Working Committee comprising representatives from County Governments, the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics and Instituted of Certified Secretaries

1.10.2. Training of the research team

NEPAD/ APRM Kenya Secretariat organized a training work shop for the research team identified by the County on the tool and data collection. A simulation exercise was carried out during the workshop to test the tool.

1.10.3. Desk Research

The NEPAD/APRM Kenya Secretariat sensitized County Executive Committee Members, Chief Officers, and Research Teams on the functions of the Secretariat, the second Country Review Report, and the County Peer Review Mechanism (CPRM) process. Subsequently, the county embarked on a meticulous desk review scrutinizing its governance landscape and ascertaining advancements since the advent of devolution. This involved a comprehensive evaluation spanning from the onset of devolution in 2013 to 2022 across all sectors within the county, culminating in the production of the internal self-assessment report.

1.10.4. Focus Group Discussion

Participants were picked from diverse sectors based on a comprehensive set of criteria including age, gender, and affiliation with civil society, politics, private enterprise, religious communities, and other pertinent sectors. The Focus Group Discussions were conducted on September 18th and 19th, 2023, spanning all wards within the County. Each ward convened representatives from various demographics including youth, individuals with disabilities, village elders, women, faith-based organizations (FBOs), religious leaders, civil society figures, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), elected officials, administrators, and members of the business community. Following the sessions, participants were

afforded the opportunity to evaluate the county's performance in terms of devolved functions, thereby enriching the assessment process with diverse perspectives. This was done in collaboration with the NEPAD/APRM Kenya Secretariat and Kenya National Bureau of Statistics.

1.10.5. Data Analysis and interpretation

The collected data was scrutinized and subsequently submitted to two key entities for in-depth analysis and interpretation: NEPAD/APRM Kenya Secretariat and the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS). These organizations possess the requisite expertise and analytical capabilities to derive meaningful insights from the gathered information.

Upon completion of the analysis, the findings were integrated into the Internal Self-Assessment Report. This facilitated the development of the County Self-Assessment Report, a document of paramount importance in assessing the county's performance and progress across various dimensions, particularly in the realm of devolved functions.

2. EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR AND THE DEPUTY GOVERNOR

The office has the responsibility of ensuring smooth, efficient and effective delivery of services to the public

2.1. Progress made

- a) Formulated and legislated over 40 policies and laws; established governance structures to provide quality, efficient and effective services to all the devolved units through the appointment of CECMs, the CPSB, Chief Officers, Sub-County Administrators, and Ward Administrators.
- b) Increased efficiency and productivity in service delivery by adopting performance contracting. All departments sign performance contracts with His Excellency the Governor and the same is cascaded down streams to individual staff. The process is spearheaded by Governor's Service Delivery Unit.
- c) Enhanced effective and efficient service delivery through automating performance management processes and reporting.

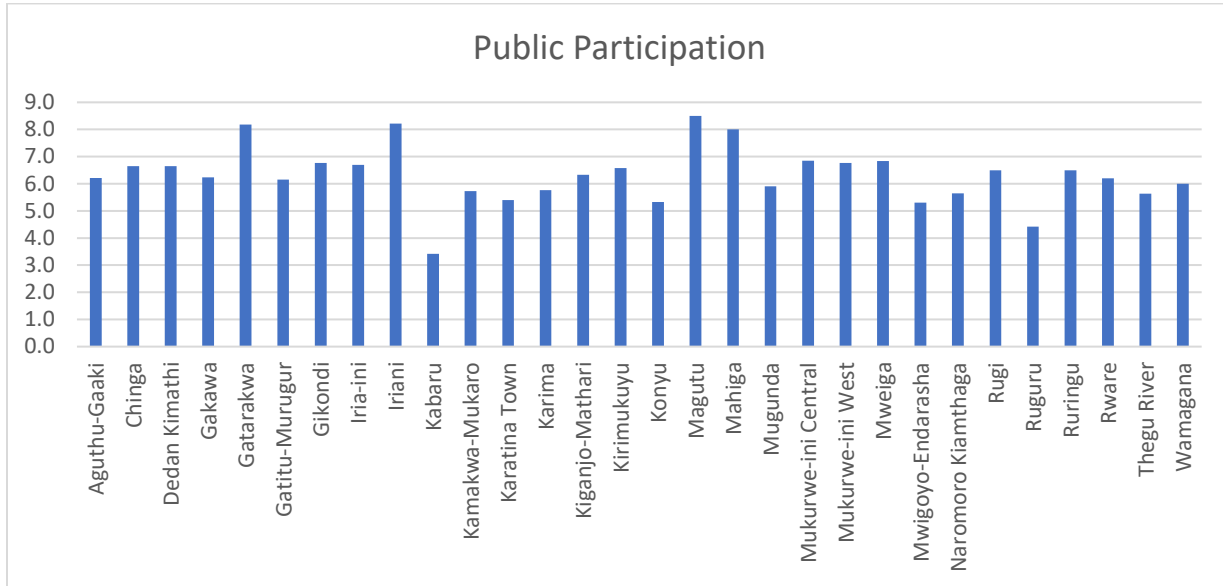
- d) Disseminated information to the public through Newsletters and weekly reviews, published and shared core Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials i.e., posters, flyers, brochures, and roll-up banners.
- e) Through public participation and civic education forums, the citizens are engaged in the budget and Economic meetings comprising of professionals drawn from different fields that spearhead the Budget making process and in the determination of the projects at the grassroots.
- f) Devolved and strengthened Civic Education and Public Participation through the training of 40 civic education trainers of trainers, trained 400 County staff on Civic Education matters, held 60 sensitization forums on COVID-19 prevention and vaccination, and established and trained County and Sub County Complaints Handling Committee members.
- g) Improved the working environment in the County Government through construction, renovation and equipping of ward offices, installed local area network in sub-county offices.
- h) Nyeri County through Nyeri Water and Sewerage Company (NYEWASCO) is rated as the best-performing water service provider in Eastern and Southern Africa.
- i) Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) ranked Nyeri County position one (1) in compliance with public procurement laws and regulations.
- j) Best overall in utilization of The Kenya Devolution Support Programme. Recently ranked as the best county in utilizing the World Bank Fund.

2.2. Key Findings

The average score for the promotion of public participation in the wards is 6.3 points. Magutu ward had the highest score of 8.5 points, followed by Iriani and Gatarakwa wards both with 8.2 points and Mahiga ward with 8 points. This indicates effective promotion of county public participation and engagement in these wards. Majority of the other wards in the County had above-average performance under the promotion of public participation except Kabarú ward which had the lowest score of 3.4 points and Ruguru

ward which had a score of 4.4 points. The poor performance in these two wards suggests that public participation is not effectively promoted by the County in these wards.

Figure 3 Public participation ratings by wards



The data from figure 1 above reveals significant variations in promotion of public participation especially with reference to Kabaruru and Magutu wards. These variations may be influenced by various factors affecting county public participation efforts in the wards including limited community engagement initiatives and programs. In this regard, Wards with better awareness and involvement in public participation are actively involved in decision-making processes with reference to County programmes and projects.

The policymakers should promote baraza meetings, budgeting process among others in order to promote the participation of the public in decision-making and foster ownership by the community through its involvement. Further, the County Government should ensure that the public is able to access information about County activities, policies, and decisions which will enable the public to participate where necessary. Lastly, the ward Administrators and other County officials should have up-to-date databases of community leaders, representatives and entities who can be called upon to actively be part of public participation sessions

2.3. Areas of Concern

- a) The county lacks public investment management frameworks i.e. there is no county investment dashboard with a citizen dashboard which is used to improve public investment
- b) There are no project management committees at the ward levels.
- c) Lack of clear communication strategy/policy. The public does not get timely information about program and projects.

2.4. Recommendations from FGDs

- a) Implement strategies to broaden public involvement, fostering inclusivity and accessibility through innovative methods such as online platforms, community forums, and outreach programs.
- b) Develop comprehensive communication strategies utilizing various mediums including social media, newsletters, and public forums to inform citizens about county administrative matters, ensuring transparency and understanding.
- c) Establish mechanisms to actively involve villages in decision-making processes, promoting collaboration and input from diverse community stakeholders through tailored outreach programs and localized forums.
- d) Implement protocols and guidelines to maintain the integrity of public participation activities, ensuring discussions remain focused on community interests rather than political agendas, fostering an environment of constructive dialogue and collaboration.

3. DEPARTMENT OF TRADE, TOURISM, CULTURE AND COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT

3.1. Introduction

The department aims to make Nyeri County a thriving hub for investment, tourism, and cooperative enterprises. They plan to achieve this by facilitating investments, developing tourist attractions, and establishing supportive policies and legal frameworks.

3.2. County Progress since 2013

3.2.1. Trade Development and regulation

Markets Infrastructure Development - The Department has developed and renovated the following markets from 2017 to 2022:

Table 3 Summary of markets improved and constructed

Summary of market improved and constructed	Number
New Markets shades Constructed and Renovated	45
Market stalls/shops constructed	239
Markets Fenced	4
Market Ablution Block constructed	12

- **Enterprise Development Fund** -The Nyeri County Enterprise Development Fund (EDF) was established under the Nyeri County Enterprise Development Fund Act of 2017 and subsequently amended in 2018. Its aim is to promote and support the growth of micro and small enterprises, cooperative societies, and enterprise groups. As of the end of the 2021/2022 financial year, the fund received 463 applications totalling to KES 162,800,000. Out of these, 199 applications were approved, amounting to KES 64,149,613 in disbursements.

The distribution of the beneficiaries is as indicated below;

Table 4 EDF disbursement per category

CATEGORY	NUMBER	AMOUNT
Male Beneficiaries	107	32,406,376
Female Beneficiaries	78	26,243,237
Companies and Groups	14	5,500,000
TOTAL	199	64,149,613
PWLD	2	301,790
ASSET FINANCING (Mainly Youth)		
• MOTORBIKES	32	922,546
• TUK TUKS	3	4,528,920

- **Fair trade practice and consumer protection** -The Department is responsible for ensuring fair trade practices and consumer protection, as mandated by Section 46 of the Kenyan constitution. Under its unit of weights and measures, it has verified 45,600 pieces of weighing and measuring equipment and issued 3,158 verification certificates. Additionally, it is actively involved in implementing the Crops (Irish Potato) Regulations 2019 to support local farmers in increasing their yields. Furthermore, the Department has acquired a mobile verification unit to facilitate calibration services in remote areas.
- **Trade Promotion**
The Department promotes trade within Nyeri County to boost local businesses and attract external investment. This is through organizing and facilitating trade fairs and exhibitions to showcase local products and services.

- Training and capacity-building SMES on business management and marketing. This training helps SMEs improve their operational efficiency, enhance their market reach, and ultimately increase their profitability.

3.3. Tourism and Culture

The Department has been engaged in various initiatives aimed at promoting tourism, supporting local communities, and preserving cultural heritage in Nyeri County. Some key activities include:

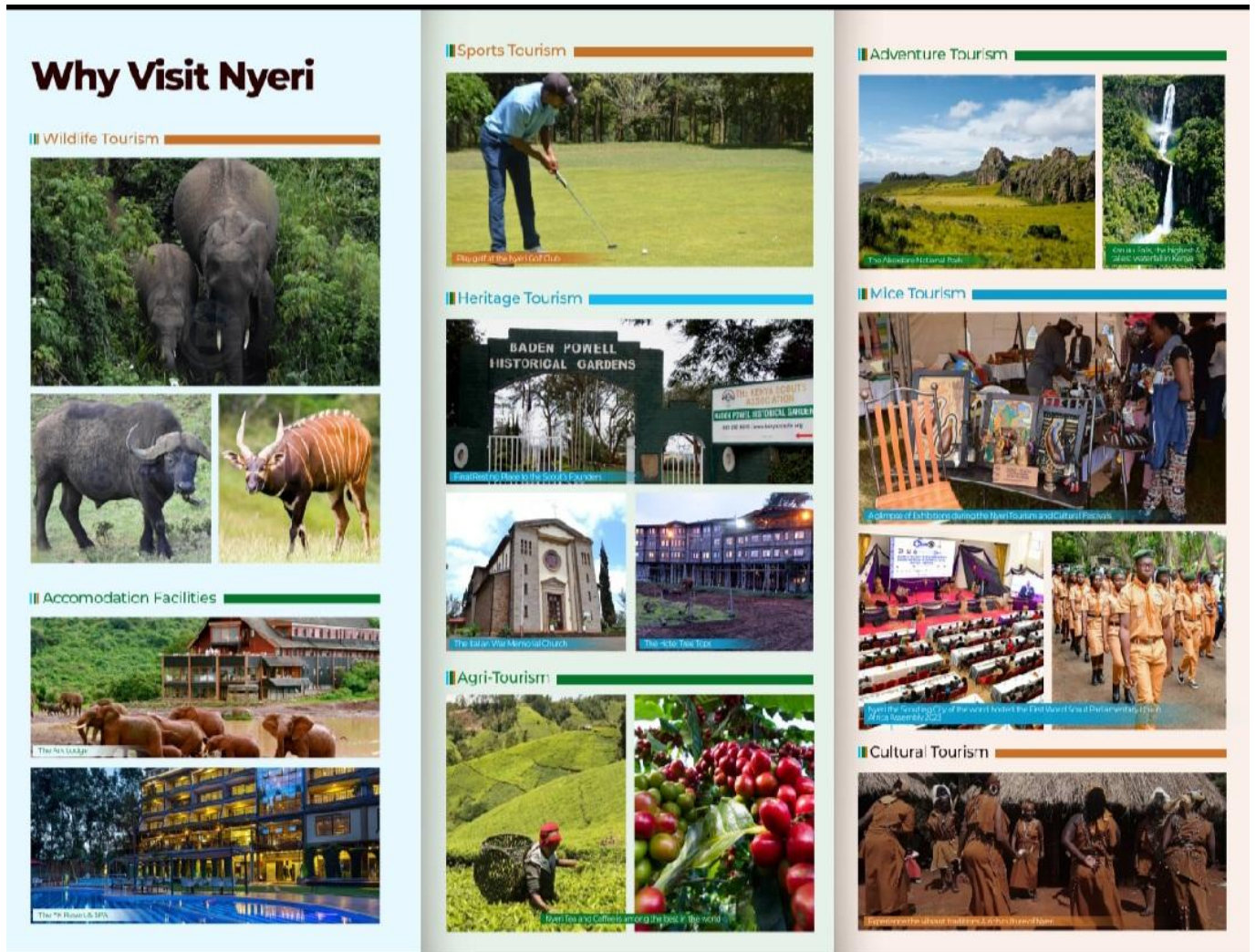
3.4. Tourism and Culture

The Department has been engaged in various initiatives aimed at promoting tourism, supporting local communities, and preserving cultural heritage in Nyeri County. Some key activities include:

- a) Mapped and documented over 30 Tourism and heritage sites in the county
- b) Developed Tourism sites e.g Dedan Kimathi and Wangari Mathai monuments to promote Heritage tourism as well as Nyeri Cultural Centre
- c) Developed and organized Annual County events to promote Meetings Incentives Conference Exhibitions (MICE) Tourism e.g Nyeri Tourism and Cultural Festival, Dedan Kimathi commemoration day, Scouts Founders Day, World Tourism Day, The World Scouts Parliamentary Union Africa assembly conference 2023 among others
- d) Undertaken capacity building of stakeholders to enhance service delivery eg. Training of potters and guides, the creative industry and film trainings to promote film tourism in the county
- e) Through the directorate of culture, a traditional health practioners co-operative society has been formed, through which their products are undergoing a scientific evaluation for Covid-19 immune boosters in partnership with National Museums of Kenya-Natural Product Industry Initiative among 11 counties in the country
- f) The directorate of Culture has been involved in National Music and Cultural festivals and KICOSCA to promote National Cohesion and integration.

- g) Signed MOU`s with Kenya Film Commission to promote Film Industry and also National Museums of Kenya to promote heritage in the county
- h) Engaged in promotion of the county through social media platforms, documentaries and brochures
- i) Participated in International and National exhibitions to promote the industry eg. Kalasha International Film Festival, ASK shows, and Devolution conferences
- j) Developed several community cultural villages within the county to promote cultural tourism.
- k) Organized excursions to Aberdares and Mt. Kenya in collaboration with KWS to promote the premium parks as per the Vision 2030 flagship projects

These efforts collectively contribute to the promotion of tourism, preservation of cultural heritage, and economic development in Nyeri County.



3.5. Co-operative Development

The Department is focused on strengthening the management and governance of cooperative societies in Nyeri County, in alignment with the Co-operative Societies Act Cap 490. And other rules and regulations governing cooperatives in Kenya. Key actions include:

- a) Facilitating training and capacity-building workshops on financial management and governance for cooperative leadership.
- b) Collaboration with partners like the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission to conduct forums on corruption prevention measures.

- c) Partnering with the state department for cooperatives to digitize coffee factories for enhanced operational efficiency.
- d) Provision of extension support services, registration of new cooperatives, revival of dormant ones, and development of a cooperative policy by the County Government.
- e) Registration of forty-two new cooperatives, including twelve bodaboda SACCOs to support Nyeri County youths.
- f) Audit of 60 cooperative societies, with revenue collection exceeding KES 1,800,000.
- g) Commitment to creating an enabling environment for cooperatives, with plans to submit an amendment bill proposal to the county assembly to address sector gaps and emerging issues.

