



SAMBURU COUNTY GENDER POLICY

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Gender equality is a fundamental human right and a prerequisite foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable people-centred development. According to UN-Women's Women Empowerment Principles, 2011, empowering women to participate fully in economic life across all sectors and throughout all levels of economic activity is essential in order to: build strong economies; establish more stable and just societies; achieve internationally agreed-upon goals for development, sustainability and human rights; improve quality of life for women, men, families and communities; and propel operations and goals of businesses.

1.2 Justification for a gender policy for Samburu County.

Gender equality is a fundamental human right, and advancing it is critical to all areas of a healthy society, from reducing poverty to promoting the Health, education, protection and well-being of men, women, girls and boys.

The County Government of Samburu recognizes that gender equality has been an elusive target for them mainly due to the fact that the communities in the County are patriarchal; women are viewed as inferior to men. However, with all the progress made in the Country, the Samburu County Government is determined to ensure that the half of its population who are women (2019 Population Census) are not left behind. The Policy recognizes that everybody's contribution matters- men, women, boys, girls, persons with disabilities and the elderly. Therefore, this Policy is an attempt to ensure the clarion call on leaving no one behind is achieved; they are empowered and have the opportunity to contribute in the social, political, and economic spheres in Samburu County.

1.3 Policy purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to promote gender equality for sustainable development by guiding women empowerment and gender mainstreaming in all sectors of the County Government of Samburu

1.4 The Vision

The vision of this Policy is a just society where women, men, boys and girls live free of violence and enjoy equal rights and opportunities in social, economic and political domains of life.

1.5 Overall objective

The overall objective of this Policy is to guide institutionalization, operationalization and coordination of gender equality aspirations of the County Government of Samburu in all departments.

1.6 Specific objectives

- a) To align gender policy with the aspirations of The Constitution of Kenya 2010 and domesticate the international and regional obligations and commitments that promote gender equality and freedom from discrimination.
- b) To provide a framework to integrate and mainstream gender and empowerment approaches into County's development planning, budgeting, policies, programmes and plans.
- c) To promote and support the rights-based approach when dealing with gender-related matters such as economic empowerment and health care.
- d) To eliminate all forms of GBV through preventive and responsive strategies.
- d) To strengthen institutional structures to address gender equality, collect and analyze sex-disaggregated data.
- e) To guide institutional framework and performance indicators for effective tracking, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting gender equality and empowerment.

1.7 Guiding principles

This Policy is structured on the following guiding principles, which the County Government of Samburu shall always apply.

- Supremacy of the Constitution
- Women and girls rights are human rights
- Public participation, consultation and cooperation;
- Empowerment to give voice, power, and control to women, men, boys and girls to make choices in life.
- Equality, inclusion, non-discrimination

- Respect for the rule of law
- Non-tolerance for GBV
- Recognition of differences, diversities and inequalities among women and men;
- Transparency and accountability;

1.8 The Gender Policy Scope

This Policy is targeting the following priority areas;

- Poverty;
- Access to human resources, labour and the economy;
- Education
- health
- GBV
- Girl child beading
- Governance, power and decision making
- Insecurity and peacebuilding
- Media
- Land, Environment and natural resources
- Agriculture

The Policy shall be used by all departments of the County Government of Samburu and development partners to ensure that they have mainstreamed gender and collect gender indicators. It also prioritizes the capacity strengthening of Samburu County Government in various sectors to enhance engendered programming, implementation, data collection and analysis, and evidence-based planning.

2. CHAPTER TWO

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

2.0 Legal Framework

In Kenya, the Government has demonstrated its commitment to gender equality through its ratification of global human rights instruments: Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Social Development Goals, the ILO Convention 100 on Equal Remuneration (1951), the African Union Agenda 2063 which provides a roadmap for Africa's long-term development that includes the need to place gender equality and equity at the centre of the continent's social and economic development, East Africa Community Treaty, which also recognizes the need for gender equality in the integration process and has developed a gender policy on women economic empowerment, another initiative that promotes women empowerment to achieve gender equality that Kenya is a part of is the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), which has developed a Women Economic Empowerment Fund.

