

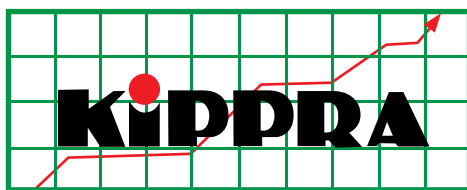
Policy Monitor

Thinking Policy Together

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**Accelerating Inclusive and Sustainable Growth through
Job Creation to Support BETA**



The **KENYA INSTITUTE** for **PUBLIC**
POLICY RESEARCH and **ANALYSIS**

Thinking Policy Together

KIPPRA POLICY MONITOR

January – March 2024 edition

*Accelerating Inclusive and Sustainable Growth
through job creation to support BETA Agenda.*

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Editorial

Welcome to the KIPPRA Policy Monitor, the January- March edition. This edition comes at a time when Kenya is focusing its efforts towards youth transformation and economic growth through job creation by creating an enabling environment to leverage on technology and digitalization. The theme of this issue is “Accelerating Inclusive and Sustainable Growth through job creation to support Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda.”

The articles in this edition focuses on Kenya’s recent economic developments; Enhancing youth employment through the gig economy; Catalyzing opportunities for digitally enabled jobs in Kenya; and Exploiting the potential in digital agriculture to enhance job opportunities among the youths in Kenya.

The Policy Monitor highlights various activities undertaken by the institute in the third quarter. Among the key activities are capacity building including executive public policy making process and monitoring and evaluation for Masinde Muliro University for Science and Technology and the Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee (IGRTC) respectively; and the KIPPRA Mentorship Programme for Universities and TVETs (KMPUTs) in South Eastern Kenya University, Kibabii University, and the Sigalagala National Polytechnic.

Further, the policy monitor highlights several validation workshops conducted during the period on different thematic and interdisciplinary research areas including the Impact of Trade Agreements on Kenya’s Market Access; Policy and Institutional Environment for Creative Economy; Kenya Economic Report 2024, and dissemination workshop on the influence of Elections on Macroeconomic Indicators in Kenya.

The Policy Monitor also highlights demand-driven and collaborative research projects including the FAO project on analyzing Public Expenditure towards Food and Agriculture in Kenya; the ACET project on the country’s economic outlook for Kenya, and collaborative project with the National Treasury, African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), and the University of Copenhagen (UCPH) on tax reforms in Kenya.

In the spirit of corporate social responsibility, we share activities carried out in the third quarter, including a mangrove tree-planting exercise at Mida Creek in Malindi, and indigenous tree-replanting exercise at Naivasha Game Farm.

Finally, we give you a glimpse of the upcoming KIPPRA events such as planned dissemination workshops; planned policy seminars; capacity building programmes like the KIPPRA Mentorship Programme for University and TVETs in Nairobi and Meru Counties; the 5th Kenya Think Tank Symposium; and the 7th KIPPRA Annual Regional Conference planned for 26th-28th June 2024 in Kisumu County.

On behalf of the entire KIPPRA fraternity, we trust that you will find this edition informative and engaging as we embrace Kenya’s journey towards youth’s transformation towards inclusive and sustainable economic development.



Kenya Recent Macroeconomic Performance

By Lauren Karima, Fredwilly Nderitu, and Remmy Naibei

This article examines the country's recent economic trends, focusing on four important areas: economic growth, monetary and financial policy, fiscal developments, and external sector.

Economic Growth

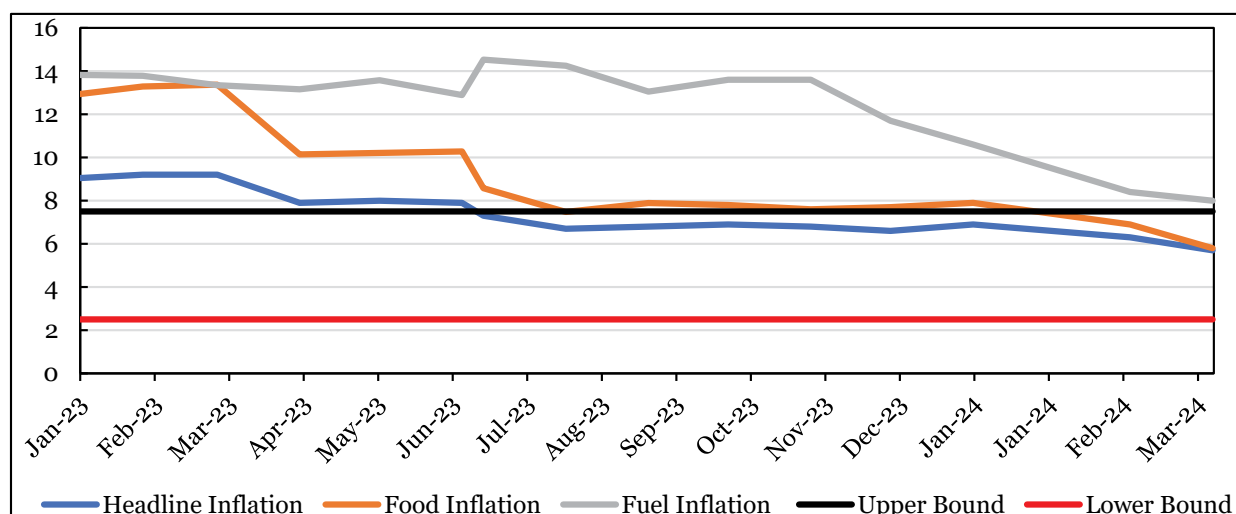
Kenya's economy expanded steadily throughout the first three quarters of 2023. During this period, growth averaged 5.5 percent, compared to 5.3 percent in the same period in 2022. The average growth was driven by significant increases in Accommodation and Food Service (19.9%), Financial and Insurance (14.2%), Information and Communication (7.5%), and Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing (6.7%) activities. The rebound in accommodation and food service operations was mostly driven by an increase in tourism to the country and improved performance in the banking and insurance sectors. The stimulated demand for accommodation and food services provided by the accommodation and food service sector is expected to have had increased employment opportunities during the quarter. A government-initiated subsidy

initiative introduced decreased fertilizer costs, thereby strengthening the agriculture sector providing incentives for increased economic activity in the agricultural sector in the backdrop of favourable climatic conditions. The economy is estimated to grow by 5.3 per cent in 2024.

The inflation rate in the Jan-March 2024 period averaged 6.3 per cent compared to a 9.1 rate recorded in a similar period in 2023. The decline in the levels of inflation was driven by a decrease in food inflation to 6.9 per cent from 13.2 per cent and fuel inflation from 13.7 per cent to 9.0 per cent. The drop in agricultural food prices at the end of the quarter was driven by a 15.9 per cent reduction in loose maize grain, 21.3 per cent decline in fortified maize flour prices, 20.9 per cent decrease in sifted maize flour and a 20.4 per cent decline in loose maize flour. The lower fuel prices in the Jan-Mar 2024 quarter were caused by global decline in fuel prices and the strengthening of the shilling against the dollar, helping undo the impact of the rising prices of crude in the global market. However, Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and Other

Fuels inflation increased from 7.5 to 8.7 per cent, Clothing and footwear inflation increased from 3.1 to 3.6 per cent and Health Inflation increased from 2.2 and 2.5 per cent.

Figure 1: Inflation rates Jan 2023-March 2024



Data source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS)

Monetary and Financial Policy

In April 2024 the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) maintained the Central Bank Rate at 13.0 per cent driven by the need to maintain inflationary expectations, set inflation towards the five percent target range, and address exchange rate pressures. This decision is expected to increase borrowing costs for businesses, consumers, and government; a response that is likely to reduce borrowing and investment spending, slowing down economic activity and eventually lower job creation.