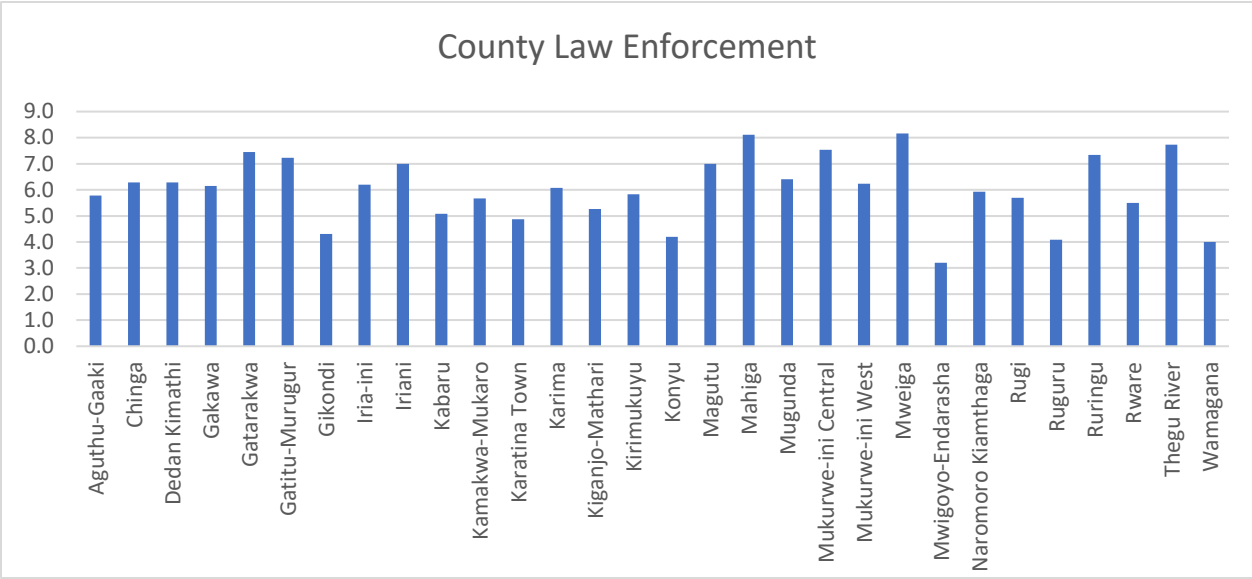
These efforts aim to ensure the profitability and sustainability of cooperative enterprises in Nyeri County.

3.6. Key Findings

The average score for county law enforcement in the wards was 6 points. Figure 2 below shows that Mweiga ward achieved the highest county law enforcement scores of 8.2 points followed by Mahiga ward with 8.1 points, Thegu River with 7.7 points, Gatarakwa and Mukuruwe-ini Central with 7.5 points each. This indicates effective county law enforcement efforts in these Wards. On the other hand, Mwigoyo-Endashara had the lowest rating of 3.2 points followed by Wamagana, Ruguru, Konyu, Gikondi and Karatina Town ranging from 4 to 4.9 points indicating potential challenges in county law enforcement in these wards.

The factors for variations may be that the wards with higher scores might be having better County law enforcement resources, including personnel and equipment.

Figure 4 County Law Enforcement ratings



3.7. Areas of Concern.

- a) Non comprehensive training programs tailored to specific roles and responsibilities of law enforcement personnel.
- b) Insufficient allocation of resources by the County Government to provide law enforcement officers with the necessary equipment, vehicles, technology, and facilities required to perform their duties efficiently and safely.
- c) Implementing strategies to foster positive relationships and trust between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve through community outreach programs, cultural sensitivity training, and proactive engagement initiatives.
- d) Mechanisms for accountability and oversight to ensure adherence to ethical standards, procedural guidelines, and legal protocols within law enforcement agencies, thereby promoting public trust and confidence in law enforcement institutions.
- e) Collaboration and coordination among various stakeholders, including local government agencies, community organizations, and advocacy groups, to address systemic issues, identify priorities, and implement effective strategies for enhancing law enforcement services.

- f) Exploring opportunities to leverage technology advancements such as body cameras, dash cams, data analytics, and predictive policing tools to enhance the efficiency, accuracy, and transparency of law enforcement operations while safeguarding individual rights and privacy concerns.
- g) Prioritizing the mental health and wellness of law enforcement personnel by providing access to counseling services, stress management resources, and peer support programs to address the unique challenges and pressures associated with their profession.

3.8. Recommendations from FGDs

- a) **Establishing Discipline Among County Law Enforcement:** Implement structured training programs and guidelines to cultivate professionalism and ethical conduct among law enforcement officers, emphasizing respectful and equitable treatment of citizens while upholding legal standards and human rights.
- b) **Strengthening Anti-Corruption Measures in Revenue Collection:** Enforce stringent protocols and oversight mechanisms to prevent corruption in revenue collection processes, including regular audits, transparent financial reporting, and whistleblower protections, to ensure accountability and integrity in public funds management.
- c) **Enhancing Service Delivery across County Government Departments:** Streamline administrative processes, optimize resource allocation, and foster a culture of continuous improvement within county government departments to enhance efficiency, responsiveness, and quality of services provided to citizens, prioritizing their needs and feedback.

4. DEPARTMENT OF GENDER, YOUTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

The Department of Gender Youth and Social Services is mandated to address gender, disability, children, and special groups' issues, as well as social welfare, firefighting, disaster management, libraries, county parks, and recreation facilities. It also focuses on youth empowerment, program promotion, development, and support.

4.1. County Progress

4.1.1. Bima Afya Program:

The Bima-Afya program was an initiative of the County Government of Nyeri which sought to improve access to medical care for vulnerable populations in the County that included: Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVCs), People living with Disabilities (PWDs) and extremely poor persons. The need to have the program was informed by the number of persons from vulnerable homes seeking assistance from the County Government to access medical care or to offset its costs. In 2015, the County Government of Nyeri, through the Department of Special Programs (currently referred to as Department of Social Services) entered into an MOU with National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) in order to assist 6,000 vulnerable persons in the County to offset the cost of out-of-pocket medical expenses through provision of health insurance at a premium of 500 Kenya shillings per beneficiary.

- a) After its conception, beneficiaries were registered in three phases and paid for health insurance premium with at least 5,824 vulnerable households benefiting.
- b) After the FY 2019/2020, the beneficiaries who were still under the program were co-opted into the UHC/NHIF scheme that was to be financed by the National Government.

4.2. Karatina Children's Home:

Karatina Children's Home (a place of safety) is an institution of the County Government of Nyeri currently under the Department of Gender Youth and Social Services. The home has 68 Children. The home was established to achieve the following objectives:

- a) To protect and promote the interest and welfare of all children brought to the home and within the republic of Kenya.
- b) To implement the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the child, the African Charter on the rights and welfare of the child and the Children's Act of 2001.
- c) To provide all the Basic needs e.g., Education, Shelter and Medical Care.

- d) To provide social integration for children in need of special care and protection.
- e) To network/cooperate with other organizations or persons whose aims are similar to the home?
- f) Increase the level of literacy & Self-development among the children for self-reliance and self-employment within or away from the family.

4.3. Social Assistance:

The department as part of its social assistance to victims of various types of disasters including fire or extreme cases of poverty affecting the vulnerable groups in society engages in two critical activities; social enquiry and social responses. Social enquiry involves a social welfare officer using a set tool, while visiting the affected person to assess and recommend whether the need is genuine or not and make the necessary recommendations. After the recommendations are ratified, a social response follows where the victim is assisted with food and non-food items based on the recommendations of the social enquiry report. The same process is followed when request for a coffin is made by family members of a deceased person for a vulnerable background.

The county government has distributed over 3000 iron sheets to families whose houses were gutted down by fire disasters and supported vulnerable members of the community with over 300 coffins to give their keen a decent burial.

4.3. Christmas Tree program

The department organizes for the annual Governor's Christmas tree Charity event whose beneficiaries include; Orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), PWD's and poor elderly persons. This is done with collaboration with well-wishers. The beneficiaries get to enjoy Christmas with H.E the Governor and the staff by sharing with them the joy of Christmas and eventually taking home a compassionate hamper. The program has been able to assist at least 2,000 vulnerable persons for the two Christmas events held.

4.4. Construction of social halls and parks

The department constructed 2 new modern social halls; Kariki and Muruguru which can

hold around 500 people. The department has renovated 2 other halls; Chinga and Mweiga Community halls. Further, the department has expanded and renovated Chinga Community Library making it the biggest community library in the County.

The department has also constructed a brand-new Community Park at Ihururu shopping Centre, the first such park in the county since the advent of devolution. Another similar park is under construction in Mweiga, all this in an effort to provide the community with a safe, secure and tenable venues where they can meet for leisure or to discuss their affairs in relative comfort and modernity.

4.5. Gender Mainstreaming and Empowerment Programs

The ultimate goal in gender mainstreaming is to achieve gender equality through provision of equal opportunities for political, social and economic development. Ending period poverty campaign.

Research shows that 65% of Kenyan women and girls are unable to afford basic sanitary pads. The period poverty undermines women and girls' enjoyment of fundamental human rights and robs them off the opportunity to thrive. The grave lack of sanitary products continues to push the underprivileged menstruating girls out of school. The following efforts have been made to end period poverty campaign: -

- a) *Sanitary towels program* - This is a dignity program that was started with the objective of supporting vulnerable girls and women in risk of gender-based violence as well as reducing the increasing number of teenage pregnancies especially during the Covid-19 period. The program was able to reach over 4,300 vulnerable girls and women who benefited with sanitary towels. This program was made possible through partnerships with CREAM, AMREF, World Vision, Kiini sustainable initiative as well as many other organizations.
- b) The County Government of Nyeri through the Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services in partnership with Kiini Sustainable Initiative issued reusable sanitary towels to 300 teenagers and young mothers in Gikomo, Kiawara, Kwangurue and Chaka informal settlements. They were further trained on menstrual hygiene,

reproductive health and sensitized against sexual and gender-based violence.

- c) *Teenage mothers Program* - The department in partnership with Amref, UN Women, Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW) and the department of Health conducted mentorship programs for pregnant teenagers as a response to the rising cases of teenage pregnancies due to Gender Based Violence. The program included capacity building of teenage mothers and their guardians. The program managed to reach over 500 young girls out of which 120 were pregnant teenagers, young mothers who got pregnant or were defiled during the covid-19 lock down. The teenage mothers were also given care packages.

4.6. Widows event

The Department of Gender in partnership with Centre for Rights, Education and Awareness (CREAW), crafted a Covid-19 coping mechanism initiative for vulnerable widows within the county, to address some of the issues affecting them. 200 vulnerable widows from Nyeri were sensitized on their rights and were issued with food packages.

4.7. March to Mark 16 days of Activism in Nyeri County

Through the Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services, the County joined the rest of the World in marking 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence whose theme was Orange the world: End violence against women and girls now! (Include key partner that is Centre for Health Solutions (CHS), Media Council and Kiini Sustainable Initiative). This event was run from the 25th of November to 10th December 2021. Key stakeholders drawn from the national and county governments, the judiciary, office of the DPP, probation prisons, media, civil society, private sector, faith-based organization, the Kenya Police, women, PWD among other organizations, took part in a march within Nyeri town with stop overs at Lower, Upper and Kamakwa matatu stages, where they held meetings with local wananchi. The officers sensitized Nyeri residents on the need to stop GBV, steps to take in the event of a GBV case including going to the hospital for assessment and post-violence care, how to collect evidence, how to file report with the police, prosecution process, care for children from violent homes among others.

4.8. Trailblazer Award

Nyeri County through the department of Gender received the gender trailblazer award for 2021. The award celebrates leaders who have made significant contributions to Kenya's political and socio-economic transformation. The Ministry of Public Service and Gender in collaboration with stakeholders championing women and girl's empowerment and equality agenda, established the Trailblazer Programme. Trailblazers are women leaders who pioneered the gender equality and women empowerment movement in Kenya. It is with this background that the County Government of Nyeri under the leadership of H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga won the National Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Award for 2021 in recognition of the diverse programme and initiatives geared towards empowering Nyeri women. The Gender Trailblazer Award was presented to Governor of Nyeri, H.E in various areas like community development and the fight against gender-based violence.

4.9. Gender Sensitization Forums.

The department has partnered with an organization called Center for Right Education and Awareness CREAW on Gender Base Violence (GBV) support. They have been supporting training of duty bearers, community champions and the quarterly GBV technical working group meeting. Thirty (30) grassroots women leaders have been trained as gender-based violence champions to be working closely with the department.

4.10. Nyeri County Youth, Women and Persons with Disabilities Program

The women, youth and person living with disability empowerment program is a social-economic empowerment program. Under the program women, youth and person living with disability groups apply to be supported with machinery, tools and equipment to boost their income generating activities into successful business ventures to help business ventures improve their social-economic wellbeing of their member and for the county at large.

This strategy improves social skills, improved behavior and hence be independent and improve their living standards. The Department has supported more than 300 groups with assorted merchandise.

4.11. Youth Empowerment Programs

Through the social economic empowerment of the youths' mandate, the department is committed in the running of various programs such as;

Kuza Kazi program - This was a partnership between county government of Nyeri, Coca Cola East and West Africa region and Almasi beverages Ltd on youth empowerment where they were to be given business start-up kits containing coca cola merchandise and Coca Cola beverages products procured by the county government of Nyeri on behalf of the youth. The department recruited 150 youth who benefited from the Kuza Kazi Youth Empowerment program. Youth were also trained on entrepreneurial and financial management skills.

Help Self Help Centre employability soft skills training and innovation awards - The department also implemented an employability soft skills training for young people below the age of 34 years who had undergone hard skills training in the county vocational training centres. So far, the county government of Nyeri, through the department in partnership with Help Self-Help Centre (HSHC) funded by the Finnish embassy has taken 250 youth, through the soft skills training in all the 8 Sub-Counties. The innovation award criteria for selection were based on: Impact of the innovation in Nyeri; Novelty/ Originality of the innovation; Technical Feasibility; Economic Viability; Targeted audience; Cost implication; Replicability and Stage of the innovation.

Five best out of the 20 innovations were given cash prizes as follows: -

- a) Maurice Ndungu - Nyeri National Polytechnic - Innovation, Maize Thresher and Cob grinder - Award, Kes 150,000.00
- b) Raphael Mwai- Karundu VTC- Nyeri VTC'S Management information System- Award, Kes 100,000.00
- c) James Njuguna- Mathenge Technical Poultry Feather Plucker- Award Kes 80,000.00
- d) Simon Rukwaro- Nyeri National Poly -Solar Driven Smartphone car- Award, KES 60,000.00
- e) Adrian Mbaaruu and Isaac Miano- Mung'aria VTC- Electric Soil Moisture Sensor and Automatic Water Spring - Award, Kes 40,000.00.

4.12. Training of youth Entrepreneurs on Risk and Insurance

The County Government of Nyeri through the Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services in partnership with the Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA) conducted a 2 – day training for youth entrepreneurs on Risk and Insurance which was held at The Wambugu Agricultural Training Center, Nyeri on 16th and 17th June 2022. The great collaboration saw 40 youth entrepreneurs gain skills in Risk and Insurance whereby they were taken through different policies suitable for the businesses they ventured in. The main aim of the programme was to equip youth entrepreneurs with skills which would help them become better entrepreneurs without incurring losses that may arise from fire, accidents or burglary. Youth entrepreneurs also got to know about different opportunities available in the Insurance Industry.

4.13. Photography Skills Training

The County Government of Nyeri through the department of Gender, Youth and Social services in partnership with the Canon Academy, trained 37 Youth on photography skills during day 1 of the training. The Canon team, led by the business development manager, Central and North Africa Mr. John Wambugu trained them on introduction to basic photography and how to explore different tips and techniques of photography. The Youth were also be trained on digital marketing and Entrepreneurial skills with the aim of equipping them with photography and digital marketing skills that will enable them to expand their business in the competitive global market as well as impact them with skills that would help them market their businesses or products through photography

4.14. Ihururu Rehabilitation Centre

This is a project that is co-financed by the County Government of Nyeri and NACADA. The state-of-the-art Rehabilitation Center was set up by the County Government of Nyeri in partnership with NACADA as part of its mandate to assist and support County Governments in developing plans of action on control of drug abuse. The main goal of the project is to have a County free from alcohol and drug abuse. The facility is projected to accommodate 100 patients.

4.15. Street Family's Program

These are programs aimed at improving equality among the citizens of Nyeri County. These programs include;

4.16. National Identity Card program

The Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services, in collaboration with the Department of Health and the National Government through Department of National Registration, Central region issues street youths with National Identification cards. This is done by first having them get OPG (Orthopantomogram) assessment at the county Referral Hospital. OPG looks at the different stages of Molar teeth development to guide clinical estimation of ages for children and adolescents without birth records. The records are then forwarded to the registrar of persons to assist with the registration process and issuance of national Identification Cards. The persons acquiring the cards get to enjoy the services offered by the Government and other institutions.

4.17. Rite of Passage

The County Government under the able leadership of H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga through the department of Gender, Youth and Social services supports vulnerable boys from vulnerable homes and street families to undergo the rite of passage for two weeks at Kamoko Health Centre in Othaya Sub County. During the two weeks they are were trained on Self-Awareness, Effects of Drugs and substance abuse, HIV and Aids, personal Hygiene, Countering Violent Extremism, Gender Based violence, the Kikuyu Culture and Heritage.

4.18. Disaster Management programs

The department achieved the following under this program;

Official opening of St. John's ambulance Nyeri office and training facility

In furtherance of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the County Government of Nyeri through the Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services and St. John's Ambulance, the organization's regional office has been set up at the Nyeri Fire Station which doubles as a training facility in a bid to boost disaster and emergency response services to a notch higher in accordance to international standards as part of social

development. The facility will be used for training on first aid and disaster preparedness for both individuals and corporate in a bid to sensitize people on how to respond to people in distress subsequently minimizing fatalities experienced during disasters due to lack of information on first aid response. Some of the courses to be offered include: First Aid, EMT/ paramedics, basic & advanced life support, occupational safety, firefighting, disaster preparedness/response and HIV testing services. In addition, St. John's Ambulance has availed a standard ambulance with trained medical personnel which will be accompanying the disaster management teams while attending to disaster and/or fire rescue missions.

4.19. Purchase of Two Modern Fire Engines

The Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services has acquired 2 modern, state of the art fire engines at a cost of KES 100 million making Nyeri county one of a handful of counties with a fire response team that can tackle all types of fires, at all heights, including in high-rise buildings and other delicate infrastructures.

4.20. Construction of fire stations

The department has constructed two new fire stations; Othaya and Kiawara which will increase the number of fire stations in the county from 2 to 4. This will aid in combating fire for efficiently.