The Kenya government has articulated its commitment to gender equality in the Kenya Constitution 2010 by setting a framework for realizing gender equality throughout all sectors. The Constitution has affirmed the rights and status of women as full citizens. Besides the elaborate bill of rights and solid provisions for upholding women's rights. The demonstrable effort is also visible in respective Policy and programmatic initiatives by the Kenya Government. These include, The National Policy on Gender and Development (2019); Sessional Paper No.2 of 2006 on Gender Equity and Development; Economic Recovery Strategy (2003–2007); Vision 2030, establishment of National Gender and Equality Commission, the Adolescent Reproductive Health and Development Policy and Plan of Action (2005-2015), Sexual Offences Act No. 3 of 2006, Protection Against Domestic Violence Act (2015), Gender and Education Policy (2007), Presidential Directive on Affirmative Action, National Policy for the Abandonment of FGM/C (Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting). The Government established various initiatives that have advanced women's and youth empowerment and working towards gender equality. These include the Women's Enterprise Fund²⁹, the Uwezo Fund³⁰, the Youth Enterprise Development Fund³¹, and the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities³² (AGPO).

The introduction of the 2/3 gender rule³³, the Matrimonial Property Act (2013)³⁴ and Marriage Act (2014)³⁵. Further efforts towards gender equality and women's economic empowerment can also be seen through several private sector initiatives that promote access to credit and financial inclusion for women.

The Samburu County assembly has passed the following laws to promote gender equality and women empowerment; Women and Youth Enterprise fund Act 2015, persons living with disability Act 2016, Bursaries Act 2014.

Overall, the legal and Policy terrain favouring attainment of gender equality has continued to improve in Kenya. Still, women, youth and girls continue to experience both structural and systemic discrimination and gender-based violence, thereby denying them opportunities to participate meaningfully in the economic, social and political arena.

This Policy builds on the achievements realized as articulated above, especially since the promulgation of the Constitution of Kenya 2010. The County Government is expected to advance the gender equality agenda specifically in the County Integrated Development Plans, Annual Development Plans, Annual Budget Plans, and customizing or enacting relevant laws and policies that will advance this agenda within their various contexts but in harmony with the national regulations.

In this context and mandate, the County Government of Samburu has developed this Policy to address gender equality based on the realities and experiences of the patriarchal communities in Samburu County. It is expected that this Policy will provide policy guidance to all departments of the County Government and development partners so that together, we can walk the gender equality journey purposefully and towards the vision articulated in this Policy.

3. CHAPTER THREE

THEMATIC AREAS AND STRATEGIES

3.0 Background

The situation analysis was informed by the Gender audit carried by the Samburu County Culture, Gender and Social Services Department and the Health Department in 2018 and the Samburu County Gender analysis survey of 2016. The objectives of the gender analysis were to identify best practices and challenges with gender mainstreaming and make recommendations, increase gender equity focus of current and future programs, policies, plans and activities, to address needs and priorities in Samburu County

The County Government assessed to determine the type of efforts needed in integrating gender issues within the County. The gender analysis sought to contribute to gender mainstreaming in Samburu County.

This chapter also presents the objectives and strategies in the following thematic areas:

Poverty reduction, education, Health, sexual and gender-based violence, security and armed conflict, labour and the economy, governance, power and decision-making, Information and Communications Technologies (ICT), respect for the human rights for all, the media, environment and natural resources, land, housing and agriculture, access to justice, inequalities.

Evidence demonstrates higher economic growth and better quality of life in economies where gender equality is more significant in terms of both opportunities and benefits. Agricultural development is enhanced when both men and women are enabled to participate fully as economic actors. Their participation in economic institutions and ability to express their own needs and priorities in decision-making forums make development programmes more sustainable and increases possibilities for poverty reduction.

Issues identified

I. Poverty

Poverty includes lack of material or monetary resources and structural and systemic factors that impact people's capabilities, opportunities, and agency in political, social and economic spheres. Despite several initiatives by County and National government drivers of poverty in Samburu includes unequal distribution of resources, historical marginalization,

constant inter and intra community conflicts, cultural hindrances, poor telecommunication, illiteracy and road networks and lack of access to factors of production.

Poverty makes it difficult for women and girls to realize their rights in areas such as politics (Power and decision Making) education, health, justice as provided for in the Kenya Constitution.

