



VIHIGA COUNTY

COVID-19 SOCIAL ECONOMIC RE-ENGINEERING RECOVERY STRATEGY

2020/21-2022/23



NOVEMBER 2020



VIHIGA COUNTY COVID-19 SOCIAL ECONOMIC RE-ENGINEERING RECOVERY STRATEGY 2020/21-2022/23



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FOREWORD

The advent of COVID-19 in Kenya elicited a proactive response by the whole of the Government of Kenya, at both tiers strengthening inter-governmental relations. We the leaders of the National and County Governments immediately came together and quickly established practical and effective responses to this Pandemic that were geared towards safeguarding the lives and livelihoods of our people.

Acting on the basis of the recommendations and advice given to us by medical and public health professionals, we issued directives that established policy platforms and institutional mechanisms that would mitigate the adverse local effects of this global pandemic. To drive a concerted and coordinated multi-agency response, the National Emergency Response Committee on the Coronavirus Pandemic was established vide Executive Order No. 2 of 2020; bringing together all relevant government departments and agencies so that they would act in unison and synergistically pursue harmonious and complementary agenda, in line with their particular areas of mandate and expertise.

Many Kenyans have demonstrated their patriotism and sense of responsibility through adherence to the social distancing protocols, wearing face masks in public spaces and observing hygiene measures. The compliance to the containment measures demonstrate the individual and collective civil responsibility to protect ourselves, family members and other citizens. As a result, we have, together, contributed to slowing the spread of the coronavirus.

The pandemic has also taught us that as a country, we need to forge partnerships and collaboration within the country and with the rest of the world. Through extraordinary summits, organized for the National and County Governments, we discovered our synergy and commitments in responding to the needs of the citizens, in timely and appropriate manner. Through the use of technology, the National Government has kept a robust diplomatic engagement with our partners in the East African Community (EAC), Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), African Union (AU), and Organization of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), in implementing joint measures to curb the spread of the virus across international borders. As a government, we have also held virtual bilateral and multilateral talks and consultations with our partners on **post Covid-19 economic recovery plans**.

The resolve of the government to expand our healthcare infrastructure through installing new and more medical equipment, recruiting additional healthcare workers, training of healthcare labour force on Covid-19 and increasing the testing capacity, is already bearing the expected outcomes. This notwithstanding, the Covid-19 pandemic will accelerate the realization of the national endeavor to achieve Universal Health Coverage.

The effects of Covid-19 on various sectors of economy cannot be gainsaid. Tourism, trade, manufacturing, Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs), transport and education, to name but just a few, have been adversely affected. Many Kenyans have lost their jobs and livelihoods. The government has implemented various intervention measures to cushion the vulnerable Kenyans from shocks of the Covid-19, and going forward, enhancing our social protection system that is increasingly supporting the elderly, PWDs, orphans and other vulnerable households in the country, is a priority.

Among the welfare measures and interventions instituted to protect the economy include 100 per cent tax relief for persons earning gross monthly income of up to Ksh. 24,000; reduction of Income Tax Rate (Pay-As-You-Earn) from 30 per cent to 25 per cent; reduction of Resident Income Tax (Corporation Tax) from 30 per cent to 25 per cent; reduction of the turnover tax rate from 3 per cent to 1 per cent; temporary



suspension of the listing with the Credit Reference Bureau (CRB); and reduction of the VAT from 16 per cent to 14 per cent, effective 1st April 2020. I am also aware that counties have collectively and individually taken measures that complement the efforts to **protect lives and livelihoods of Kenyans**.

The government, in addition to the tax relief measures, rolled out the National Hygiene Programme (*Kazi Mitaani*) for job creation to the youth and to keep our environment clean and healthier. Further, the government has supported MSEs to manufacture basic medical equipment for both domestic use and export. The resilience and entrepreneurial spirit of this country have come out strongly as Kenyans seize the opportunities provided by the Covid-19, to demonstrate that we can expand our manufacturing by exploiting the significant amount of capabilities in the sector. Today, MSEs are producing masks, Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), hand sanitizers and soap, among other products. This tells us that there are many other potential areas where we can locally produce or manufacture what we need rather than rely on imported goods and services.

During my fourth Presidential Address on the Coronavirus Pandemic in April 2020, I assured the People of Kenya that their government would formulate and implement a vibrant post COVID-19 economic recovery plan. The National and County Governments have been engaging all stakeholders including the private sector, academia, research institutions and development partners; towards the development and re-engineering of socio-economic recovery strategies in the wake of this pandemic. These strategies aim not only at dealing with the present challenges but are also aimed at enhancing Kenya's resilience and response capability in the face of future challenges of a similar nature.

We are taking into account the need to respond to both internal and external shocks arising from significant crisis situations; with a view of formulating enhanced protections for our priority areas of manufacturing, agriculture, tourism, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), housing, transport, education, health and social protection. The two levels of government are committed to transforming the economic and governance systems so as to ensure that the systems are more responsive to citizen needs, especially those of the youth, women and vulnerable members of the society.

The present pandemic situation has underscored the urgent need for Kenya to revitalise her welfare system; and establish a more progressive, effective, agile and sustainable system that meets the fast-changing needs of both current and future generations.

Together we prosper.

UHURU KENYATTA, C.G.H.,

**PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, AND
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCES**



TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER

The promulgation of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 brought forth several reforms, key among them a devolved system of governance. Article 10 of the Constitution illuminates the National Values and Principles of Governance, Article 174 espouses the objectives of devolution and the Fourth Schedule articulates the distribution of functions between the National and the County Governments. While the last eight years have seen significant progress with devolution, the COVID-19 pandemic serves to provide more impetus to strengthen the devolved system of governance in achieving inclusive development.

The pandemic has presented an opportunity to critically reassess, rethink and review the existing systems and structures in securing the welfare of Kenyans in a devolved system of governance. This is particularly important considering the critical role of the County Governments in ensuring the delivery and implementation of the Big Four Agenda and the Kenya Vision 2030. The COVID-19 pandemic has also clearly highlighted the essential role of regional economic blocs and the opportunities that can be leveraged in post-COVID-19 to strengthen the devolved system of governance. In spite of the prevailing challenges, the potential in establishing joint regional development blocs to deliver shared services promises a more effective post-COVID-19 recovery strategy.

In responding to the pandemic, counties have come up with county-specific COVID-19 prevention guidelines and strengthened community surveillance while implementing the COVID-19 prevention measures, including social distancing and general hygiene. County Governors also moved to protect their people through movement restrictions, setting up quarantine and isolation facilities in county rooms in hospitals; launching nutrition support systems; and even specifying protocols for funerals and last rights.

The 47 County Governments are committed to continue working together in harnessing their synergies and working closely with the National Government to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and progress further to ensure realization of national development goals. This requires further deepening of the principles of intergovernmental relations as espoused under Article 6(2) of the Constitution, which provides that the National and County Governments are to conduct their mutual relations on the basis of consultation and cooperation. Thus, in discharging their constitutionally defined roles or functions and in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, both levels of Government have been guided by these two key principles of intergovernmental relations.

The recommendations emerging from the County COVID-19 Economic Re-engineering and Recovery Strategy and Specific County Strategies will go a long way in informing the policy process, ultimately strengthening the devolved system of government in the post-COVID period.

H.E WYCLIFFE OPARANYA

CHAIRMAN, COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS



UNITY IS STRENGTH; RESOLUTENESS IS THE ESSENCE OF STRUGGLE

The outbreak of Covid-19 is an eye opener on our levels of preparedness for pandemics and calamities that may threaten the existence of our society. If country borders are closed and restricted movement of goods and persons all over the world were to remain in place for much longer, one important question each country would ask is for how long each society would survive. Thus, exploiting opportunities for enhanced self-reliance becomes essential for survival of societies.

The collective response of both the national and county governments to this pandemic demonstrates the importance of interdependence of the two levels of government. Establishing policies, institutions and safeguards that can effectively respond to and mitigate such pandemics is vital. In that regard, the Council of Governors initiated a study by KIPPRA on its behalf to examine county and national policies in the context of the COVID-19 experience and its aftermath. I was privileged to chair the team that undertook this study.

As part of this preparedness is the domestic capacity to produce materials: intellectual, technical and equipment, needed at such times as much as possible.

We in Kenya should realize that the policy of Import Substitution Industrialization (ISI) that we threw out of the window in the 80s with the advent of the Washington Consensus may need to be re-examined in view of our experience with this pandemic.

With Covid-19, we have seen the importance of having: a well-functioning health care system to serve the population; proper functioning medical research institutions to develop vaccines; and a good planning of our cities, transport systems, education system and housing to offer services in the midst of the pandemic notwithstanding the threat of being left alone with the closure of international transport highways. We have also seen the importance of good government systems for continued provision of public service in difficult times, proper utilization of resources for longevity of our societies, and socio-economic sustainability in securing livelihood.

The pandemic therefore highlights the need to promote innovations and adopt modern technologies in the path to enhancing self-reliance. Our young population showcased their capabilities with innovations to help in responding to the pandemic. It takes our commitment as government to nurture innovations by re-energizing our institutions of technical training, science, technology and engineering to maintain the momentum for innovation to the level of being commercialized. This also presents an opportunity for our research and policy institutions to relook at the kind of innovation model the country and counties require in economic transformation.

What has happened in the area of health shows the relevance of research as governments and individuals have had to rely on evidence for solutions. Pharmaceutical companies, universities and research institutions all over the world have been actively engaged in research to understand the virus and help come up with vaccine, while others are actively providing evidence to inform policy formulation with the effects of Covid-19. Thus, highlighting the importance of strengthening the link between research and decision making.



We in Kenya and the East African Community need to invest even more robustly in research to be capable of implementing evidence-based policies. Evidence is an important tool in forging economic recovery strategies in view of the effects of Covid-19.

This calls for a realistic and appropriate budgeting to support our academic and research institutions. It also calls for the political class to formulate strategic laws and regulations governing our economic and social activities in all sectors of our society. For example, our taxation policies that have led to high costs of energy have not only retarded investment in our economy but also put many counties in jeopardy in the provision of services and creating enabling environment for investments.

Covid-19 has shown the importance of paying more attention and committing more investments to preventive, promotive and public health. "Cleanliness is indeed next to Godliness". During this period of the pandemic, diarrheal diseases and other water borne diseases went down considerably. This is attributed to the access to sufficient portable water both for consumption and hygiene. We could probably reduce our public health bill by investing effectively in water and hygiene.

Studies on economic recovery strategies have shown that counties are vital for the growth of the nation as frontiers for production and provision investments. Deliberate investments should be focused in the areas of food production targeting the weak and vulnerable small holder. The pandemic, however, demonstrated that without a strong value chain, the resilience of our small holder farmers can easily be jeopardized, thereby threatening the very basic foundation of our society.

Finally, the informal sector, provided with enhanced market access as a whole, can contribute even more to the counties and national economy.

H.E. PROF ANYANG' NYONG'O
GOVERNOR, KISUMU COUNTY



STATEMENT

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a toll on both lives and livelihoods in Kenya. The National and County Governments quickly adopted a multipronged approach that help to safe protect many citizens from the pandemic. Firstly, was to respond; second, is to allow for recovery; and thirdly, is to allow for thriving. Several measures were instituted at both National and County Government levels to curb the spread of the disease including social distancing, hand hygiene, and preparation of facilities for care and treatment of confirmed cases. As the country progresses to recovery and allow the economy to thrive, County Governments found it necessary to develop a socio-economic strategy to facilitate re-engineering and recovery of their economies from the impact of COVID-19.

As part of KIPPRA's mandate to provide advisory and technical services to the government, the Institute supported the Council of Governors (COG) in jointly developing the COVID-19 County Socio-Economic Re-Engineering and Recovery Strategy (CCSERS) and 47 County Specific COVID-19 County Socio-Economic Re-Engineering and Recovery Strategies. With the spirit of *Thinking Policy Together*, the process involved robust, independent yet consultative evidence-based research and policy analysis which saw collecting views from a wide range of stakeholders including: various committees at Council of Governors such as; health, agriculture, trade, manufacturing, cooperatives, and education, youth, sports, gender and culture. Other committees included; transport, housing, urban development and energy and tourism; and natural resources, water, forestry and mining. Consultative engagements were also carried out with all the County Governments which offered great insights that informed the development of the recovery strategies. Equally, in depth literature review and secondary data was collected, collated and analysed to inform the strategies.

County Governments have the potential to make their economies recover and thrive by leveraging on the following five pillars: Boosting private sector activity; Policy, legislatives, and institutional reforms; Strengthening County Government's preparedness and response to pandemics and disasters; Enhancing Information Communication Technology (ICT) capacity for business continuity; and Investing in human resource development. It will also be critical to institutionalize monitoring, evaluation, regular reporting and communication of the strategies up to grassroots level and across all communities and institutions in the counties.

DR ROSE NGUGI

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
KENYA INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS (KIPPRA)**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Council of Governors extends its gratitude to all those who participated in the preparation of the County Socio-economic Re-engineering and Recovery Strategy. The development of this Strategy was a combined effort of Council of Governors, County Governments, researchers, development partners, and sector stakeholders. Special thanks go to all County Governments for their active participation and providing data and information that was used in preparation of the Combined COVID19 County Re-engineering and Recovery Strategy and County-Specific Strategies.

We acknowledge the steering committee led by H.E. Hon. Prof Anyang' Nyong'o, H.E Prof. Kivutha Kibwana and H.E. Ndiritu Muriithi who conceptualized and guided the development of this strategy.

We would like to thank the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) for providing the technical lead throughout the preparation of these Strategies. Specifically, we wish to thank KIPPRA's Executive Director Dr Rose Ngugi for guiding the process.

We are also grateful to the COG County Socio-economic Re-engineering and Recovery Committee under the technical leadership of the Chief Executive Officer for their strategic and policy guidance, and the team of reviewers who provided insightful inputs towards the finalization of the Strategies.