4.21. Erection of Fire Hydrants

One of the biggest impediments in reducing fire distress calls in real time is lack of hydrating facilities. To address this challenge the County Government of Nyeri has completed construction of 4 water hydrants, while a further 4 hydrants are almost complete.

4.22. Firefighting Personnel

The department has hired fire fighters as well as procured 30 firemen combat gear to safeguard their wellbeing as they combat the raging flames. Nyeri County Fire Fighters have also received continuous training from our partners for example Africa Fire Mission.

Through all these efforts, Nyeri County fire and disaster response teams have responded

successfully to a total of 678 fires disasters in the last 4 years, retrieved 42 drowning cases, carried out extraction in 31 traffic road accidents, 14 landslides and 25 flooding related calamities.

4.23. Policies

Under policies, the department has achieved the following;

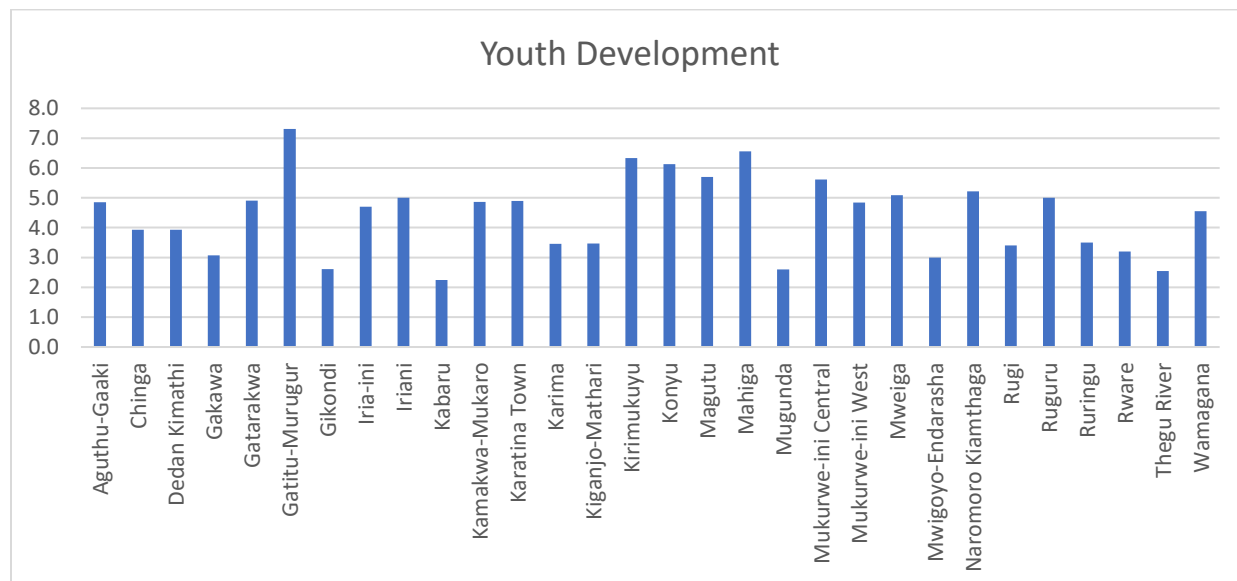
- a) Established of the County Gender and Development Steering Committee. The department established the committee to oversee the implementation of gender-responsive policies and programs in the County.
- b) Formulated The Nyeri County Gender and Development Policy 2021-2025.
- c) The County Assembly of Nyeri approved the Nyeri County Gender and Development policy 2021-2025. The policy will strengthen affirmative actions geared towards reducing and eliminating gender inequalities as well as increasing representation in elective and appointive positions. The Gender and Development Policy 2021-2025 also aims at promoting equality in access to productive resources such as land, labor, technology, capital/ finance and information. Additionally, it establishes efforts towards embarking on Affirmative action to rectify errors of the past, particularly discrimination against women and reducing gender and geographical disparities in distribution of resources.
- d) The department has formulated the youth policy, disaster risk management policy.
- e) The disaster management bill has also been enacted into law by the county assembly.
- f) The social protection bill is also in the process of being developed.

4.24. Key Findings

The average score for youth development in the wards is 4.4 Points. Figure 3 below indicates that Gatitu-Muruguru ward had the highest youth development score of 7.3 points, followed by Mahiga Ward with 6.6 Points, Kirimukuyu ward with 6.3 points and Konyu Ward with 6.1 Points. This indicates better efforts in youth development in the above wards. On the other hand, a majority of the rest of the wards had low youth

development scores, ranging from 2.3 to 3.5 points, suggesting challenges in accessing youth development programmes in these wards.

Figure 5 Youth Development ratings



It is worth noting that though the County Government has been implementing youth programmes such as Training on Appropriate Building Materials and Technology (AMBT), the participants from various wards were not aware of such programmes being offered.

The County Government should therefore plan for awareness creation on the different programmes being undertaken to promote youth development.

4.25. Areas of Concern

Resource Allocation and Budget Constraints: Implementing economic development initiatives requires significant financial resources. The county government may face challenges in securing adequate funding due to budgetary constraints, especially if certain functions remain under the jurisdiction of the National Government.

Partnership and Stakeholder Engagement: Collaborating with private sectors, NGOs, religious groups, and international bodies is crucial for program success. However, challenges may arise in convincing potential partners to support youth programs due to perceptions of sufficient government funding or reluctance to participate.

Community Participation and Stakeholder Buy-In: The success of economic empowerment programs hinges on the participation and buy-in of stakeholders such as community members, business owners, and NGOs. Lack of participation from one or more stakeholder groups can hinder program implementation and effectiveness.

Sustainability of Programs: Economic empowerment programs must be sustainable over the long term to produce meaningful results. However, county governments may lack the financial or political will to sustain such programs over time, posing a risk to their long-term success.

Data Collection and Monitoring: Adequate data collection and monitoring are essential for understanding the success or failure of economic empowerment programs. However, County governments lack the capacity to collect and analyze data, leading to gaps in program monitoring and evaluation.

Staffing and Workload Management: Perennial staff challenges, such as working overtime without compensation, especially in critical units like disaster management and social services, can impact employee morale and effectiveness in program implementation. Addressing staffing issues and workload management is crucial for ensuring efficient service delivery.

4.26. Recommendations

- a) ***Community-Specific Economic Analysis:*** This will identify the unique needs of each community and suggests conducting a thorough economic analysis to identify areas requiring attention.
- b) ***Entrepreneurship Support:*** This emphasizes incentivizing entrepreneurship through financial assistance, training, mentorship, and networking opportunities to foster business growth and success. This would also include the introduction of the Youth Fund Scheme.
- c) ***Partnership with Stakeholders:*** County Government should advocate for collaboration with private sectors, NGOs, religious groups, and international bodies to provide funding support, mentorship, and business development knowledge.

- d) *Resource Allocation for Gender and Youth Programs*: Highlights the importance of allocating adequate resources, particularly for gender and youth empowerment initiatives.
- e) *Staff Hiring and Empowerment Support*: Recommends providing support for timely hiring and empowerment of staff to enhance service delivery effectiveness.
- f) Enhance coordination and collaboration among government agencies and stakeholders for effective program implementation and the challenges that arise from poor coordination.
- g) *Stakeholder Engagement*: County Government should emphasize the importance of stakeholder buy-in and participation for successful program implementation and highlights challenges related to lack of participation.
- h) *Sustainability*: Underlines the necessity for economic empowerment programs to be sustainable over the long term and identifies challenges related to the lack of financial or political will to sustain such programs.
- i) *Data Collection and Monitoring*: Stresses the importance of adequate data collection and monitoring for evaluating program success or failure and highlights challenges related to the capacity to collect and analyze data.
- j) *Staffing Challenges* - Address perennial staffing challenges, particularly in critical units like disaster management and social services, where officers may have to work overtime without compensation

5. DEPARTMENT OF COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICES

5.1. Introduction

This department of comprises of Public Service Management, and one (1) directorate of Human Resource

5.1.1. Vision:

A secure, just, cohesive democratic, accountable, transparent and conducive environment for a prosperous County;

5.1.2. Mission

To ensure effective and accountable leadership, promote a just, democratic environment

and establish strong governance institutions to empower citizens for the achievement of social economic and political development;

5.2. Department's Development Priorities and Direction

- a) To coordinate the provision of responsive and effective services to the Public;
- b) To ensure effective and efficient Public Service Management;
- c) To promote ethics and integrity in public service delivery;
- d) To ensure good working relationship within the County Public Services;
- e) To ensure motivated and competent workforce; and
- f) To provide a conducive work environment.

5.3. Policies and Regulations Guiding Public Service

The following policies and regulations guide the public service;

- a) The Constitution of Kenya. 2010;
- b) County Governments Act (CGA) 2012;
- c) Employment Act;
- d) Labour Institutions Act;
- e) Labour Relations Act;
- f) Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA);
- g) Work Injury Benefits Act (WIBA);
- h) Retirement Benefits Authority (RBA) ACT;
- i) Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) Act;
- j) Human Resource policy manual for public service and other polies related to employees.

5.4. County Progress since 2013

The Department has achieved significant milestones in employee affairs, including auditing and ensuring the accuracy of the internal payroll, timely processing of payments, updating personnel records, and providing training on payroll management and Unified Payroll Numbers requisition.

Furthermore, initiatives such as Medical and General Insurance coverage, job description review, staff evaluation, and training in stress management and HR matters demonstrate a commitment to staff welfare and professional development.

5.4.1. Management of the County Internship Programme

The County Government initiated an internship program that benefits about 200 fresh Certificate, Diploma, Degree graduates every financial year. The County Government pays them a stipend as per their qualifications at the rate of; KES 10,000 for certificate holders, KES, 11,000 for Diploma holders and KES 12, 000 for Degree holders. The programme was started in the year 2018 and it is geared towards helping the young graduates' bridge the gap between theory and practice, the program also helps to cover some employment gaps at a minimal cost. This has empowered the youth in this County and beyond who have gained a lot of experience and hands on experience in public service.

During the period under review, the County engaged four batches of interns. Currently, the County, through the County Public Service Board is in the process of recruiting the 5th batch of interns. The engaged interns receive stipend on monthly basis.

5.4.2. Wage Bill Management Strategies

Currently, the County Yearly Wage bill stands at 52%. In order to manage the wage bill, the following strategies have been adopted.

5.4.3. Implementation of a Voluntary Early Retirement;

In exercise of County Public Service Board authority under Section 84 (1) (b) of the County Government Act, 2012, the Board initiated a Voluntary Early Retirement Program, in the FY-2020-2021. All County Public Officers who were eligible, applied for consideration. Upon approval, a 'token' was rewarded over and above the normal retirement benefits.

5.4.4. Translation of terms for the Contractual staff from Contract to Permanent and Pensionable;

The County Government translated the terms of employment for officers who had served for one or more contractual period in the county. This reduced the amount of paying service gratuity which is at the rate of 31% of the basic salary, that is paid entirely by the employer. With the translation the employer contributes 7.5% to whereas staff will contribute 7.5% for their pension. This helps the County Government to save 16% and thus reduce the wage bill. The 16% can be utilized in promoting staff to motivate them and thus improve performance.

5.4.5. Harmonization and Integration of Staff

The County Government inherited some of its employees from the defunct local authority. The said staff were under a Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). The staff could not advance in their career using the same terms since the local authorities did not have Schemes of Service. The County Public Service Board therefore conducted suitability interviews for officers who had the qualifications for them to be admitted into the main stream service in their respective specialization.

5.4.6. Management of Human Resource Matters Through County Human Resource Advisory Committee (CHRAC)

The County Government successfully handles its human resource matters through County Human Resource Advisory Committee (CHRAC). The Committee comprises of County Secretary, who is the Chairperson, all Chief Officers and the Director, HRM being the Secretary to the Committee. The Committee meets once a month. Among the issues handled by the Committee are;

- a) Confirmation in appointment;
- b) Performance management;
- c) Promotions;
- d) Training and Development;
- e) Promotion of values and Principles of Public Service;
- f) Recommendation for re-designation;
- g) Disciplinary control

5.4.7. Staff Compensation (Remuneration)

To ensure staff motivation and satisfaction, the Department has been running the County Payroll by 10th of every month thereby enabling the employees to be paid in good time, resulting to better service delivery.

5.4.8. Staff Welfare

To be assured of the welfare of the officers:

- a) The County Government has a medical scheme for its staff. The Officers engaged by the County Public Service Board and those inherited from the defunct Local Authorities are covered under Britam Medical Scheme while employees devolved from the National Government have a comprehensive cover under the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF). The department manages the medical issues ensuring that they liaise with the office of the County Secretary;
- b) Computation of Gratuity for the contract staff are done on monthly basis and all Staff exiting due to expiry of contract are awarded service gratuity as per their letters of appointment.
- c) The County Government insures its employees who may get injured in their line of duty under Work Injury Benefit Act. The employees also have a Group Life Insurance Policy.

5.4.9. Good Employee's Relations

During the period under review, the County witnessed minimum employee-employer and other stakeholder's conflicts. This can be attributed to the fact that the employee rights and welfare needs are observed and realized. Litigations were minimal, deadlocks and strikes were also not experienced. The Department handles disciplinary matters through holding CHRAC meetings. This has resulted to minimal litigations as well as cordial working relations amongst all parties.

5.4.10. Partnership/Collaboration with Other Organizations

In order to achieve quality, efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery, the Department has maintained partnership, collaboration and networking with other state and non-state actors. These include: -

- a) Kenya Schools of Government on Training and consultancy services;
- b) State Department of Public Service on all Human Resource and IPPD matters;
- c) Institute of Human Resource Management, the regulating body for Human Resource professionals;
- d) Ministry Departments that devolved the staff to the County Government of Nyeri;
- e) Medical and insurance schemes that serve the county Government employees;

- f) Mediation Centre's and Rehabilitation Centre's; and
- g) Other regulating Professional bodies.

5.4.11. Training Staff on Psychosocial Support

The County Government through the Department of County Public Service and in liaison with the Ministry of Gender and Public Service undertook training on psychosocial support to staff as a way of reducing stress and improving performance.

5.4.12. Digitization of Human Resource Records

The Department under the support of Kenya Devolution Support Programme (KDSP) digitized human resource records as well as the general records. Digitization of records is a continuous exercise hence its ongoing.

5.4.13. Development of a County Staffing Plan

The Department still under the support of Kenya Devolution Support Programme developed a County Staffing Plan with the help of Kenya School of Government. The Plan informs the staffing as per the County Staff establishment.

5.4.14. Job Evaluation

The Department carried out job evaluation for all positions in the County Government. The evaluation informed the job description of every position in the County Government whereby the duties and responsibilities are defined, the reporting lines, and qualifications both hard and soft skills and the risks the position holder is exposed to among other issues.

5.5. Areas of Concern

Inadequate funding - The departmental budget is inadequate to properly cater for the employees needs in areas of training and development, working tools as well as motivational matters.

Training - Staff training is an investment which should be directed at achieving strategic objectives of the County. Training staff equips them with knowledge, skills and attitude to enable them serve effectively and efficiently in a global competitive environment.

Delayed disbursement of Funds - Funds are not released in good time for activities scheduled in a particular year to be carried out as planned. Payment of salaries is also not timely.

Inadequate working tools – Inadequate working tools cause unnecessary delays in delivery of services and hampers information management and security.

Unreliable Internet Connectivity

The Department face the challenge of unreliable internet connectivity, more so due to regular down-times of the Fiber Optic. Reliable internet services are needed so as to be able to carry out departmental mandates with ease and on time.

5.6. Recommendations

The following are some of the possible strategies that can be adopted to address the challenges the include:

- a) **Enhancement of Departmental Budget.** The departmental budget needs to be increased so as to properly cater for the employees needs in areas of training and development, working tools as well as motivational matters.
- b) **Continuous Training.** Staff training is an investment that should be directed at achieving the strategic objectives of the County. Training staff equips them with knowledge, skills and attitude to enable them serve effectively and efficiently in a global competitive environment. This therefore means that there is a need to continuously train and develop staff. Continuous training also ensures that there is succession management once the incumbent exits from the County Government public service.
- c) **Disbursement of Funds in Good Time.** Funds need to be released in good time for activities scheduled in a particular year to be carried out as planned. This also motivates the County employees as they are assured of being paid their salary in good time.

6. DEPARTMENT OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

6.1. Introduction

The Department is mandated with formulating solid waste management policies, conducting public sensitization, and developing infrastructure for effective waste management. However, it faces significant challenges due to inevitable solid waste generation resulting from human activities, predominantly organic waste in the county, exacerbated by rapid urbanization, population growth, and shifting consumption patterns. The implications of inadequate waste management are far-reaching, impacting the environment, society, health, and economy, necessitating both public and private interventions for optimal outcomes.

To address these challenges, the County Government has enacted the Solid Waste Management Act 2021 and Policy, facilitating inter-sectoral collaborations. Currently, the Act is under review to ensure alignment with sustainable waste management practices and the realization of a circular economy.