Key issues

- a) Limited skills and capacity to run successful enterprises.
- b) Limited access and control of productive assets
- c) Women time poverty; reproductive vs productive tasks
- d) Despite access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) for women and youth, lack of capital and knowledge remain a barrier.
- e) Limited access to markets and market information.

Policy objective on poverty: Enhance the capacity of women, men, boys, girls and minority/ vulnerable, marginalized communities to have equal access to and control economic opportunities and resources.

Strategies

- a. Increase and strengthen access to credit opportunities by enhancing various County empowerment funds such as Ushanga Initiative.
- b. Address barriers limiting access to markets and market information for women and youth.
- c. Support the development of women and youth entrepreneurs' network, hold women's economic empowerment forum, and recognize successful women and youth.
- d. Build capacity of women and youth in financial literacy, entrepreneurship and enterprise development.
- e. Conduct civic education programmes for women, men, boys, girls and minority/ vulnerable, marginalized communities on how to access credit and benefit from the affirmative action initiatives
- f. Tailor-made extension and business training services to suit the time burden and availability of women.

- g. Capacity built women, youth and PWDs on AGPO and liaised with the relevant MDA (Ministry Departments and Agencies) to ensure compliance with the 30%.
- h. Support women to access and have control over productive assets and equipment for value addition.
- i. Provide and improvise technologies with the potential to reduce the time burden on women, e.g. subsidy for the energy cookstove, domestic solar lighting, and children care & play space in markets.

II. Access to human resources, labour and the economy

Women economic activity is concentrated mainly on reproductive roles-household chore and minimally on the informal business sector, unlike their counterparts who dominate in the formal sector and other productive roles e.g. livestock production, formal large-scale businesses, etc. On average, women work longer hours (12.9 hours) compared to men (8.2 hours) yet they earn less because most of these hours are taken by unremunerated reproductive tasks despite contributing immensely to mainstream economic activities.

Key issues

- a) Long hours of unpaid reproductive labour
- b) Balancing of productive and reproductive roles, which hinders women's effective participation in entrepreneurship

Policy objective on Human Resources, labour and the economy: To enhance women's knowledge and skills for gainful employment and income-generating opportunities

Strategies:

- a. Enhance implementation of programmes aimed at the empowerment of all genders.
- b. To use evidence generated data to address barriers that impede women participation in economic activity.
- c. Ensure compliance to the thirty per cent affirmative action policy on recruitment, appointment and promotion of women, youth and PWDs into the public service.

III. Education

Education is a fundamental right under Article 43 of the Constitution. Articles 53, 54 and 55 of the Constitution emphasize the primacy of the right to education for the youth, persons with disabilities and children. Samburu County Gender survey 2018 findings revealed that

the majority of the respondents have never attended school at 63% per cent. Of this group who never attended school, women comprised 72.6% per cent while men comprised 53% per cent of their respective populations.

Another big concern in the education system is high enrollment and dropout for girls compared to boys.

Key issues

- a) High drop out of school girls due to pregnancies and child marriages
- b) High illiteracy levels among the community members
- c) The high cultural value attached to moranism, limits boys schooling progress

Key issue in TVET

- a) The perception/ stereotyping of some TVET fields makes it perceived as training for poor students and failures.
- b) Limited internship opportunities
- c) Inadequate information on TVET and courses offered at TVET
- d) Accessibility of the TVETs

Policy objective on education:

- a) To enhance and sustain measures for retention and 100% transition to primary and secondary school.
- b) To promote gender equality through skills-building at vocational centres for boys and girls

Strategies

- a. Support in the enforcement of laws against child labour.
- b. Enhance civic education programmes on FGM, Child Marriages and other harmful practices that inhibit access to education.
- c. Adopt anti-FGM household and intergenerational dialogues
- d. Strengthen school health programs in schools
- e. Dedicate a budget kitty to provide dignity pack that will ensure retention of girls in school during their menstruation periods.

- f. Ensure accountability and strengthen institutions offering bursary funds and civic education on the availability of these funds for both girls and boys from low-income families.
- g. Device mechanisms for coordination and cooperation between the national and County governments in providing education for all, including bursary allocation.
- h. Subsidized rates for vocation training targeting boys and girls
- i. Collaborate with development partners to advocate for improved service delivery for vocational and training opportunities.
- j. Collaborate with potential employers to engage vocational training interns for technical skills acquisition
- k. Create awareness and sensitization of TVETS and the courses offered
- l. Develop strategy on culture and behaviour change that gives both boys and girls equal opportunity to go to school for a bright future and drivers of the economy.