We also greatly appreciate the county staff and stakeholders who participated in data and information collation and consultations, and others who verified the contents of various drafts of this Strategy.

Finally, we would like to thank the UNDP for financial support and technical input towards the assignment; and World Bank, UN-WOMEN and GIZ for the technical assistance in quality assurance of this strategy.

This strategy will guide County Governments in bouncing back from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic through planning and budgeting of the policy interventions in the re-engineering and recovery phase.

JACQUELINE MOGENI, MBS

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS**



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This County COVID-19 Re-Engineering and Recovery Strategy 2020/21-2022/23 embeds the principles of response, recovery and thriving. The counties will continue to respond to the crisis while dealing with the immediate effects of the pandemic to contain it, treat the affected, flatten the curve of new infections, and ensure immediate financial assistance and restructuring of County Integrated Development Plans. Towards recovery, counties are mitigating socio-economic impacts as the pandemic is controlled, while also preventing a second wave. To thrive, the re-engineering and recovery strategies are aimed at long-term interventions to prevent or address future disasters and support sustained development across counties. The Strategy also envisages the revitalisation of the county regional blocs in the recovery and re-engineering processes.

Measures by County Governments to Mitigate the Effects of COVID-19

The Council of Governors through its mandate established under Section 19 of the Intergovernmental Relations Act 2012 has provided a central point for coordination of County Governments' COVID-19 response measures. The COVID-19 pandemic adversely impacted on various sectors particularly tourism, transport, trade, industry (manufacturing and construction) and agriculture. The pandemic has particularly affected micro and small enterprises that form a significant proportion of the establishment and many vulnerable households in the counties have been pushed into poverty. Many vulnerable households depend on farming and informal wages.

The County Governments came up with plans to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic including: Treatment of confirmed cases (recruitment of health workers, procurement of personal protective equipment (PPEs), expanding intensive care units, establishment of quarantine, isolation and testing capabilities); Preventing the spread (COVID-19 prevention guidelines, community surveillance strengthening of border disease surveillance by counties, enforcement of market guidelines, initiating production of face masks at vocational training centres in various counties); Supporting the vulnerable with formation of County Food Security War Rooms; and Raising finance by setting up COVID-19 emergency funds.

Pillars for County Recovery and Re-engineering Strategies

1) *Boosting Private Sector Activity*

The private sector is dominated by microenterprises (89.2%) and small farm holders (99.0%) majority of whom were adversely affected by the pandemic. As the engine that drives economic activity, it is important to get the private sector thriving by creating an enabling environment at county level. This will facilitate counties in enhancing their contribution to the national cake and expand the basket for own source revenue. To improve the business environment, there is need to:

- (i) Enhance access to affordable credit: For the MSES, initiate and strengthen self-sustaining funds dedicated and easily accessible to MSEs; promote tailor made financial literacy programmes; and establish frameworks for micro-leasing; utilize the SMEs credit guarantee scheme.



- (ii) Provide for worksite: Develop adequate, cluster-informed and well-equipped worksites with workshops, common user facilities, incubation centres and showrooms for artisans, and provide machines and safety gear.
- (iii) Enhance access to intermediate goods: Enhance and promote local manufacture of affordable tools and machinery including strengthening the Numerical Machine Complex.
- (iv) Improve infrastructure and security: Provide for connectivity to roads, electricity, water and drainage and enhance security to reduce crime in continuing to improve Kenya's global Ease of Doing Business ranking.
- (v) Enhance access and diversification of markets for private sector production both locally and regionally including by developing county regional bloc value chains and consolidating markets within economic integration value chains. Also increase market access with greater use of e-commerce to move transactions to the digital economy.
- (vi) Encourage formalization of informal sector with appropriate incentives to provide more sustainable income, stable employment and sustained innovation.

2) Strengthening ICT Capacity

Less than 15 per cent of households in rural areas use internet and only 5 per cent have gadgets such as desktops, laptops and tablets. As a result, even with 90 per cent of public primary schools being installed with digital literacy infrastructure and devices, continued learning from home is a challenge because only 12.8 per cent of households have access to internet. Further, only 50 per cent of counties are fully connected to the Government Common Core Network (GCCN). Enhancing Information and Communication Technology (ICT) capacity in the public sector and households will enable business continuity and build resilience to future disasters and pandemics. This includes:

- (i) Complete the County Connectivity Project to the Government Common Core Network (GCCN)¹.
- (ii) Enhance connectivity of businesses to ICT by extending the National Optic Fibre Backbone Infrastructure (NOFBI) in trade centres, public buildings and public spaces to boost e-commerce.
- (iii) Enhance household access to reliable, stable and affordable internet connectivity through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) between County Governments and ICT service providers such as the Goole Loon and Telkom Kenya partnership.
- (iv) Promote household access to and use of ICT by providing devices such as smartphones that are 4G enabled and affordable.

1. The County Connectivity Project <http://icta.go.ke/county-connectivity-project-ccp/>



3) Human Capital Development

Investing in human resource development enhances productivity which supports long term growth and development at county level. With the COVID-19, workers across various sectors reported reduced working hours and only a few who managed to provide new and expanded goods and services during the period managed to enhance their income. As such, human resource development will entail addressing health and education risks exposed by COVID-19. The interventions include:

- (i) Extending the scope of Universal Health Coverage to collectively finance health services for all, including uninsured workers and their families; and investing in community and public health.
- (ii) Investing in technical education, training and skills development to create more employment opportunities.
- (iii) Establishing a pool fund to finance a seasonal public works or employment guarantee scheme.
- (iv) Promoting safety at workplaces with enforcement of guidelines to reduce the exposure of all workers including informal workers to the virus.

4) Policy, Legislative, and Institutional Reforms

The Constitution gives the National Government the role of policy development, and thus County Governments rely on policy and legislative frameworks passed at the national level for activities in various sectors. Counties also develop their policy frameworks and it is important to improve inter-governmental relations to facilitate the integration and coordination of policies at national and county levels. With the pandemic, there is need reforming the following aspects in various sectors:

- (i) Review the Public Health Act, Cap 242, to consider modern public health trends, developments, challenges and emerging opportunities.
- (ii) Harmonization and rationalization of the various laws on agriculture to streamline operations between the National and County Governments.
- (iii) Enact appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks to regulate and control the protection of data and status of individuals who are confirmed, suspected or recovered cases of COVID-19 and other future pandemics or public health outbreaks that may occur in future.
- (iv) Develop regulations for protection and regulation of information shared, recorded or documented through online platforms including video conferencing platforms and mobile applications.
- (v) Review the Employment Act 2007 to protect patients, or suspected patients, of COVID-19 from discrimination, harassment, unlawful disclosure of their status, stigmatization, reprisals or termination of employment due to fear of COVID-19, infectious disease or on grounds of their health status.



5) **Strengthening County Government's Preparedness and Response to Pandemics and Disasters**

The county governments have a weak disaster management framework. A robust, comprehensive and well-coordinated policy and institutional framework for disaster management leveraging on regional bloc synergies is critical in mitigating any losses. This will include:

- (i) Developing a Disaster Risk Management Policy that covers unforeseen disasters that may occur in future.
- (ii) Linking the Disaster Risk Management Policy to policies in relevant sectors given the cross-cutting nature of disaster interventions.
- (iii) County Governments to develop a legal and regulatory framework to provide the legal foundation for a collaborative partnership in institutional participatory management of disasters, including mobilization of the essential resources necessary for the management of all disasters.
- (iv) Developing a legal and regulatory framework that applies to infectious diseases, including catering for medical costs.
- (v) Review of procurement laws including the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act 2015 to have clear provisions on emergency procurement and procurement in times of urgent needs and disclosure of information in the case of direct procurement.
- (vi) Ensuring accountability in the use of funds, and development of legal and statutory requirements for audit of the financial statements of emergency funds.

Support to Key Sectors

1) Agriculture

As the sector gradually shifts from an emergency response to re-engineering, recovery and building resilience, counties should aim at building back better especially for the smallholders through:

- (i) Enhancing agro-processing and value addition capacities of counties by adopting appropriate regulations, policies and legislations.
- (ii) Greater exposure to market access by pointing out alternative markets and marketing channels to farmers. Regional blocs can provide greater market access and synergies.
- (iii) Improving disaster surveillance at county level and mitigate risks associated with disasters, such as those related to floods, disease and pest invasion.



- (iv) Facilitating access to quality and affordable inputs including certified seedlings, water, animal feeds, Artificial Insemination (AI) services, fertilizers, livestock vaccination and ploughing services by county tractor hire services.
 - (v) Facilitate access to affordable formal finance and advisory and information services.
 - (vi) Train and build capacity of farmers on modern agricultural technologies, including integrating best practices.
 - (vii) Enhance the role of agricultural cooperatives through development of more sustainable models of financing and customized training of cooperative members. County governments play a vital role in cooperative development through the effective stakeholder engagement and the implementation of well-designed cooperative policies.
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2) Water and sanitation

COVID-19 has placed high demand on water for hand hygiene, and this has compelled counties to ensure continuity in provision of water. To enhance connectivity of households, there is need to:

- (i) Expand and rehabilitate the existing piped water connection infrastructure to increase access to water.
 - (ii) Expand sewer infrastructure to accommodate more households; currently there is low access to piped sewer.
 - (iii) Promote the importance of handwashing and construct water and sanitation (WASH) facilities to increase access at the household level.
 - (iv) Provide waste collection services at households, promote and facilitate regular waste collection, and embrace environment clean up exercises at neighbourhoods and in towns.
-

3) Urban development and housing

Urban areas have emerged as hot-spots for the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, Nairobi and Mombasa and the surrounding urban areas have recorded the highest confirmed positive cases of the pandemic. Tied to this is the role that adequate housing plays in the home-based care strategy of treating COVID-19 patients. Opportunities and areas of focus for re-engineering and recovery strategies will include the following:

- (i) Promote a National Home Ownership Policy; this would cushion households from future shocks that impede payment of rent.



- (ii) Designate and approve urban areas of different cadres and undertake urban planning as an opportunity to boost investment and stimulate economic activity in the modern sectors. Ensure this is accompanied by appropriate road, water and electricity infrastructure.
- (iii) Fast-track affordable housing in counties through provision of public land to improve housing conditions and improve the turnaround period for transactions for land and construction.

4) **Transport**

There is need to enhance mobility options for residents and improve road conditions to support economic, social and subsistence activities. Towards this goal, there is need to:

- (i) Use labour-based and local resource-based approaches for road development and maintenance.
- (ii) Improve and expand infrastructure for Non-Motorized Transport (NMT) and intermediate transport modes which will also enhance environmental sustainability.
- (iii) Adopt climate-smart road engineering designs to address the problem of floods that destroy roads and bridges and ensure harvesting of storm water for domestic and commercial use.
- (iv) Develop better synergies between car, bus, rail, non-motorised transport and between public and private transport and select the most environmentally friendly solutions.

5) **Tourism**

The impact of COVID-19 pandemic on tourism sectors has been substantial. Re-engineering strategies for the sector include:

- (i) Allocating resources for investment and rehabilitation of tourism-supporting infrastructure, including sports stadia, modern meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (M.I.C.E) venues, and roads leading to the physical tourist attraction sites including cultural heritage sites.
- (ii) Diversify tourism products across all counties to include cultural, sports, agro-tourism, M.I.C.E, nature-based, community-based, adventure, culinary and beach-based tourism products; jetties and floating facilities; amusement parks; and construction and development of public beaches.
- (iii) Develop tourism information and data centres.
- (iv) Upgrading medical facilities to promote medical tourism.
- (v) Construct modern theatre and art gallery to support development of talent in music, visual and performing arts, and upgrading of sports stadia to develop talents in sport across counties.



- (vi) Enforce sanitation and hygiene standards in all accommodation facilities and tourist attraction sites in line with the national guidelines for reopening of hospitality establishments to ensure business continuity.
- (vii) Developing products specifically tailored to enhancing domestic tourism which is less susceptible to shocks. Such products to be affordable, and packages designed to maximize domestic tourist utility. Leverage on regional blocs for joint marketing of tourist attractions.

6) **Health**

The COVID-19 has implications on healthcare systems (public hospitals, isolation centres). The healthcare system will need to strengthen COVID-19 response, and all the other healthcare services. Recovery of the sector calls for collaboration between the National and County Governments for the following:

- (viii) Strengthen coordinated mechanism to facilitate care and treatment of confirmed cases of COVID-19.
- (ix) Identify training gaps among the health providers and make available targeted training.
- (x) Proactively address the mental health needs, including those of the health workforce.
- (xi) Invest in research and development to spur innovation in health sector, including in the area of medicine.
- (xii) Legislate and equip health workers and Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) to adequately provide community health and counselling on appropriate maternal, infant and young child nutrition practices amidst the pandemic.
- (xiii) Mainstream family health training in medical training colleges curriculum as well as in university medical training programmes.

7) **Education**

The education sector was totally disrupted with closure of all schools, which has led to loss of learning time and teaching time. Recovery of the sector will require significant collaboration between the National and County governments in:

- (i) Preparing guidelines for schools reopening, improving WASH facilities and providing adequate personal protective equipment for teachers, learners and other employees in the schools.
- (ii) Protecting the poorest and most vulnerable learners and enable them to continue learning, such as through targeted conditional cash transfers and learning vouchers.



- (iii) Supporting back to school campaigns and supporting educators on the utilization of computerized devices by giving internet data when they are required to live-stream lessons.
- (iv) Promoting monitoring and addressing psychosocial well-being of students, teachers and education officers and educating them on how to mitigate the spread of coronavirus.
- (v) Carrying out large-scale assessment to identify learning gaps and inform remedial programming and learning opportunities so that all students catch up due to the learning time lost during the pandemic.
- (vi) Strengthen ICT integration in teaching and learning in the education sector by facilitating production of radio, television and online teaching and learning materials and extending the existing distance learning programmes to all rural areas. Hybrid learning encompassing a blend of face to face and digital learning at all levels of education to be encouraged in the education sector.
- (vii) Strengthen collaboration between county and non-state not-for-profit institutions including faith-based organizations in delivery of pre-primary education across counties.
- (viii) National and county governments to review boarding vs day schooling models in guiding areas to promote investments.

