

BRIEF NOTE ON THE ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND PLANS

Mandera County has a land area of 25,939.8 KM² and a population of 867,457 persons which comprises of 434,976 male (50.14%), and 432, 444 female (49.85%), and 37 inter-sexes with the average density of 33 persons per Km² according to the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census report (KPHC).

The County has generally a high population of below fifteen years with high dependency ratio of 77.6, and a high fertility rate of 8 against the country's fertility rate of 3.3.

The number of persons with disabilities according to the 2019 Kenya National Population and Housing Census was 6,190.

The disability prevalence in the county stand at 0.9 percent against the national prevalence of 2.2 percent.

Mandera County has various natural resources, including rich arable lands, mineral deposits (like gypsum & sandstones), rivers and forests. Most of these natural resources have not yet been fully exploited. Mineral resources, for instance, are yet to be fully exploited due to inadequate technology and exploration infrastructure.

Since the advent of devolution a lot has been achieved in all sectors and there exists gaps that requires interventions since resources are always scarce and we have competing needs since it was devolution from scratch for us in the Northern Kenya.

The county government has since heavily invested in health, education, water supply, peace and stability, roads, and food security among several other initiatives, besides adequately preparing and responding to disasters. With the initial literacy levels way below the national average, frequent long dry spells posed by climate change in an expansive territory of 25,939.8 square kilometers.

The County has also faced insecurity challenges ranging from inter-communal conflict that mostly spill over from across the border and terror related attacks. Cases of radicalization has increased in the recent past due to huge presence of Alshabab in the County curtailing development in some parts of the County.

Below are some of the achievements we made over the last 10 years of devolution in selected sectors:

MINISTRY	INTERVENTION	2013	2023
HEALTH	Expansion of Health facilities	32	114 nos.
	Increase in Healthcare workers	154	1,216 officers
	Medical officers & specialists	3	52 officers
	Ambulances	3	12 nos.
	ICU bed capacity	0	15 beds
	Dialysis	0	5 beds
	Skilled birth attendants	11%	76%
	Antenatal care attendance	20%	86%
	Completion of 4 th ANC visits	4.2%	42%
	Immunization coverage	18%	85%
	Maternal mortality ratio	3,795/100,000	385/100,000 births
	Reduced Neonatal, infant & under-5 mortality Primary health ..community health units.....establishment of CHUs Solarisation of hospitals to reduce costs and as a climate change adaptation MRI/CT scan.....health dependencies --- by Somalia and Ethiopia—triangle.... digilisation Specialist training....		16/1,000; 20/1,000 & 21/1,000 respectively
WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE	Successful boreholes developed	69	224 nos.
	Pan/Dams (60,000M ³)	0	40 nos.
	Pans/Dams (>= 10,000M ³)	86	258 nos.
	Infiltration galleries/ protected wells	15	24 nos.
	Underground tanks	90	287 nos.
	Urban water supplies	1	6 nos.
	Rural water supplies: Water treatment for dams/pans---- solarisation/diseases prevention/climate change.	67	168 nos.
	Institutional water supplies	2	7 nos.

	Solar street lights	0	Over 2,600 poles
	High-grid Floodlights	0	25 poles
	High-mast solar floodlights	0	21 poles
	Greening Programme – 1 M trees coverage/employment/climate change mitigation.	500	250,000 trees
	Takaba Water Master plans	0	1(Takaba)
AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK	Opening-up of abandoned schemes	0	6 nos.
	Boreholes for irrigation	0	4 nos.
	2&3 piston pump sets	0	9 pcs
	1 piston pump sets	0	104 pcs
	Portable petrol water pumps	0	40
	Farm tractors & implements	1	9 tractors, 9 harrows, 9 plough & 2 trailer
	Construction of 200,000M ³ irrigation dam/food security	0	1 no.
	Lined canals	0	140KM
	Modern slaughterhouses	0	3 nos.
	Fishponds	0	7 nos.
	Disease control	Minimal	Mass vaccination & deworming
	Master plan	0	1(River Dawa by NIB)
	Flood control ---dykes /disaster prevention/food security		
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	Football clubs	100	282 clubs
	Volleyball clubs	50	80 clubs
	Construction of social halls	1	7 nos.
	Construction of rehabilitation centre	0	1
	Alternative livelihood (job creation for women/youth/pwds)	0	Over 1,500 persons (greening & waste management)
	Construction of houses for IDPs & vulnerable groups	0	Over 500 houses
	Food distribution Youth Innovation Centre	Minimal (thro' DCs & NGOs)	Mass food distribution during drought, floods, Covid-19 etc
EDUCATION	Early Childhood Development Education Centres/infrastructure/feeding prog/learning	4	328