6.2. County Progress Made Since 2013

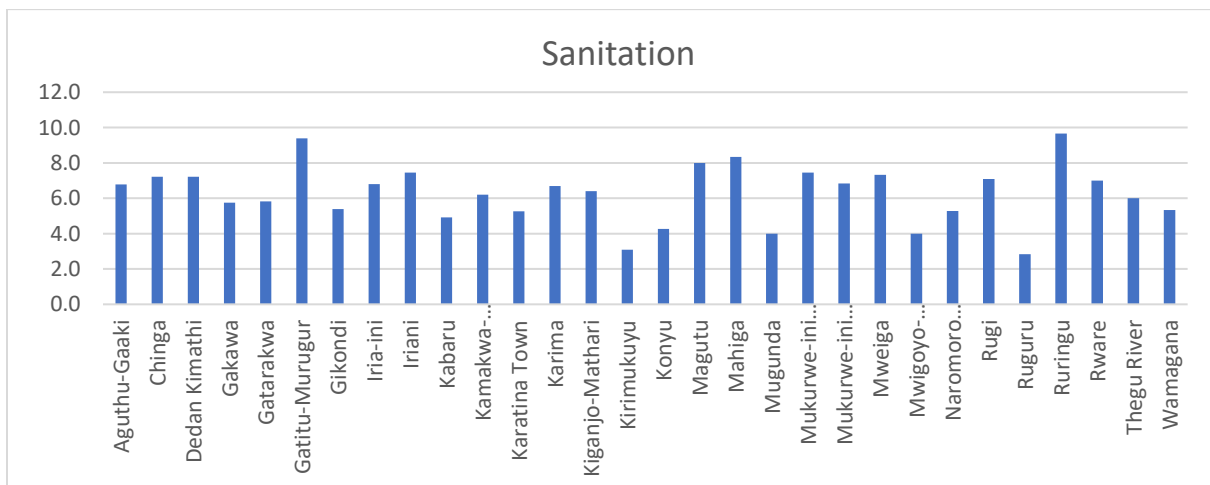
- a) Increased waste collection - The department collects approximately 35,000 tonnes of solid waste annually, up from 15,000 tonnes in 2013. This includes clearing bushes along feeder roads and unclogging drainage systems, with 71 waste receptacles installed as drop-off points.
- b) Improved collection efficiency - Transitioning from waste chambers, the department now utilizes 29 skip bins and 2 specialized collection trucks for more efficient garbage collection.
- c) Combatting illegal activities - Perimeter walls have been constructed at dumpsites like Karindundu, Gikeu, and Blue Valley to prevent illegal activities. These sites also facilitate waste sorting for enhanced recovery.
- d) Waste-to-commodity pilot project - A pilot project at Karindundu dumpsite converts organic waste into valuable commodities such as biogas, organic fertilizers, and manure.

6.3. Key findings

The average sanitation score for the wards was 6.3 points with Ruringu Ward achieving the highest sanitation score of 9.7 points, followed by Gititu-Muruguru with 9.4 points, Mahiga with 8.3 points and Magutu with 8 points, signifying extensive and reliable better sanitation services in these areas. On the contrary, Ruguru Ward had the lowest sanitation scores at 2.8 points, followed by Kirimukuyu ward with 3.1 points, Mugunda and Mwigoyo-Endarasha wards with 4 points each, and Konyu ward with 4.3 points, suggesting potential challenges in access to sanitation facilities. The other wards ranked average points in between these extremes.

The data therefore reveals significant variations in sanitation scores across the different wards. The variations may be influenced by various factors affecting the quality and accessibility of sanitation services in each area including lack of sanitation facilities.

Figure 6 Sanitation rating



6.4. Challenges/Areas of Concern

Some of the challenges encountered by the department include:

- a) Lack of gazetted waste disposal site
- b) Inadequate budget allocation
- c) Insufficient waste collection and transportation trucks
- d) Poor solid waste management infrastructure

- e) Weak waste management system including segregation, recycling, and recovery
- f) Lack of adequate waste bins in urban areas and underutilization of existing ones
- g) Untapped opportunities in emerging technologies for sustainable waste management
- h) Limited public awareness on sustainable waste management
- i) Negative public attitude and lack of individual responsibility towards waste management
- j) Inconsistency in scheduled collection due to breakdowns and poor dumpsite infrastructure
- k) Lengthy procurement process leading to delays in truck repairs and waste treatment site procurement
- l) Inadequate labour force with workers handling multiple tasks, including street sweeping, drainage cleaning, and cemetery management.

6.5. Recommendations

The following are some of the possible strategies that could be adopted to address the challenges this include:

- a) Educate and create an awareness on the need for communities to be more responsive to the protection and to conserve environment.
- b) Develop appropriate technologies and policy guidelines for recycling non-degradable and biomass waste materials.
- c) Ensure the existence and the proper enforcement of sanctions for non-compliance with standards, laws and regulations.
- d) Identify and acquire appropriate site.
- e) Construction of waste transfer stations.
- f) Purchase of machinery for waste segregation, treatment and recycling.
- g) Fencing of the ground for the treatment plant
- h) Training of staff to operate/maintain the plant
- i) Establish and license material recovery facilities in order to promote circular economy.

- j) Develop a 5-year integrated waste management plan
- k) Develop, implement and report annual solid waste management plans.
- l) Establish Public Private Partnerships (PPP) to enhance waste recovery systems to ensure that recyclable and biodegradable waste is well processed and utilized.

7. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, TRAINING & DEVOLUTION

7.1. Introduction

The Education Department, Training and Devolution comprises of Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE) and Vocational Education and Training (VET). The department drafted a county policy for vocational training in 2020 that led to the VTC Act 2021.

The Draft Policy outlines the guiding principles, institutional review, policy statements and strategies, policy coordination and implementation, monitoring, evaluation

7.2. Vision Statement

A globally competitive education and training system supportive of devolution that is innovative and focused for sustainable development.

7.3. Mission Statement

To provide, promote and coordinate quality education, training, innovation and efficient devolution for sustainable socio-economic development.

7.4. Progress made since 2013

7.4.1. Vocational Education and Training (VET) Sector

The following are some of the achievements for the department: In the VET sector the county government has been involved in management of 39 Vocational Education and Training Centers (VETCs) in the eight sub counties.

The county government is in full support of 28 out of the 39 VETCs. It has provided instructors, training materials and infrastructural developments. The government has ensured continuous quality training to 3,024 trainees in the year 2023/2024 out of whom 900 are under full scholarship of the county government in collaboration with KCB 2jijiri program.

Table 5 VETCs hosting the trainees enrolled in the 2jijiri program.

S/NO	2JIAJIRI VTC	ENROLMENT
1.	Karatina	275
2.	Gachuku	17
2.	Mung'aria	29
4	Othaya	194
5	Rukira	15

6	Kiaguthu	4
7	Nairutia	43
8	Amboni	9
9	Watuka	2
10	Gitero	56
11	Mbaa-ini	46
12	Kinunga	19
13	Kihuyo	10
14	Karundu	5
15	Gichira	58
16.	Kiamathaga	21
17.	Giathugu	68
18.	Thangathi	15
19.	Kaheti	15
TOTAL		900

The courses offered in the above VETs are:

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYERI



S/No.	NAME OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER	COURSES
1.	Gichira	Hair Dressing & Beauty Therapy
		Plumbing
2.	Kinunga	Welding
		Computer operator
3.	Karatina	Plumbing
		Food processing
		Hairdressing & Beauty Therapy
		Arc welding
		Masonry
4.	Othaya	Plumbing
		Hairdressing & Beauty Therapy
		Food & Beverage
		Fashion & Design
		Electrical Installation
5.	Rukira	Leather Work
6.	Gitero	Plumbing

		Electrical Installation
7.	Kiaguthu	Electrical Installation Masonry
8.	Kihuyo	Carpentry & Joinery Garment Making & fashion Design
9.	Nairutia	Carpentry & Joinery Food & Beverage Electrical wire man Hairdressing & Beauty Therapy
10.	Mungaria	Plumbing Hairdressing & Beauty Therapy
11.	Amboni	Food & Beverage
12.	Mbaaini	Garment making, fashion & Design Electrical Installation Carpentry Hairdressing & Beauty Therapy
13.	Karundu	Computer operator
14.	Kiamathaga	Masonry Hairdressing & Beauty Therapy
15.	Gachuku	Electrical Installation Hairdressing & Beauty Therapy Garment Making, Fashion & Design
16.	Thangathi	Electrical Installation Hair Dressing
17.	Giathugu	Electrical Installation Hair Dressing
18.	Kaheti	Masonry Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy Fashion Design
19.	Watuka	Electrical wireman Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy

The department has constructed 43 workshops and twelve (12) toilet blocks. The department issued capitation amounting to KES 142M from 2017/2018 to FY 2021/2022. It has been noted that with the removal of the capitation programme, enrolments have decreased. The county government has filled the gap through collaboration with KCB 2jjajiri program and currently the enrollment has improved.

7.4.2. Key Highlights

Policy makers should allocate adequate resources to setup or upgrade vocational training centres in every wards. Secondly, they should ensure that the community is well informed of the vocational centres close to their areas and the courses offered. Further, Policy makers should undertake a needs assessment together with relevant industry stakeholders in order to identify necessary marketable skills that are required in the job market for inclusion in the curriculum.

7.4.3. Challenges/Areas of Concern

The following are some of the challenges faced by the department;

- a) The VETCs Act 2021 is yet to be fully implemented in this County,
- b) There is lack of adequate and trained instructors,
- c) Lack of modern tools and equipment in the VETCs,
- d) Inadequate modern infrastructure in some of the VTCs
- e) Low enrolment of trainees in some of the VETCs,
- f) Inadequate and irregular capitation.

7.4.4. Recommendations

The following are some of the recommendations to address the challenges;

- a) Full implementation of the VET Act 2021.
- b) Employ adequate and trained instructors as per TVETA guidelines.
- c) Provision of adequate and modern tools and equipment to the VETCs
- d) Provide capacity building to the serving VET staff,
- e) Allocate adequate resources for capitation,
- f) Allocate resources for improvement of infrastructure.

7.5. EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION (ECDE) SECTOR

7.5.1. Introduction

Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) lays a crucial foundation for children's lifelong learning and development. Anchored in the National Pre-primary Policy 2017, ECDE aligns with Kenya's Constitution 2010 and Vision 2030. County governments, in

collaboration with the national government and stakeholders, implement the policy through strategies including:

- a) Strengthening stakeholder engagement
- b) Establishing management systems and structures for ECDE
- c) Mobilizing resources
- d) Improving physical infrastructure

7.5.2. Progress Made Since 2013

There are 437 ECDE centers across the eight sub- counties. The following are the achievements of Early Childhood Development Education sector:

- a) Constructed 207 ECDE classrooms, 83 toilet blocks, and rehabilitated several classrooms.
- b) Recruited 800 ECDE teachers on permanent terms, resulting in increased pupil enrolment from 18,757 to 21,920. Provided teaching materials and outdoor play equipment to all centres.
- c) Recruited 8 (eight) principal education officers to oversee sub-counties, improving service delivery through enhanced reporting and supervision.
- d) Drafted Nyeri County ECDE policy to govern learning in ECDE centres.
- e) Financed ECDE co-curricular activities, including drama and music, up to the national level.

7.5.3. Key Highlights

The policy makers need to consider extensive community engagement when proposing and implementing ECDE projects in the county. Further, the policy makers should budget for more ECDE centres in order to meet the needs of the citizens in more remote areas. It is critical to also ensure the equitable allocation of resources to address ECDE disparities in wards which potentially requiring more financial and infrastructural support.

7.5.4. Areas of Concern

The following are some areas of concern/challenges faced by the department;

- a) Low financial allocation
- b) Inadequate Physical Infrastructure
 - i. Shortage of facilities and learning materials
 - ii. Lack of assistive devices for children with special needs
 - iii. Poor water and sanitation facilities
- c) **Human Resource Development**
 - i. Inadequate skilled personnel, particularly for competency-based curriculum (CBC).
- d) **Quality and Relevancy**
 - i. Poor learning environments
 - ii. Inappropriate curriculum delivery methods
 - iii. Insufficient teaching and learning materials
 - iv. Lack of quality assurance officers
- e) **Governance and Accountability**
 - Unclear community roles in ECDE provision
- f) **Health and Nutrition**
 - i. Absence of feeding programs leading to health and nutritional issues
 - ii. Poor child health affecting learning participation
 - iii. Lack of resources and community engagement affecting ECDE outcomes.

8.5.3. Recommendations

The following are some of the recommendations that can be implemented to improve service delivery in the ECDE Sector;

- a) Upskill ECDE teachers especially those with professionalism related to special needs education
- b) Provide transport means for supervision of curriculum implementation
- c) Capacity build teachers on computer literacy
- d) Need to strengthen stakeholders' engagement.
- e) Create systems and structures of management in ECDE.
- f) Mobilize resources.
- g) Improve physical infrastructures in the ECDEs

- h) Provide sufficient learning materials in ECDE centers.
- i) Encourage community involvement in ECDE projects.
- j) Consider School feeding programmes.
- k) Budget for more ECDE Centres.

8.6. ELIMU FUND

- a) Elimu fund was introduced in 2015 to ensure enhanced retention and completion of needystudents in learning institutions. A total of 135,826 student have benefited from elimu fund. From the year 2019 to date, 360 students have received full scholarship. The department has disbursed KES 729,000,000 over the years.

8. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

8.1. Introduction

As part of the Nyeri County vision, the department has been promoting availability of efficient and a high-quality health care system that is accessible, equitable and affordable for all residents of the county.

8.2. Vision Statement

An efficient and high-quality health care system that is accessible, equitable and affordable for all.

8.3. Mission Statement

To provide quality integrated preventive, promotive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative services to all Nyeri county residents.

8.4. Nyeri County public health infrastructure.

Nyeri County public health infrastructure comprises of 1 level V hospital, 6 level IV, 22 health Centre 100 dispensaries. It hosts an Annex of Kenyatta National Hospital, a level 6 public health facility. The county enjoys a fair distribution of health facilities within a radius of 5-7 km and a facility density of 3.9 per 10,000 populations.

The Kenya Constitution 2010 introduces major focus areas for the Health Sector, primarily captured under the Bill of rights in Chapter 4. The Chapter describes health as an economic and social right which emphasizes under Article 43 (b) “Every person has the right to accessible

and adequate housing and to reasonable standards of sanitation”. Through the devolved system of Governance, Health services have been devolved to the County Governments. Nyeri County facilitates progressive realization of this right, within the constraints of fiscal space and priority interventions. This report outlines the milestones achievement and challenges encountered during the 10 years implementation period (2013 – 2023).

In this regard the county has prioritized the Objectives:

- a) Eliminate Communicable conditions to lessen morbidity and mortality rates associated with such illnesses.
- b) Halt, and reverse increasing burden of non-communicable conditions
- c) Reduce the burden of Violence & Injuries
- d) Provide essential medical services at various health facilities.
- e) Minimize exposure to health Risk factors.
- f) Strengthen collaboration with Health-Related Sectors in strengthening health services.

The stated objectives are implemented under the following Programmes.

- a) Programme 1: Health systems Planning and Support services
- b) Programme 2: Preventive and Promotive Health Services
- c) Programme 3: Curative and Rehabilitative Health Services

8.5. County Progress Made Since 2013.

These are some of the achievements registered since devolution.

8.5.1. Programme 1: Health Systems Planning and Support Services.

Planning and support service documents

- a) The county health department has developed 2 strategic and investment plans and 10 Annual Work Plans.
- b) The department developed the UHC Health Financing Strategy that guided the establishment of the Nyeri Health Services Fund.
- c) One monitoring and evaluation plan was developed. Where routine monitoring of activities has been upscaled through quarterly support supervision activities.

- d) 4 performance contract documents have been developed and cascaded to the lower levels.
- e) Every year all health staff have been appraised and reports filled accordingly.
- f) The Department actively engages and incorporates feedback from its customers through Annual Customer Satisfaction Surveys, Community Score Cards, and through actively manned Customer Care Desks in Health Facilities among other avenues.

Human Resource for Health

The department scaled up the number of skilled health professionals as part of the UHC health systems strengthening during the period under review, 581 Health care workers were recruited and deployed.

Health Leadership and Governance

The following key policies and plans have been developed in the period under review;

- a) Nyeri County Health Services Fund Act, 2021
- b) Nyeri County Health Services Fund Regulation, 2021
- c) Nyeri County Emergency Medical Care Plan (2020/21-2024/25)
- d) Nyeri County Nutrition Action Plan (2020/21-2024/25)
- e) Nyeri County AIDS Implementation Plan (2020/21-2024/25)
- f) Nyeri County Community Health Services Bill, 2021- Draft
- g) Nyeri County Universal Health Coverage Financing Strategy 2020-2023
- h) Operationalization of amenity health services in the County health sector.
- i) Operationalization of a County Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Unit that has been key in coordinating Covid-19 pandemic.
- j) 5 Hospitals boards were gazetted
- k) 124 primary health facilities Management Committees gazetted and inaugurated.

8.6. Programme 2: Preventive and Promotive Health Services

The county has a high NCD burden that requires high investments in preventive & promotive services on one hand, and specialized facilities for diagnosis and treatment. As a result, there has been progressive investments in primary health care:

- a) All 129 County Health facilities are adequately stocked with NCD medicines and medical supplies.

- b) On ambulance services, 5 ambulances and 3 utility vehicles were procured to ease transportation services.
- c) Covid-19 vaccination as of 24th May 2023, a total of 359,910 (71%) persons have received Covid-19 1st dose vaccination, while 292,991 (57.3%) persons are fully vaccinated across the County with 42,651(8.3%) having received booster Dose.
- d) The County now has a well-established Community Health system with 2,510 Community Health Promoters (CHPs) spread across 251 functional community units. The CHPs are consistently paid a monthly stipend of KES 1,500.
- e) Cumulatively, over 213,000 Community members have been screened for diabetes and hypertension by CHPs. This plays a key role in early detection and reversing the trend of non- communicable diseases and other ailments.
- f) Approximately 110,000 clients have been screened on Cervical Cancer
- g) The County's immunization coverage stands at 99% (KDHS 2022)
- h) Public Health clearance has been issued to 90% of food and non-food premises aimed at enhancing compliance to public health requirements.
- i) The department applied and won competitively a 5-year CDC grant to implement HIV/AIDs activities, currently the county is in the 3rd year of implementation at Kieni west, Tetu and expanding to Kieni east sub-county.

8.7. Programme 3: Curative and Rehabilitative Health Services

The county has invested in specialized services such as renal dialysis, oncology, ICU, HDU and Diagnostic laboratory and imaging services besides the basic equipment required for level of care.

9.6.1. Some key service delivery indicators (2013- 2023):

- a) 22,101,631 patients have been treated at Outpatient Department in health facilities.
- b) 429,786 patients were admitted and treated at inpatient department in county hospitals.
- c) 45,441 surgeries were conducted in county hospitals.
- d) 70% of pregnant mothers attended 4th ANC.
- e) 142,188 Skilled Deliveries were conducted in our health facilities.

- f) 99 % HIV patients were put on ARVs.
- g) 4,811,718 laboratory tests were conducted during the period.
- h) A total of 387,483 radiological examinations were done (X-ray, Ultrasound, MRI, CT scan).