8) **Social protection**

Kenya has an estimated 918,00 PWDs (2.2% of the total population) and 1,870,443 older persons aged 65 years and above (representing 3.9% of the population). Social protection interventions require collaboration between the National and County Governments and will include:

- (i) Supporting businesses to access credit guarantee for people whose occupations or employments have been disrupted by the pandemic.
- (ii) Ensuring effective access to essential healthcare and other basic social services, in particular population groups and individuals who have been drawn into vulnerability due to the pandemic.
- (iii) Supporting Child Help Line initiatives and other partners to provide counselling services, address mental health and psycho-social support targeting children and youth in their homes, community and in institutions and quarantine/isolation centres.
- (iv) Facilitating coordination with health, WASH, nutrition and other sectors to ensure that COVID-19 prevention services are accessible to the hard to reach children (in informal settlements, arid and semi-arid counties and other care institutions).
- (v) Use this opportunity to continue efforts to reviewing the more expansive and inclusive safety nets.



9) ***Gender and youth***

The interventions to address emerging gender issues with the pandemic include:

- (i) Designating gender safe spaces to provide accommodation for Gender-Based Violence (GBV) survivors and create space in County Referral Hospitals to serve as GBV recovery centres.
- (ii) Promoting use of alternative means of Gender-Based Violence safe outreach and awareness-raising that limit direct contact; that is, using traditional methods such as town criers and use of loud-speakers.
- (iii) Supporting gender champions and sign language interpreters to activate and communicate an 'alert chain' to reach GBV survivors or those in imminent danger of injury and harm.
- (iv) Strengthening inclusive community outreach strategies to ensure GBV messaging is localized and clear, and addresses stigma, discrimination and other power dynamics that serve as barriers to accessing GBV services and COVID-19 information among differently able persons.
- (v) Bringing on board key stakeholders to actively engage and sensitize the youth on reproductive health; HIV/AIDS and COVID-19 prevention measures.





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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 County Context

Vihiga County is one of the counties in the Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB). The county had an estimated population of 590,013 people of which 48.0 per cent were male and 51.9 per cent female (KNBS, 2019) as indicated in table 1. Of the population 20,000 (3.8 per cent) are persons with disability. The youth constituted 31.0 per cent of the population of whom 52.0 per cent were female. The county has a population density of 1,111 per km². About 90.0 per cent of the population live in rural areas of whom 51.9 per cent are female. The elderly population (aged 65 year and above) make up 7.5 per cent of the total population of whom 56.0 per cent were female. The population in school going age group (4-22 years) was 47.7 per cent in 2019.

In 2015/2016, the overall poverty rate in Vihiga County was 43.0 per cent against the national poverty rate of 36.1 per cent. In addition, 36.3 per cent of the population were living in food poverty and 76.1 per cent were living in multidimensional poverty, that means being deprived in several dimensions including health care, nutrition and adequate food, drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, education, knowledge of health and nutrition, housing and standard of living, and access to information. According to KDHS 2014, 23.5 per cent of the children were stunted as compared to the average national level at 26.1 per cent.

Table 1: Development indicators in Vihiga County

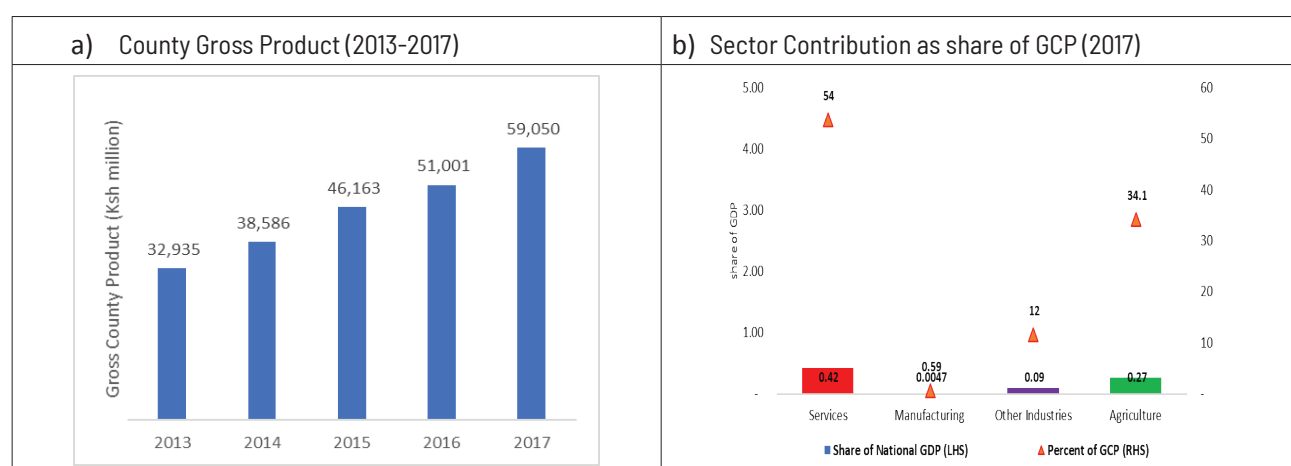
	County	National
Estimated County Population (KNBS, 2019)	590,013	1.1% of total population
Males	286,678	48.0%
Females	306,323	51.9%
Intersex	18	0.002%
Estimated Population Density (km ²)	1,111	82
Persons with disability	20,000	2.2
Population living in rural areas (%)	90.0%	68.8%
School going age (4-22 years) (%)	47.7%	68.7%
Youth (%)	31.0%	36.1%
Elderly population (over 65-year-old)	7.5%	3.9%
Number of Covid-19 cases (as at 11th September 2020) (MOH); National cases were 35,232 people	27	0.08% Of the national cases
Poverty (2015/2016) (%)	43.0%	36.1%
Food Poverty (2015/2016) (%)	36.3%	31.9%
Multidimensional Poverty (2015/2016) (%)	76.1%	56.1%
Stunted children (KDHS 2014)	23.5%	26%
Gross County Product (Ksh Million)	59,050(2017)	0.8 % Share to total GDP (2017)
Average growth of Nominal GCP/GDP (2013-2017) (%)	15.9%	15.3 %

Data Source: KNBS (2019)



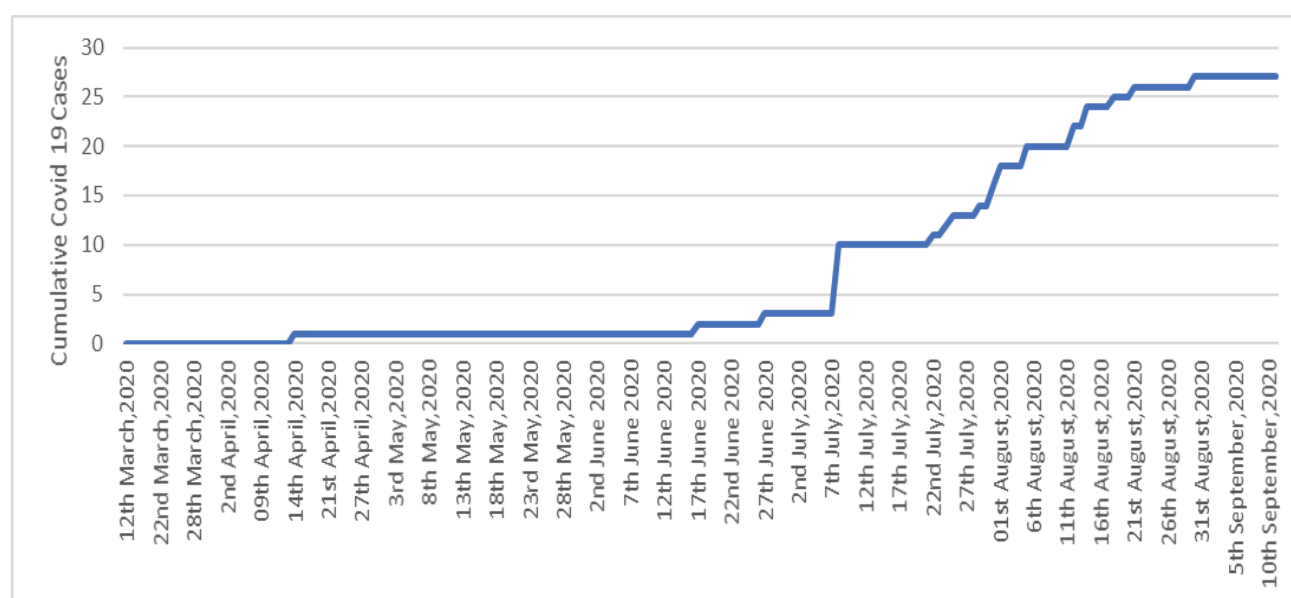
Vihiga County Gross County Product (GCP) accounted for 0.8 per cent of total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as at 2017 as reported in figure 1. The GCP increased from Ksh. 32,935 million in 2013 to Ksh. 59,050 million in 2017 representing an annual average growth rate of 15.9 per cent. The service sector contributes 54.0 per cent of GCP while agriculture, manufacturing and other industries sector share constituted 34.1 per cent, 0.59 per cent and 12.0 per cent, respectively. The services sector includes such activities as wholesale and retail trade. Agriculture is mainly dominated by crop farming while industries and manufacturing include small scale production of consumer goods such as food processing.

Figure 1: Structure of the County Economy, 2013-2017



Data Source: KNBS (2019)

The County first confirmed case of COVID-19 was on 14th April 2020. Since then the number of confirmed cases increased to 27 in 11th September 2020 (MOH, 2020) as indicated in figure 2.



Data Source: MOH



1.2 County fiscal position

Vihiga county expected to receive a total of Ksh. 7.0 billion in FY 2019/20 as revenue to finance its operations. This comprised mainly of Ksh. 4.6 billion (66.9 per cent) as equitable share, Ksh. 1.7 billion (24.3 per cent) conditional grant, Ksh. 192.1 million (2.8 per cent) generated from own source revenue (OSR) and Ksh. 422.0 million (6.1 per cent) as cash balance from FY 2018/19.

During FY 2019/20, the County received a total Ksh. 5.2 billion which accounted for 75 per cent of the expected revenue. This comprised of Ksh. 3.8 billion equitable shares, Ksh. 816.1 million as conditional grants, Ksh. 422.0 million as cash balance from FY 2018/19 and generated Ksh. 148.2 million from OSR. Following the outbreak of the pandemic, the county government waived various fees including market fees and hospital charges. As such, the county registered a 16.4 per cent decline in OSR during FY 2019/20 as compared to Ksh. 177.2 million realized in FY 2018/19.

At the beginning of FY 2019/20 the County budgeted to spend a total of Ksh. 6,955.0 million consisting of Ksh. 4,142.6 million allocation for recurrent expenditure and Ksh. 2,812.5 million for development expenditure. Of the recurrent expenditure, Ksh. 2,267.3 million was meant for compensation of employees while Ksh. 1,875.2 million was set aside for operations and maintenance. The County's actual total expenditure during FY 2019/20 amounted to Ksh. 4,886.4 million. Recurrent expenditures (personal emoluments and operations & maintenance) accounted for 73.2 per cent of the total spending, with development expenditure accounting for only 26.8 per cent. This translating to absorption rate at 70.3 per cent for the overall budget, 86.3 per cent recurrent expenditure and 46.6 per cent development expenditure. Health sector expenditure accounted for 23.2 per cent of total spending with an overall absorption rate of 73.2 per cent. Absorption rate for health sector recurrent expenditure stood at 93.6 per cent while that for development expenditure stood at 11.5 per cent. At the end of FY 2019/20, the county accumulated pending bills amounting to Ksh. 1,110.3 million consisting of Ksh. 950.9 million and Ksh. 159.3 million in respect of development and recurrent expenditures respectively.

1.3 County fiscal response, interventions and budget re-allocation

With the outbreak of COVID-19 Vihiga county undertook varied measures.

The County established the Vihiga County COVID-19 Emergency Response Committee. The committee was co-chaired by the Governor and the County Commissioner and was cascaded downwards to sub-county COVID-19 emergency response committees and supported the undertakings at both the county and national level in combating the spread of the virus. The COVID-19 Emergency Response Committee received an assortment of equipment and foodstuffs towards combating the pandemic in the County from various stakeholders including the Kenya Secondary Schools Heads Association (KESSHA) Vihiga Chapter.



Support to MSMEs and Trade. The county waived CESS and land rates for 3 months up to June 2020 to all traders and smaller enterprises. The county is setting up a trade loan fund for MSEs; including a component on routine capacity building.

The county re-allocated its budget. Each department contributed Ksh. 1.0 million to enforce measures to fight the pandemic. A total of Ksh. 28.0 million was reallocated to the health sector to procure PPE and other items. Suspended all county government meetings; gatherings; traveling to free resources for the pandemic management.

The county prepared for treatment of confirmed cases. The county set up isolation facilities in Hamisi Sub County Isolation unit; Goibei Girls High Quarantine centre; Jumuia Hospital Isolation Unit; Kaimosi Girls High School Quarantine centre. The county erected roadblocks and barriers Vihiga County's entrances to test and screen people entering the county as one way of curbing the spread of corona virus. Various markets were also fumigated. Employed additional 300 health care workers, ensured sustained medical supplies at the health centres and promoted health insurance coverage for expectant women and maternal health care.

In addition, the county promoted COVID-19 safety guidelines. this included the 50 per cent reduction in the seating capacity for passengers per vehicle to observe social distance; hand hygiene; fare collection using mobile money payment systems, the dusk to dawn curfew, and the cessation of movement in and out of Nairobi, Mombasa and Mandera.