IV. Health

The Constitution of Kenya Article 43 provides for the right to the highest attainable health standards.

In the Samburu context, a significant barrier for women achievement of the highest attainable standard of health is gender inequality, inaccessibility of health facilities and lack of independence in decision making for their reproductive health especially seeking family planning services. This has affected maternal and child health as well as the economic productivity

The table below shows the County indicators for Family Planning/Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health as captured in the Samburu County Strategic Plan 2018-2022. As shown in the table, Samburu FP/RMNCAH indicators performed dismally compared to the National average.

Table 2: Samburu County FP/RMNCAH indicators

Indicator	Samburu County	National Average
Contraceptive use	20%	53.2%
Age at first sexual intercourse	14(15)	17(18)
Teenage pregnancy	29%	18%
No. of births per woman	6.3	3.9
Antenatal care	74%	96%
Delivery in a medical facility	24.5%	61.2%
Maternal Mortality Rate	100/1000	51/1000
Infant Mortality Rate	142/1000	32.7/1000
Under 5 Mortality Rate	142/1000	49.2/1000

Source: Samburu County Strategic Plan 2018-2022

Key Issue

- a) High rates of pregnancies among adolescent girls
- b) Incidences of abortion among adolescent girls
- c) High child mortality rate among the under-fives
- d) High unmet FP needs among women of reproductive age. Decision on family planning depends on men
- e) Men Health seeking behaviour is a challenge due to gender norms and masculinity aspects
- f) inadequate information on reproductive health (RH) services

Policy objective on health

To enhance Gender-responsive, affordable, accessible, acceptable and quality health services for all.

Strategies

- a. County governments to build the capacity to the health services providers on gender-responsive services

- b. Support gender-responsive budgeting.
- c. Carry out periodic assessments/ research on health-seeking behaviour to inform Policy and programming decisions.
- d. Ensure health policies are gender-sensitive.
- e. Address social-cultural norms and barriers hindering improved health services uptake

V. Gender-Based Violence

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is based on socially ascribed gender differences between men and women, which define power relations between men and women. GBV affects women; girls, men and boys but women and girls are disproportionately affected. Gender-Based violence leads to a violation of many other rights. Moreover, social-economic rights to necessities such as housing, water and sanitation are affected when a woman is denied/ has limited access and control to productive resources. All forms of GBV are a significant cause of mental health problems to the respective persons affected. Samburu is still struggling with FGM despite the practice being illegal. Child beading, rape, early pregnancies, intimate partner violence, child marriage, among others. Child marriages have been indicated as a significant contributor to adolescent and teenage pregnancy in Samburu.

Key issues

- Limited empowerment of Samburu women and girls in decision making related to GBV
- Deep-rooted gender norms and cultural practices that regard sex as a taboo
- Inadequate awareness on GBV prevention and response
- Weak community referral systems for GBV survivors
- Weak social support structures for the GBV survivors
- Alternative dispute resolutions related to GBV cases
- Lack of Gender-Based Violence Recovery Centre
- Inadequate rescue centres for the survivors
- Inadequate capacity of health care workers and service providers to offer comprehensive GBV services.

Policy objective on gender-based Violence: To eliminate GBV against women, men, girls and boys in all its forms.

Strategies

- a. Ensure operationalization of GBV related laws and policies.
- b. Establishment of safe spaces and shelters for GBV survivors.
- c. Strengthen the referral and reporting mechanism for GBV survivors
- d. Promote gender- gender-transformative interventions,
- e. use of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms provided by the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) in dealing with gender-based violence.
- f. Implement community engagement guidelines for community dialogues tool by Anti-FGM Board
- g. Build the capacity of duty bearers to strengthen the justice system.
- h. Conduct periodic gender assessment
- i. Advocacy and sensitization of communities on GBV.