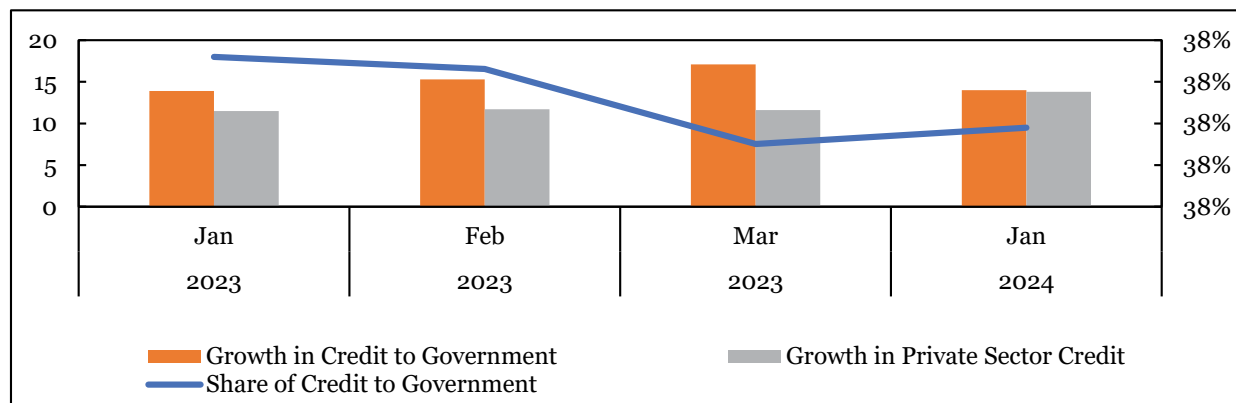
The average interbank rate was at 13.7 per cent in Jan-Mar 2024 period compared to 6.5 per cent in a similar period in 2023, a more than doubling that is attributed to tightening of monetary policy by the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) in December. In addition, the rise in the interbank rate reflects lower demand for credit in the economy. The weighted average interest rate for Treasury Bills for the 91, 182, and 364 days, rose from averages of 9.6 per cent, 10.1 per cent, and 10.6 per cent in Jan-Mar 2023 to 16.5 percent, 16.7 per cent, and 16.8 per cent in the same period in 2024. By the end of March 2024, Treasury bill rates for the 91-day, 182-day, and 364-day periods had reached 16.7 per cent, 16.9 per cent, and 17.0 per cent, respectively.

The total liquidity ratio in January 2024 rose slightly to an average of 52.1 per cent from

50.7 per cent recorded in a similar period in 2023 although this was significantly above the minimal statutory ratio of 20%. The Nonperforming Loans to Gross Loans ratio further grew dramatically to 15.1 per cent in January 2024 from 13.4 per cent in a similar period in 2023. The banking sector's return on assets was recorded at 0.28 per cent in January 2024 down from 0.32 per cent in a similar period in 2023 owing to the effects of the Kenya shilling depreciation on private equity funds during investment and distribution periods.

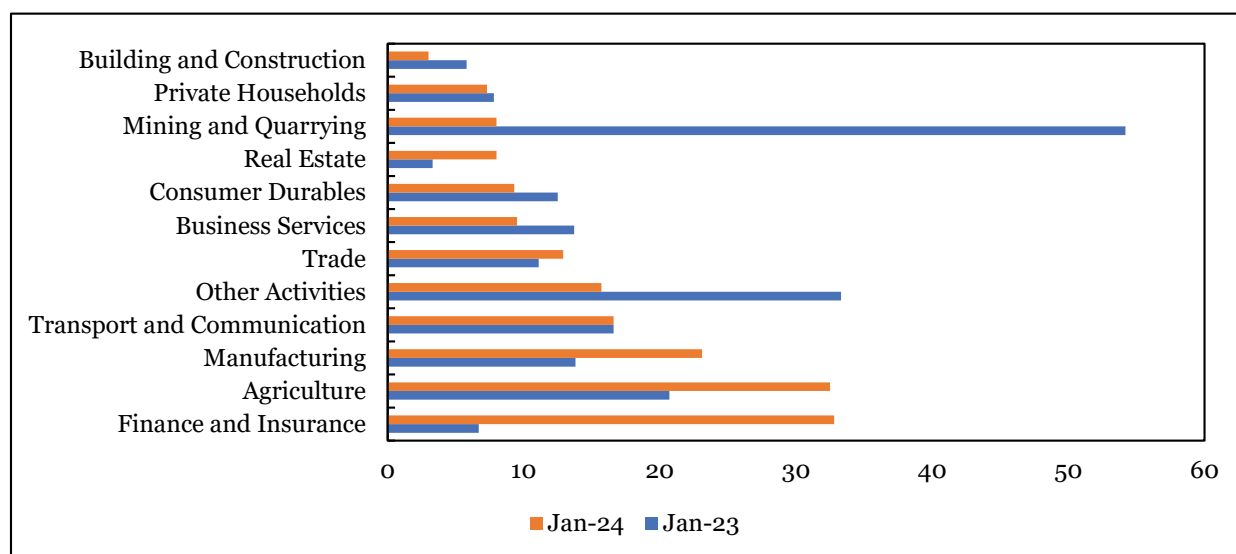
Growth in private sector credit in January 2024 stood at 13.8 per cent compared to 11.5 per cent in a similar period in 2023. This improved performance reflects an increase in lending to the private sector of Ksh 3,920.4 billion in January 2024, compared to Ksh 3445.7 billion in January 2023. Figure 2b shows that the following sectors experienced strong credit growth: finance and insurance (32.8%), agriculture (32.5%), and manufacturing (23.1%). The number of loan applications and approvals grew, indicating that demand had improved as economic activity increased. Credit to government increased slightly from 13.9% in January 2023 to 14.0% in January 2024. The percentage share of domestic credit to government remained stable at 38.0 per cent in January 2024 compared to January 2023 with credit to government totaling to Ksh 2,399.7 billion.

Figure 2a: Credit to the private sector and government



Data source: Central Bank of Kenya

Figure 2b: Credit to the private sector annual growth rate



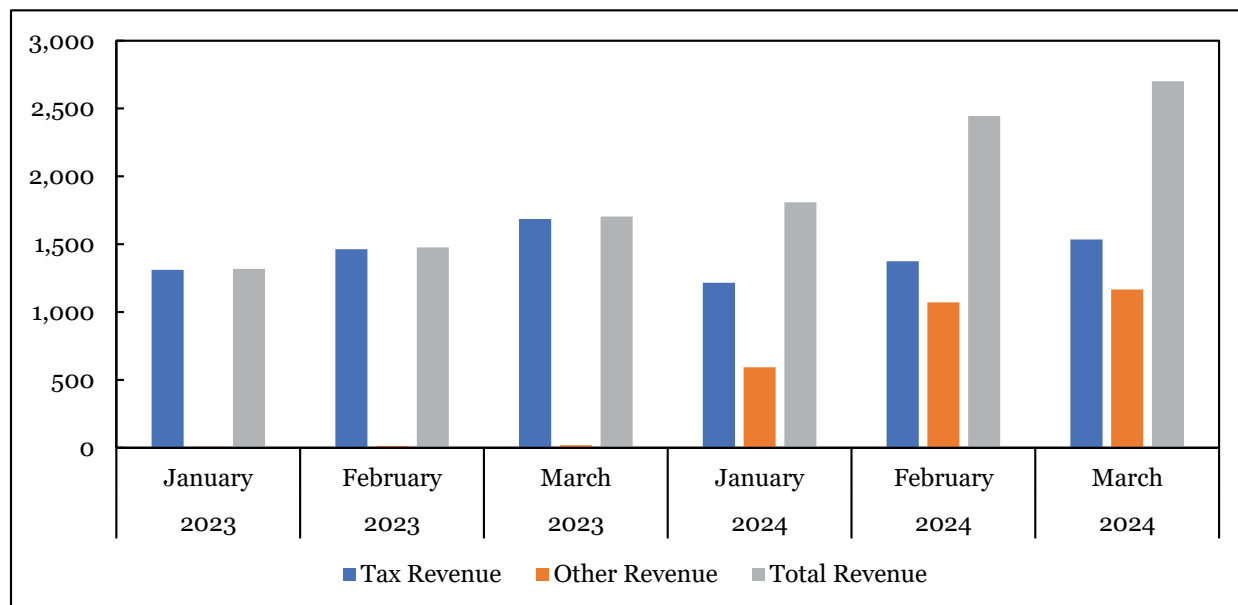
Data source: Central Bank of Kenya

Fiscal Developments

By the end of March 2024, the total revenue collected for the fiscal year 2023/2024 was Ksh 2.7 trillion. This accounted for 62.8 per cent of the expected annual revised target of around Ksh 4.3 trillion. This revenue was mostly made up of tax revenue, which accounted

for 56.8 per cent of the total, with domestic and external borrowing accounting for 22.4 per cent and 18.8 per cent, respectively. The nearly equal mix of domestic and external borrowing is ascribed to the government’s increased financing to buy back debt (Figure 3)