	materials/integration with duksi...improve enrolment		
	ECDE Teachers	4	827
	ECDE enrolment	Neglected	16,634 boys & 10,865 girls
	Bursary for Secondary Schools/Elimu Kwa Wote support...increased enrolment/infrastructure for schools/teacher training etc	Minimal	25,696 students
	Operational TVETs/skills development /reduce unemployment/ prevent radicalisation element	2	4

Support for deradicalization/prevention of radicalisation/support for KPRs

CHALLENGES

1. Recurring prolonged drought cycles.
2. Radicalization.
3. Flash floods.
4. Distance to major markets for farm produce, livestock and animal products.
5. Cross-border community conflicts spilling over.
6. Animal diseases.
7. High unemployment level 94.4% women, 50.3% men (KDHS 2022)
8. High poverty prevalence 78% (KIPRA Policy Brief No. 58/2019-2020)
9. High illiteracy level 71% women, 34.3% men (KDHS 2022)

PLANS

1. Health

- Construction of oncology Centre.
- Enhance primary healthcare.
- Establish a mental health unit.
- Upgrade County Referral Hospital to internship and referral centre.
- Implement the Health Reform Task Force Report.
- Capacity building of the staff and adoption of modern technology.

2. Water

- Implementation of Takaba Water Masterplan.
- Construction of six (6) mega dams (500,000M³ - 1,500,000M³)
- Connect water to 480 schools.
- Drill & equip large diameter deep boreholes (20no.)
- Improve sanitation/ sewerage for 51,400 HHs.
- Establish management information systems for the provision & management of water services.
- Water quality improvement (desalination & setting-up of water analysis laboratory)
- Development of the Elwak Storm water drainage master plan.

3. Climate change intervention

- Plant and manage 1,000,000 trees.
- Adopt agroforestry practices.

- Solarization of boreholes.
- Adopt climate-smart farming.
- Investment in solar energy.
- Adopt sustainable land use practices.

4. Agriculture & Livestock

- Promote dry-land farming.
- Adoption of modern technologies in Agriculture and livestock.
- Promote value chain development in Agriculture and livestock.
- Lobby for implementation of the River Dawa Master plan.
- Promote aquaculture and apiculture.
- Construction of mega dams for irrigation.
- Undertake proactive disease surveillance and vaccination.
- Promote post-harvest management practices.

5. Social Development

- Roll out cash transfers for the vulnerable Households.
- Roll out NHIF cover for the vulnerable HHs.
- Undertake economic empowerment programs for women, youth and PWDs.
- Enhance disability support programs.
- Skills training and capacity building for youths (Youth Innovation Centre)

6. Education

- ECDE
- Enhance the sponsorship for Secondary Schools within the County.
- Enhance support to TVETs, Technical college and KMTC with the County.
- Support implementation of Education Reform Task Force Report.

conclusion,

I take this opportunity to thank the development partners who are currently helping us different programs in the County. We do not take your partnership and assistance for granted. In the same breath we request for your support since we are not out of the woods yet and the plans enumerated above require your inputs. We have so many competing challenges and devolution was a blessings in disguise for us in the Northern region. We will continue to keep in touch as we walk together along the this journey to the realization of the SDGs in Mandera County.