The county undertook to enhance access to water for hand washing. Alcohol based hand sanitizer were availed to all health centers. The county enhanced access to piped water infrastructure. Drilling of boreholes; promoting rainwater harvesting in 50 early childhood development education (ECDE) centers.

Enhancing social protection for the vulnerable groups. Vulnerable household received an assortment of items including food, animal feed, masks and alcohol-based hand sanitizers.





2 SOCIO-ECONOMIC EFFECT OF COVID-19

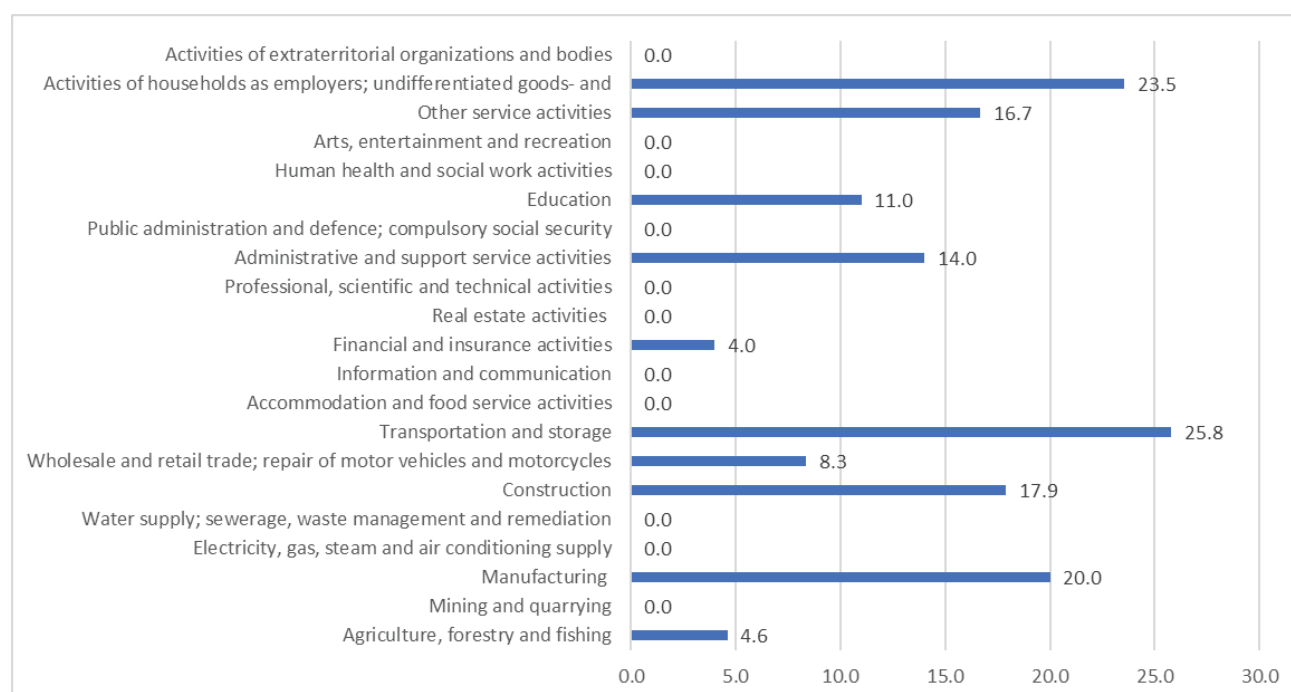
As the country was hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, other shocks in the county includes:

Floods and Desert locusts.

a) *Labor participation*

In Vihiga County, the COVID-19 had devastating effects on the service sectors. All open-air markets in the county were closed. Youths sports were blocked due to fear of infection. The virus also hit health worker's services. A health worker at the Vihiga County Referral Hospital was among the first confirmed cases. This led to panic in the referral hospital and Vihiga where the other victims came from. Prisons were not spared as fear and panic gripped the Mbale prison after an inmate tested positive for Covid 19 leading to isolation of the rest. According to the May 2020 KNBS COVID_19 Survey, the Transportation and storage sector reported the highest level of loss of hours worked (25.8 hours) followed by Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods- and

Figure 3: Difference between usual hours worked and actual hours worked during COVID 19 period



Data source: KNBS, 2020



Workers in the county main economic sectors namely; Cottage Industries, Subsistence Farming, Tea Farming, Horticulture, Livestock Farming, Wholesale and Retail Trade, Quarrying and Mining lost jobs. This was due to closure of markets and strict social distance requirements. About 6.0 per cent of employees did not attend to work with other 83.5 per cent of the employees required to work without a pay with. Following the containment measures put in place by both national and county governments, some other businesses such as bars, hotels, market centres had totally closed, leading to reduced business activities. Workers in the transport sector had also been rendered jobless due to restrictions of moving in and out of Nairobi and Mombasa counties. As a result, majority of workers (44 per cent) reported decrease in income due to the COVID-19. According to the May 2020 KNBS COVID_19 Survey, only 2.0 per cent of people reported to have experienced increased income.

b) *Agricultural sector*

The May 2020 KNBS COVID_19 Survey, found that 11.4 per cent of the households in Vihiga county had instances where the household or a member of the household could not access the markets/grocery stores to purchase food items, mainly because of closure of the markets/grocery stores (46.2 per cent) and movement restrictions (42.1 per cent). Further, with restrictions affecting seamless movement of food commodities, 85 per cent of households in Vihiga county indicated having experienced an increase in food prices. From the KIHBS 2015/16 32.6 per cent of households purchased food products from open-air markets and 34.5 per cent from general shops. Additionally, 61.4 per cent of the total valued consumed is from purchases, 29.4 per cent from own production, 4.6 per cent from own stock and 4.2 per cent from gifts and other sources. As such, an increase in food prices is likely to have significant implications on household budget.

Low marketing activity, as a result of closure of markets, has led to loss of income among traders and farmers, leading to lower purchasing power among individuals further limiting marketing activities in the county.

Further, is a decline in labor participation. An assessment of the Covid-19 effects on hours worked in agriculture related occupations indicates agricultural, fishery and related labourers recorded the highest difference of 12 hours between the usual and actual hours worked in a week. Other affected include food processing and related trades workers (10 hours difference); forestry and related workers (10 hours difference); subsistence agricultural and fishery workers (5 hours difference); fishery and related workers (8 hours difference); and farm workers (5 hours difference).

c) *Services sector*

The need to implement measures to contain the Covid-19 pandemic disrupted cultural and heritage events in the county including the annual Maragoli cultural festival, funerals, weddings and rites of passage ceremonies. Other setbacks to growth of tourism sector in the county include gender inequality limits women participation in the tourism sector; untapped tourism potential coupled with inadequate promotion and marketing of tourism products; inadequate investors in the tourism and recreation sector; low funding for tourism development in the county; declining Cultural heritage; lack of knowledge and skills at local



level for tourism development; deforestation due to human encroachment and charcoal burning leading to destruction of natural habitat for wildlife – hence the county government will scale up control measures.

According to the May 2020 KNBS COVID_19 Survey, 94.0 per cent of county residents did not visit any health facility while many avoided going to the hospital. This had direct implication on generation of revenues from health services at a time that the county needed to equip front line health officers with personal protective equipment's among other expenses ushered by the pandemic.

The closure of schools led to disruption of learning in the county hence loss of leaning and teaching time as the inadequate ICT infrastructure made it difficult for the online learning to take place. According to the Kenya Population and Housing Census (KPHS), 2019 also shows that the county has low internet access (7.2 per cent) and 85.0 per cent of the households did not have access to ICT equipment such as laptops and computers. The school feeding programmes in ECDE and primary schools were discontinued after the closure of schools which exposed the students from the vulnerable families into the risks of malnutrition, stunting and underweight. The Private schools were not able to sustain the salary for their employees, both teaching and support staffs (casuals) staff, public schools faced challenges in making payment for the other expenses such as electricity and security bills. Moreover, public schools could not pay teachers who were hired on contract basis under the Board of management.

d) *Micro Small and Medium Enterprises sector*

Majority of MSMEs in Vihiga County operate in the wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (66.6 per cent per cent); manufacturing (13.1 per cent per cent); arts, entertainment and recreation (6.3 per cent per cent); financial and insurance activities (4.6 per cent per cent); and accommodation and food services (3 per cent per cent). Basically, these are the sectors that have been affected most by the Covid-19 pandemic and need focus in achieving reengineering and recovery.

Due to income disruptions occasioned by Covid-19 MSMEs in Vihiga County faced difficulties in meeting their rental obligations considering quite a number are in commercial premises (81.7 per cent per cent). According to the May 2020 KNBS Covid_19 survey, 86.3 per cent of the non-farm businesses attributed non-payment of household rental obligations to reduced incomes/earnings while 13.7 per cent attributed the same to temporary layoffs/closure of businesses. For those involved in farm businesses all the respondents attributed the same to reduced incomes/earnings. In addition, the wholesale and retail trade sector lost 8.3 hours in usual and actual hours worked in a week. This is an indicator of the adverse effects on the service sector of Vihiga County due to the pandemic which could imply loss of productivity, output and employment and output. Equally, the manufacturing sector lost 20 hours.

Regarding access to markets, none of the MSMEs in the County depend on export markets, while only a few (0.3 per cent per cent) import their material inputs. Therefore, disruptions in the external markets may have adverse implications to MSMEs operations in Vihiga County and especially in securing inputs for production.



e) Infrastructure and housing

The transport sector measures instituted in response to the pandemic saw an increase in fares charged to cover the operating costs of service providers as well as affecting mobility options for commuters. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, passengers using public transport services saw expenditure on fares increase by 60.6 per cent. Residents responded by changing their travel patterns with 19.2 per cent of the population traveling less often, while 17.3 per cent were unable to travel due to the pandemic.

Vihiga County Headquarters Mbale town is currently connected to the National Optic Fibre Backbone (NOFBI) II. Approximately 98.9 per cent of public primary schools are installed with ICT capacity under Digital Literacy Programme. That said, only 8.8 per cent of the conventional households in the county 'own' internet with 4.3 per cent owning a desktop, computer laptop or tablet. Further, only 2.2 per cent of the households participate in online e-commerce, with men participating more in online e-commerce (2.7 per cent) than women (1.7 per cent). Further, there is a gender divide in use of internet where 15.8 per cent male and 12.5 per cent of the women using internet.

Majority of households (88.1 per cent) own the housing units they occupy while 11.9 per cent of the households under rental tenure. Individuals are the primary providers of rental housing at 91 per cent, followed by National Government (3.3 per cent); private companies (2.4 per cent); FBO/NGO/Church based housing at (1.5 per cent); Parastatals (0.9 per cent); and County Government (0.9 per cent). With the advent of COVID-19 pandemic households' ability to pay rent was affected, with 63.7 per cent of the population indicating inability to pay rent on the agreed date. The main reason that made households unable to pay rent was attributed to reduced incomes /earnings, reported by 54.0 per cent of the population.

f) Gender and youth

In Vihiga County, there were 3 girls and 6 women cases of GBV reported in April 2020 based on data from the Healthcare Assistance Kenya (HAK) Helpline 1195. The May 2020 KNBS COVID_19 survey revealed that approximately 9.3 per cent of respondents had witnessed or heard of domestic violence in their communities since the National Government instituted measures to contain Covid-19. Between March -May 2020, there were a total of 1796 cases of adolescents (age 10 - 19) presenting with pregnancy at health facilities based on data from the Kenya Health Information System (KHIS, 2020). Other challenges affecting the youth include unemployment and drug use, especially alcohol and substance abuse.

g) Water and sanitation

The county government incurred additional cost to ensure continuity in provision of water and sanitation services, this including; budget allocation to water and sanitation (and absorption rate 57.6 M). Additionally, water companies have lost a significant amount of their revenues due to low demand of water and sanitation services mostly from hotels, schools and other institutions due to closure of operations. This in the long run may affect the delivery, development and rehabilitation of WASH services.





3 KEY Pillars OF THE RECOVERY STRATEGY

There is need for urgent responses for addressing the social and economic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic in Vihiga County. This will help the County to recover and be on an upward growth trajectory. To this end, six (6) pillars have been identified: Boosting private sector activity; policy, legislation and institutional reforms; strengthening County government's preparedness and response to pandemic and disasters; enhancing ICT capacity for business continuity; human capital development and creating opportunities for youth in agriculture, especially agri-business.

3.1 Boosting Private sector Activity

The private sector plays a critical role in the county economy in reducing poverty through income generating opportunities for the vulnerable households. According to the KNBS 2016 survey, most of the private sector activities (66.6 per cent per cent) are in the services sector with only 13.1 per cent in manufacturing. In terms of size, most of the enterprises in the County are in the micro category (95.4 per cent per cent), 4.5 per cent are small, 0.1 per cent are large enterprises. Since most firms are in the micro category, this implies that the informal sector tends to dominate the private sector in Vihiga County. Services sector activities include the wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (66.6 per cent per cent); arts, entertainment and recreation (6.3 per cent per cent); financial and insurance activities (4.6 per cent per cent); and accommodation and food services (3 per cent per cent).

Covid-19 disrupted the operations of businesses and supply chains hence affecting demand and supply of most goods and services in the County. In general, majority of the MSMEs (62.8 per cent per cent) in Vihiga County get their raw materials from their peer MSMEs within the County. Equally, they sell their products to individual consumers (90.2 per cent per cent), also within the county. This means that when some firms are adversely affected this tend to spread fast in the private sector.