Figure 3: Revenue performance in the Jan-Mar 2024



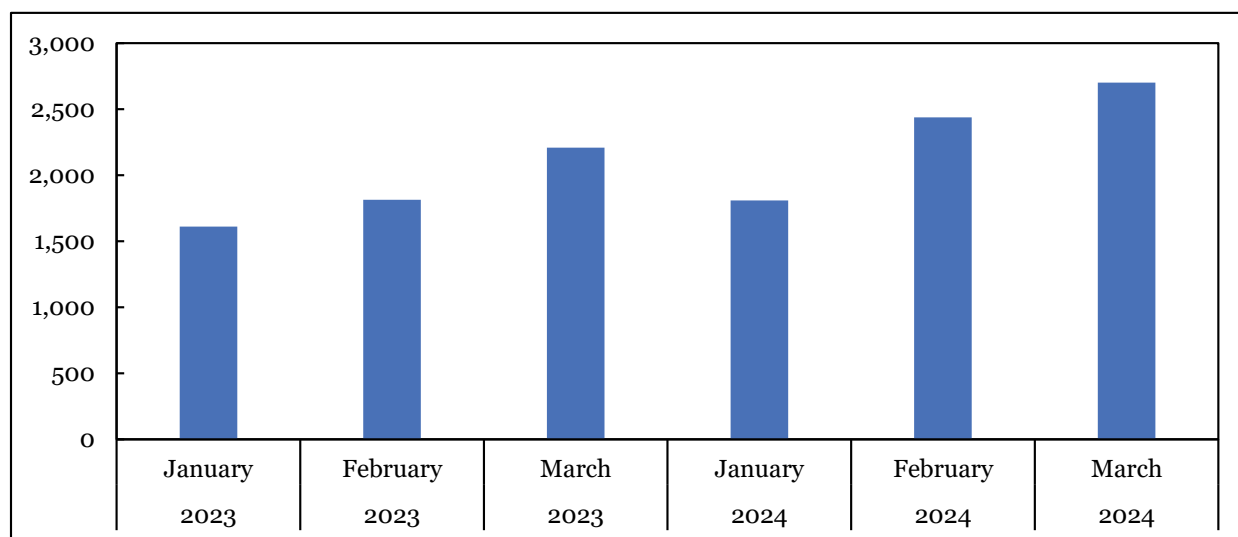
Data source: National Treasury

Exchequer issues to the National Government in the Jan-Mar quarter of 2024 summed up to Ksh 2.5 trillion with the development issues accounting for 8.4 per cent of the total issues; exchequer issues to the County Governments totaled Ksh 223.5 billion.

The total expenditure in the Jan-Mar 2024 amounted to Ksh 2.7 trillion. Total recurrent

expenditure accounted for 33.5 per cent of the expenditure, with the Consolidated fund exchequer issues at 50.5 per cent for the period under review (Figure 4). Priority payments to debt obligations facilitated the high proportion of consolidated fund releases and declined development and recurrent expenses.

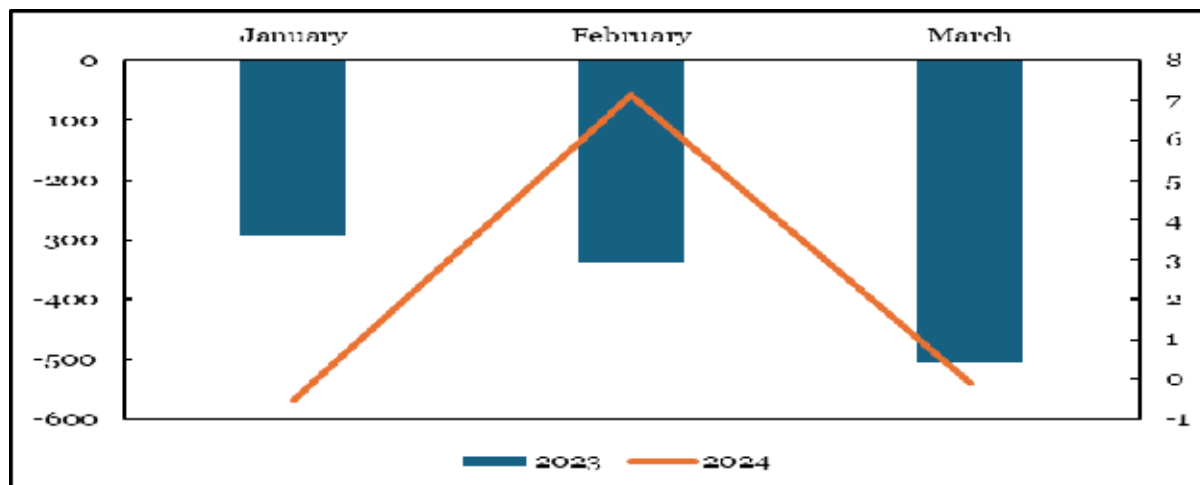
Figure 4: Expenditure performance (Ksh billion)



Data source: National Treasury

The fiscal deficit as of March 2024 was negative at about Ksh 0.09 billion implying that government’s total expenditures exceeded its total revenues at the end of the review period, this deficit however is minimal compared to deficit in a similar period in 2023. This performance was attributed to significant non-tax revenue flows of about Ksh1.17 trillion. (Fig 5)

Figure 5: Fiscal deficit, Jan-March 2023 and 2024



Data Source: Monthly Gazette Notices

The government debt increased by 22.5 per cent, from Ksh 9.2 trillion in January 2023 to Ksh 11.2 trillion in January 2024. Domestic and external debt stock was Ksh 5.1 trillion and 6.2 trillion, respectively, accounting for 44.9 and 55.1 percent of total debt stock. The increase in debt stock was primarily caused by an increase in government bonds, an increase in foreign loan disbursements, and the depreciation of the Kenyan Shilling against the US dollar and other currencies.

External Sector Developments

The Kenya Shilling declined against the US Dollar, depreciating by 14.0 per cent from

an average exchange rate of Ksh 127.9 in Jan-Mar of 2023 to an average of Ksh 145.7 in a similar period in 2024, a performance that has been partly attributed to the United States consistently raising its federal reserve interest rates over the months. However, the local currency has appreciated during the quarter, rising from Ksh 160 against the dollar in January 2024 to Ksh 151 in February and finally to Ksh 136 in March 2024. This has been ascribed in part to the government reaping the benefits of a surge in investor confidence following strong inflows to repay the \$2 billion Eurobond.