8.6.1. Universal Health Coverage

Universal health coverage (UHC) means that people access quality promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health services based on need without experiencing financial hardship. Progress towards UHC is a means to realizing the right to health as enshrined in the Constitution of Kenya and emphasized in Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

- a) Nyeri county registered a total of 722,065 persons (86.2%) on the Universal Health Coverage which was launched by the president as a pilot project.
- b) During the universal health coverage pilot phase, the average outpatient workload increased by 23% (KHIS, MoH 717). Hospitals such as Nyeri County Referral, Karatina and Mt Kenya recorded increased workload of 55%, 100% and 120% respectively.
- c) There was a 100% increase in utilization of specialized services in renal, radiology and oncology units. Screening for Hypertension, Diabetes, Cervical and Prostate Cancers improved by over 100%.

8.6.2. Health Infrastructure

The county has improved the health infrastructure by constructing and rehabilitating hospital, health centre and dispensaries, the works undertaken include rehabilitation and construction of hospital wards, OPD, Laboratory, Theatre, ICU, Consultation Clinic, Pharmacy, Palliative Care and Maintenance Unit.

- a) The department Constructed and rehabilitated over 50 health facilities across the county.
- b) An Isolation Ward was constructed at Mt. Kenya Hospital.
- c) Constructed and installed five (5) bulk Oxygen plants; two at County referral hospital, one at Mukurwe-ini, one at Karatina Hospital and at Mt Kenya Hospital

- d) Constructed, equipped and operationalized Narumoru Level 4 Hospital in partnership with World bank KDSP programme.
- e) The Department operationalized 6 intensive care Unit beds.
- f) Construction of waste management plant at County Referral Hospital (CRH)

8.6.3. Health Equipment

During the period under review the department of health procured several equipment to improve service delivery, this equipment include:

- a) 6 Biochemistry Analyzers for Six Rural Health Facilities.
- b) Parts Hematology Analyzers for Five Rural Health Facility.
- c) Clinical chemistry analyzers for Karatina, Mukurwe-ini and Mt. Kenya Sub-County Hospital,
- d) Dental units with oil free compressor and accessories for Nyeri CRH, Karatina and Mt. Kenya Hospitals,
- e) Procurement of 400 KVA Generator Set for Nyeri County Referral Hospital.
- f) Procured 100 desktop computers and 60 Printers for rural health facilities,
- g) Procured 2 ventilators, 10 Patient monitors, 2 portable ultrasound machine, 2 ICU bed, and 190 hospital beds and oxygen 10 concentrators among others.
- h) State of art 64 slice CT scan machine was received and installed at Nyeri County Referral Hospital aimed at Aiding diagnostic services.
- i) Optimally utilized Medical equipment under the Managed Equipment Service (MES) partnership in Nyeri CRH, Mukurweini and Karatina Hospitals.

8.6.4. Health commodities

The county health department has been able to procure and supply health commodities to all 129 health facilities with a fill rate of over 80%.

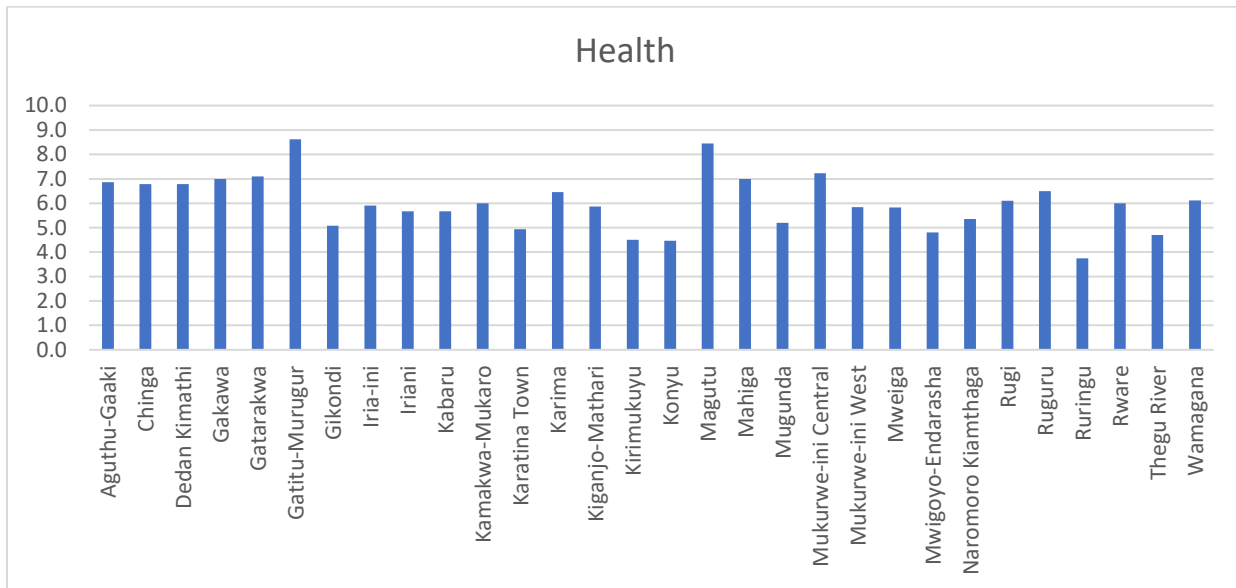
The Department has an active Health Products and Technologies Unit (HPTU) at the CHMT level that conducts quarterly Supply Chain Audits to strengthen selection, quantification, (re)distribution, and data management for health commodities across county health facilities.

This has ensured the consistent availability of essential health commodities in county health facilities.

8.7. Key Findings

The average health score for the wards was 6 Points. Gititu-Muruguru ward achieved the highest health score of 8.6 points, followed by Magutu with 8.4 points indicating relatively better health services in these areas. Majority of the other wards had average scores between 4.7 – 7.2 except Ruringu ward with the lowest score of 3.8 points followed by Kirimukuyu and Konyu wards with 4.5 points each. This therefore suggests potential challenges in health service quality in these Wards.

Figure 7 Health rating



The policy makers should ensure that the wards with low health ratings get resources to boost their healthcare infrastructure, employ more medical personnel, and undertake health awareness campaigns across the wards. Ensuring access to quality healthcare, especially in remote or underserved wards, remains a critical challenge.

Further, the County Government should allocate resources for the training and deployment of community health workers who deliver basic healthcare services to the citizens and promote health awareness in the community among other duties. The existing health facilities should be supported to function optimally based on their respective infrastructural, service levels, and personnel capacities.

8.8. Challenges/Areas of Concern

Some of the challenges experienced by the department include;

- a) Inadequate health Commodities in our hospital (low per capita expenditure for Health Services).
- b) Inadequate Human resource and loss through natural attrition
- c) Lack of integrated Health Management information system (HMIS) in our hospital.
- d) Inadequate Laboratory capacity in rural health facilities
- e) Inconsistency in data quality in primary data transfer to summary tools and to the KHIS
- f) Emerging and re-emerging diseases
- g) Late diagnosis of Cancers, Diabetes and Hypertension and other NCDs particularly among men
- h) Inadequate infrastructure, equipment and laboratories and radiological services
- i) Inadequate Medical waste and disposal facilities in health facilities
- j) Increased mental illnesses due to drug and substance abuse and stressful life situation.
- k) Weak reporting mechanisms by Private practitioners.
- l) Low levels of operational research within county health facilities.
- m) Unstructured schedules on engagement with stakeholder in health programs

8.9. Cross-Cutting Issues

The Department of health contributes to the implementation of issues that are crosscutting in nature. They include the following:

- a) **Youth Empowerment Initiatives** – The department has consistently taken measures, including affirmative action programs to ensure that the youth access relevant education and training; have opportunities to access youth friendly health services, have their interests incorporated during departmental planning; and that they can access procurement opportunities under AGPO.
- b) **Prevention of Alcohol and Drug Abuse** – Together with NACADA and other stakeholders, the department has contributed to reducing the prevalence of alcohol and drug abuse and minimizing the negative effects thereof. This has been aimed at mitigating lost productivity, higher absenteeism rates, and lower job performance.

Similarly, it also leads to greater health care expenses for injuries and illnesses as well as safety liabilities.

- c) **Disability Mainstreaming**– In conjunction with the National Council for Persons Living with Disability, the department continues to implement Government policy on affirmative action for Persons with Disabilities. It has appointed a Focal person, sensitized its employees, and provided opportunities for PLWDs.
- d) **Gender Mainstreaming** – Working with the County Department for Gender and Social Services, the department has a focal person who over the period participates in the county gender committee and sensitizes members of the department at different levels on gender mainstreaming. The department also prepares quarterly reports which are submitted to the State Department for Gender with a copy to the National Gender and Equality Commission.
- e) **Environmental Sustainability** – The department of health actively contributes to the concerted efforts to mitigate against environmental degradation and Climate change. It has an officer nominated to the County Environment Committees and implements environmental awareness creation programs. It has consistently ensured that trees are planted across the 130 health facilities to contribute to the greening program and to grow the tree cover in the county. These efforts are done in collaboration with the county department of environment and solid waste management.
- f) **Corruption Prevention** – The department has also contributed to efforts to combat and prevent corruption, unethical practices and to promote standards & best practices in governance. This is in line with the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission Act No. 22 of 2011, the Leadership and Integrity Act of 2012, and the Bribery Act of 2016.
- g) **School based health programs** – The Department implements school-based health programs collaboratively with stakeholders in the education department in programs such as vaccination against Cervical Cancer (HPV), Deworming programs, and Vitamin A supplementation in ECDE institutions. Early interventions at school level help address health issues before they escalate into more serious

problems requiring intensive interventions. The programs also empower individuals in their early ages to make healthier choices and reduce their reliance on social services related to preventable health problems.

8.10. Progress made under cross cutting issues

Some of the achievements from the department includes;

- a) Advocacy, communication, and social mobilization on Covid-19 preventive measures by sensitizing the communities on risk communication and community engagement.
- b) In collaborated with the department of gender counselled 22 pregnant teenagers (From Kieni, Tetu, and Wamagana). They were issued with mama packs and dignity packs
- c) The department collaborated with National AIDs Control Council in development of County HIV/AIDs Implementation Plan (2021-2025)
- d) The department collaborated with Kenya Forest services in planting of trees in the health facilities.
- e) The department collaborated with ethics and anti-corruption commission in training of Corruption Prevention/Integrity Committees on corruption prevention.
- f) Collaborative planning and implementation of cross-cutting activities as the County Social Services Sector, in collaboration with County Departments of Education, Training and Devolution, and County Department of Gender, Youth, Sports & Social Services.

8.11. Recommendations

1. Increase budget allocation for health services, provide capacity building for health managers on financial management and leadership, and enhance Private Public Partnerships (PPPs).
2. Expand health infrastructure to meet community demands, ensure electricity and water connection to all health facilities, and equip health facilities with more equipment to improve service delivery.
3. Embrace technology and innovations for service delivery and prioritize research areas for the county department.

4. Strengthen referral services, operationalize closed laboratories and strengthen existing ones, encourage modern technology use in theater operations, procure service contracts for equipment and machinery, strengthen community health services, strengthen specialist outreach services, and employ more staff in health facilities to improve service delivery.
5. Enhance own-source revenue collection, implement automation in revenue collection, grow the Health Services Fund, and implement accountability measures.
6. Lobby for more funds to address staff shortages and training needs, develop a retention plan for key skills, and employ additional medical officers.
7. Sensitize healthcare workers on commodity forecasting and quantification, enhance the role of county commodity buffer store for continuous health facility supply, invest in health commodity management systems, and equip health facilities with more drugs.
8. Harmonize and roll out integrated HIMS with all modules, activate health centers and dispensaries for Health Insurance claims, and implement Information Security Management Systems (ISMS) at the department level.

9. DEPARTMENT OF WATER, IRRIGATION, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

9.6. Introduction

The Sector comprises of three (3) main directorates:

- a) Directorate of Water & Irrigation Services
- b) Directorate of Environment
- c) Directorate of Climate Change.

9.7. Vision Statement

A sustainable access to clean, safe and adequate water in a secure environment.

9.8. Mission Statement

To promote, conserve, protect the environment and improve access to water for sustainable development.

9.9. Directorates

The **Water Directorate** is mainly concerned with development and maintenance of water & Irrigation infrastructure as well as water policies formulation, coordination and implementation related to the same.

The **Environmental Directorate** is mainly concerned with conservation and maintenance of the environment, formulation, coordination and implementation of environmental policies, air and noise regulations/controls and related field operations within the county. The Forestry sub-section within this directorate is concerned with County forestry policy formulation and implementation as well as management of Community Forest resources within the county. The overall goal of the directorate of Environment and Natural Resources is to ensure sustainable Environmental and natural resources management for improved livelihoods in the County.

The **Climate Change Directorate** is charged with the responsibility of coordinating climate action across all County Departments and other stakeholders in the County.

The activities in the directorate include but not limited to: County Greening Program which

mainly targets public institutions, rehabilitation of the 12 community forests, promotion of on-farm forestry, promotion of low carbon energy technologies through supply and installation of energy saving jikos to learning institutions, conservation of riparian zones, Pollution Control, Community Sensitization on Environmental Conservation, conservation and protection of catchment areas, Environmental Screening of County projects, development of various policy and regulatory frameworks. All these activities are in line with County Integrated Development Plans (CIDP).

9.10. Policies

Policy, legal and Legislative Frameworks: Nyeri county has domesticated National Policies, strategies and programmes relevant to the sector to effectively discharge the devolved functions related to natural resources management; The following policies, Acts, strategies and programmes have been adopted:

- a) Climate Change Policy
- b) Climate Change Finance Policy
- c) Forestry Policy
- d) Irrigation Act 2017
- e) Invasive and Alien Species Policy
- f) Mining and Quarrying Policy
- g) Rural roads and Storm Water Policy
- h) Wetlands and Riparian Resources Policies
- i) County Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2022
- j) County Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2019-2022
- k) County Climate Action Determined Contributions 2020
- l) Climate Change Finance strategy 2020
- m) County Climate Change Act 2021
- n) Forest Conservation and Management Act, 2021

9.11. Actualization of Existing MOUs

Nyeri county has existing MOUs with KEFRI, KFS, MI forest initiative, National Water Harvesting and Storage Authority (NWHSA) and Nature Conservancy. KEFRI has been

fulfilling its role in tree planting and rehabilitation of Karima Forest. The existing MOU with Nature Conservancy aims at protecting, conserving and maintaining of Upper Tana Watershed. Some of the activities they have undertaken include the planting of trees along Gura Sagana. KFS is the major tree seedlings donating partner. There is little done in implementation of the MOU with MI forest initiative.

Survey and mapping of all community forests: Survey and mapping of the identified 12 community forests (Tumutumu, Karima, Gachirichiri, Ngamwa, Gatumbiro, Karundu, Karindi, wagere, ThangathiGacuthe, Chania ridge) have not been done.

Establishment of tree nurseries: There is Progress in establishing a tree nursery by the department at Blue Valley. With the help of KCSAP communities have been funded to establish trees and fruit nurseries in its implementing Sub Counties that is Mukurweini, Kieni East and Kieni West.

9.12. Formation and Training of CFAs

Creation and training of CFAs to support communities neighboring the 12 existing community forest to own and protect the forest from destruction.

9.13. Rehabilitation and Management of Community Forests

Efforts have been made in collaboration with relevant stakeholders to rehabilitate Tumutumu Forest to rid them from invasive species and the reverse the impact of deforestation/illegal logging. KEFRI has partnered with the County Government in the rehabilitation of Karima Forest (planting indigenous trees)

9.14. Riparian land Conservation

The Department in collaboration with other stakeholders is promoting growing of Bamboo along the riparian and wetland areas and through Public private partnership, establish a factory to process Bamboo products. Bamboo tree seedlings have been planted along Chania River with plans targeting other riparian zones countywide. The plant's strong and extensive roots prevent soil erosion and landslides. Through the WRUAs the Department has been collaborating in conservation activities e.g spring protection of streams along Gachirichiri forest and now targeting to protect two springs in Mugunda Ward in Keni West.

9.15. Promotion of Low Carbon Energy Technologies

The department has adopted low carbon technology including supply and installation of energy saving jikos in the learning institutions across the county. The program is ongoing aiming to cover more institutions. Low carbon technology in cooking reduces overdependence on forestry resources thus reducing both deforestation and carbon emissions.

9.16. Operationalization of the Technical Working Group & Climate Change Unit

Guided by the Nyeri County Climate Change Act 2021, the sector has successfully established and operationalized a functional Climate change unit. The unit coordinates all the climate action activities in the County. Key institutions have been put in place including:

- a) The County Climate Change Planning Committees
- b) Ward Climate Change Planning committee in each of the 30 wards in the county.

Other key milestones include:

- a) County Climate Change Fund (CCCF) has been created and funds allocated to it. Capacity building and sensitization on climate change has been done to various members of Staff in the department, Subcounty and Ward Administrators.
- b) Community Projects proposals have been received for appraisal for possible funding.
- c) Participatory Climate Risk Assessment stakeholder engagement and Multistakeholder engagement forum were organized in order to establish the PCRA report and County Climate Change Action Plan (CCCAP)

9.17. County progress - Water Directorate

- a) Increased the proportion of households with access to clean and portable water stood from 57% to 78%
- b) In collaboration with communities, and water service providers 415.5 km of pipelines were constructed benefitting 35,260 households.
- c) In collaboration with other actors the county managed to drill 42 new boreholes both communities based and in learning institutions and rehabilitated 11 boreholes.
- d) Constructed or rehabilitated 16 intakes that benefits 25,000 households getting water especially in rural areas.