MSMEs face various challenges in the County. This including financial and technical capacity, market environment, and worksite and related infrastructure (KIPPRRA 2019, KNBS, 2016). On worksites, MSEs face inadequate and unequipped worksites, lack of public toilet facilities, lack designated areas for waste disposal, poor road infrastructure, frequent power interruptions. On technical capacity MSEs are characterised by low levels of innovation, lack of training and apprenticeship programme for artisans, fragmentation due to multiplicity of players who offer training and capacity building, and lack of monitoring and evaluation of training programmes. With the market environment, MSEs face inadequate market for their local products; stiff competition among themselves; and unfair trade practises which manifest through; contract enforcement, counterfeiting, dumping (substandard goods) and misrepresentation (through weight, price, ingredient). MSEs also face bottlenecks related to; insecurity; multiple licences and permits; numerous procedures for obtaining licenses; and shortage of raw materials.



The crisis though offered an opportunity to address the County's structural issues, for example, private sector development and collaboration and design new growth models such as – industrial/manufacturing development and innovation and participation in national and global value chains in:

- (i) Agro - processing for value addition with important areas of focus include maize and banana production and processing; millet, avocado, papaya, sweet potatoes, cassava as well as French beans; and production of African indigenous vegetables such as: Jute Mallow (Murenda), Amaranth (Terere), Black Nightshade (Managu), Spiderplant (Saga), and Cowpeas (Kunde).
- (ii) The textile and wearing apparel sectors can be enhanced to provide PPEs for use within the County and potentially for the export market.
- (iii) Exploration and processing of minerals such as granite.

In strengthening the private sector, efforts targeted at improving the business environment in the County include:

- (i) Emphasis will be laid on initiating and strengthening self-sustaining funds dedicated and easily accessible to MSMEs in the County; promoting tailor made financial literacy programmes for MSMEs; and establishing a framework for micro-leasing for the MSMEs.
- (ii) Provide access to affordable renewable energy in collaboration with the national government and other stakeholders for sustainable development.
- (iii) Strengthen the link between curricula and practical skill sets required in the industry in all learning institutions and centres for vocational training in Vihiga County.
- (iv) County government in partnership with other institutions both from public and private spheres to facilitate development of adequate and well-equipped worksites with workshops, common user facilities, incubation centres and showrooms for artisans which is cluster informed and fully serviced.
- (v) Enhance market access for private sector both locally and regionally by developing LREB regional bloc value chains, market diversification and facilitating greater use of ecommerce in shifting transactions to digital economy.

3.2 Policy, legislative, and Institutional reforms

Vihiga County has passed legislation on finance, education and has several bills awaiting approval by the County Assembly. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic efforts must be made to reengineer the County's policy and legislative frameworks. This will include to:



- (i) Build the County's public health legal preparedness, by enacting legislation with provisions to enable the following measures in emergency plans: surveillance (the power to access information collected by healthcare facilities); investigative power (the power to release contact information); disease control (the power to order closure of public places); and maintenance of essential healthcare service (the power to acquire healthcare facilities, drugs, personal protective equipment and masks).
- (ii) Introduce an emergency power into public health legislation to enable response to a public health emergency within the shortest time frame.
- (iii) Establish legislation to empower the County Governor to make public emergency regulations only when an occasion of public health emergency (as evident by the occurrence or imminent threat of disease or epidemic) exists.
- (iv) The scope of the emergency regulations would include a legal power for the purpose of combating and controlling the particular public health emergency situation. In particular, it may empower the Governor to access and to disclose information to the public relating to the state of the public health emergency for the purpose of protecting public health, provide for the requisition of private property (for instance medicine, personal protective gear, vehicles, vessels) and healthcare workers, provide for closure of places for public gathering, and provide other necessary powers with regard to the nature and circumstance of the public health emergency.
- (v) Strengthen intergovernmental relations and coordination in implementation of government policies at national and county levels.

3.3 Strengthening county government's preparedness and response to pandemic and disasters

Natural disasters such as hailstorms, floods and landslides are rampant in the County. Further, wetlands are fast diminishing in size due to human activities such as deforestation and planting of unfriendly species of trees close to wetlands and riparian land. The degradation has resulted in water pollution leading to incidences of water borne diseases. To address some of these challenges, the County has formulated a Vihiga County Disaster Management Bill, 2018. The county will:

- (i) Enact the Vihiga County Disaster Management Bill, 2018 to provide a more effective organization of the mitigation of, preparedness for, response to and recovery from emergencies and disasters.
- (ii) Undertake intensive education, awareness on sanitation and disease transmission.
- (iii) Expand scientific research into emerging diseases to assess risks and develop interventions at the interface of the environment, animal health and human health.
- (iv) Strengthen existing and build new capacities among health stakeholders in the County to improve



outcomes and to help them understand the human, animal and environment health dimensions of zoonotic and other diseases.

- (v) Greater efforts must be made to raise awareness among County leaders, particularly with regards to the importance of investing in interdisciplinary surveillance, detection and preventive measures.
- (vi) Invest in detection, prevention and early response.
- (vii) Increase awareness-raising of risks and proactive mitigation steps at the community level.
- (viii) Equip leaders with the necessary skills and knowledge in disaster risk reduction, pandemic planning and public health emergencies.

3.4 Enhancing ICT capacity for business continuity

The status of ICT access and use in the county is low, especially among households. Approximately 43.1 per cent of the population aged 3 years and above own a mobile phone which is lower than the national average of 47.3 per cent. The perception that individuals do not need to use the internet, lack of knowledge and skills on internet are the leading reasons that the people of in the County don't have internet connection.

In the new normal driven COVID-19, the County will fast track the implementation of various projects to ensure business continuity and build resilience of the County against future pandemics and disasters as follows:

- (i) Support programmes in partnership with the private sector that will enable households acquire ICT assets such as smart phones and laptops and increase mobile phone ownership from 43.1 per cent to 100 per cent in line with the global agenda for Universal Access to Mobile Telephony¹
- (ii) Speed up the construction of fiber-optic broadband networks in underdeveloped areas and improve the enthusiasm of telecom companies to upgrade and improve the communication networks in remote areas. Adopt programmes to ensure ubiquitous access to reliable and affordable internet (internet everywhere) by applying aerial and satellite-based communication technologies.
- (iii) Harness the power of technology and use innovative solutions to bridge the gender digital divide. Negotiate with the public primary schools for community access to ICT infrastructure and collaboratively build and equip youth empowerment, ICT centers and ICT laboratories as provided in the CIDP. The IT personnel in public primary schools can be deployed to support the development of ICT competence and skills among the public.

1. Universal access to mobile telephony: <http://www.itu.int/itunews/manager/display.asp?lang=en&year=2007&issue=07&ipage=universal-telephony>



- (iv) Enhance internet connectivity to public buildings and key trade centres to boost e-commerce especially for MSMEs in trade and business. The NOFBI programme can be expanded to the sub-county administrative units to further enable deployment of e-governance solutions.
- (v) Make ICT a standalone sector for planning and budget allocation. This is aimed at giving strategic prominence to planning, budgeting and investment in ICT.
- (vi) Review and implement ICT policies and procedures to manage ICT and mitigate cyber threats, disasters and pandemics. Collaborate with the national Computer Incident Response Team (CIRT) and the Communications Authority (CA) towards managing cyber threats. This is because enhanced use of ICT is known to raise threats and risks related to cyber-crime and misinformation.

3.5 Promoting human capital development

According to May 2020 KNBS COVID_19 Survey, 16.5 per cent of the county labour force worked at least for 1 hour for pay; 83.5 per cent of employees working without any pay; 21.0 per cent had never worked, and 62.5 per cent worked in the informal sector. However, 6.0 per cent of employees reported to have been absent from work due to COVID-19 related issues. On average, workers in the County lost 10.4 hours per week due to COVID-19.

The County population aged 15-64 years (labour force) was estimated at 265,277 people of whom 250,123 were working and 15,154 were seeking work representing an unemployment rate of 5.7 per cent (Kenya Population and Housing Census, 2019).

The average years of schooling was 7.9 years out of the target of at least 12 years if entire population was to attain basic education up to complete secondary education (KIHBS 2015/16). Human development index was 0.43 compared to 0.52 at national level and maximum of 1. The HDI at county level measures extent to which the counties can mobilize the economic and professional potential of the citizens. With the rating at 0.43 this means the county lost about 57 per cent of her economic potential due to limited education and health. About 23.5 per cent of the children were stunted. Childhood stunting is associated with developmental delays that can significantly and adversely impact a person's ability to learn (both during and after the years in school), thereby limiting their ability to reach their full potential. As a such, this perpetuates inequality across generations.

The NHIF coverage was 24.2 per cent as compared to the average national level at 24.7 per cent while the number of children vaccinated was 78.0 per cent as compared to the average national level at 74.9 per cent. The data indicates, about 22 per cent of children were not vaccinated against the preventable diseases like measles and polio.



To re-build resilience, the county will address the risks in health and education prevailing in the County including implications of COVID 19; poverty and malnutrition; health, education and youth unemployment. To achieve this the Vihiga County will adopt the following strategies;

- (i) Enhance establishment and coordination of agriculture support programmes to farmers e.g. subsidized farm inputs, enhanced credit to farmers and free tea seedlings to support the poor farmers. This will create employment in agriculture sector which is the main source of employment in the county.
- (ii) Introduce Agricultural diversification where people will be involved in growing other crops traditional ones such as black nightshade (lisutsa), jute mallow (mutere) among others as black which are in high demand in urban centers such as Nairobi. They can support farmers in Chavakali, Emuhaya, Vihiga and Cheptulu where crops are doing well.
- (iii) Promote investment and entrepreneurship through provision of loans, Vihiga county will improve access to finance for small and medium enterprises through lending institutions. In addition, build capacity in areas related to marketing, operations, finance, and human resource development to enhance the chances of survival of SMEs.
- (iv) Establish a mentorship programme for youths where they can be offered paid internship in all county offices. This will equip them with necessary skills needed in job market.
- (v) Promote implementation of a stronger labour market interventions and policy reforms that drive employment creation. The County shall deepen technical education, training and skills development.

3.6 Supporting Youth Engagement in Agriculture

Agriculture accounts for a significant share of economic activity in Vihiga county. More than a 30 per cent of county economic activity is driven by the agriculture sector. In 2017, agriculture accounted for KES 20,160 million out of the total KES 59,050 million Gross County Product (GCP) amounting to 34.1 per cent of the county's GCP.

About 77 per cent of the households produce crops, 62 per cent produce livestock, 0.37 per cent practice aquaculture and about 0.42 per cent are involved in fishing. About 1.04 per cent of the households practice irrigation farming.

The Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS) 2019-2029 classifies Vihiga County in the high population density, mixed staples and cash agroecological zone. The county has moderate to deep red soils of medium-high fertility and two seasons of medium rains suitable for rain fed and irrigated agriculture in mixed staples and cash crops particularly horticultural, dairy, poultry and banana value chains.



compared to the national average of 82 persons per Km². With the county's demographic profile depicting a youthful population, the county has opportunities in capitalizing on the youth, as well as other agricultural actors, to spur agricultural economic activity in the identified value chains.

Towards this, the county will

- (i) Legislation and implementation of policies to guarantee training programmes, credit facilities and land accessibility to youths at the identified rural youth organizations.
- (ii) Innovative approaches to farming and identification of entry points have resulted in improvements in youth skills and opportunities in agriculture. Most agricultural programs tend to be highly focused on production, where youth face specific barriers that might be mitigated in potential roles higher up the value chain.
- (iii) Develop partnership with development partners, the National Government, NGOs, Research Institutions and the Private sector in enhancing agroprocessing and value addition capacities of the county as envisioned in the national Agricultural Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS). The county has only one tea factory (Mudete Tea Factory).
- (iv) Invest in storage and cooling facilities particularly at collection points. Coupled with agroprocessing, this will minimize spoilage and post-harvest losses of perishable products.
- (v) Access to quality and affordable inputs including certified seeds, water, animal feeds, artificial intelligence (AI) services, fertilizers, and livestock vaccination. This can be achieved through cooperatives and farmers associations.
- (vi) Promote transformation of agricultural production among small holder farmers in the county from subsistence agriculture to market-oriented production by linking farmers to product markets beyond the county level across the agricultural value chain.
- (vii) Establish programmes for surveillance of disasters such as extreme weather conditions and livestock disease at the county level equipped with relevant technical specialists and finances to effectively prevent, prepare, respond and prevent risks. There is also need for the county to mitigate disasters, such as those related to floods, through institutional capacity development, vulnerability analyses and updates, monitoring and early warning systems, and public education.
- (viii) Digitize the agri-food sector to enhance: - training and building capacities of farming households in modern agricultural technologies, provision of advisory and information services, marketing agricultural produce at a wider scope beyond the county level, and improving access to innovative support services including credit and insurance services.
- (ix) Invest in sustainable irrigation in the county through partnership with development partners. To support expansion of sustainable irrigation, there is need to promote development of Irrigation Infrastructure and technologies in the county.





4 SUPPORT TO KEY SECTORS

4.1 Manufacturing

Manufacturing sector contributes 0.6 per to the Vihiga Gross County Product (GCP). Manufacturing in Vihiga County include food products (41.9 per cent per cent), wearing apparel (31.9 per cent per cent), furniture (14.9 per cent per cent), and fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment (8.7 per cent per cent). The key products useful in value addition and driving manufacturing include millet, avocado, papaya, sweet potatoes, cassava as well as french beans; and production of African indigenous vegetables. In that regard, manufacturing sector is important in supporting recovery of the economy of Vihiga County from the effects of Covid-19 pandemic. This is especially due to its strong forward and backward linkages.

To strengthen manufacturing the county will:

- (i) Collaborate with National government to establish a granite processing plant in the county as per the Third Medium Term Plan 2018-2022 flagship programmes and projects of enhancing mining for development.
- (ii) Consider an emergency rescue package for businesses and traders hard-hit by the effects of Covid-19 in the short run. The emergency Fund, supported by development partners and other stakeholders, can be used to identify and support the most vulnerable businesses and entrepreneurs affected by Covid-19. Related, the County will inject some stimulus to cushion the businesses and traders through affordable credit; waiver of some County taxes, cess, and other charges.
- (iii) Covid-19 has increased demand for locally produced goods in the County, and especially Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), sanitisers, hospital beds and ventilators. It is an opportunity to spur innovation and promote manufacturing and industry development and generation of jobs for the youth.
- (iv) Adopt the new pandemic guidelines including rearranging floor plans to allow for social distancing and maintain high standards of hygiene through having hand washing facilities in manufacturing establishments.