Figure 6: Exchange rate, Jan 2023-Mar 2024

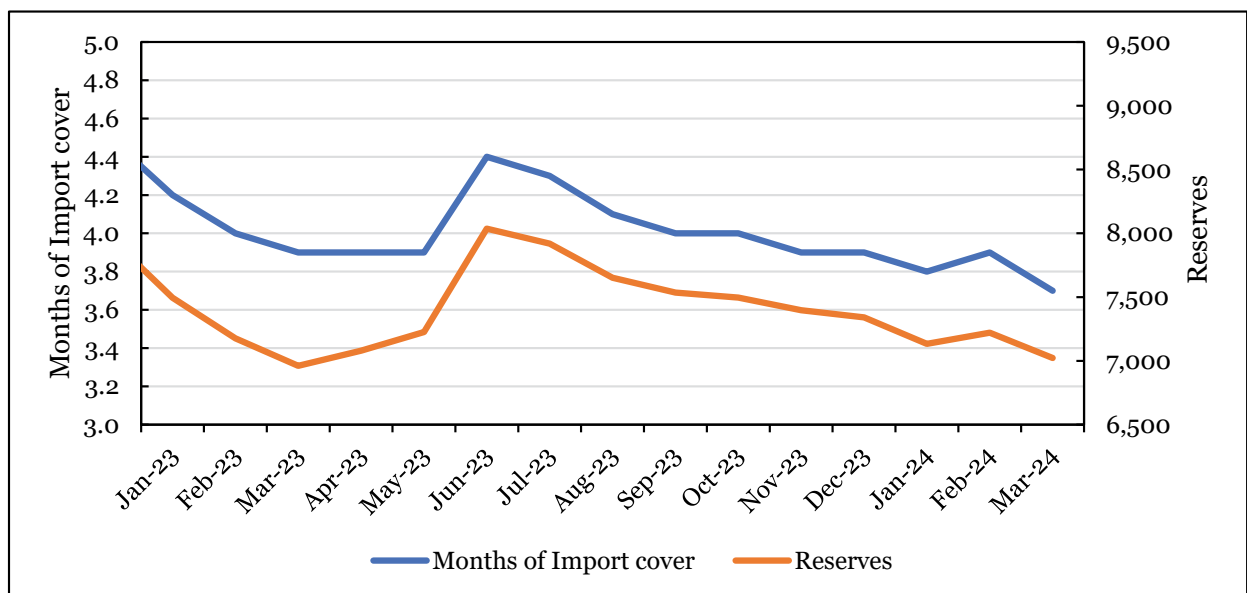


Data source: Central Bank of Kenya

Foreign reserves as of end of March 2024 summed up to US\$7022 million (3.7 quarterly average months of import cover) (Figure 7) as compared to US\$ 6962 million (4.0 quarterly

average months of import cover) recorded in end March 2023. The figure shows a 0.8 per cent increase in exchange reserves compared to a similar period in 2023.

Figure 7: Foreign exchange reserves, Jan 2023-Mar 2024

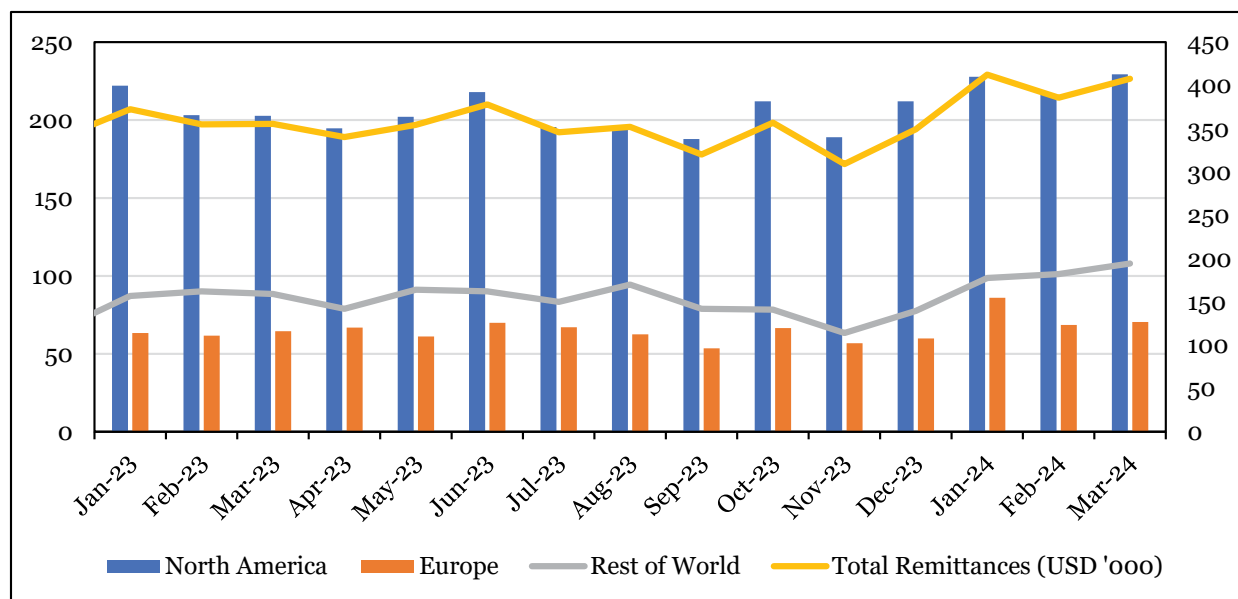


Data source: Central Bank of Kenya

Exports of goods declined in January 2024 to US\$ 7,247.7 million from US\$ 7,479.1 million in a similar period in 2023. The value of imported goods also declined from US\$ 18,996.5 million in January 2023 to US\$ 17,100.5 million in January 2024 driven by relatively lower foreign exchange reserves. Global coffee exports rose by 28.8 percent to almost 1.4 million metric tonnes in January and February 2024, up from

roughly 1.1 million metric tonnes in the same period in 2023. The average global coffee composite price also increased to US cents/lbs 181.6 in the January-March quarter of 2024, up from US cents/lbs 167.3 in the same period in 2023, driven by higher demand and an anticipated shortfall of the commodity in the global market.

Figure 8: Diaspora remittances, Jan 2023- Mar 2024

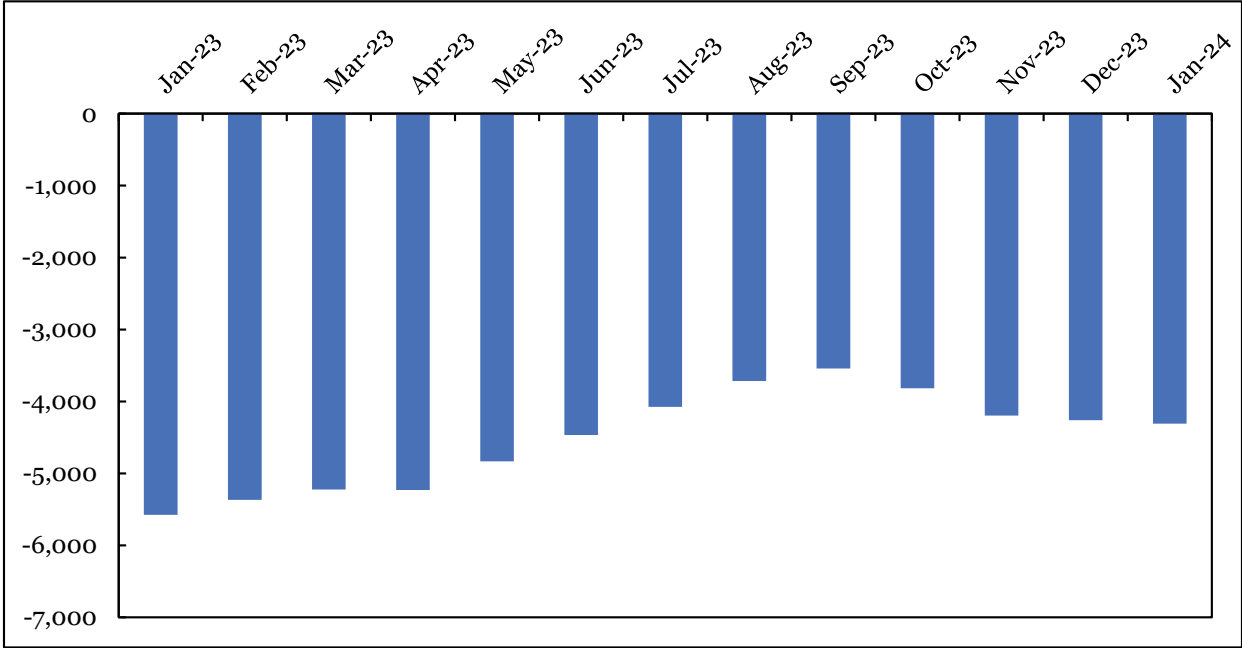


Data source: Central Bank of Kenya

Total diaspora remittances in the Jan-Mar quarter of 2024 increased by 11.4 per cent to US\$ 1206.1 million from US\$ 1083.2 million at the same time in 2023. In quarter, North America had the highest proportion of the total remittances (55.8%), followed by the rest of the globe (25.5%) and Europe (18.6%). All remittances recorded growth with the highest growth observed in Europe at 18.7

per cent, followed by 15.9 per cent from the rest of the world and 5.6 per cent from North America. Developments in exports, imports, and remittances in January 2023 reduced the current account balance. The current account deficit fell to US\$ 4307 million in January 2024, from US\$ 5576 million at a similar time in 2023 (Figure 9) explained by a decline of imports into the country.