- e) Completed construction of 2 water treatments for NARUWASCO and TEAWASCO to improve water quality each treatment with a production capacity of 2000 m³/day.
- f) Constructed 43 Masonry tanks of capacity ranging from 100m³ to 225m³ in addition, 303 households were each supplied with 1000 litres plastic tanks for water storage and 140 water meters in Mukurweini subcounty.
- g) Water storage for irrigation both at household level and community owned still remained a priority to the department so as to increase the irrigated land from 2600 hectares to 4370 hectares during the planned period.
- h) Constructed 2,355 individual water pans especially in Kieni each with a capacity ranging from 1000-3000 m³.
- i) Rehabilitated 8 dams that produces to about 560,000 m³ of water. 12 irrigation projects undertaken.
- j) Constructed 2 decentralised treatment facility for sewerage waste in Mukurweini and Narumoro

These dams, pans and water schemes translate to additional **1,775 hectares** of land put under irrigation.

9.18. County progress - Environment & Climate Change Directorate

9.18.1. Increased Forest and Tree Cover

The forest cover as at 2013 was at 38.6% and increased to 40.3% as at 2021. The tree for the county as at 2021 was 45.16%. This has been achieved through cohesive partnerships with; government agencies such as KFS, KEFRI, GBM, NETFUND and Nature Kenya, CBOs, and financial institutions. Academic and research institutions and community resource users have also been instrumental in the achievement by providing enforcement, provision of seedlings, training, and capacity building. Budgetary allocation for the related activities, continuous sensitization and employment of foresters has also contributed to this.

9.18.2. Clean and Beautiful Towns

The department had targeted to beautify 5 towns in the county; however, the unit has only managed to beautify one town in Nyeri Central. Planting of ornamental trees and grass. Clean-ups have however been done in several towns.

9.18.3. Increased River volumes

The department had targeted to achieve this through the conservation of the riverbanks. Fifty kilometers have been targeted for conservation. Through partnerships with other agencies e.g., Upper Tana, the unit has managed to conserve 83.3 kilometers exceeding the target. Interdepartmental collaboration and community resource users have been instrumental in the achievement through the provision of seedlings, training, and capacity buildings.

9.18.4. Reduced wood fuel usage

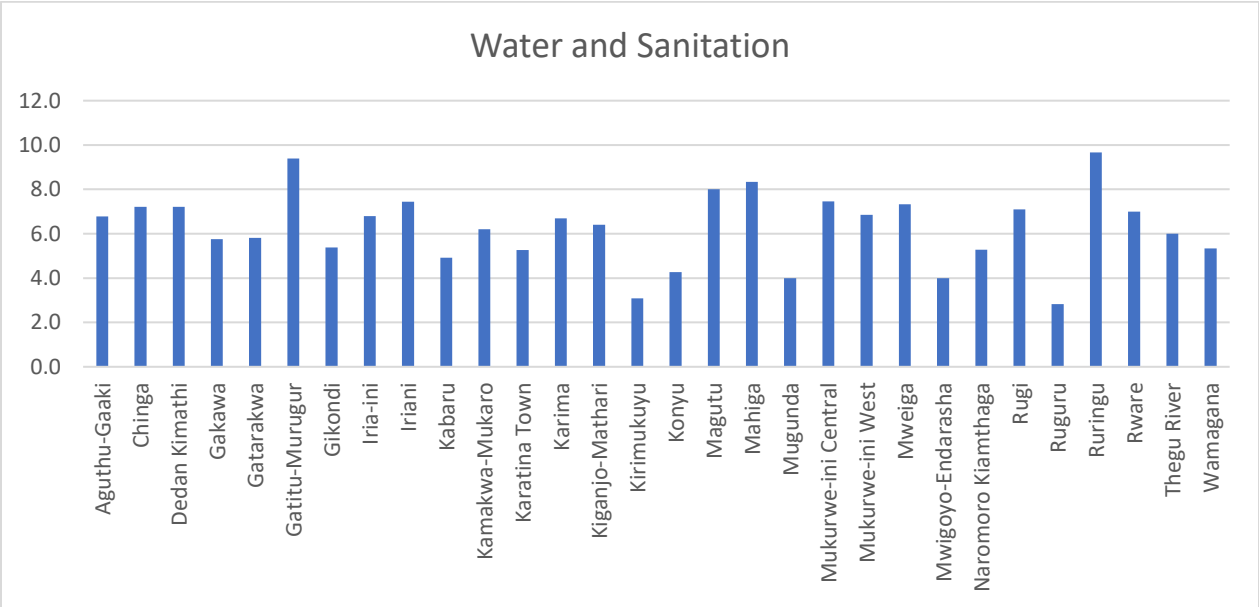
The target was to be achieved through the installation of energy-saving jikos issued in government institutions. The activity had not been done before and the target was the installation of 150 jikos. A total of 24 energy-saving jikos have been installed. The program is ongoing.

9.19. Key Findings

The average water and sanitation score for the wards was 6.3 points with Ruringu Ward achieving the highest water and sanitation score of 9.7 points, followed by Gatitu-Muruguru with 9.4 points, Mahiga with 8.3 points and Magutu with 8 points, signifying extensive and reliable better water and sanitation services in these areas. On the contrary, Ruguru Ward had the lowest water and sanitation scores at 2.8 points, followed by Kirimukuyu ward with 3.1 points, Mugunda and Mwigoyo-Endarasha wards with 4 points each, and Konyu ward with 4.3 points, suggesting potential challenges in access to clean water and sanitation facilities. The other wards ranked average points in between these extremes.

The data from figure 8 below, therefore, reveals significant variations in water and sanitation scores across the different wards. The variations may be influenced by various factors affecting the quality and accessibility of water and sanitation services in each area including limited water access points, and lack of sanitation facilities.

Figure 8 Water and Sanitation ratings



9.20. Areas of concern

The sector faces several challenges including:

- a) Inadequate budgetary allocation
- b) Lacking legal frameworks in some cases including Noise regulation, wetlands management, air quality among others.
- c) Illegal logging and human encroachment
- d) Inadequate enforcement personnel
- e) Lack of County Climate Risk Profile

10.20 . Recommendations

- a) Implement borehole drilling projects in drought-prone areas of the county to enhance water accessibility and address water scarcity issues effectively.
- b) Install sewer lines in Kiawara town, specifically within Mugunda Ward, to improve sanitation infrastructure and promote public health standards within the community.

- c) Implement conservation measures to safeguard vital water catchment areas, such as the forests in the county, preserving their ecological integrity and ensuring sustainable water resources for present and future generations
- d) Identify Public land for sewerage/waste disposal – dumpsite
- e) Increase budgetary allocation for the sector
- f) Capacity building for officers
- g) Develop and adopt County Environment Action Plans alongside the CIDP
- h) Enactment of the lacking legal frameworks and review of existing ones to ensure effectiveness
- i) To put strategy in place capture data on tree planting efforts by all other stakeholders including private sector.
- j) There is need for County owned tree nurseries.

10. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT, PUBLIC WORKS, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY

10.1. Introduction

The Department is one of the ten departments established by the county executive of Nyeri County for devolved functions outlined in schedule four Part 2 in the Kenya Constitution, 2010. The department is mandated with the responsibility of managing road and infrastructure development. It has its vision to be a leading agency in sustainable road and other infrastructure development for prosperity. The department is managed by its administration through three directorates, namely; Transport and Road, Public Works and Energy.

10.2. Vision Statement

To be a world class provider of cost-effective physical infrastructural facilities and services.

10.3. Mission Statement

To provide efficient, affordable and reliable infrastructure through design, construction, maintenance.

10.4. Department Progress made between FY 2013 -2017

10.4.1. Road and Transport Directorate

The department has achieved:

- a) Improved enhancement of connectivity within the county through;
 - Upgrading 1130 km to murrum roads
 - The purchase of 3 graders, 2 rollers, 2 excavators, one low loader, 3 trucks, and 4 supervision double cab pickups for construction and maintenance of the roads.
- b) Designating and improving of 526 parking spaces. This helped in increasing street parking revenue.
- c) Tarmacking of 5km foot path between Ruringu meeting point and Kamakwa market

Construction of 11 box culverts for inter town or village connectivity.

10.4.2. Energy Directorate

Street light

The department has achieved the following on street light and flood lights installation.

The table below summarizes the achievement for street light sector.

FY	Amount cost	Marketscovered	No. of Street lights installed	No. of Flood lights installed
2013/14		112	300	15
2014/15		208		0
2015/16		208	1050	55
2016/17		208		0
2017/18	68,169,000	208	1375	55

Table 6 Streetlights and floodlights installed

- a) **Road Infrastructure:** The department rehabilitated and constructed 10.47km of roads to bituminous standard, representing 2.33% of the CIDP target, enhancing connectivity and trade between Nyeri and Karatina towns. Additionally, 1082.05km of access roads were constructed, improving transportation networks within the county.
- b) **Bridges and Footbridges:** Construction included twenty-four box culverts and 301 footbridges, facilitating quick connectivity/access between various villages and enhancing transportation infrastructure.
- c) **Bus Parks:** Two bus parks were constructed and upgraded in Mukurweini and Mweiga, easing traffic congestion and promoting trade in the areas, contributing to a 6.67% implementation rate against the CIDP target.
- d) **Energy Sector:** Installation of 48 flood masts improved energy efficiency and security in flood-prone areas. Installation of 3343 street lights across the county and 422 solar street lights enhanced security in rural/peri-urban centers while reducing

energy costs and promoting sustainability. Additionally, eighteen residences in Aguthi-Gaaki benefitted from biogas energy, surpassing the CIDP target, promoting environmental sustainability and efficient use of resources.

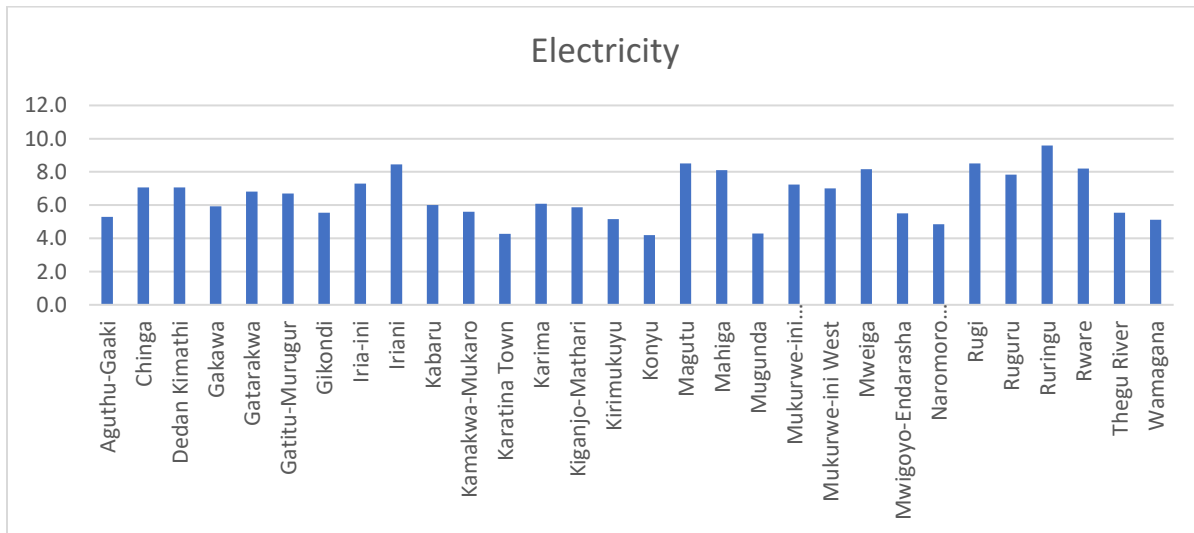
- e) **Public Works:** The directorate supervised the construction of over 100 public/private buildings, including Narumoru level hospital and Asian Quarters bus terminus, emphasizing green building practices, cost-effectiveness, and adherence to quality standards. It also played a leading role in constructing ECDE centers and markets, ensuring quality control and assurance in all projects.

10.5. Key Findings

1. Electricity:

The average electricity score for the wards was 6.5 points. Figure 9 below indicates that Ruringu had the highest electricity score of 9.6 points followed by Magutu and Rugi with 8.5 points each, and Iriani with 8.4 points indicating access to county electricity services in these areas. Konyu ward had the lowest electricity score of 4.2 points followed by Mugunda and Karatina Town points suggesting potential challenges in access to electricity in these Wards.

Figure 9 Electricity ratings by wards



From the above data, it is recommended that the County Government should continue giving priority to equitable access to electricity services across all wards to minimize

disparities like the ones in the low rating wards. The policy makers should prioritize the maintenance of county electricity infrastructure in order to improve service delivery.

It is worth noting that though this function sought to assess the County electricity services such as street lights, flood lights and other electric projects, most of the responses focused on the distribution of electricity to households.

10.6. Areas of concern

Challenges encountered during the Implementation of the Plan;

- a) Delayed disbursement of funds by the National Treasury significantly hampered project and program implementation, affecting the county's development agenda.
- b) The county failed to meet local revenue targets during the planning period, with factors such as missed opportunities for inter-departmental collaboration hindering revenue collection efforts.
- c) Court injunctions, legal disputes, and encroachments on road reserves, plot boundaries, riparian reserves, and transmission lines disrupted infrastructure development and maintenance efforts.
- d) Poor management of stormwater resulted in soil erosion, culvert blockages, and road service silting, exacerbating maintenance costs and road safety concerns.
- e) Lack of collaboration in providing rural services like roads, water, electricity, and internet, coupled with resource depletion in planned programs, undermined infrastructure development efforts.
- f) Frequent land subdivision led to additional costs for road construction, power and sewer line provision, exacerbating infrastructure expenses.
- g) Vandalism of road signs and guardrails, along with political interference diverting resources, compromised infrastructure maintenance and project integrity.
- h) Inadequate technical manpower and lack of professionalism hampered sector performance, leading to network problems and public distrust in the system.

- i) Lack of comprehensive operational data for road networks hindered effective planning and monitoring, complicating emergency response and resource allocation.
- j) Traffic congestion and parking difficulties in Nyeri and Karatina towns due to initial poor planning and rapid urbanization, increasing infrastructure maintenance costs and public inconvenience.
- k) Insufficient public building facilities hindered the delivery of essential services and amenities, highlighting the need for proper planning and construction of public infrastructure.

10.7. Recommendations from FGDs

- a) There is need to have frequent engagement with national treasury for timely disbursement of ex chequer funding.
- b) The department shall embark on Strick enforcement on targeted revenue streams. It shall also explore unutilized potential areas such as increased parking areas.
- c) The department shall carryout public participation to the citizenry to sensitize them on protection of public utilities such as road reserve, vandalism and others.
- d) The department shall role out data collection for all county feeder roads. The data shall aim at registering new roads.
- e) The county has constructed and commissioned new bus terminus (Field Marshal Muthoni Kirima Bus Terminus) aimed at decongesting Nyeri Town CBD.
- f) The department shall promote environmental conservation in its planning and budgeting.
- g) The department shall take lead in collaboration with state agencies and other stakeholders, in the planning and implementation of program.

11. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES

11.1. Introduction

The Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Aquaculture Development of Nyeri County consist of three directorates namely: Crops Resource Management, Livestock production and Aquaculture Development; Veterinary Services and two institutions i.e., Wambugu Agricultural Centre and Agricultural Machinery services- Narumoru.

The Department has continued to play a key role in the improvement and development of the agricultural sector within the County.

11.2. Vision

To ensure food and nutrition security to the county citizen and job creation

11.3. Mission

To improve agricultural productivity through the promotion of innovative competitive and sustainable Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries production systems

11.4. The department Strategic Objectives

The Department key strategic objectives in transformation of Agriculture within the county include the following:

- a) Creation of an enabling policy and legal framework that provides a conducive environment for Public Private Partnerships (PPP) in the sector.
- b) Enhancement of agricultural productivity.
- c) Value-addition to agricultural production as well as increased market access is expected to lead to higher returns for farmers, allow penetration to high-value markets and also help address the challenge of post-harvest losses that is prevalent within the county.
- d) Enhanced Access to farm inputs at subsidized rates as well as adequate, timely and affordable credit from institutional sources will help farmers to significantly improve their productive capacity.
- e) Building and strengthening of strategic alliances, collaborations and partnerships in areas that help promote agricultural production and returns to the farmers. Such areas include capitalization, capacity building and research among others.
- f) Strengthening the Institutional capacity. This aims at creating an efficient

Department that delivers quality services to all stakeholders.

Table 7 Policies in department of Agriculture

S/ No	Bill/ Act	Objectives
1.	Nyeri County Agriculture Development Act, 2016	To provide a comprehensive, harmonized, efficient and effective legal and regulatory framework for development and Regulation of agriculture in Nyeri County.
2.	The Nyeri County Abattoirs Management and Animal Control Act, 2022	To provide for a regulatory and enforcement framework and take other necessary measures from the view point of public health in order to ensure the proper management of abattoirs, slaughter and dressing of livestock for human consumption
3.	Nyeri County Coffee Act, 2022	To provide for development, regulation and promotion of the coffee industry
4.	County Agriculture Institution Fund Bill, 2023	To establish revolving Fund for the institution to run smoothly without interruption due to lack of funds and generate revenue.
5.	Nyeri County Tea Bill, 2016	To regulate the Tea sector.
6.	Nyeri County Livestock , 2017	To provide for the regulation of production, promotion, development, research, management, processing, marketing and regulation of livestock, companion animals and livestock Products
7.	The Nyeri County Agriculture Sector Steering Committee Bill, 2022	Facilitate and enhance coordination, cooperation and Consultation among agriculture sector stakeholders and providefor a comprehensive link to the Joint Agricultural Sector Steering Committee.

8.	CASSCOM Strategic Plan 2020-2022	To guide the operations of the CASSCOM in order to achieve its Short and medium-term objectives.
9.	Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries- Strategic Plan 2018-2023	To revitalize and strength the agricultural sector within Nyeri County.
10.	Nyeri Irish Potato Strategy(2018-2022)	Promote certified seed potato production and efficient seed distribution system Increase production and productivity of ware potato Enhance market access and investment in Agro-processing Strengthen Weak Policy and legal framework Increase funding, coordination and partnerships
11.	Nyeri County Agricultural policy 2020	To ensure right subsector policies are in place. To enhance agricultural productivity To mitigate against effects of global warming To improve farmers' income To increase youth participation in agriculture To promote affordable and accessible credit To strengthen stakeholder partnerships To mobilize resources
12.	County Fisheries policy 2020	To promote conservation and management of fisheries resources. To generate the maximum amount of employment To maximize revenue from fisheries and other related activities To promote an integrated economy To enhance food supply and food security To develop Aquaculture
13.	Draft Nyeri Food and Nutrition Security Policy	To provide an overarching framework covering the multiple dimensions of food security and nutrition

	2020	improvement
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The department has implemented various projects and programme with the objective of improving food and nutrition security.

