

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

Government to Set up New Data Bank of Poor, Vulnerable Households in Major Safety Net Reforms



Community sensitisation for ESR data collection exercise in Taita Taveta in December 2021

The Government is setting up a comprehensive register of the country's poor households that will act as a reliable data bank of people eligible to benefit from social protection programmes.

The State Department of Social Protection under the Ministry of Public Service, Gender, Senior Citizens Affairs and Special Programmes is preparing to launch the first phase of data collection exercise from at least selected 15 counties by April 2022 as part of the move to create the first-ever social registry of poor households.

The data collection exercise, according to a Project Performance Status Report, follows a successful pilot conducted in Vihiga and Makueni that took place in late 2021.

The data will form the first ever Enhanced Single Registry (ESR) for social protection programmes that will help to identify target individuals and households.

The ESR would cover up to 50% of all Kenya households that can be identified as potential beneficiaries of social protection or other poverty-targeted interventions.

According to the Project Appraisal Document, the programme is covered under the Kenya Social Economic Inclusion Project (KSEIP), a five-year World Bank funded project, which aims at strengthening delivery systems for enhanced access to social and economic inclusion services and shock-responsive safety nets for poor and vulnerable households.

Currently, 1.2 million poor and vulnerable people are benefitting from the Inua Jamii Programme through four cash transfer programmes.

The first phase of the ESR data collection exercise will cover 17 counties. These are: Migori, Muranga, Kakamega, Kajiado, Laikipia, Kilifi, Kitui, Kwale, Kisii, Narok, Meru, Tharaka Nithi, Baringo, West Pokot, Lamu, Mombasa, Kisumu and Taita Taveta.

Once the exercise is completed, data about the poor and vulnerable individuals and households will be key for Government programming in the social protection sector.

KSEIP also aims at strengthening delivery systems for enhanced access to social and economic inclusion services and shock-responsive safety nets for poor and vulnerable households.

"The ESR would cover up to 50% of all Kenya households that can be identified as potential beneficiaries of social protection or other poverty-targeted interventions", the document says.

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Government Committed to Cushioning Poor, Vulnerable Communities, Says CS Prof Kobia



Cabinet Secretary Prof Margaret Kobia conversing with Dr Stephen Jackson, the Resident Coordinator, UN Kenya at a donor event for the Joint SDG Fund for Social Protection in Kenya project held on January 25, 2022

The Government's is committed to invest more resources to develop the social protection system with a view to cushioning Kenya's most needy and vulnerable populations, Public Service, Gender, Senior Citizens Affairs and Special Programmes Cabinet Secretary Prof Margaret Kobia has said.

Prof Kobia said the Government was working with partners to ensure social safety nets address all needs faced by various population groups in the most fair way.

"It is a priority that features prominently in our national aspirations," she said. "As government, we shall continue advancing," Prof Kobia said during a breakfast donor event on the Joint SDG Fund Kenya Programme for Social Protection held on January 25, 2022.

Social protection, she said, "is a necessary component of our development plan". Prof Kobia noted that social protection programmes have been critical in addressing challenges related to chronic vulnerability, such as those because by COVID-19 pandemic.

Started two years ago, the Joint SDG Fund for Social Protection in Kenya has played a key role in acceleration of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) despite the COVID-19 disruptions.

The donor event was meant to take stock of the collective achievements of the project since its inception in July 2020.

A progress report presented by the Head of Kenya's Social Protection Secretariat Cecilia Mbaka showed that the programme had cushioned affected households from socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19, and laid a basis for income security for households with young children.

The project's contribution to SDG 2 on zero hunger had led to improved food and nutrition security of households who lost their livelihood due to COVID-19 and desert locust invasion.

Mrs Mbaka said the joint project contributed to an advancement of discussions on social security benefits in areas of occupational injury and illness compensation mechanisms, unemployment benefit and maternity benefits.

Prof Kobia underscored the need for more funding for the cash transfer programmes so that more beneficiaries could benefit.

Currently, 2.2 million households receive regular cash transfers through five national cash transfer programmes, she said.

Social Protection, Senior Citizens Affairs and Special Programmes Principal Secretary Nelson Marwa said the Ministry recently released Sh8.95 Billion for cash transfers to Inua Jamii beneficiaries.

"We are forever keen to ensure all needy and vulnerable Kenyans are allowed to live dignified lives," he said.

Participants at the event included UN agencies (Food and Agricultural Organisation, International Labour Organisation, UNICEF, World Food Programme and UN Resident Coordinators Office), and Government ministries and departments.

Editor's Note

Welcome to the premier issue of KSEIP News, a monthly newsletter of the Kenya Social Economic Inclusion Project (KSEIP).

The publication will keep stakeholders updated on KSEIP activities. It will feature news, activities, milestones and achievements as the project implementation continues.

It will remain a credible and reliable source of information about KSEIP to donors, partners, beneficiaries and the media. From time to time, we welcome news and contributions featuring all the project's components - Nutritional Improvements through Cash and Health Education (NICHE), National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF), Economic Inclusion (EI), and Hunger and Safety Net Programme (HSNP). In the first issue, we bring you interesting articles about the preparations ahead of expected launch of a comprehensive register of the country's poor and vulnerable households, Government's renewed commitment to cushion poor and vulnerable communities, the recently held KSEIP media workshop, and distribution of relief food to 2.8 million Kenyans in ASAL Counties.