Girl child beading

According to Samburu Women Trust, 2016, Girl-child beading (Nkishooroto e saen) is a cultural practice among the Samburu community which sanctions a non-marital sexual relationship between Samburu men in the 'warrior' age group and young Samburu girls who are not yet eligible for marriage. It involves Samburu warriors (or morans as they are commonly referred to) giving specialized beads (nkishooroto e saen e Imuran) to a girl to signify the commencement of a sexual relationship. Girls may be as young as nine years old when they are beaded. The process begins with negotiations between the moran and the girl's mother and the girl's brothers, who often also are morans. Once the relationship is agreed, the girl's mother builds a hut for the partners called a 'singira' where the moran will have access to the girl for sexual intercourse.

Beading affects mainly school-going girls of reproductive age and boys who are either in school or in the labour force. Boys are initiated into adulthood and are allowed by the family and cog

1. Conduct sexuality education dialogues with elders, morans, religious leaders, girls,
2. Engage moran leadership elders in creating awareness
3. Linking survivors on education opportunities and economic empowerment
4. Strengthen child anti beading awareness and prevention through Naapo (community social governance structure to deliberate emerging issues within a homestead)

5. Capacity building –Targeting County Administrative structure (i.e Village council of elders/administrators) in collaboration with National government structure (Administration police, Gender Desk, Judiciary, Chiefs, DPP, Children Services) on child anti-beading
6. Linking women and youth to economic empowerment opportunities geared towards promoting participation in development for women and men to enjoy equal rights
7. Create mentorship mentee relationships/alumni clubs' / education caravans in the community on child anti-beading

VI. Insecurity and peacebuilding

The United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on women, peace, and security recognizes the importance of women's contributions to conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding. This has been operationalized in Kenya through the Kenya national Action Plan (KNAP) aptly titled 'Kuhusisha Wanawake ni Kudumisha Amani'. It recognizes that women's contributions have historically been undervalued and underutilized. It seeks to ensure that women's inclusion is valued and their contributions are appreciated in peace and conflict management processes.

This historic resolution brings to the world's attention three critical concerns which are also prevalent in Samburu County:

- The disproportionate number of women and girls affected by armed conflict and the necessity to protect them in conflict and post-conflict settings.
- The under-representation of women in conflict resolution and peacebuilding activities and the importance of promoting women's participation in all processes related to peace and security.
- Gender mainstreaming in peacebuilding and conflict resolution.

Samburu County is directly and indirectly affected by conflicts. These Conflicts are multifaceted with some long-term identified root causes. Scarce resources: water and pasture since this is a pastoralist community topping the list aggravating conflict in the area. Long periods of drought exacerbate the situation further.

In diverse ways, all genders are affected by conflict; with women, children, and the elderly being the most affected.

Human Development Report, 2013 deduces that These conflicts exacerbate sexual and Gender-Based Violence, and little progress has been made over time to incorporate women in the peacebuilding initiatives. The KNAP recognizes that women's contribution to conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, must be considered in ensuring peaceful coexistence. It also recognizes the value of women's contribution to peace and conflict management processes towards achieving sustainable peace.

Some milestones have been achieved in enhancing peaceful coexistence in Samburu County. These included facilitated Intra and inter dialogue forums, peace caravans, and peace clubs in learning institutions to nurture ambassadors of peace and systems in the grassroots, e.g. village peace committees and Nyumba Kumi initiatives. However, in all these efforts by peace actors, women and girls are rarely involved. Copying from Wajir, Samburu can also use women to spearhead the peace process as a best practice of a community-led peace initiative.

Key Issues

- a) Involvement of women, girls and the youth- 'morans' in peace and security matters

Policy objective on security and peacebuilding: To mainstream gender in peace and conflict resolution for a stable and secure environment for all.

Strategies

- a. Minimize exposure of women, children, PLWD and the elderly in risky conflict situations;
- b. Liaise with relevant authorities to prosecute perpetrators of violence
- c. Increase the institutional capacity of security agencies to deal with Gender-Based Violence;
- d. Enable adequate representation of women in decision making positions among security agencies dealing with peace and security matters.
- e. Promote gender mainstreaming into the County's peace and security structures.
- f. Promote diversified livelihoods for communities in conflict-prone areas

VII. Governance, power and decision making

Governance is the bedrock of efficient, effective, transparent and sustainable delivery of services. The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa provides for gender equality in leadership and decision-making.

