

## MSEs' Business Environment in Kirinyaga County

### Introduction

The County Business Environment for MSEs (CBEM) framework has been developed to monitor key issues that require policy interventions in creating an enabling environment for the Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) sector in the counties. The framework covers four key areas affecting the operations of MSEs: Worksites and adequacy of their infrastructure; Market environment; Financial and technical capacity; and Governance and regulatory framework. This brief indicates the business environment for MSEs in Kirinyaga County

### Kirinyaga County Demographics and Output<sup>i</sup>

1

Total population: 610,411; Female, 50.5%  
Contribution to total GDP: Average 1.7% for the period 2013-2017  
Contribution to Gross Value Added: 1.6% in 2017

2

Sectors driving growth in economic activity: Manufacturing (7%); Agriculture (41%) and Services (42%).

### Importance of MSEs and Challenges<sup>ii</sup>

#### IMPORTANCE

1999

Employed 50% of working population

Contributed 18.9% of GDP

2016

Employed 81.0% of working population

Contributed 24.7% of National output  
and 23.6% Gross Value Added

#### CHALLENGES

Due to poor business environment MSEs in Kenya are faced with the challenges of:

Low survival rate of MSEs

Limited skills

Capital and workspaces

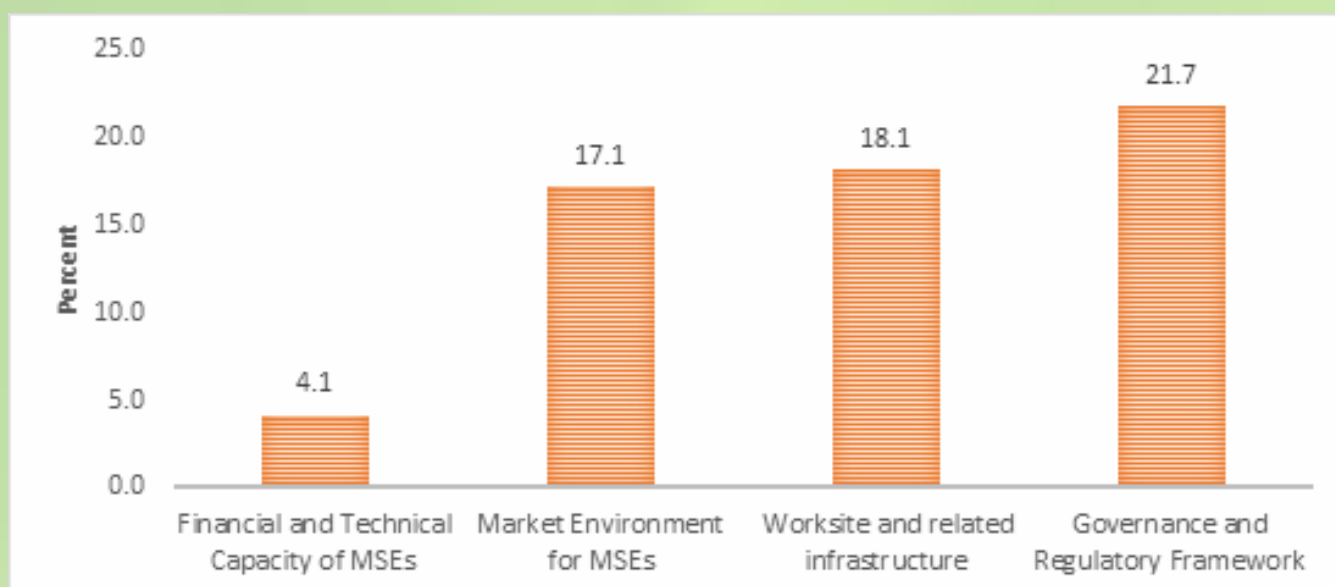
Informality

Low productivity

## MSEs' Business Environment

All the scores for MSEs' business environment are drawn from the CBEM framework (KIPPRA, 2019). The MSEs' business environment is measured using the following: Worksite and related infrastructure; Market environment; Financial and technical capacity; and Governance and regulatory framework. The scores range between lowest (0) and highest (100). Kirinyaga county scored a total of 13.2.