4.2 Water and Sanitation

Clean and safe water remains essential in the fight against Covid-19, water is utilized for maintaining hygiene more so in hand washing as well as other specialized uses in households, institutions and in public places. Piped water demand stands at 52,912 M3 per day against 8,889M3 produced and supplied by the county per day². Currently households in the county have a higher access to improved sources of drinking water³ in rural (81.9 per cent) urban (92.5 per cent) and peri urban (94 per cent). Despite this, access to piped water remain low in rural (3.4 per cent) urban (82.8 per cent) and peri urban (44.7 per cent). On the

2. Vihiga County 2018-2022 CIDP

3. Improved source of drinking water includes; water from the following sources Piped water - piped into dwelling, Piped water - piped into plot/yard, Piped water - public tap/stand pipe, tubewell/borehole with pump, Dug well - protected well, Dug well - unprotected well, Water from spring - protected spring. Unimproved sources of water which include; Water from spring - unprotected spring, rainwater collection, Vendors - tankers-truck, Vendors - cart with small tank/drum/bucket, vendors-bicycles with bucket, Surface water river/streams/pond/dam/lake/cannal/irrigation channel bottled water



other hand, access to improved sanitation⁴ is also high among households both in rural (99 per cent) urban (100 per cent) and peri urban (100 per cent). Households access to piped sewer is low which stands at less than 1 per cent both in both in rural, urban and peri urban areas.

Furthermore, households sharing of a toilet facility with other households is common both in rural (42 per cent) urban (60 per cent) and peri urban (36.7 per cent) (KNBS KIHBS 2015/2016). Most households have had access to water and soap (85.5 per cent) for hand washing during this period of COVID-19 with a small proportion having access to both water, soap and hand sanitizer (3.9 per cent) while a small portion of households had access to water only (8.2 per cent). (KNBS May 2020 COVID_19 Survey). In addition, most households do not have access to a handwashing facility in or near there facility both in rural (15.4 per cent) urban (14.3 per cent) and peri urban (19.4 per cent).

The county 2018-2022 CIDP programs under WASH and environment include; to increase access to safe and clean water-by establishing new piped water supply schemes, sinking and equipping of boreholes and Dams silt removal project, to improve access to water at health facilities-Drill boreholes at Vihiga County Referral Hospital and sub county hospitals, to improve management of water supply and sanitation services through establishment of County water and Sanitation Company, to sustain supply of clean and safe water-Rehabilitation and expansion of existing piped water schemes, to supplement water supplied from natural sources- through Promotion of rainwater harvesting to supplement water supplied from natural sources, to facilitate supply of water by purchasing water boozers.

The recovery strategy recommends the following for implementation:

- (i) The county to increase piped water supply in households, institutions and public places through drilling of boreholes in all the sub-counties.
- (ii) Integrate public private partnerships arrangements to enhance water provision in the county.
- (iii) Upscale abstraction of water from rivers, spring protections, harvesting of rainwater from roof and other catchments to help achieve increase to water access and to reduce time taken to water sources.
- (iv) Increase water storage capacity to store harvested water during rainy seasons.
- (v) Rehabilitate existing water infrastructure to reduce water leakages to reduce water losses.
- (vi) Introduce automated billing software to help curb the increasing value of non-revenue water.

4. Improved sanitation include flush to piped sewer, flush to septic tank, flush to pit (latrine), flush to somewhere else, flush to unknown place, ventilated improved pit latrine, pit latrine with slab, pit latrine without slab). Unimproved sanitation include;composting toilet, bucket toilet, hanging toilet/hanging, no facility/bush/field, others. This is according to Who and UN classification of improved sources of sanitation



- (vii) Establish water supply monitoring system for efficiency water supply and management.
- (viii) Expand and rehabilitate the existing piped water connection infrastructure to help increase access to water.
 - i. Expand sewer infrastructure to accommodate more households and generate revenue.
 - ii. Build toilets in communities, schools, health centres, marketplaces and other public places to help increase access to safe sanitation.
 - iii. The county to help in putting place WASH facilities in communities, households, public places to increase access at the household level.
 - iv. Enforce the WASH regulation of having toilets in all public facilities such as supermarkets, hotels and banks etc.
 - v. The county to organize sensitization forums on the importance of handwashing through the media and in community forums.

4.3 Transport

The county has a total of 1,046.84 Kilometers of classified road network. Approximately 49.4 per cent of the paved road network is in good condition, 42.4 per cent in fair condition and 8.2 per cent in poor condition. While 21.1 per cent of the unpaved road network is in good condition, 53.4 per cent fair and 22.9 per cent in poor condition.

The main means of transport used in the County is 40.1 per cent, followed by PSV matatus at 28.8 per cent, walking at 20.9 per cent, private car at 4.9 per cent and bicycle (bodaboda) 4.0 per cent. On average, resident travel 1.66 Kilometer to their workplace which is within the threshold for Non-Motorised transport. Over 76.3 per cent of the unpaved road network is in poor and fair condition.

To enhance mobility options for residents and improve road conditions to support economic, social and subsistence activities the county will:

- (i) Apply labor based and local resource-based approaches for road development and maintenance, where technically and economically feasible, in line with the Roads 2000 national policy⁵.
- (ii) Focus on increasing the share of unpaved roads in good and fair condition to above 62 per cent which is the national average. For the unpaved road network, focus on adopting the Low Volume Sealed Roads (LVSr) technology for greater network coverage cost effectively.

⁵ Roads 2000 programme <http://krb.go.ke/our-downloads/roads%202000%20strategic%20plan.pdf>



- (iii) Improve and expand infrastructure for Non-Motorized Transport (NMT) in urban areas and along roads with heavy -highspeed traffic to promote sustainable mobility options and enhance road safety for all road users. This is in line with the Integrated National Transport Policy 2009 and the Sustainable Development Goals⁶.
- (iv) Adopt climate smart road engineering designs to safeguard road and bridge infrastructure from floods and to harvest storm water for irrigation and productive use. Use the Kenya Urban Support Programme funding to build storm water management systems in urban areas.
- (v) Apply performance Based Contracting for road development and maintenance.
- (vi) Sensitize PSV and boda boda operators on COVID-19 prevention measures and assist vehicle owners in retrofitting the seating designs.

4.4 Urban Development and Housing

The county has challenges in quality of the housing stock. Approximately 31.9 per cent of houses are constructed using finished materials for walls, floor and roofing, compared to 68.1 per cent constructed using rudimentary materials. With regard to primary energy source for cooking, 92.1 per cent of households rely on unclean sources of energy such as firewood, paraffin and charcoal, which could adversely affect respiratory health of women and children.

For re-engineering and recovery, the County will:

- (i) Fastrack implementation of the affordable housing programme with a focus on improving living conditions and building quality applying finished materials for walls, floors and roofing.
- (ii) Avail appropriate building technology for use by the public in house construction and improvement in every subcounty, that responds to local cultural and environmental circumstances.
- (iii) Identify and designate urban centers for upgrade pursuant to provisions of the Urban Areas and Cities (amendment) Act, 2019.
- (iv) Formulate and seek approval of urban development plans and development control policies to support investment and development of urban areas.
- (v) Adopt programmes aimed at an increasing household access to clean energy sources and technologies for cooking to mitigate against exposure to respiratory diseases.

6. Sustainable Mobility for All: <https://sum4all.org/implementing-sdgs>



4.5 Tourism

The main tourist attractions in Vihiga County include nature-based tourism (Maragoli and Bunyore Hills, Mungoma Caves ideal for adventure, hiking and ecotourism); Cultural and heritage tourism (the county also has a rich culture which can create an opportunity for the development of cultural tourism, as well as diverse talent for sports and celebrity tourism; the Rainmakers Shrines at Esibila, and Wagevere Rocks embossed with 'footprints of Jesus' in Matsigulu); Agro-tourism and ecotourism (Kibiri and Kaimosi forest complex; Mudete Tea Factory and Wetland); and medical tourism (visiting herbalists and traditional medicine men).

There are no star-rated hotel facilities in Vihiga County. However, there are 7 registered hotels that are easily accessible and distributed across the county. There is great opportunity to invest in luxury hotels to tap into the high-end tourist market, and campsites to target backpackers and adventure tourists. Accommodation and food services account for 0.8 per cent of total GCP.

Re-engineering tourism sector in the county will include:

- (i) Enforcing high sanitation standards at tourism accommodation and attraction sites; sanitation is emerging as a key component in ensuring business continuity in the tourism sector. Accommodation facilities that will meet the re-opening measures for hospitality sector are likely to recover faster from the effects of the pandemic, since tourist – both domestic and foreign – will be concerned about their safety (in terms of contracting the pandemic) first.
- (ii) Tourism infrastructure development: construction of roads to cultural sites; establish a recreation park; rehabilitate tourist sites; construct a county conference centre; establish tourist sites at Maragoli hills, Bunyore hills and Kaimosi forest. Mungoma Caves, Mudete Wetland, Kibiri Forest, Esibila.
- (iii) Sensitize the community on the importance of conserving the environment and cultural heritage; establish a tourism information documentation centre; Build capacity among community organizations on tourism management and entrepreneurship. Promote community Based Tourism Organizations.
- (iv) Promote establishment of tourist hotels, resorts and equipped cultural centres.
- (v) Mobilize resources for tourism; advocate for PPP programs in the sector.
- (vi) Strengthen tourism marketing, branding and promotion.
- (vii) Coordination of implementation of the budget of the county government.
- (viii) Resource mobilization for investments in the tourism sector; e.g. PPP projects.



4.6 Health

The county has one public county referral facility, Vihiga County Hospital at Mbale. The other major health facility is Jumua Hospital in Kaimosi. There are three level 4 facilities in Sabatia, Hamisi and Emuhaya. There are also 18 health centres, 32 dispensaries and 34 private and mission-based facilities. The county doctor to population ratio is 1:11,840 against the WHO recommendation of 1:230.

To mitigate the effects of Covid-19, the county prioritized public health care by recruiting additional 300 health workers. In addition, the county enhanced and sustained supply of medical and non- medical supplies required by the hospitals and continuous access of health coverage for pregnant women hence promoting access to maternal care. The county progressed in terms of health infrastructure and access therefore reducing distance between health centers for easy access by the people.

The recovery strategies are;

- (i) Revamp, expand, modernize and equip health facilities, including, Vihiga County Hospital and Jumua hospital and promote training and recruiting adequate number of human resources for health to enable health centres provide equitable essential services throughout an emergency, limiting direct mortality and avoiding increased indirect mortality due to Covid 19.
- (ii) The county will strengthen preventative and promotive health services through malaria control; expanded programmes on immunization; integrated management of childhood illness; and control and prevention of environmentally communicable diseases.
- (iii) The county will provide enough water collection points and water use facilities in the health care facilities to allow convenient access to, and use of, water for medical activities, drinking, personal hygiene, food preparation, laundry and cleaning, also include safe and sustainable drinking water, sanitation and hygiene; and nutrition support initiatives in relevant health policies, strategies and programmes. Mbale town will be given first priority in water provision since it hosts key referral hospital among other institutions.
- (iv) The county will create awareness on availability and importance of free maternity services and address other constraints to access of maternal health services in the county while addressing fear of contracting COVID-19 in event of visiting any health facility. This can be done through recruiting voluntary health community workers who are given a stipend at the end of the month.
- (v) Recruit and train more health workers so that they can offer services to all Vihiga county residents without much strain. This will help improve county doctor to population ratio which currently stand at 1:11,840 against the WHO recommendation of 1:230.



4.7 Education and training

The county has 475 primary schools, 157 secondary schools, 852 early childhood centres, 852,107 adult learning centres and 31 technical and vocational training centres. The National Government and other development partners have embarked on the establishment of Vihiga University College at Vokoli in Sabatia Sub-County. Enrolments in early childhood education improved since 2013 with current enrolment of 41,278. This can be attributed to improved access to ECDE infrastructure and awareness campaigns on ECDE. Despite the improved enrolments and gender parity in primary schools, an emerging trend of low retention and high dropout remains a challenge in the county. Enrolment in secondary schools has also improved since 2013 with gender parity index of 1:1. Other achievement includes the increase in the number of secondary schools. However, 82.1 per cent of the adult population in county are literate. However, there is need to promote continued learning in the wake of emerging technology. Enrolment in public vocational training centre remains low at a current figure of 2,890 due to the low perception on technical education and training.

To address the effects of COVID 19, the county will require to partner with the national government and private sector to enhance ECDE and vocation training through infrastructural development as well as equipment of all ECDE, primary, secondary and vocational training; and University branches in the County with adequate WASH and adequate learning spaces upon reopening. Recovery sector specific interventions include:

- (i) The County with support from stakeholders will continue to invest in early childhood development through infrastructural development to allow for adequate social distancing when schools reopen; deployment of ECDE teachers and provision of sanitation facilities. This increase the current 852 early childhood centres ensuring there is no congestion in classes.
- (ii) The County will partner with national government to prioritize in projects that improve school water, internet coverage and ICT infrastructure, internet access both at household and school level; sanitation and hygiene facilities and management in order to reduce future effect of similar or related outbreak. There is need to improve internet connectivity from the current 7.2 per cent to about 60 per cent.
- (iii) Support community participation and large-scale direct communication campaigns targeting parents, and where possible, increase attendance options to accommodate all children, including those with highest risk of dropping out, promote back to school campaign and community outreach to ensure that no child drops out of school due to COVID-19. To achieve this, the county government need to introduce feeding programme for the poor and vulnerable children in Vihiga county.
- (iv) Promote utilization of ICT platforms and have a depository of teaching and learning materials that learners could use at their own time. For this to be successful Vihiga county government in collaboration with national government will ensure all schools are connected with electricity.
- (v) Ensure that all students have access to masks, as mask use must be mandatory in all schools and tertiary education institutions and universities; to control the spread of the virus.