According to a UNDP report 2020, women in decision making are likely to prioritize policies that improve lives for everyone, including quality of education, health, housing and social justice. Women's participation in political decision-making is imperative for advancing an accurate and influential democratic political culture that contributes to good governance and the achievement of sustainable development. Women face multiple barriers to their full participation due to institutional as well as cultural, economic and societal factors, thereby limiting the opportunities and abilities of women to participate in elective politics and other decision-making spheres in the public and private domain.

The table below shows the number of women and men in elective and appointive positions in Samburu County as of March 2020.

According to the table, it shows that there is no single female elected member of the County Assembly

	<i>Available slots</i>	<i>Elected men</i>	<i>Elected women</i>	<i>Nomina ted</i>	<i>% of women</i>
Political participation					
Governor	1	1	0	0	0
Deputy Governor	1	1	0	0	0
Senate	1	1	0	0	0
National Assembly	4	2	2	0	33.3
County Assembly	27	16	0	11	40.7
Appointment in public offices					

	Available Appointments	men	Women	nominated	
CECMs	9	6	3	-	33.3
Chief Officers	14	11	4	-	28.6
Directors	25	20	4		16
Sub-County administrators	3	2	1	-	33.3
Ward Administrators	15	10	5	-	33.3
County Boards					
	No. available slots	Men	Women		
Public service board	7	5	2		28.5
Municipality	7	5	2		28.5
Samburu Water Sanitation Company board	11	6	5		45.5
County Health CHMT	17	14	3		17.6

Key issues

- Prevailing social norms, cultural attitudes and stereotypes that inhibit women's full participation in decision making and political sphere.
- Inadequate information and resources to support women aspiring in a leadership position.
- Inadequate leadership capacity

Policy objective on governance, power and decision-making: To ensure equitable participation and representation of men, women youths, vulnerable/minorities/ marginalized populations in governance, power and decision-making structures

Strategies

- a. Ensure women and meaningful youth participation in the county budget and policy-making processes
- b. Implement legal provisions for equitable gender representation at all level
- c. Build the capacity of policymakers and legislators on gender-responsive lawmaking and budgeting.
- d. Collaborate with non-state actors to build the capacity of women in leadership and decision making
- e. Create community awareness and encourage active participation of women in governance, political and decision-making processes at the grassroots level.
- f. Support effective collaboration of state and non-state actors to build the capacity of women to participate and engage in elective politics, leadership and governance
- g. Develop a social and behaviour change communication strategy to address gender norms, cultural barriers, and stereotypes that inhibit women's participation in governance, decision-making, and leadership positions.
- h. Develop and support women's training in leadership positions to build their capacity and boost their confidence to lead.

VIII. Media

Media plays an essential role in society. Samburu County is well covered by mainstream media and partially by the local press, which positively or negatively influences our behaviours and perceptions

However, due to low literacy levels, most of these media is not accessible to the community. Although local radio stations can enhance awareness, capacity building on gender is vital for media practitioners.

Key issues

- Inadequate understanding of gender issues by local radio stations

- Inadequate media reporting on GBV and gender sensitive reporting

Policy objective on the media: Enhance communication information and advocacy on gender issues, including improved visibility of women and youth

Strategies

1. Encourage objective reporting on gender issues in development and politics;
2. Censure the media content to ensure it does not perpetuate gender stereotypes, anti-social behaviour or encourage GBV.
3. Promote capacity building on gender-sensitive reporting
4. Use the local media platforms to create awareness and promote discussions on gender equality

IX. Land, Environment and natural resources

The Constitution of Kenya Article 42 guarantees the right to a clean and healthy environment. Articles 69 to 72 further provide for obligations regarding the environment, enforcement of environmental rights, protection and exploration of natural resources. These provisions are replicated in Kenya Vision 2030, the National Environment Policy, 2013 and the Environment Management and Coordination Act, 1999. Kenya is also party to Multilateral Environmental Agreements that underscore sustainable development and equitable access to environmental resources, thus raising the obligation to factor gender considerations in managing the environment and natural resources at the national level.

In Samburu county, women are vulnerable to climate change because they are highly dependent on local natural resources for their livelihood, similar to challenges faced in other developing countries. Traditionally, women are responsible for securing water, food and fuel for cooking and hence suffer the most from climate change. It is essential to identify gender-sensitive strategies that respond to these crises.