These projects are;

- a) Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project (KCSAP) - ending June 2023
- b) Agriculture Sector Development Support Program II (ASDSP II) - ending December 2023
- c) Aquaculture Business Development Program (ABDP) - ending June 2026
- d) Small scale irrigation and value addition Project (SIVAP) - ending June 2023
- e) Upper Tana Natural Resource Management Project (UTANRMP) - Ended December 2022

11.5. County Progress since 2013

Directorate of Crops Resource Management has achieved the following;

11.5.1. To improve Extension Service delivery

- a) Adoption of farmer field school extension approach in reaching out to farmers more than 270 schools established for training agricultural production and productivity.
- b) 30 Clinics established under plant wise project for pest and disease diagnosis
- c) Participated in Central Kenya ASK show and Wambugu stakeholder field day in show casing agricultural production technologies and techniques
- d) Modernized Wambugu ATC through establishment of value addition common user facility for incubation of groups, built one modern hostel with a capacity of
- e) 24 self-contained rooms and expanded area under irrigation for increased production.

11.5.2. Tea Sub Sector

The Tea task force report of 2016 was developed to address issues affecting tea industry in the county and give recommendations therein. The department has rehabilitated six tea buying

centers and distributed over 200,000 new tea clones that are high - yielding to tea farmers.

11.5.3. Soil Fertility Management

More than 150,000 bags of agricultural lime were bought and supplied to farmers to address soil acidity. Also, 3 soil hand scanners were procured to assist farmers determine soil pH levels and more than 2000 soil samples have been collected analyzed and results issued to farmers for implementation. The main objective was to improve soil health and hence address crop productivity.

11.5.4. Soil and Water Conservation

- a) 957 water pans excavated holding 7,032 cubic liters of water to supplement rain fed agriculture at the household level.
- b) Rehabilitated and de-silted Lusoi, Kiria and Kamangura Dam, constructed three 225M³ masonry tanks and expanded three water intake irrigation schemes with an aim of transformation from rain-fed agriculture to irrigation agriculture.
- c) Natural resource management where twenty-four catchments were established, 134 catchment committee members trained and equipped with tools and 800 farms laid with soil and water conservation structures to manage our top soil.

11.5.5. Food and Nutrition Security Initiatives

- a) Supported farmers with various farm inputs to improve their food and nutrition security.
- b) The following have been issued to farmers; 308.8 tons of Irish potatoes, Maize seeds 36.22 tons, wheat 7.2 tons, 391 tons of certified beans seed, 27,600 Households assisted to establish kitchen gardens, Provision of 550 drip kits, Provision of 3857 household water tanks and Provision of 1,250 knapsack sprayers to farmer groups for control of pests.

11.5.6. Greening Initiative Program

Greening fruit tree program has enabled 31,770 trees of Macadamia; over 100,000 trees of

Hass Avocado and 6,200 trees of mangoes have been distributed to Nyeri farmers. Also, the department established 100,000 fruit trees nursery seedlings at Wambugu ATC for ease of access of quality seedlings. The programme has not only increased farmer's income but also contributed to improved tree cover.

11.5.7. Coffee Sub- Sector

To increasing coffee productivity and quality the department has issued over 42,500 coffee seedlings, rehabilitated coffee drying tables, completed coffee collection sheds, provided over 676 tons of manure and trained youth pruners and sprayers.

11.5.8. Agricultural Mechanization

To increase agriculture mechanization, the department procured 3 farm tractors, a trailer, hay baler, rake and silage chopper for AMS-Naro-moru. Also, it has provided 4 manual hand planters to promote Irish potato mechanization.

11.5.9. Livestock Production and Aquaculture Development Directorate

The directorate has achieved the following;

a) Improved Poultry programme for food and nutrition security

In the Poultry programme the Directorate has since 2013 supported farmer groups specifically from vulnerable categories (Women, youth and PWDs) with breeding stock of improved poultry breeds. This has gone a long way in boosting egg and chicken meat production. Over 700 groups have been supported to date with approximately 178,000 improved poultry breeding stock. In addition, some of the groups have further been supported with solar powered and ordinary power egg incubators in order to bridge the gap of production of quality day- old-chicks.

b) Dairy Project – Milk coolers and Pasteurizing Equipment

The directorate has been supporting the dairy value chain to increase productivity and overall milk production. This has mainly been in form of support with fodder planting materials to individual farmers. The directorate has also supported dairy cooperatives with milk cooling and processing equipment through projects like KCSAP, ASDSP II, UTaNRMP.

In addition, the directorate has been supporting farmers with dairy goat breeding stock to enhance milk production especially amongst the vulnerable groups and in areas where land sizes are diminishing daily due to uncontrolled sub division. To date over 2,000 dairy goats have been procured and distributed over 2,000 dairy goats to farmer groups through the directorate initiative in partnership with projects like UTaNRMP and KCSAP.

c) Capacity Building Programme

This has been going on through provision of extension services to farmers through various extension methodologies like group trainings, field days, livestock and fish demonstrations and farm visits.

d) On- Farm Feed Production

The directorate has supported on-farm feed formulation through capacity building of farmers on preparation of homemade rations. Five (5) farmer groups have been supported with livestock feed milling and mixing equipment.

e) Promotion of Aquaculture Development

In an effort to promote fish value chain in the county and enhance fish production, the directorate rehabilitated 486 fishponds and also has been supporting fish farmers with fingerlings, mainly Tilapia and Catfish. A total of 1,046,000 fingerlings have been stocked in fish ponds and public dams.

The directorate has been supporting fish farmers with 210 pond liners, fencing materials and promotion of cage culture technology in public dams in order to ensure safety of fishponds and minimize on seepage. This has gone a long way in boosting fish production and conservation of water as the limited natural resource needed in fish farming. To enhance fish production, the directorate has been supporting individual fish farmers with quality fish feeds. This has helped buffer the high cost of fish feeds and thus boosting production. A total of 1,340X 25-kg bags of fish feed have been distributed to fish farmers. This has been possible through the directorates' initiative and support from ABDP.

The department operationalized Wamagana Fish Processing plant, which has a capacity of 12 tons per week. A three (3) ton refrigerated truck was procured for effective fish collection from the farms, established 8 fish bulking sites in each sub county and equipped them with

10 weighing scales and 10 deep freezers.

f) Improved Fodder and Hay Production

The directorate has supported this initiative through provision of quality planting and certified seed materials to individual farmers for establishment on their farms. This has also been done through establishment of demonstration centers and plots for learning purposes. e.g. KDPL, Wambugu ATC, AMS Naromoru and ASK Kabiruini Livestock stand.

11.6. Directorate of Veterinary Services

The department achieved the following;

a) Artificial Insemination (A.I) and Breeding Programme

The department initiated County free A.I service to address the following challenges;- low conception rates of the dairy animals; unreliable private AI providers, dishonesty on catalogue interpretation on the source and genetic merit of the semen in use, erratic stocking of liquid nitrogen, a private sector that is resistant to supervision, poor reporting and hiding of information by the private animal health service providers (PAHSPs) especially on repeat breeders, in breeding due to lack of records, profiteering by semen distributors and or inseminators and costly AI services.

Some of the benefits of the programme include;

- a) Good genetic diversity including Sahiwal breed for the drier parts of Kieni
- b) Higher Conception rates as compared to the previous dispensation
- c) Farmers are now not losing on heat; this was caused by high payment fees that were previously demanded by the private AI providers
- d) Calves continue to be borne into the programme
- e) Disease surveillance, reporting, control and Vaccination

The department has been running disease control program to vaccinate animals against notifiable diseases such as Anthrax, Lumpy Skin Disease, Foot and Mouth Disease, Rabies among others. The department has been supporting the veterinary directorate to provide quality services to farmers as well as subsidized vaccinations and

extension services with an aim of reducing and eliminating diseases outbreak through vaccination. Each year the department has been vaccinating over 70,000 animals, which has led to reduced outbreak and increased quality and quantity of animal products.

To control ticks the department has continued to support 23 operational community dips by provision of acaricides and stabilizers.

b) Veterinary Public Health

The department has continued to support slaughterhouse facilities through rehabilitation of four slaughterhouses and provision of captive bolt stunners and bullets for humane killing of animals. In so doing, hygiene production of meat and environmental conservation has been achieved.

c) Anti -Microbial Resistance (AMR) Containment

This is a Global challenge and the county was able to constitute its County Anti-Microbial Steering Inter agency committee (CASIC) in the year 2013. It later developed a 2-year work plan that ended in September 2022.

The following has been achieved through AMR containment; -

- a) Strengthened governance and coordination mechanisms in a one health approach- CASIC membership and structure, mapping of stakeholders, multispectral collaborations
- b) Enhanced public awareness, knowledge and understanding of AMR-IEC materials and sensitization messages.
- c) Strengthened the AMR Surveillance System-field, laboratory and promoted research on AMR.
- d) Reduced the incidence of infection through effective sanitation, hygiene and integrated pest control measures-Vaccinations, farm biosecurity measures, hygiene and food safety measures in food value chains and reducing environmental contamination.

- e) Optimized the use of antimicrobials-Baseline data on AMU (Use) and AMC (Consumption), as well as use of Standard Operation Procedures in disease management.

11.6.1. Citizen's Perceptions on Service Delivery Performance

The citizen appreciates the support given by the department and especially support with various farm inputs and training.

11.7. Key findings

- a) That the department has underutilized training facilities. Eg Wambugu farm ATC
- b) Unpredictable weather patterns due to climate change leading to change of the rain patterns
- c) High cost of farm in put with low quality for production
- d) High preference of pests and diseases impairing farm productivity
- e) Uncoordinated market prices is bringing forth unhealthy competition. This is in turn lead to low product prices.

11.8. Challenges/Areas of concern

The directorates have experienced a number of challenges such as;

- a) Low funding
- b) High costs and poor quality of farm inputs
- c) Unreliable weather patterns and effects of climate change
- d) Low staff: farmer ratio.
- e) Inadequate transport facilities.
- f) Low adoption of technologies by farmers
- g) Poor research-extension –farmer linkage
- h) Un-streamlined marketing systems

11.9. Recommendations

To address the highlighted challenges, it is recommended:

- a) Increase in resource allocation to the department up to 10% of the total budget

- b) Subsidizing on farm inputs
- c) Recruitment of more technical officers
- d) Packaging climate change resilient technologies
- e) Capacity building of the technical staff
- f) Improvement in water conservation mechanisms
- g) Procurement of more vehicles.
- h) Strengthen research extension farmer linkage
- i) Provide farm input on credit for the farmers in the community

11.10. Cross-Cutting Issues

The Directorate has no specific policy in place but operates through strategies and programmes to achieve its mandate and functions, which include: -

- a) Promote management and conservation of the natural resource base
- b) Formulate, implement and monitor agricultural sector legislations, regulations and policies with inclusion of cross cutting issues

c) Progress Made since 2013 on cross cutting

Some of the achievements of the sector include;

a) Youth Empowerment Initiatives

The Department has been promoting innovation, creativity and technology that are youth friendly in the livestock and fisheries sector. The youths have been supported with enterprises that are manageable within limited resources like poultry keeping among others. The directorate has engaged over 120 youths through youth internship and industrial field attachment both under the livestock production and fisheries sections.

b) Disaster Management

The department has been participating in the 2 seasonal based food security assessments in an effort to identify and track status and performance of the livestock industry in view of climate change, while recommending short-term and long-term interventions.

c) Disability Mainstreaming

The department has been committed in ensuring targeted recruitment, training and

support to people living with disabilities (PLWDs) as part of disability mainstreaming. To this effect, the directorate has been supporting this category of people with friendly income generating activities like crop and livestock industry. This has increased equal and easy access of products and services/ programmes to PLWDs.

d) Gender Mainstreaming

The department has been making a deliberate effort to sensitize staff on gender mainstreaming through collection and analysis of gender-disaggregated data to guide in planning and programming in public institutions. This is mainly emphasized through the various extension methodologies to ensure that no quarter of the human resource with regard to the farming community is left behind. Special emphasis has been on the inclusion of women and youth in livestock and fisheries farming activities for income generation.

e) Environmental Sustainability

The department has been sensitizing staff and farmers on environmental sustainability awareness and management of the natural resources. In view of climate change the directorate has been keen on planning and implementing adaptive and mitigation initiatives such as promotion of biogas, water harvesting, installation of fish pond liners, recycling of scarce water resource and livestock land carrying capacity among others.

12.12. Challenges/Areas of concern

The challenges encountered include;

- a) Low funding especially with regard to activities geared towards supporting and engaging the youth.
- b) Lack of clear mechanisms, policies and legal frameworks to guide in the incorporation of some of the cross-cutting issues in service delivery
- c) Low and declining land fertility resulting in low productivity
- d) Inadequate land management and environmental conservation policies
- e) Climate change/ Natural calamities leading to low productivity and loss of livelihoods in some instances

12.13. Recommendations

- a) Development of appropriate policy and legal environment.
- b) Enhanced funding to support implementation and mainstreaming of cross cutting issues in extension service delivery.

12. DEPARTMENT OF LANDS, HOUSING AND PHYSICAL PLANNING

12.1. Introduction

The department comprises of four (4) directorates namely;

- a) Physical planning and Urban development
- b) Lands and Survey
- c) Housing
- d) Municipal Administration

The department is mandated to provide the following services;

- a) Provide physical and land use planning strategies in order to promote sustainable rural and urban development.
- b) Promote and facilitate development of decent housing in sustainable environment.
- c) Provide efficient land and property management.
- d) Land documentation and land property valuation.
- e) Enhance security of land tenure through land surveying and mapping.
- f) Improve and /or upgrading of roads within the municipality

12.2. Vision Statement

Functional human settlements that support economic prosperity and sustainable optimal land use.

12.3. Mission Statement

To promote efficient and optimal land use through physical planning, efficient land administration and sustainable use of land resource.

12.4. Policies

The Department has Prepared 4 Draft policies, legislations, regulations and cabinet Papers. Specifically, the Nyeri County Physical and Land use bill has been prepared and is awaiting

approval. In addition, there are several draft policies including the following:

- a) Nyeri County Physical Planning Policy
- b) Nyeri County Outdoor Advertisement Policy
- c) Nyeri County Street Naming and Physical Address System policy
- d) Nyeri County Survey Policy

The department prepared a Municipal Charter in the year 2019. This led to the establishment of the Nyeri Municipality Administration and Board. The Municipality Administration has compiled Municipal by-laws which are awaiting adoption and approval by the County Executive Committee and the County Assembly respectively. Further, the Municipal board has prepared a draft Valuation Roll for Nyeri Municipality.

12.5. Directorates

The department has four directorates; Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urban Development and the Municipal Administration.

12.5.1. Physical Planning and Urban Development Directorate

The County Government of Nyeri through this Directorate has prepared several Physical and Land Use Development Plans since the inception of devolution. This is in partnership with other key stakeholders including the Ministry of Lands and Physical Planning, the National Land Commission, Kenya Informal Settlements Improvement Program (KISIP) among others. The following Physical and Land Use Development Plans have been prepared but currently in draft form awaiting adoption and approval:

- a) Nyeri County Spatial Plan
- b) Mukurweini Urban Area Local Physical and Land Use Development Plan
- c) Naromoru Urban Area Local Physical and Land Use Development Plan
- d) Othaya Urban Area Local Physical and Land Use Development Plan
- e) Chaka Urban Area Local Physical and Land Use Development Plan
- f) Ruthagati Local Physical and Land Use Development Plan
- g) Ngooru (Kihingo) Local Physical and Land Use Development Plan

12.1 County progress since 2013

Since 2013, twenty six (26) Local Physical and Land Use Development Plans have been prepared and approved by the County Assembly of Nyeri and survey and titling process for all plans is currently underway. The Integrated Strategic Urban Development Plan (ISUDP) for Nyeri Municipality is also approved by the County Assembly, it guides on the development control within the municipality.

Kenya Informal Settlements Improvement Project 1 (KISIP 1)

The project which has been implemented in the two lots resulted in issuance of 1,221 titles. The project incepted in 2013, Lot 1 involved the planning and survey of five (5) colonial villages namely; Riamukurwe, Gatitu, Muruguru, Kihuyo and Kihatha. After completion Lot 3 was initiated in 2016 under component 1 on Tenure Regularization. This was undertaken in the following thirteen (13) settlements; Chorongi, Giakaibei, Gitathini, Gitero, Ihwagi, Kanjora, Kiamwathi, Kiarihui, Miiri, Mweiga, Ngorano, Njoguini, and Ruruguti. Titles for Gitero and Gitathini were issued in 2018 while the titles for other settlements were issued in 2022. The exercise resulted in issuance of 721 title deeds.

Kenya Informal Settlements Improvement Project 2 – (KISIP 2).

KISIP 2 project was rolled up in 2020 where Nyeri County was selected under *Component 2 Infrastructure Upgrading*. Five (5) settlements were selected namely; Kiamwathi, Chorongi, Mweiga (Gikomo & Kiawara), Kiawara and Ihwagi having been allocated a total of KES 525, 252,022. The fund promote infrastructure upgrading including but not limited to; roads, pedestrian walkways, street and security lighting, solid waste management, storm water drainage, sanitation and water works among others.

Development Applications

The department has managed to receive and process an approximate number of 8,500 development applications (Building plans, Subdivisions, Amalgamations, Change/Extension of use and Renewal/Extension of Leases) since the inception of devolution.

12.5.2.Municipality Administration/ Board

Currently, the Municipality is operational handling delegated functions as follows:

- Implementation of the Integrated Strategic Urban Development Plan (ISUDP) for Nyeri Municipality.
- Traffic management and control within the Municipality.
- Solid waste collection and disposal within the Municipality.
- Town Beautification and street-scapping.