Figure 9: Current account balance (US\$ millions), Jan 2023 - Jan 2024



Data source: Central Bank of Kenya



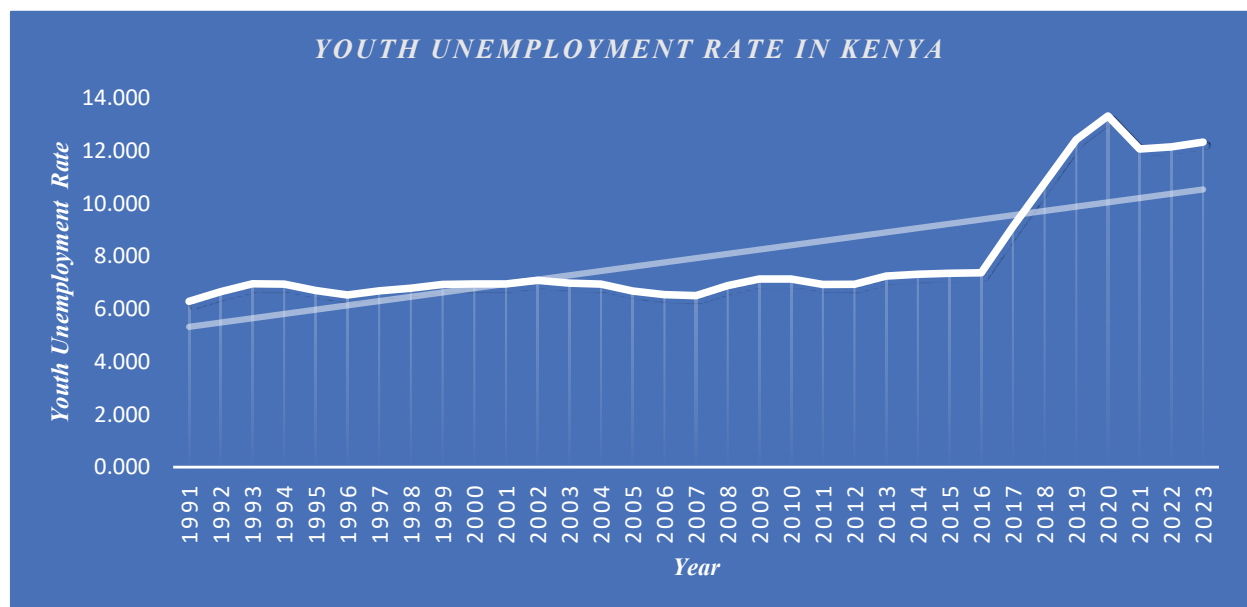
Enhancing Youth Employment through the Gig Economy

By Ian Kiprop and Elizabeth Emongor

Introduction

Despite strong economic growth, Kenya faces significant challenges in job creation and utilization of its labour. As of 2023, the

youth unemployment rate was 12.33 per cent, steadily rising since 1991 when it was 6.29 per cent.



Source: World Bank (2023)

The surge in youth unemployment is due to limited employment opportunities in the formal sector. The Kenya National Bureau of

Statistics (KNBS) estimated that as of 2022, over 15.9 million people worked in informal employment, while approximately 3.2 million

people were working in the formal sector. This highlights a notable disparity between informal and formal employment, with a higher proportion of people engaged in informal work. Despite the large informal sector, informality is characterized by low wages, unsafe work environments, and low productivity.

The gig economy is a quickly developing labor sector where short-term, project-based employment is the norm. In contrast to regular employees, gig workers are usually hired through digital platforms on a task-by-task basis. Although it gives you more freedom to choose your own hours and sources of income, this type of work frequently lacks the perks of conventional employment, such as social security, health insurance, and paid time off with reform discussions ongoing. Examples of players involved in the gig economy are major platforms like Uber, Bolt, and Airbnb, among others. As a subset of the gig economy, the platform economy also includes social media firms such as Facebook and Instagram, which rely on advertising and data sales, and Internet service platforms such as Amazon Web Services, which serve as the foundation for other organizations and platforms. Freelancing platforms like Upwork, Remotask, and People Per Hour are the major players in the sub-sector.

The emergence of gig economy gives a glimpse into a future with great potential that can absorb a large section of the youthful population, providing avenues to make money and skill development. With its flexibility, Internet connection, and wide range of earning options, the gigeconomy presents a promising alternative to established employment channels that are challenging to keep up with the growing workforce. Gig labor is made possible by the widespread use of digital platforms and mobile technologies. It includes a variety of industries, such as ride-hailing, freelancing services, e-commerce, and online markets (Okeyo, 2022). This growing industry, which offers chances for revenue generation and talent use, has the potential to absorb a sizable share of underutilized labor, especially for the youth.

Overview of the Gig Economy

The gig economy is a contemporary work environment in which people participate in temporary or task-based jobs made possible by websites like Uber, Upwork, and Airbnb. Uber specifically functions as a ride-hailing service that uses a smartphone app to match drivers and passengers. In addition to having a car, prospective drivers also need to pass background checks, have a valid driver's license, and have a smartphone. Upwork is a freelance marketplace where people can offer their abilities for different projects. To bid on client jobs, one must create a strong profile and actively bid. In contrast, Airbnb serves as a platform for short-term vacation rentals and lodging; hosts using this service are expected to have appropriate properties which are either rented for subletting or owned, make eye-catching ads, and give excellent hospitality.

Globally, the gig economy has grown significantly, with an estimated US\$ 14,750 million in 2021, and is expected to rise to US\$ 92,897.28 million by 2031. The emergence of COVID-19 increased the demand for gig workers because of restrictions on movement. With people staying indoors and avoiding public transportation, the demand for delivery services increased drastically. This created more opportunities for the gig workers in various industries.

In Kenya, the gig economy can be divided into online and offline. The online gig economy comprises platforms like Uber, which provides transportation services; Airbnb, a house rental platform; Upwork, which offers digital freelance platforms, and Lynk, which provides job-matching networks for manual labor. Offline gig work typically entails temporary, seasonal, or part-time employment in agriculture, manufacturing, retail, hospitality, construction, transportation, communication, community, social, and personal services. A report by MercyCorps (2019) showed the sector accounted for a mere US\$109 million and employed 36,573 gig workers. Consequently, Kenya's gig economy offers a wide range of work opportunities that include both established offline industries and recently developed Internet platforms.

While youth can find opportunities in the gig economy given their skills and resources, barriers like access to reliable Internet and initial capital for assets may impact accessibility. Nonetheless, the gig economy provides flexibility for income generation, albeit with varying levels of accessibility depending on individual circumstances. Further, another challenge is that gig workers are not classified by law, and this leaves them vulnerable to exploitation. Employment in Kenya is governed by the Employment Act (Cap 226 of 2007) which defines the minimum employment terms and conditions. However, the act fails to define gig workers whose nature of work can neither be captured as that of an employee nor an independent contractor. The Labour Relations Act No. 14 of 2007 also defines the employee and employer freedom of association, including the right to collective bargaining. However, the definition presented of an employee is broad and lacks specificity for gig workers. Another issue is the taxation of gig workers. Gig workers' tax duties are unclear because the current laws do not clearly outline them. The Digital Service Tax (DST) was introduced in Kenya in 2020. This tax must be paid on earnings obtained or accumulated in Kenya from services provided via an online marketplace. The gross transaction amount is subject to a 1.5 per cent DST rate. Concerns have been raised that gig workers may receive lower pay or more service costs as a result of this tax. It is possible that the tax system will make gig workers' income volatility worse.

Certain nations have put laws and policies into place that are specially designed to assist gig laborers, they offer a framework that Kenya can borrow in seeking to regulate the gig economy. For example, the United States is considering portable benefits programs to give gig workers access to healthcare and retirement savings, while social safety programs like maternity/paternity leave and illness benefits are now available to self-employed individuals in France. While social dialogue methods in Sweden encourage cooperation amongst stakeholders to address issues in the gig economy, regulatory reforms in the United Kingdom have attempted to improve workers' rights and clarify the employment status of gig workers.