4.8 Social Protection

The county has 20,000 (3.8 per cent) persons with disability. The elderly population (over 65year-old) make up 7.5 per cent of the total population of whom 56.0 were female. The County is supporting and building capacities of individuals, vulnerable groups and communities for equity and self-reliance through training.

The county has in place an ongoing programme to provide dairy animals to vulnerable groups as a mean of improving their livelihoods, the programme has provided 38 dairy cattle / goats. There is an established fund for the disabled, and the county government is mapping PWDs in order to support them effectively. Through the office of the Governor, the county distributed maize and beans in partnership with CDF and other stakeholders. Animal feeds have also been distributed to the vulnerable.

The recovery strategies are;

- (i) Undertake research to get a better understanding of the actual situation of all vulnerable groups and persons with chronic illness in Vihiga County, and to map existing initiatives targeting the special interest groups. The county will also carry out baseline survey to establish the population of the elderly persons so that they can be provided with NHIF cover.
- (ii) Build linkages with public and non-state actors and with NGOs that work with people with disabilities to strengthen families, deliver assistive devices, reduce barriers to access and provide vocational training, also design and implement a disability grant to all those who are severely disabled persons.
- (iii) The county will rescue, rehabilitate and re-integrate the young street children with their families; and build capacities of the older ones in collaboration with other stakeholders through skills retooling and support to enter labour market; and construct two children rescue centers in Mbale and Chavakali to rehabilitate and train street children.
- (iv) Protect vulnerable groups of the population from health costs by increasing coverage of the NHIF; improving knowledge of the existing insurance scheme (NHIF) to improve uptake; and subsidizing NHIF premiums for targeted populations.

4.9 Gender and Youth

The social and economic effects of the Covid 19 pandemic has increased households' susceptibility to Gender Based Violence (GBV) in Vihiga county. Response measures taken to contain the Covid 19 pandemic, such as movement restrictions, lockdown and curfew hours, have led to loss of income, isolation, high levels of stress and anxiety exposing household members to psychological, economic, sexual violence and physical harm as couples spend more time in close contact. The county will:

- (i) Designate gender safe spaces to provide accommodation for Gender Based Violence (GBV) survivors and create space in County Referral Hospitals to serve as GBV recovery centers.



- (ii) Enhance community awareness and sensitization on gender inequalities, gender-based violence reporting and prevention and reproductive health.
- (iii) Prioritize reporting of GBV cases through help lines such as toll-free calls and SMS numbers for victims.
- (iv) Bring onboard key stakeholders to actively engage and sensitize the youth on reproductive health; HIV/Aids and COVID-19 prevention measures.
- (v) Establish a multi-sectoral committee that oversees the implementation of gender policies across various cross-cutting sectors.
- (vi) Support gender champions and sign language interpreters to activate and communicate an 'alert chain' to reach GBV survivors or those in imminent danger of injury and harm.
- (vii) Strengthen inclusive community outreach strategies to ensure GBV messaging is localized and clear, and addresses stigma, discrimination and other power dynamics that serve as barriers to accessing GBV services & COVID-19 information among differently able persons.
- (viii) Promote use of alternative means of Gender Based Violence safe outreach and awareness-raising that limit direct contact i.e. using traditional methods e.g. town criers and use of loudspeakers.

4.10 Environment and natural resources management

The county has a rich ecosystem that includes forests, rivers and hills. Efforts to conserve the environment are hampered by increasing population which exerts pressure on the natural resources, encroachment on wetlands, land degradation, deforestation, illegal logging, water pollution and land pollution.

The major sources of energy for cooking used by households are firewood (90.6 per cent), charcoal (2.6 per cent) and liquified gas (3.4 per cent). Most households dispose their solid waste by dumping in the compound (46.1 per cent), dumping on the streets or open field/plot (0.4 per cent) and burning in the open air (49 per cent). Additionally 1.7 per cent of the household solid waste is collected by the county government for disposal. On the other hand, households (0.6 per cent) in the county have experienced droughts or floods in the past 5 years that has adversely affected their farming activities.

To mitigate these environmental risks, the County has put in place measures to mainstream environmental and climate change in County planning and budgeting processes with aim of strengthening disaster risk mitigation measures and reducing damages caused by natural hazards like floods and droughts.



Additional strategies to enable Country to recover from effects of COVID 19 include:

- (i) Provide and promote alternative sources of clean energy for cooking such as solar energy and bio digesters.
- (ii) Provide waste collection services at households, promote and facilitate regular waste collection, environment clean up exercises at neighborhoods and in towns.
- (iii) Increase the per centage of solid waste collected by the county.
- (iv) Segregate waste resource at the source to easily facilitate recycling.
- (v) The county will develop a designated dumping site.
- (vi) The county to effectively enforce environmental and natural resources policies, laws and regulations.
- (vii) Develop land use management and monitoring systems.
- (viii) Cushion households from the adverse effects of droughts and floods through provision of adequate food rations and targeted cash transfers to deserving households.





5 ECONOMIC STIMULUS PROGRAM (ESP)

5.1 Economic stimulus Package

To re-engineer and put the economy of Vihiga County on upward growth trajectory, it is important either to strengthen the existing programmes or create new ones which have multiplier effects to productivity and employment creation. The following are priority areas to be considered by the County when designing stimulus packages:

- (i) Improve infrastructure targeting roads, water and electricity.
- (ii) Subsidize farming inputs which include certified seeds, fertilizers and mechanized inputs (tractors).
- (iii) Leverage on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) which is a great enabler for business continuity during and after Covid-19.
- (iv) Invest in the Conservation of the Environment for Sustainable Development.
- (v) Give waivers and concessions on cess, single business permits, parking stickers, water bills, market fees.
- (vi) Prioritization of settlement of payment of pending bills.
- (vii) Provide extension services and market creation for Agriculture.
- (viii) Create a Covid-19 revolving recovery Fund utilizing structures such as table banking, self-help groups and MFIs to small scale traders and businesses in the informal sector.

5.2 Financing Economic Stimulus Package

Resource mobilization for implementation of the economic stimulus shall entail collaborations between National and County Government; support from development partners; public private partnerships and non-state actors including NGOs.





6 IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK FOR THE ESP

Effective implementation of the County COVID-19 Re-engineering and Recovery Strategy will depend on adequate resource mobilization over the 2020/21-2022/23. The implementation will thus be supported through resource mobilization from relevant stakeholders in the County, including the National Government, development partners, NGOs and civil society, faith-based organizations, private sector and individuals. The Annex presents proposed action plan for the County.



7 MONITORING, EVALUATING AND REPORTING

The overall purpose of monitoring, evaluation (M&E) and reporting is to track progress of the County COVID-19 re-engineering and recovery strategies. Monitoring will be done periodically to track the implementation of the work plans while evaluations will be undertaken to measure effectiveness, impact and sustainability in meeting the strategic priorities. Some of the M&E activities will include documenting actions, resources, outputs and measure the impacts on expected outcomes.

Monitoring will be undertaken on a continuous basis and reporting on a quarterly basis, at mid-year, annually and at the end of the plan period leading to progress reports. The monitoring framework will track the achievements, assess use and delivery of resources and accomplishment of deliverables.

Evaluation and impact assessment of the plan will involve weighing the extent to which strategic objectives are met and impact created. Evaluation shall therefore be based on the implementation framework and theory of change. A theory of change describes how an intervention can deliver desired results and explains the causal logic of how a program modality or design innovation will reach its intended outcomes.

The County COVID-19 re-engineering and recovery strategies reporting will be informed by annual work plans. All implementing departments in respective counties will be expected to prepare M&E frameworks for each activity (see Sample Annex Table 3). The quarterly progress reports will include information on key indicators against set targets for the quarter. For accountability purposes, County Governments through the Monitoring and Evaluation Departments (MED)s will review their existing M&E policy to include the County COVID-19 re-engineering and recovery strategies. These strategies will also inform County performance contracting targets and human resource performance management systems. The technical capacity of the M&E unit (focal persons and/or champions), on the County Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (CIMES) will be enhanced to monitor and evaluate the implementation of these re-engineering strategies. CIMES guidelines on County Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (COMEC) will also play a key role and responsibility on how County Governments implement these strategies.

Furthermore, the M&E reports will always inform decision making at all county levels including County assemblies to contribute to a strong and sustainable county results-oriented M&E system. At the end of each financial year annual performance reports will be drafted highlighting key achievements, challenges, lessons learnt and recommendations on the way forward.



8 COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

Communication⁷, a process of creating understanding between two or more parties, is considered effective when the transmitted content is received and understood in the way it was intended. For development of County COVID-19 Socio-Economic Recovery Strategies, Communication for Development⁸ (C4D) also referred to as Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) will be utilised. Communication for Development is evidence-based processes that involves a mix of communication channels and approaches to facilitate dialogue, participation and engagement with the target audience for positive social and behaviour change.

The communication channels⁹ are the routes, media and techniques to be used to carry the re-engineering and recovery communication messages from the policy makers to the citizens. Based on May 2020 KNBS COVID-19 Survey, majority of Vihiga respondents received information about coronavirus through radio (87 per cent), television (55 per cent) and mobile (48 per cent). Nevertheless, the survey was not specific whether mobile included both written (short text messages <SMS>) and voice (calls). Friends and family followed closely at 47 per cent. Government sources and social media were ranked at 22 per cent and 14 per cent respectively. Newspapers, Health Care Workers and Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) workers were all below 10 per cent as frequent communication channels for coronavirus information.

Subsequently, the following channels of communication will be utilized:

- (1) Written communication such as: posters, digital (SMS) and online communications (County website, electronic mail and social media).
- (2) Verbal communication such as: radio, telephone, and face to face meetings.
- (3) Non-verbal communication for example: sign language.
- (4) Visual communication: Television.

The effectiveness of the different channels would vary depending on the circumstance and the characteristics of the communication. Therefore, to increase buy-in from the members of the public on the county socio-economic recovery strategies, opportunities, interventions and to encourage positive feedback, below (table 2) are the channels of communication.

7. <https://books.google.co.ke/books?id=QVnnHUSAL7cC&printsec=frontcover&dq=creating+understanding+what+is+communication&hl>

8. https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/UNICEF_2017_Report_on_Communication_for_Development_C4D.pdf

9. <https://www.oxfordreference.com/view/10.1093/oi/authority>



Table 2: Communication channels with target audience

	Children 3yrs- 17yrs	Youth 18yrs- 35yrs	Men 36yrs- 70yrs	Women 36yrs- 70yrs	PWDs	Aged 71yrs +	Literate & Semi- literate	Rural	Urban & Informal settlements
Barazas <100 persons									
Face to face <100 persons									
Radio									
Newspaper									
TV									
SMS									
Website & Email									
Social Media									
I.E.C-Posters, branded gear									
Outdoor- Billboards, Graffiti, Drawings									
Telephone									
Sign language									

> Most appropriate channel to be used.

NOTES:

- For purposes of this report, the literacy levels will be measured by whether the target audience can listen, speak, read and write in English and Kiswahili language.
- It is assumed that children under the age of 3 years have not yet fully developed their cognitive abilities to interpret communication.

The communication channels for Persons with Disabilities are radio and telephone calls for the visually impaired and sign language for those with hearing impairment.

The scheduled communication or frequency of messaging are as follows:

- Weekly updates on County website & social media
- Bi-weekly broadcast messages (TV interchanged with either local or kiswahili radio station).
- Monthly SMS and telephone calls.
- Quarterly I.E.C materials - Posters in reception areas and community gatherings (markets, mosques, churches, clinics, huduma centers).
- Monthly barazas.