Only eight per cent of women in Kenya own a house alone, and 7 per cent own land alone. Forty-two per cent own a home, and 39 per cent of women own land (alone, jointly, or both) (KDHS, 2014). In Samburu County, very few women have land registered in their names, and the lack of financial resources restricts their entry into the land market.

Samburu being categorized as an ASAL County suffers from clean water deficit and the demand for clean and safe water is increasing phenomenally. The burden of sourcing for, ferrying, and distributing water for domestic and livestock use has been largely left to women, thus providing yet another ground for subordinating and marginalizing women and girls. The right to water provided for in Article 43 of the Kenya Constitution requires that water be accessible, affordable and of good quality. Effective reforms in this sector shall give women and girls more leverage in education and the opportunity to chase their dreams through education and participate in gainful employment.

Key issues

- Inadequate representation of women in natural resource management decision making processes
- Gender disparity in access to natural resources; Men are traditionally and culturally mandated to manage renewable and non-renewable natural resources such as land, grazing rights, forests, wildlife.
- Inadequate exploitation of natural renewable energy resources such as solar and wind power.
- Lack of gender-disaggregated data on the impacts of environmental and natural resources' degradation and climate change.
- Health risk as a result of unclean water
- Lack of women involvement in community land management structures.

Policy objective on the land environment and natural resources: To promote gender mainstreaming for sustainable land environment and natural resource.

Strategies

- a. Ensure implementation of the Constitution, laws and policies that secure land and housing rights for women.
- b. Ensure women participate in and benefit equitably from investments in various natural resources development initiatives

- c. Ensure adequate information is shared about climate change and adaptation for resilience building among men and women
- d. Conduct a resource mapping to identify the natural resources and develop strategies to exploit these abundant natural resources by and for the benefit of both men and women.
- e. Mainstream gender into environmental policies, programmes and plans.
- f. Promote alternative green energy, including wind, solar, and mini-hydro power generation, to light up the manyatta and promote improved cookstoves.
- g. Provide affordable clean water to reduce health risks related to poor quality of water for both domestic and livestock use
- h. Capacity build women and men on natural resource management
- i. Secure land rights for women affect to enable their participation in and benefit from agriculture through legislation;

X. Agriculture

Agriculture can be an important engine for growth and poverty reduction. Still, the sector is underperforming partly because women who are often a crucial resource in agriculture and the rural economy face constraints that reduce their productivity.

Without secure land rights, women's participation in and benefit from land uses such as agriculture is inhibited. Women have thus been relegated to producing food crops for domestic use and sparingly for large scale economic use since agriculture is yet to pick exponentially in the County.

Key issue:

- a) High vulnerability to climate change due to pastoralism. This results in droughts and unpredictable rainfall, floods, land and environment degradation directly affecting agricultural productive capacity of the Samburu community, which mainly affects women and children.
- b) Limited productive land for food crop production coupled with harsh weather conditions
- c) Women play crucial roles in agricultural production, and food security at the household level. However, they have limited access to production inputs, finance,

market information, and knowledge and extension services due to gender blind policies, traditions and attitudes.

- d) Limited access to market information among women and youth.
- e) Gender norms dictate that men are the head of the house. Hence, they own and make decisions on productive resources like land, access to credit, and income, thereby limiting women's successful participation in agriculture and related enterprises.

Policy objective on agriculture: To facilitate and implement measures to overcome constraints faced by women, youth, and other vulnerable groups in agriculture.

Strategies

1. Conduct gender assessment in agriculture
2. Promote attitude change towards commercialization and value addition of livestock.
3. Advocate for gender-responsive county agriculture and livestock policies
4. Address market-based barriers and improve access to markets by women and youth
5. Facilitate women to access agricultural services such as extension services and tailoring such services to their needs.
6. Facilitate women with access to productive inputs such as financial services, agricultural inputs, including knowledge.
7. Advocate the adoption of modernized agricultural practices such as conservation agriculture that are time efficient for women.
8. Identify and address gender and social disparities and promote equitable access to and control over resources, benefits, costs, and decision making between women and men.
9. Empower and integrate traditional and modern natural resource management institutions to implement and enforce rules for sustainable rangeland management.

CHAPTER FOUR

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION, ACTORS, MONITORING & EVALUATION

This chapter presents the institutional and monitoring framework for implementing the Samburu County Gender Policy.