The unit also participates in Infrastructure development within the Municipality ,the Nyeri Municipality Board and Administration through Kenya Urban Support Program under World Bank and County Government funding, has developed a major Transport Termini at the Asian Quarters worth approximately 600 million.

Further, for the three financial years the municipality has been in existence the administration has improved over 100 Kms of access roads across the five wards that constitute the Municipality.

12.5.3.Land and Survey

GIS Lab Establishment & Operationalization

The GIS lab was established in the year 2020 during the preparation of the County Spatial Plan. As part of the deliverables, the consultant facilitated a one-week training workshop for the Physical Planners, Surveyors and cartographers. Currently, the GIS Lab is equipped with the following equipment; 6 Computers, 2 screens, 3 UPS backups, 1 printer, 2 A0 plotters, 1 A1 Scanner, 1 Camera and its Controller and a Server room with a server. In addition, the Lab has the following software; ArcGIS, AutoCAD and Eagle point. A second GIS lab is being constructed in a joint collaboration between the department and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

12.5.4.Housing

Housing directorate has achieved the following;

- i. Affordable & Social Housing.
- ii. Renewal and redevelopment of dilapidated estates

The directorate conducted feasibility studies for renewal and redevelopment of dilapidated

estates in Nyeri (Blue Valley estate), Karatina (Muthua estate) and Naromoru (Midtown, Kanduma & Muthaiga estates). The units in the afore-mentioned estates are old, dilapidated, roofed with asbestos which are a health hazard. The poor housing conditions, small dwelling units, poor infrastructure and suboptimal utilization of prime land necessitated the urgent need for renewal and redevelopment. The recommendations for implementation were further adopted and approved by the Nyeri County Executive Committee.

The proposed redevelopments will lead to construction of 1249 affordable units comprising of 16- three-bedroom, 344 two-bedroom, 596 one-bedroom and 293 bedsitters units. Further, the directorate is in consultation with the Ministry of Land, Public Works, Housing, and Urban Development to redevelop the estates through the affordable housing programme in line with the Affordable Housing Act, 2024.



Figure 10 Illustration of a proposed two-storey house in Kanduma Estate

a) Training on Appropriate Building Materials and Technology (AMBT)

The directorate has trained 14 youth groups on AMBT. The program is envisioned to expose youth to the process of making Inter-locking Soil Stabilized Blocks (ISSB). The ISSB are easy to prepare, innovative, environmentally friendly with significant socio-economic multipliers aiding in abating poverty, unemployment and affordability challenges among low- and middle-income communities.

The ISSB are made from a mixture of abundant and naturally occurring soil and a stabilizing agent then compressed by different types of mechanized press machines. The project aids in

provision of affordable building material for construction of decent housing facilities.



Youth undergoing training on AMBT

b) Renovation of County Residential Houses

The directorate Housing renovated over 100 units in Ring Road estate, Blue valley, Mweiga Ruring'u Junior and Senior estate among other estates.

The activities undertaken involved removal of asbestos roofing, installation of interior fittings which had been vandalized and broken window panes, reinstallation of new ceilings boards which had been damaged by leaking roofs and painting worn walls following many years of neglect.



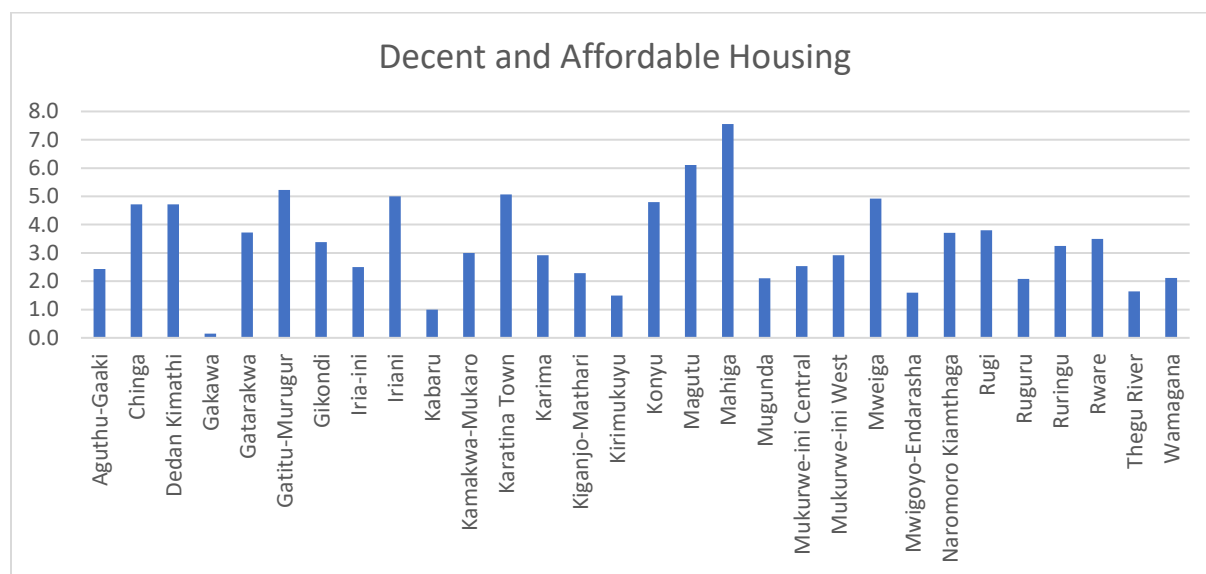
Renovated county residential units.

12.6. Key Findings

The average score for decent and affordable housing in the wards was 3.3 Points. Mahiga ward had the highest score of 7.6 Points followed by Magutu ward with 6.1 points, Karatina Town ward with 5.1 points, Gatitu-Muruguru with 5.2 points and Iriani ward with 5 points, as in figure 10 below, indicating relatively better access to decent housing options in this area. However, a huge percentage of the wards, had the low scores, ranging from 1 to 4.9, indicating a lack of access to decent and affordable housing in these Wards.

It is worth noting that though the County Government does not have a programme to provide decent and affordable housing, the respondents awarded points to this function based on the current housing situation on the ground. Despite this, the County Government has in place programmes for the removal of asbestos roofing, installation of interior fittings and broken window panes, reinstallation of new ceilings boards, leaking roofs and painting worn walls on neglected county houses.

Figure 11 Decent and Affordable Housing rating



In order to address the above variations, policymakers should consider replicating the affordable housing program to make decent housing accessible to low-income citizens. This can be implemented through budgeting for the construction of affordable housing units to make decent housing accessible to the citizens.

12.7. Challenges/Areas of concern

Some of the challenges the department has uncounated are;

- a) Inadequate working spaces for officers working at the sub counties.
- b) Some subdivision scheme plan applications by-passing the County Government.
- c) Accumulated land rates. Failure to pay land rates on time has led to huge amounts rates in default.
- d) Budgetary constraints have led to many challenges including transport challenges. All directorates in the department have field-based tasks, completion of some planned field activities on time have been impossible due to shortage of vehicles.
- e) Lack of cooperation from tenants living in the county residential houses. Most tenants fail to honour their obligation of paying rent.
- f) Budgetary constraints for repair and renovation of county residential units,
- g) The department is facing limitations on the acquisition of the right software, personnel and data to make the GIS lab operate efficiently.

12.8. Recommendations

- a) The department shall conduct staff working environment survey that will enhance good working condition.
- b) The department shall roll out land valuation roll with clear guidelines. This will address land rates issue through direct engagement with all stakeholders.

13. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING

13.1. Vision Statement

A lead department in economic planning and public finance management.

13.2. Mission Statement

To provide overall leadership and policy direction in resource mobilization, management and accountability for quality public service delivery.

13.3. Introduction

The department of Finance and Economic planning is established under the provisions of section 103 (3) of the Public Finance Management Act of 2012. Section 104 (I) of the PFM

Act 2012.

The Department has five directorates namely:

- a) Economic planning, Budgeting, Monitoring and Evaluation
- b) Procurement Directorate
- c) Revenue Directorate
- d) Internal Audit Directorate
- e) Accounting Directorate

The department is headed by County Executive Committee Member for Finance, Economic Planning & ICT who is also the Head of County Treasury.

13.4. County Progress Since 2013

13.4.1. Directorate of Finance and Accounting Achievements

- a) Have ensured compliance with accounting standards prescribed and published by the Accounting Standards Board
- b) Have ensured proper management and control of, and accounting for the finances of the County Government and its entities in order to promote efficient and effective use of the County's budgetary resources
- c) Have Maintained proper accounts and other records in respect of the County Revenue Fund, the County Emergencies Fund and other public funds administered by the County Government
- d) Have Prepared quarterly financial reports and submitted to the National Treasury, Controller Budget and County Assembly and submitted by 15th day of the following month.
- e) Have Prepared annual financial reports and submitted to the National Treasury, Controller of Budget, Office of the Auditor General, Commission on Revenue Allocation and County Assembly i.e. after 3 months at the end of financial year.
 - Timely processing of payments and salaries for all the departments.
 - Monthly bank reconciliation and submitted by 15th of the following month.
 - The department has maintained a County Assets register categorized as follows:

- Inherited Assets from the Defunct Local Authority
 - Inherited Assets from the National Government
 - County Acquired Assets
 - Debt management
- f) The main sources of debt to the county government are categorized into two namely; pending bills and inherited debt from defunct local authorities
- g) Best overall in utilization of The Kenya Devolution Support Programme (KDSP and the county qualified and was granted level two of the fund.
- h) Implemented Nyeri County Executive Committee Members Car Loan and Mortgage Scheme

13.4.2. Directorate of Economic Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring and Evaluation

Achievements

- a) Coordinating the County Planning and budgeting process
- b) Tracking the implementation of government policies, strategies, programmes and projects and provision of technical backstopping on economic planning and budgeting,
- c) Collaboration in the annual Medium-Term Framework (MTEF) budgeting process, budget execution, review, accountability, and report preparation of Annual and quarterly M&E reports in line with PFM Act
- d) Provide technical support on the Public Finance Management Act, 2012
- e) Preparation of the County Integrated Development Plans
- f) Preparation of the annual County Fiscal and Strategy Paper
- g) Preparation of the County's Annual Development Plans
- h) Preparation of the County Budget Estimates
- i) Managing the County Government's public debt and other obligations and developing a framework of debt control for the County.
- j) Consolidating the annual appropriation accounts and other financial statements of the County Government in a format determined by the Accounting Standards Board

- k) Assisting the County Government in developing capacity for efficient, effective, and transparent financial management
- l) Providing the National Treasury with information, which it may require to carry out its responsibilities under the Constitution and this Act
- m) Issuing circulars with respect to financial matters relating to County Government entities
- n) Advising the County Government entities, the County Executive Committee, and the County Assembly on Financial matters
- o) Strengthening financial and fiscal relations between the National Government and County Governments

13.4.3. Directorate of Internal Audit Achievements

- a) Reviewed the governance mechanisms of the entity and mechanisms for transparency and accountability about the finances and assets of the entity.
- b) Conducted risk-based, value-for-money and systems audits aimed at strengthening internal control mechanisms that could have an impact on the achievement of the strategic objectives of the entity.
- c) Verified the existence of assets administered by the entity and ensuring that there are proper safeguards for their protection.
- d) Provided assurance that appropriate institutional policies and procedures and good business practices are followed by the entity.
- e) Evaluated the adequacy and reliability of information available to management for making decisions with regard to the entity and its operations.
- f) Automation of internal audit services.

13.4.4. Directorate of Revenue

The directorate of revenue has the following achievements

Revenue collected and received.

- a) Revenue Collections/AIA for FY 2014/2015 - 842,707,972
- b) Revenue Collections/AIA for FY 2015/2016 - 809,313,486
- c) Revenue Collections/AIA for FY 2016/2017 - 643,139,153

- d) Revenue Collections/AIA for FY 2017/2018 - 760,186,651
- e) Revenue Collections/AIA for FY 2018/2019 - 837,350,054
- f) Revenue Collections/AIA for FY 2019/2020 - 656,628,153
- g) Revenue Collections/AIA for FY 2020/2021- 886,940,831
- h) Revenue Collections/AIA for FY 2021/2022 - 642,371,033
- i) Automation of local revenue collection system - NYERI PAY. The department has simplified and shortened the process of registration and permitting businesses and has implemented cashless transactions.
- j) Introduction of RAPID RESULTS INITIATIVE(RRI) –Revenue enhancement programme
 - Expansion of Revenue office space.
 - Have broadened the revenue base.

13.4.5. Directorate of Procurement Achievements.

The Directorate has been recognized by;

- a) Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) as position one (1) in compliance with public procurement laws and regulations.
- b) Kenya Institute of Supplies Management (KISM) as 2nd runners-up-Best County Supply Chain Management Function of the year 2022.
- c) Papers, documents, policies, acts and bills developed by the department.

Table 8 Papers, documents, policies, acts and bills developed by the department

S/No.	Type	Title	Status
1.	Development Plan	County Integrated Development Plan 2018-2022	Approved
2.	Development Plan	Annual Development Plans (2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23)	Approved
3.	Paper	County Budget Review and Outlook Papers (2017, 2018,2019,2020,2021)	Approved
4.	Paper	County Fiscal Strategy Papers (2018,2019,2020,2021,2022)	Approved

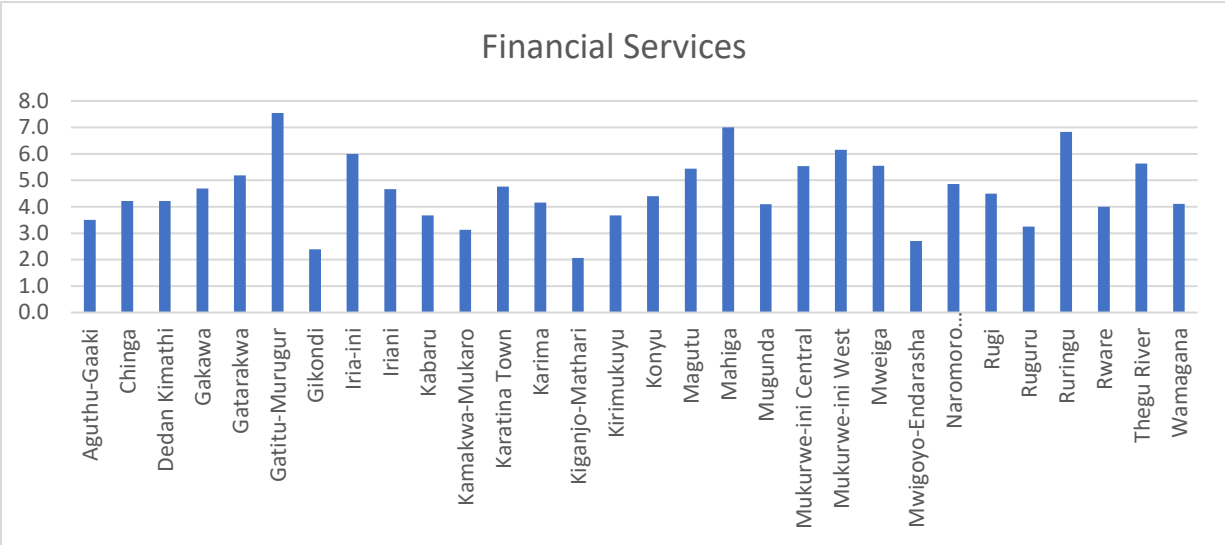
5.	Paper	Medium-Term Debt Management Strategy Papers (2017/18-2019/20, 2018/19-2020/21, 2019/20-2021/22, 2020/21-2022/23, 2022/23-2024/25)	Approved
6.	Act	Nyeri County Appropriations Acts (2018,2019,2020,2021,2022)	Approved
7.	Bill	Nyeri County Appropriations Bills (2018,2019,2020,2021,2022)	
8.		Risk Management Strategy,2021	Approved
9.	Act	Nyeri County Finance Acts (2018,2019,2020,2021)	Approved
10.	Act	The Nyeri County Revenue Administration Act, 2014 (Revised 2020)	Approved
11.	Bill	Nyeri County Finance Bills (2018,2019,2020,2021)	Approved

13.5. Key findings

Figure 11 below indicates the average financial services score for the wards was 4.6 Points. Gatitu-Muruguru Ward had the highest financial services score of 7.5 followed closely by Mahiga ward with 7 points, indicating access to county financial services in these areas. Several Wards, including Kiganjo Mathari, Gikondi, Mwigoyo - Endarasha, Ruguru, Aguthu-Gaaki and Kabaruru had the lowest financial services scores, ranging from 2.1 to 3.7 Points, indicating extensive challenges in access to county financial services in these Wards.

Generally, the scores across the wards were quite low since most County Governments do not have projects offering financial services. It is worth noting that the FGD participants may not have understood the question regarding financial services, and may have responded to the issue considering private or National government financial services. These may include Commercial Banks, ATMs, Micro-finance Institutions, National Government Financial Facilities, Mobile Phone Credit Facilities etc.

Figure 12 Financial Services ratings



Though the County Government has been implementing its Enterprise Development Fund, the participants from various wards are not aware of the procedure to get the services. The County Government should therefore undertake sensitization of the citizens on the various financial services offered.

The policy makers should establish financial services such as savings and credit cooperatives, targeting various groups in the county, which can provide credit facilities for socio-economic growth and development. Additionally, relevant departments in the County Government can initiate programmes for sensitizing the people on financial literacy in order to sensitize them on available County credit facilities and how to use them effectively.

13.6. Areas of Concern

- a) Challenge in collecting own source revenue as per targeted projections.
- b) Delayed disbursement of fund from the government ex chequer.
- c) Full automation of revenue collection.
- d) Bureaucracies in the procurement of good and services.
- e) Weak data flows and management. The County is yet to prepare a county Statistical information which is key for informed planning.

13.7. Recommendations from FGDs

- a) Fully automate revenue collection in all the targeted streams
- b) Lobbying timely disbursement of resources from the government ex chequer

ANNEX



Nyeri County Research Assistants presenting a self-assessment report to H.E. the Governor Mwalimu Edward Mutahi Kahiga, EGH