Figure 1: Kirinyaga County scores



## Worksites and Infrastructure for MSEs

### Scores

- Access to worksites: 31.1
- Electricity connection: 21.8
- Water connection: 21.3
- Access to common manufacturing facilities: 1.3
- Availability of public toilets: 16.2
- Waste management services: 13.1

### Constraints

- Insufficient public toilet facilities
- Inadequate designated areas for waste disposal
- Insufficient worksites
- Lack of adequate tools, machinery and equipment
- High electricity and water connection costs
- Frequent power outages
- Inadequate common manufacturing facilities

## Market Environment for MSEs

### Scores

- Road infrastructure: 28.5
- Access to physical markets: 18.9
- Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO): (-)
- Fair competition: 4.0

### Constraints

- Unfair trade practises manifest through: contract enforcement, counterfeiting, dumping (sub-standard goods) and misrepresentation (through weight, price, ingredient).
- Poor road infrastructure
- Limited access to markets

## Financial and Technical Capacity for MSEs

### Scores

- Training (capacity building) for MSEs: 11.0
- Knowledge and skills mapping: 7.1
- MSEs survival rate: 1.1
- Access to digital finance: 1.0
- Innovations: 0.23
- Patenting: (-)

### Constraints

- Fragmentation due to multiplicity of players who offer training and capacity building
- Low uptake of digital finance
- Lack of a training and apprenticeship programme for artisans
- Low levels of innovation
- Lack of training needs assessment for MSEs
- Lack of monitoring and evaluation of training programmes
- High cost of doing business

## Governance and Regulatory Framework for MSEs

### Scores

- Licensing and issuance of permits: 24.4
- Self-regulation: 31.6
- Crime and public security: 25.5
- Corruption and governance issues: 5.3

### Constraints

- Corruption
- Multiple licences and permits
- Misallocation and exploitative tendencies within the worksites
- Insecurity

## Way forward in Creating an Enabling Environment for MSEs

### a) Worksite and Adequacy of Infrastructure

- Collaborate with Micro & Small enterprises Authority (MSEA) and other relevant agencies to facilitate access of common manufacturing facilities.
- Enhance provision of sanitation and waste management facilities in/around worksites and market centres.

### b) Market Environment for MSEs

- Partner with National Government in levelling the playing field for MSEs to address competition and unfair trade practices among MSEs; Collaborate with the Anti-Counterfeit Agency (ACA) and Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) to sensitize MSEs on issues of counterfeits and dumping of goods.

### c) Financial and Technical Capacity for MSEs

- Collaborate with relevant training institutions such as Kenya Institute of Business Training and National Industrial Training Authority in knowledge and skills mapping to provide relevant entrepreneurial training and technical training, apprenticeship and certification programmes to MSEs.
- Collaborate with national institutions such as Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI) and Kenya Industrial Property Institute (KIPI) to carry out sensitization to MSEs on innovation and patenting of their products. KIRDI and KIPI need to facilitate mechanisms of subsidizing cost of innovations and patenting, respectively.
- Collaborate with financial sector players such as banks, SACCOs and micro finance institutions in targeting MSEs through financial innovations with an opportunity to penetrate and deepen financial services; Collaborate with financial sector players such as banks, SACCOs and micro finance institutions in targeting MSEs through financial innovations with an opportunity to penetrate and deepen financial services.

### d) Governance and Regulation Framework

- Work with MSEA and Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission to eliminate misallocation and exploitative tendencies within the worksites.

## End notes

<sup>i</sup> Gross County Product 2019 and Kenya Population and Housing Census, 2019

<sup>ii</sup> KNBS, Various

### About KIPPRA Policy Briefs

KIPPRA Policy Briefs are aimed at a wide dissemination of the Institute's policy research findings. The findings are expected to stimulate discussion and also build capacity in the public policy making process in Kenya.

KIPPRA acknowledges generous support from the Government of Kenya, and development partners who have continued to support the Institute's activities over the years.

### For More Information Contact:

Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis  
Bishops Road, Bishops Garden Towers  
P.O. Box 56445-00200, Nairobi  
Tel: 2719933/4  
Cell: 0736712724, 0724256078  
Email: admin@kippra.or.ke  
Website: <http://www.kippra.org>  
Twitter: @kipprakenya