4.1 Institutional framework: Actors and roles

The County Government Department of Gender is responsible and mandated to coordinate the implementation of this Policy. The implementation process involves a multi-sectoral approach comprising stakeholders from Government and development actors. They will all play different and complimenting roles and responsibilities but not limited to the following;

Office of the Governor
<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Ensure adoption of the gender policy.ii. Ensure allocation of resources for the implementation of gender equality and women's empowerment programsiii. Provide overall policy leadership, ownership and performance;iv. Overall monitoring implementation and reportingv. Provide political goodwill as fundamental for achieving adoption and implementation of this gender policy.
Department of Gender,
<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Ensure and advocate for gender-responsive county legislation.ii. Enhance and advocate gender equality and social inclusion mainstreamingiii. Mobilize financial, human and infrastructure among other support resources in the interest of promoting gender equality and women's empowerment;iv. Support County Government to prepare Gender-responsive budgeting, County integrated development plan, Annual development plan, County Gender Action Plans and guide on the reporting mechanisms for gender outcomesv. Provide the necessary linkages, including participation in national representation at the regional and international levels in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment;

- vi. Support relevant studies and research on gender equality and women's empowerment to inform policies and programme development;
- vii. Monitoring and evaluation; and documentation of best practices, skills and knowledge on gender equality and women's empowerment.
- viii. Convene annual forum on gender equality to track progress and share experiences.
- ix. Coordination of gender sector working group and stakeholders on gender equality, social inclusion,

Samburu County Assembly

- i. Support enactment of laws to promote gender equality and social inclusion
- ii. Hold executive accountable for the implementation of gender policy.
- iii. Ensure county budget and allocation of resources are gender-responsive
- iv. County Assembly shall exercise its oversight and legislative role in the implementation of this Policy.

Line Ministries, Departments and Agencies

- i. Mainstream gender equality and social inclusion in their respective programmes;
- ii. Share sex and age disaggregated data and information on gender equality and women's empowerment; and
- iii. Collect, collate and analyze and disseminate data by age and sex.
- iv. Align their annual budgets and plans to this Policy.
- v. Build capacity of their teams on gender equality and social inclusion.

The County Treasury

- i. Ensure gender-responsive budgeting is adopted in the budget cycle
- ii. Undertake gender audit of the budget

County Public Service Board
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Collaborate with the Department of Gender in gender-responsive recruitment, interviewing, deployment, promotion and succession management.
Community members
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Articulate and create awareness on rights of women, men, boys and girls and the vulnerable groups. ii. Participate in county planning, budgeting and implementation of programmes and activities on women and men. iii. Promote gender-equitable norms at the family, household and societal levels.
Development Partners, Private Sector, FBO and Civil Society Organizations,
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Mobilize resources to address issues relating to gender equality, social inclusion and women's empowerment ii. Advocate and Lobby for issues of gender equality, social inclusion and women's empowerment. iii. Streamline and adopt gender equality and social inclusion in their program and institutions iv. Promotes GBV prevention and responsive measure/initiative v. Institutional building through capacity development, mentorships, and training

4.2 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting is an integral part of any programme and policy implementation. This Policy provides for the development of a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework that will outline the following processes: Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting, Impact Assessment, Risks and Assumptions. The framework's objective will be to track and document the initiation and progress of all the interventions outlined in the Policy. To

ensure effective implementation of the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, the Government shall in collaboration with relevant stakeholders:

- i. Develop a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework will be developed to facilitate monitoring, evaluation, data collection, learning and knowledge management in the implementation of this Policy
- ii. Establish and operationalize a Management Information System (MIS) to document the performance of gender programmes and provide information necessary for planning and decision making at all levels.
- iii. Establish a communication strategy.
- iv. Conduct research, analyses and disseminate results to inform improvement of policy implementation.

4.3 Resource mobilisation

The successful implementation of this Policy will require adequate financial, human and technical support. Funding will be sought from the County Assembly and support requested from Development partners.

4.4 Policy Review

This Policy shall be implemented in five years of 2022-2026. The Policy acknowledges that our society is dynamic. Hence, there shall be a mid-term review after 2.5 years to include any current and future needs that may have occurred in the community. This will also include monitoring progress and any significant changes that the County and the Country may have experienced.