Enjoy the read!

Ministry Set to Launch Data Bank of Kenya's Poor, Vulnerable Households in Move to Improve Safety Nets

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“It will increase efficiency in the administration of social protection programmes in line with the National Social Protection Policy and the Vision 2030, by consolidating information from the different management information systems (MIS) for the cash transfer programmes that are currently operated independently by different departments and ministries.”

KSEIP compliments and builds on the Government’s flagship National Safety Net Programme (NSNP) that brings together Kenya’s four main cash transfer programs focused on older persons (OPCTs), persons with severe disability (PWSDs), orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) and households subject to recurrent shocks due to drought under one operational framework, commonly known as Inua Jamii.

Recently, the Ministry of Public Service, Gender, Senior Citizen Affairs and Special Programmes Cabinet Secretary Margaret Kobia said the Government will continue to put a heavy premium on addressing the plight of the needy and vulnerable populations in our country through the mounting of various safety net interventions to cushion citizens from extreme poverty.

She spoke as she released KSh 8.5 Billion for payment to beneficiaries enrolled in the Inua Jamii programme, which supports the most vulnerable members of the community by providing them with a stipend to cushion them from poverty, hunger and with the aim of improving their lives.

Prof Kobia also released KSh 13 million as top up payment to 339,151 enrolled under the Nutrition Improvements through Cash and Health Education (NICHE), a programme that aims at promoting nutrition-sensitive safety nets.

The NICHE Programme targets households with children under two years of age and Pregnant or Lactating mothers who are already enrolled in the Inua Jamii Programme. The NICHE payments target residents of Kitui, Kilifi, Marsabit, Turkana and West Pokot counties.

Beneficiaries under the Inua Jamii programmes receive KSh 2,000 cash transfer every month.

Prof Kobia also released KSh 400 million to vulnerable students under the Presidential Bursary Programme last month, implemented under the ministry.

In the 2021/2022 Financial Year, 22,000 students in public boarding schools will have their fees paid to a maximum of KSh 30,000 per student.

In Figures

1,216,891

Current number of Inua Jamii cash transfer beneficiaries

22,000

Needy and vulnerable students in public boarding schools who received maximum of KShs 30,000 fees each under Presidential Bursary Fund

2

Counties where ESR data collection pilot was conducted in late 2021. These are Vihiga and Makeni

17

Counties targeted in first phase of ESR data collection exercise - Migori, Muranga, Kakamega, Kajiado, Laikipia, Kilifi, Kitui, Kwale, Kisii, Narok, Meru, Tharaka Nithi, Baringo, West Pokot, Lamu, Mombasa, Kisumu and Taita Taveta

2019

Year when the Enhanced Single Registry was mooted

KSEIP Seeks to Boost Links with Journalists Countrywide



KSEIP team members at the media workshop

A network of journalists has been formed to enhance reporting of Kenya Social Economic Inclusion Project (KSEIP) activities.

At least 30 journalists resolved to start the coalition at a media sensitisation workshop held on February 18, 2022.

The one-day media workshop came after a one-day KSEIP staff workshop on February 17, 2022. The staff who were drawn from KSEIP implementing agencies also attended the media event at the Lake Naivasha Resort.

The workshop aimed at sensitising journalists on the project with a view to improving their ability to provide accurate, objective and fair reporting. It also provided an opportunity for enhancing interactions and collaboration between implementing partners and journalists.

30

Number of Journalists who attended the KSEIP Media Workshop

Journalist participants were from Nairobi, Nyanza, Western, Central and Rift Valley regions. The KSEIP team was represented by all project implementers and communication staff from the State Department of Social Protection, Senior Citizens Affairs and Special Programmes.

Specifically, key project staff from National Social Protection Secretariat, Directorate of Child Services, and Directorate of Social Assistance, Directorate of Social Development, National Health Insurance Fund, National Drought Management Authority and Ministry of Health participated.

Relief Food to Benefit 2.8 Million Kenyans in ASALs

President Uhuru Kenyatta has flagged off emergency relief supplies to 2.8 million Kenyans, who are affected by drought in 23 arid and semi-arid counties.

The flagging ceremony of a caravan of hope on February 21, 2022 was part of the many interventions that the Government has undertaken since September 2021 when the ongoing drought was declared a national disaster.

“As a caring Government, we immediately released KSh 2 Billion to assist the affected households through relief food distribution, water trucking, and a livestock offtake programme,” President Kenyatta said.

From October 2021 to date, a total of 11,250 cattle and 3,200 sheep and goats have been bought by the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) from the counties most affected by drought,” he said.

He said the Government launched the Emergency Relief Cash Transfer in December 2021, which saw the disbursement of KSh 676,305,000 to 225,435 vulnerable households.

A total of 1,127,715 vulnerable people benefitted. In January 2022, a total of KSh 508,131,000 was disbursed to 169,377 households, translating to a population of 846,885 who have been so far reached by the Cash Transfers



Distribution of relief food in ASAL counties

“Going forward, I hereby direct the responsible Ministries and Agencies to immediately complement the Cash Transfer programme with relief food distribution to these areas,” President Kenyatta said.