Government interventions in gig economy

The shift towards the gig economy aligns with the bottom-up economic transformation agenda that recognizes the importance of opportunities provided by the digital superhighway. This is set to be achieved through the Kenya National Digital Master Plan 2022-2032 which has at the core of its objectives set to enhance digital literacy skills for enhanced productivity. The National Digital Master Plan 2022-2032 targets to bridge the digital divide in rural areas, spurring economic expansion. It is looking to put in place 100,000 kilometers of fiber optic infrastructure to link 13,000 health institutions, 20,000 government buildings, and 40,000 public schools. In addition, 1,450 digital innovation hubs are to be in different wards, and 25,000 hotspots will be created to assist young people and innovators. These hotspots promote the gig economy by providing easy Internet connectivity in a variety of locales, removing a substantial barrier to entrance. This is by allowing young Kenyans to participate in this burgeoning sector and take advantage of the freedom and opportunities it provides ultimately fostering economic development, innovation, and digital inclusion. Further, reliable Internet connectivity needs to be supported with access to affordable smart devices and electricity to power devices. The Data Protection Act of 2019 puts in place a legal framework that supports gig workers by protecting personal data, including customer information, transaction histories, and location data. It also offers a framework for safeguarding the private information of gig workers and their customers by emphasizing careful data handling and ensuring that the rights of gig workers and their consumers are maintained in the ever-changing gig economy landscape. For instance, location data is gathered for route optimization by meal delivery services such as Uber Eats. This is achieved by guaranteeing that the personal data of gig workers and consumers is encrypted, backed up, and only accessible by authorized individuals. It also provides data storage procedures and recommendations. However, the act does not answer questions regarding jurisdiction and compliance when a gig platform keeps the data of gig workers on servers situated outside

of Kenya. Additionally, pre-ticked consent boxes are used by some gig platforms, which assume users accept until they specifically uncheck the box. Some of the platforms you cannot proceed with signing without agreeing with some of their terms which may include data consent. It's also worth noting that not all young people doing gig labor are fully aware of their responsibilities under the Data Protection Act, particularly in terms of data protection. Increasing understanding of the act's rules is crucial for all gig workers, who frequently handle large amounts of personal data for their customers.

The Ajira Digital Program under the Ministry of Information, Communications, and the Digital Economy has been part of initiatives to harness the opportunities that technology has to offer. The program offers training, mentorship, and access to infrastructure through empowerment centers across the country. Additionally, the program has established clubs within institutions of higher learning and TVETs to increase awareness of digital job opportunities. Despite the successes realized the program has experienced some hurdles relating to the structure of the training program, and the need for robust monitoring

and evaluation. The demand for gig work can also be promoted through e-governance initiatives that include digitizing public records and transcribing public information. Moreover, to regulate gig work effectively, there is a for need reliable data on the sector and standardized definitions.

Conclusion

There is a need for the establishment of legislation that captures gig workers in Kenya. Implementing a framework that clearly distinguishes between independent contractors, gig workers, and employees can help prevent worker misclassification and ensure that individuals receive appropriate benefits and protection. Moreover, The Ajira Digital Program can incorporate a financial literacy module for gig workers due to the irregularity of their income, and lack of traditional benefits. This can help the youth manage fluctuating income streams effectively, understand tax obligations, and plan for retirement. By instilling financial planning skills and setting achievable long-term goals, financial literacy training can empower gig workers to achieve greater stability, and overall financial well-being.



Catalysing Opportunities for Digitally Enabled Jobs in Kenya

By Naikumi M., Njogu H. and Nyaware B.

Introduction

Unemployment is a major challenge that impedes socio-economic growth and development in Kenya. The rate of unemployment currently is about 5 per cent, with the youth population accounting for the highest rate at 8.85 per cent (Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS), 2023). Over 800,000 young people enter the job market annually and only 15 per cent are able to get jobs in the formal sector (GoK, 2019). The Kenya government has prioritized job creation as a key policy agenda in various policies that include the Vision 2030, National Digital Masterplan, Digital Economy Blueprint as well as Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA). These policies root for leveraging on digital economy to create digitally enabled jobs to address the unemployment gaps.

Digitally enabled jobs refer to roles and occupations that heavily rely on digital technologies and tools for their execution and performance. These jobs often require individuals to possess skills related to technology, data analysis, digital communication, and problem-solving. Often, digital jobs are classified in three categories:

- ICT intensive jobs – are jobs that are directly focused on ICT and cannot exist without the corresponding digital services, products, or technologies. Such jobs include software developer, database architect and 3-D animators.
- ICT dependent jobs- are jobs that use digital technologies to varying degrees and made possible by digital technology but still having a relevant proportion of essential skills from other disciplines. Such jobs include Stockbroker, call centre analyst and travel agency manager
- ICT enhanced jobs- are jobs that use digital technologies to varying degrees but could still be performed without technology with lower performance or quality. Such as include Graphic designer, accountant and shipping agent

Increased uptake of technology in businesses that comes with reduced cost and flexibility has continued to generate new roles to address evolving business needs. The International

Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that by 2030 the number of digital workers will grow from 73 million to 92 million (WEF, 2024).

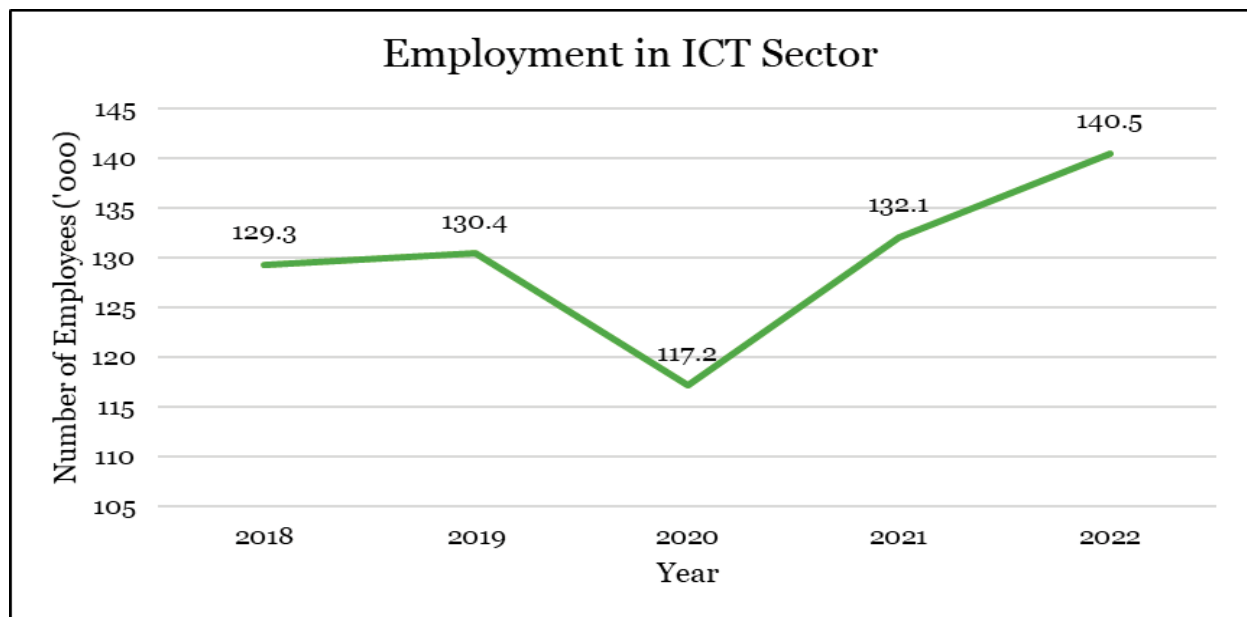
This policy article examines the current state of digitally enabled jobs in Kenya, policy interventions put in place to address the digital skills gap in the job market as well as policy recommendations.

Current Landscape of ICT Sector

The ICT sector has continued to contribute significantly to overall economic growth and registered 6.3 per cent in 2022. In terms of wage employment by sector, the ICT sector accounts among the top five sectors with highest employment in 2022. Interestingly, Kenya has high number of digitally enabled jobs beyond the jobs recorded in the ICT sector. For instance, Kenya’s gig economy largely

driven by digital technologies is valued at US\$ 109 employing over 36,000 workers in various sectors such as transport and healthcare. Figure 1 shows a steady but moderate growth of employment in Kenya’s ICT sector for the past five years. ICT employment increased from 129,300 roles in 2018 to 140,500 in 2022 - representing a compounded annual growth rate of 6.4 per cent. However, there was a notable decline in 2020 (likely due to COVID-19 impacts), before recovering and surpassing the previous 2019 peak by 2021 and 2022. This shows the resilience of Kenya’s expanding digital economy even amid economic shocks. Still, to fully realize future potential, this rebound highlights a need for sufficient ICT skills development and talent pipeline expansion.