ANNEX

Implementation matrix/Action plan

Sector	Strategic Objectives	Activities/ Economic Stimulus	Expected Outcome /Key Result Area	Expected output	Key Performance Indicator	Time frame	2020/21: 2021/22 (Ksh. in million)	2022/23 (Ksh. in million)	Total Budget (Ksh. in million)	Source of Funds	Implementing Agency/Actor/ Stakeholder
County Revenue Policy	OSR Enhancement; External grants	Increase PPP frameworks for resource mobilization	Enhanced resources for development projects	Increased financial resources	% increase in OSR amount of grant received	Continuous from 2020/21	150	200	350	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
County Expenditure Reforms; Pending Bills	Re-engineer expenditure to be growth oriented and people-centred	Increase expenditure in health sectors and other non-administrative functions such as water, trade, ICT, education, agriculture while systematically reducing expenditure on non-administrative functions	County expenditure that is people-centred and focussed on growth-creating sectors such as health, education, water, infrastructure, ICT etc	Increased budgetary allocation on Health, water Education infrastructure and ICT	% increase in budgetary allocation of key growth oriented sectors	Continuous from 2020/21	50	50	100	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
		Reduce the approved budget-actual expenditure gap by fully implementing PFM recommendations and conducting annual expenditure reviews	County expenditure in line with existing National Government and County Government laws	Enhanced conformity of County Budget policy to existing laws	County Expenditure review report	Continuous from 2020/21	10	5	15	County Government	County Government
		Restructure county functional expenditure classification to encompass stand-alone emerging ICT functions	Fully fledged stand-alone ICT department with a budget	Established County ICT directorate	No. of functional county ICT Directorate	2020/21	50	20	70	County Government	County Government
	Eliminate pending bills	Systematically and in phase-out approach reduce pending bills owed to suppliers	Enhanced budget performance	Reduced pending bill	% reduction in pending bill	2020/21-2021-22	300	200	500	County and National Governments	County Government
Agriculture	Diversification of production into fast-maturing vegetable crops through irrigation	Subsidies on fast-maturing vegetable seeds, expansion of area under sustainable irrigation	Enhanced food and nutrition security in the county	Increased number of farmers producing fast-maturing vegetables/ crops;	Number of farmers accessing subsidized fast maturing seeds; Increased acreage under fast maturing crops;	Continuous from 2020/21	15	15	30	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
	Enhancing agro-processing and value addition capacities of counties	Attracting private partnerships in the county; Strengthen agricultural extension services; Enhance farmers training and farmers information services; Enhance collaboration with research institutions	Transformed smallholder value chain actors in the County	Increased private investments in the County;; Enhanced agricultural extension and information outreach systems in the County	Value-addition per worker in the county; No. of agro-processing industries/ plants set up in the county; Number of farmers trained in agro-processing	Continuous	100	30	130	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government

**COUNTY COVID-19 SOCIAL ECONOMIC RE-ENGINEERING
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	Investments in storage and cooling facilities especially at collection centres	Construction of storage and cooling facilities in the County	Enhanced food security in the County	Increased storage and cooling facilities; reduced post harvesting losses	Number of storage and cooling facilities developed at the County level	2 years	20	10	30	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
	Digitization of the agricultural sector	Building capacities of farming households and agri-food sector labourers in modern agricultural technologies; Investment in digital infrastructure (e.g. data systems)	Digitized marketing, advisory and information, financial and agricultural government operations at the County	Increased usage of digital platforms among Agriculture Value Chain Actors	Number of users adopting digitized agricultural operations (marketing, financial, etc) at the County level; Proportion of small-scale farmers with access to advisory and information services;	1 year	10	10	20	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
	Enhanced access to agricultural finance	Partner with development partners, such as, the National Government, Private Sector, DFIs and NGOs, in availing access to affordable formal agricultural finance to small holder farmers in the county	Enhanced access to farm input and access to markets	Increased number of small holder farmers with access to agricultural finance.	Proportion of small-scale farmers with access to agricultural finance;	Continuous	100	100	200	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government



COUNTY COVID-19 SOCIAL ECONOMIC RE-ENGINEERING RECOVERY STRATEGY 2020/21-2022/23

Sector	Strategic Objectives	Activities/ Economic Stimulus	Expected Outcome /Key Result Area	Expected output	Key Performance Indicator	Time frame	2020/21: 2021/22 (Ksh. in million)	2022/23 (Ksh. in million)	Total Budget (Ksh. in million)	Source of Funds	Implementing Agency/Actor/ Stakeholder
	Disaster surveillance at County level and mitigate risks associated with disasters, such as those related to floods	Establish programmes for surveillance of disasters such as extreme weather conditions at the County level equipped with relevant technical specialists and finances to effectively prevent, prepare, respond and prevent risks; Institutional capacity development; Carry out vulnerability analyses and updates; Invest in monitoring and early warning systems; Conduct public education	Enhanced preparedness and resilience to disasters	Established Disaster Risk management unit; DRR strategy developed	disaster risk management unit at the county level equipped with relevant technical specialists and finances to effectively prepare, respond and prevent risks; Number of weather forecast and flood early warning disseminated to communities; Number of men and women trained to access flood warning and weather forecast/ information; Number of men and women trained on Disaster Management; Number of community level contingency and climate change adaptation plans developed	1 year	30	20	50	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
Manufacturing and MSMEs	Enhance innovation	Establish a Fund/Establish a budget line to support innovative activities in the County	Increased county revenues; Increasing levels of employment; Increasing use of new business models	New product brands in the market; Improved processes	No. of new brands in the market; No. of trainings conducted	3 years	4	4	8	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
	Strengthening partnerships	Attract private partnerships and other stakeholders in the county;	Increased project undertaken by partners	Increased PPP arrangements	Number of county-PPPs; increasing no. of stakeholders' engagements with the County		14	6	20	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
	Enhance skills	Build capacity and skills of traders and businesses persons	Increased productivity; More revenues	Increased No. of personnel trained	No. of persons trained	Continuous	2	2	4	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
Water and Sanitation	To increase access to clean water	To Develop and rehabilitate water infrastructure	No of water infrastructure developed and rehabilitated	Increased access to clean and safe water	% of the population with access to clean and safe water; % of population covered with piped water		200	100	300	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government

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RECOVERY STRATEGY 2020/21-2022/23**



Sector	Strategic Objectives	Activities/ Economic Stimulus	Expected Outcome /Key Result Area	Expected output	Key Performance Indicator	Time frame	2020/21: (Ksh. in million)	2022/23 (Ksh. in million)	Total Budget (Ksh. in million)	Source of Funds	Implementing Agency/Actor/ Stakeholder
	To increase access to improved sanitation	To develop and rehabilitate sanitation infrastructure	No of sanitation infrastructure developed and rehabilitated	Increased access to improved sanitation	% of the population covered by sewer line					County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
Solid waste management	To achieve increased solid waste collection and management	To sensitive communities on importance of safe solid waste collection management and disposal	No of environment clean up exercised in major urban centres and neighbourhoods	Increased access to clean environment	% of population with increased access to safe and clean environment		100	100	200	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
Environment and Natural Resources Conservation	To increase environment conservation to clean water; To increase access to improved sanitation	To plant trees and increase area under forest	No of free trees seedlings distributed to local communities; No of trees planted	Increased forest cover	% Ha under forest cover		100	100	200	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
Transport	To enhance sustainable mobility options for household	Construct NMT infrastructure across key roads in the County	Increased modal split in favor of NMT	Increase in knowledge management of NMT infrastructure	Knowledge management of NMT infrastructure in good and fair condition	1 YEAR	10	10	20	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
	To enhance health, safety and hygiene in public transport vehicles	Improve public transport vehicle design to address social distancing and hygiene	Compliance to the COVID-19 safety guidelines	Reduced exposure and infection rates attributed PSV use	No. of reported positive cases due to PSV used (based on contact tracing data)	1 YEAR	15	10	25	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
	To improve the road conditions of the road network	Improve quality of the unpaved road infrastructure using labour-based techniques	Improved accessibility and reduced vehicle operation costs	Increased proportion of roads in good and fair condition	Proportion of unpaved road network in good and fair condition	2 YEARS	30	30	60	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
		Improve quality of road network using appropriate technology -Low Volume Sealed Roads (LVSR) for rural roads	Improved accessibility and reduced vehicle operation costs	Increased proportion of roads in good and fair condition	Knowledge management of roads developed using LVSR	2 years	300	200	500	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
	To mitigate the damage caused by storm water on roads and bridges	Implement green roads design to protect road infrastructure while controlling storm water and harvesting flood water for domestic and commercial use	Resilient road infrastructure that can withstand floods with controlled damage	Number of green roads projects and water harvesting infrastructure	Knowledge management of green roads and quantity of water harvested in cubic meters annually	2 years	30	10	40	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	To enhance ICT capacity and use	Collaborate with private sector to enhance household acquisition of acquired ICT assets and technologies, e.g. smart phones and laptops	Increased use of ICT for domestic and commercial purposes	Increase in number of households owning ICT assets and technologies	Proportion of households owning ICT assets	1 year	25	25	50	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government



COUNTY COVID-19 SOCIAL ECONOMIC RE-ENGINEERING RECOVERY STRATEGY 2020/21-2022/23

Sector	Strategic Objectives	Activities/ Economic Stimulus	Expected Outcome /Key Result Area	Expected output	Key Performance Indicator	Time frame	2020/21: 2021/22 (Ksh. in million)	2022/23 (Ksh. in million)	Total Budget (Ksh. in million)	Source of Funds	Implementing Agency/Actor/ Stakeholder
		Programme to ensure ubiquitous access to reliable and affordable internet (internet everywhere)	Increased use of ICT for domestic and commercial purposes	Increase in number of households connected to reliable and affordable internet	Proportion of households connected to reliable and affordable internet	1 year	10	5	15	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
		Community access to ICT infrastructure and services in public primary schools	Improved access to ICT infrastructure and services	Increase in number of household able to access ICT through community facilities	Proportion of household able to access ICT through community facilities	1 year	10	5	15	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
	Boosting e-commerce and home-based economies through ICT access	Extending the NOFBI project to ensure internet connectivity in public spaces, markets, commercial zones and public buildings	Increased use of e-commerce to boost trade	Increased proportion of population engaging in e-commerce	Proportion of population engaging in e-commerce	1 year	10	20	30	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
	Enhance prominence in County planning and budgeting	Designate ICT as a stand-alone Ministry in Vihiga County Government structure and deploy requisite personnel and capability	Enhance prominence of ICT plans, programmes and projects	Increased budget for ICT	Share of ICT budget in overall county budget	2 years	50	40	90	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
	Enhance cyber security	Formulate and implement cyber security policies and procedures and pursue ISO certification on Information Systems Security	Enhanced detection, mitigation and reporting of cyber security incidents	Reduced cyber security incidents	No. of cyber security incidents	2 years	1	1	2	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
Urban Development and Housing	To improve the quality of life of residents through provision of affordable and decent housing	Fastrack implementation of the affordable housing programme with a focus on improving living conditions in informal settlements	Enhanced quality in informal settlements due to improved housing conditions	Increased proportion of households provided with affordable and decent housing	No. of housing units provided	2 years	250	250	500	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
	To increase access to clean energy sources and technologies for cooking by households	Enhanced household use of clean energy and technology for cooking; distribution of clean cookstoves and clean energy alternatives to charcoal, kerosene and firewood	Increased number of households with access to clean energy and technology for cooking	Proportion of households with access to clean energy and technology for cooking	No. of housing units	2 years	50	40	90	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
Tourism	Enhance socio-economic benefits from the tourism sector	Tourism sector development master-plan; Rehabilitate infrastructure leading to tourism attraction sites	Growth in revenue generation from tourism	Increased visitor numbers to the county; increased awareness of the diversified tourism product offering	Number of local and foreign visitors; revenue collected by county government from tourism.	3 – 5 years	10	10	20	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government

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		Niche tourism product developed, marketing incorporating aspects of COVID-19.	Diversified tourism experiences / product; Sanitation standards in tourism upheld	Increased number of tourists visiting the County; increased awareness and practice of sanitation in tourist products	Number of niche tourism products developed; Number of cultural sites preserved; Number of high-altitude training camps developed;	3 – 5 years	100	100	200	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
		Tourism infrastructure development	Enhanced accessibility of sites; Expanded accommodation facilities	1 five star hotel; Improved roads and accessibility; Increased contribution to GDP	Number of high spending tourist arrivals; Revenue from tourism	2-5 years	30	30	60	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
Health	Improve access to quality and affordable health services	Provide appropriate antenatal care	Improved health condition of pregnant women	Number of women benefitted	1 year		20	10	30	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
		Promote additional funding to the health sector	Health infrastructure development	Number of health facilities improved and equipped as per norms	2 years		140	150	290	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
		Recruit high number of public health officers	Efficient and effective service delivery	Number of health officers recruited	2 years		100	100	200	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
		Enhance Medical Supplies	Increase % of availability of essential Medical products	Number health centres stocked with essential medical products.	2 years		250	250	500	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
		Improve immunization coverage in the County	Reduced mortality	Number of immunization outreaches	2 years		40	50	90	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
	To improve sanitation in the County	Enhance construction of latrines	Increased latrine coverage	% of homesteads with latrines	1 year		20	30	50	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
		Drill boreholes at County health centres and public areas	Improved access to safe water in public places	Number of boreholes drilled	2 years		2	3	5	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
	Strengthen collaboration with health-related sectors	Pollution control; Improvement in veterinary services; Construction of latrines	Improved service delivery	% change of health sector development	1 years					County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
	Minimize exposure to health risk factor	Health promotion including health information; Micro-nutrient deficiency control; Infection prevention and control	Reduced mortality rate	Number of patients treated	2 years		150	150	300	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government



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Education	To improve service delivery in schools	Promote infrastructure development	Improved training environment	Number of school facilities renovated and constructed	2 years		150	150	300	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
		Train teachers on how to instruct remotely	Improvement in teaching skills	Number of teachers trained	1 years		1	1	2	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
		Recruitment of ECDE teachers	Efficient and effective service delivery	Number of ECDE teachers recruited	2 years		150	150	300	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
		Capacity building of school Board of management	Improvement in the management capacities	Number of trainings held	1 years		10	10	20	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
	Enhance transition and retention rates in schools	Disbursement of bursaries	Increase of school attendance	No. students of supported with bursaries	2 years		100	100	200	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
		Promote school feeding programmes	Increase in number of students attending schools	% of students attending schools	1 years		250	250	500	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
		Enhance back to school campaigns	Increase in number of students attending schools	% students attending schools	1 years					County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
	To provide safety in schools	Provide surgical masks to students; Provide PPE to school employees	Reduction in cases of COVID-19	Quantities of PPE and surgical masks supplied	1 years		10	10	20	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
	Strengthen social well-being of students	Promote guidance and counseling in schools	Increased retention and attendance in school	Number of schools where guidance & counseling	1 years		5	5	10	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
Social Protection	Promote social protection activities	Provide medical insurance coverage	Reduction in treatment cost during emergencies	Number of people covered by insurance	1 years		50	50	100	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
		Enhance cash transfer to vulnerable groups	Reduced poverty level	Number of people who benefitted from cash transfers	1 years		100	100	200	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
Human Resource	Provide safety in workplaces	Provide adequate personal protective equipment for employees	Reduced cases of COVID-19 in workplaces	Number of protective equipment provided	1 years		20	80	100	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
	Improve staff digital skills	Implement policy guidelines on skills development among the staffs; Training and capacity building of staffs on use of ICT in service delivery	Improvement in remote working	Number of staff trained on digital skills	1 years		15	15	30	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government

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	Mainstream occupational safety and health into the sectors of the economy	Train workers on safety and health	Increased control of COVID-19 transmission	No. of workers trained	1 years		15	15	30	County and National Governments; development partners	County Government
		Grand Total					3784	3437	7221		

COUNTY GOVERNMENTS



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