Figure 1: Employment in ICT sector



Data source: KNBS, Kenya Economic Survey, 2023

In the recent years, several technology service providers such as Microsoft, Oracle, Google, Amazon, IBM, and Huawei have established their presence in Kenya. World Bank report (2021) indicates that the Global tech giants and innovative services (ICT & Finance) make up 2 per cent of Kenya’s workforce, contributing to roughly 14 per cent of GDP and 19 per cent of GDP growth between 2015 and 2021. The report notes that the ICT sector employs about 72 per cent of its

workforce with post-secondary qualifications, such as a university degree, vocational degree, or diploma. About 50 per cent of jobs in Kenya are expected to depend on digital skills by 2030, up from 25-30 per cent in 2019 (Mercy Corps, 2020). It is noted that there is inadequate data to show the total number of digitally enabled jobs, particularly the new roles. Furthermore, the availability of skilled workers remains a significant challenge for firms in the knowledge-intensive ICT sector.

Government interventions for economic growth and job creation

As noted earlier, the government of Kenya has identified digital transformation as a priority within its national development blueprints to drive economic growth and job creation. A review of the Vision 2030, National Digital Masterplan, Digital Economy Blueprint, Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), E-commerce strategy and National Broadband strategy indicate an elaborate policy direction to embrace digital economy to create jobs. Some of the key strategic interventions include investing in digital infrastructure such as fibre optic connectivity; Promoting Digital Business; Building of Digital Skills; Embracing Digital Government; Promoting Innovations and Entrepreneurship. Other interventions include incentivizing technology companies to establish operations in Kenya, boosting technical and vocational training programs, and adopting open data and digitization policies to spawn innovation. The government is seeking to deliver its plans through public-private partnerships (PPPs). Examples of such collaborations include government working closely with giant tech companies such as Google, Microsoft, IBM, and Huawei. In March 2024, the meeting between President William Ruto and content creation players like the Facebook Content Monetization team from Meta at State House Nairobi marked a significant step in catalyzing opportunities for digitally enabled jobs in Kenya. The announcement that Kenyan content creators can monetize their content on Facebook and Instagram starting in June opens new avenues for job creation and economic growth. This enables content creators with over 5,000 followers to earn from their content through various revenue channels like in-stream ads, Facebook Stars, Instagram Gifts, and Instagram Subs. This intervention not only empowers content creators but also harnesses the potential of the digital space to provide employment opportunities for the youth in Kenya. President Ruto's support for expanding monetization to platforms like M-Pesa further underscores the government's commitment to leveraging digital platforms for job creation and economic empowerment in the country.

The government has put in place various skill development initiatives to build digital skills in the country. For instance, the government is implementing Digital Literacy Programme (DLP) popularly known as DigiSchool to ensure every pupil is prepared for today's digital world. This programme is meant to prepare future workers who can design, develop and implement digital platforms for products and services such as e-commerce portals. This will see an increase in number of workers for ICT intensive jobs such as software developer, database architect and 3-D animators. The programme introduces primary school children to the use of digital technology and communications. DLP is targeted at learners in all public primary schools in Kenya covering more than one million class 1 pupils in all the 23,951 primary schools. The programme has developed infrastructure, content, trained teachers and provided learning digital devices to schools. The total number of digital devices installed in 21,232 schools (97.7%) as of 19th September 2019 was 1,148,160. About 201,811 devices were assembled locally by local universities -Moi and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology. Over 22,259 schools have been connected to the power (19,023 schools connected to the power grid supply and 3,236 connected to the solar power supply). Further, over 228,000 teachers are trained in the utilization of technology in learning and over 47000 teacher's devices distributed in primary schools. Further, coding software has been introduced in primary schools' curriculum to prepare students for future jobs.

Similarly, the Presidential Digital Talent Programme (PDTP) also known as DigiTalent is a strategic intervention to develop and sustain high end ICT talent by bridging the gap between industry requirements and the capabilities of the local workforce. This is in line with the National digital master plan (2022-2032) which underscores the need to develop a critical mass of high-end ICT skills and to develop an ICT ready workforce to meet the needs of the digital economy. The participants are placed both in the Government Ministries (for 10 months) and in the private sector (for 2 months) during the programme, giving them a holistic understanding of how ICT works

both in the public and private sectors. The programme provides participants an excellent opportunity to gain workplace experience, expand knowledge, mentorship, refine career goals and build professional networks in the areas of Network & Infrastructure, Application Development, Graphic & Design, Information Security, and Project Management. Further, the participants are also mentored on leadership skills and innovative thinking required in the data economy. After the programme, the participants emerge as talented and well-rounded individuals with a clear career progression path in the digital economy and make valuable additions in protecting personal data. The programme has benefited over 2100 ICT graduates. It is noted this programme is meant to equip trainees with skills to design, develop and implement digital platforms for products and services such as e-commerce portals. Consequently, it is expected that the number of number of workers for ICT intensive jobs will increase.

The Ajira Digital programme aims to empower the youth by providing them with digital skills to access online work. The programme offers training in soft skills, technical and vocational training, and links trainees to gig platforms. Like other programmes mentioned above, this programme is meant to equip trainees with skills required to undertake ICT intensive jobs, ICT dependent jobs, and ICT enhanced jobs. The programme has trained over a million youth and aims to enable one million Kenyan youth to earn a decent wage from digital and digitally enabled jobs annually¹. The programme has established over 300 Ajira Youth Empowerment Centres (AYEC) across the country, where the youth can access resources such as broadband connectivity, computer equipment, training, mentorship, and support to embark on their journey to finding work on digital platforms. The programme has facilitated financially empowering opportunities through accessing global digital jobs, reducing the need for the youth to travel long distances to find work, and reducing the carbon footprint of the country. The Ajira Digital programme has had a positive impact on Kenya's economy, reducing unemployment and contributing to the growth of the digital economy. This

¹ Poverty Action Lab. Which design features of the Kenyan Ajira program have the most impact? <https://www.povertyactionlab.org/initiative-project/which-design-features-kenyan-ajira-program-have-most-impact>

aligns with the findings of the National Study on Digital and Digitally Enabled Work (2021), which found 1.2 million Kenyans were engaged in online work at that time, a number that has likely increased in the years since.

The Jitume Programme aims to create job opportunities and generate income for marginalized groups, particularly women, youth, and vulnerable communities, to support sustainable livelihoods and financial inclusion. The programme was launched in 2023, with a focus in equipping the youth with digital skills, enhancing digital literacy, and building a skilled workforce capable of meeting the demands of the Fourth Industrial Revolution². The programmes activities include facilitating networking events, forming partnerships, providing skills training programs, and granting access to government tenders to promote economic growth within the target communities. This programme is meant to equip trainees with skills required to undertake ICT intensive jobs, ICT dependent jobs, and ICT enhanced jobs. The Jitume Programme has made significant progress, with partnerships established with various organizations to expand digital skills training and job linkages such as Konza Technopolis. Additionally, the program has set up Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) systems in numerous hubs across the country and established Jitume Digital Labs to offer practical training and certification in digital skills³. The program aligns with the Kenya National Digital Master Plan (2022–2032), seeking to develop ICT skills for over one million youth entering the job market each year.

Konza Technopolis, initiated in 2008, stands as a pivotal element in Kenya's digital transformation strategy, aiming to serve as a dynamic hub for technological innovation, skill development, and job creation. The initiative offers a strategic opportunity to invest in the growth of the digital economy in Kenya and the country's overall economy. When completed, Konza Technopolis will offer digital infrastructure such as data centers that support the growth of data economy.

² Tech Trends (2023). The Kenyan Government Announces Jitume Program to Equip Youths with Digital Skills. <https://techtrends.africa/the-kenyan-government-announces-jitume-program-to-equip-youths-with-digital-skills/>

³ APTAnetech (2023). Jitume Digital Lab Opened in Makeni to Empower County Youth with ICT Skills. Retrieved from <https://aptantech.com/2023/11/01/jitume-digital-lab-opened-in-makueni-to-empower-countys-youth-with-ict-skills/>

Other benefits include personal data related job opportunities in Konza's world-class technology hub that will be home to leading companies in education, life sciences, telecom, and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO). Commercial space for these uses will be complemented by diverse residential neighborhoods, hotels, a variety of retail offerings, community facilities, and other public amenities. So far, local engineers and artisans are involved in the horizontal development of the project. Mega infrastructure including establishment of Kenya Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (Kenya KAIST) to foster elite human resources for personal data are underway. With establishment of Konza Technocity, Kenya could potentially create more than 200,000 technology-related jobs and make the country a model for other African countries in technological solutions. Konza will support the Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) initiatives in Kenya. Currently, there are only five globally competitive BPO service providers in Nairobi employing more than 3,000 youths and contributing about Ksh.2 billion into the country's revenue.

Kenya has partnered with various entities to enhance digitally enabled jobs and strengthen technical skillsets. One notable initiative involves collaboration between the government and tech firms like IBM, aiming to expand professional technology skills institutions and tailoring coursework according to private sector needs (Omondi, 2021). Additionally, Kenya has engaged in broader partnerships and initiatives, such as the Founders Connect Kenya event, which promotes collaboration among founders, industry leaders, and policymakers to foster growth in the tech sector (Founders Connect Kenya, 2023), and the establishment of partnerships with educational institutions like Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) to train students specifically for industries like semiconductors. Furthermore, the United States has joined Kenya for cyber and digital dialogues, indicating ongoing cooperation between the nations regarding technological advancements.

Other initiatives that have potential to create job opportunities include digital inclusion projects

such as Constituency Digital Innovation Hubs and Studio Mashinani. The objective of the Constituency Digital Innovation Hubs is to support entrepreneurs and access free Wi-Fi in all the 290 constituencies countrywide. The initiative enhances awareness and uptake of on-line platforms for employment and business opportunities in the data economy. Studio Mashinani project aims at enhancing availability of accessible recording studios and enhancement of self-employment opportunities for artists in the robust digital economy.

Despite these initiatives, there remains significant policy gaps that require to be addressed. For instance, access to Internet (18%) and ownership of computers (8.8%) by households still remain low (Kenya Census, 2019) and this exclude many Kenyans from accessing digital jobs. Kenya has not fully implemented and operationalized the national addressing system and national public key infrastructure which is key in supporting E-commerce. The ICT Survey on enterprises (2016) indicates 39 per cent of surveyed firms have engaged in some Ecommerce activities, however, majority of the local enterprises have not fully automated their processes because of complexity and challenges in dealing with collection of fees and royalties, managing copyright and intellectual property, privacy and personal data protection, illegal downloads, piracy, counterfeiting as well as rising number of cyber threats.

Digital skills present a huge gap in the country, with inadequate digital skills to meet the growing demand in the job market. It is noted that several graduates have inadequate skills for the market. Further, Kenya does not have a comprehensive policy for innovations to scale up and therefore generate digitally enabled jobs. There is limited entrepreneurial financing for tech startups, and high regulatory bureaucracy burden affecting growth of digital businesses.

Policy Recommendations

To expedite the growth of digitally enabled jobs in Kenya, the following policy recommendations are proposed:

Digital Skills: The Ministry of Information,

Communications and Digital Economy in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Private Sector to:

- Entrench more practical components in ICT-related programmes to equip students with hands-on skills.
- Strengthen the implementation of coding for schools by providing adequate computers for learners and equipping teachers with hands-on coding skills.
- Integrate digital skills across many disciplines to prepare future workforce in digital dependent and digital enhanced jobs.
- Establish partnerships between universities and industry players for internships, apprenticeships, and curriculum development.
- Incentivize private sector partnerships in digital skills development aligning with job market demands.
- Introduce digital innovation hubs, club activities and innovation challenges in primary and secondary schools.

Infrastructure Development & Connectivity:

The Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy in conjunction with the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) and Konza Technopolis to:

- Invest in expanding broadband infrastructure to underserved areas through the Universal Service Fund.
- Fast track implementation of the last mile connectivity to open up all areas for e-commerce activities.
- Implement policies to streamline the process of obtaining permits for infrastructure deployment and introduction and implementation of stiff penalties for those who vandalise ICT infrastructure.
- Fast track the operationalization of

the smart phone factory at Konza to produce affordable smart phones.

- Fast track the implementation of the two software firms as envisioned in the National Digital Masterplan.

Access to Finance: The National Treasury, Central Bank, Kenya Innovation Agency, and Capital Markets Authority (CMA) to:

- Establish specialized funds or venture capital firms dedicated to investing in tech startups.
- Provide grants, low-interest loans, or seed funding for early-stage startups.
- Simplify and expedite the process of accessing financing through streamlined regulatory procedures.
- Offer mentorship programs and business development support to startups to increase their chances of success.

Policy & Regulation Reforms: The Government, regulatory agencies, and industry associations to:

- Conduct comprehensive reviews of existing regulations to identify and remove barriers to digital entrepreneurship.
- Develop clear and transparent regulatory frameworks that encourage innovation while protecting consumer interests.
- Provide training and capacity building for regulatory agencies to understand the unique challenges and opportunities in the digital economy.
- Establish platforms for dialogue and collaboration between government, industry, and civil society to address regulatory concerns and promote policy coherence.



Exploiting the Potential in Digital Agriculture to Enhance Job Opportunities Among the Youths in Kenya

F. Kaloi., J. Anomat., and H., Wakhungu

Introduction

Kenya's agricultural sector holds significant potential to address the country's high youth unemployment rate and engage its sizable youth population. Despite youth constituting 35% of the population, their involvement in agriculture remains low, with less than 10% directly engaged in the sector.⁴ This is a policy issue of concern given that we see the youth shunning agriculture due to its old-fashioned style and leaving only the elderly in farming. This article therefore contends that digital agriculture could be one way of attracting the youth into agricultural activities for employment creation and food security. Meaningfully, these are also key aspirations in the Bottom Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

Digital agriculture encompasses the use of novel technologies to collect, store, analyse, and share electronic data and information in agriculture. It includes the use of tools such

⁴ http://www.parliament.go.ke/sites/default/files/2023-09/Budget%20Watch%202023_0.pdf

as mobile apps, drones, Internet of Things (IoT) devices, and data analytics in farming practices. Key technologies used in digital agriculture include precision agriculture, which uses information collected through various sources to increase efficiency and sustainability, and automation in agriculture, which uses robotics and drones to automate tasks such as planting, harvesting, and monitoring. Other technologies used in digital agriculture include sensors, communication networks, artificial intelligence, and machine learning. The benefits of digital agriculture include increased productivity and operational efficiency, accurate analytics and risk management, improved quality and quantity of products and yields.

Government interventions in promoting digital skills.

The government and its partners have been actively promoting digitalization among the youth through initiatives like the Ajira Digital

Program, which aims to provide digital skills training and job opportunities in various sectors beyond agriculture. Additionally, the private sector has also played a key role in promoting digital skills for employment in youths. For instance, The Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) and Twiva, through the Twende Digital Project provided online work opportunities to unemployed young people in Kenya's urban and rural areas. The Kenya Emerging Markets Initiative, in partnership with Microsoft and the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, has also been involved in empowering the youth through promoting digital skills to addressing the challenges faced when trying to transition into the labor market. Furthermore, the Digital Jobs program, implemented by Digital Opportunity Trust, has played a significant role in equipping disadvantaged and underserved youth, particularly young women, with digital skills to generate more income, improve their livelihoods, and support their families. These initiatives highlight the joint efforts by the government, private sector and development partner's commitment to capitalizing on digital interventions to empower the youth with skills and opportunities, setting the stage for considering digitalization in agriculture. This is geared to meet the MTPIV 2023-2027 goals of transforming various sectors for job creation among the youth, including agriculture.⁵

Despite the wealth of technological solutions available in Kenya's agricultural sector, their widespread adoption remains hindered by several key issues. High technology costs, coupled with limited digital literacy among youthful farmers, limited access to infrastructure, and an unsupportive policy environment, collectively impede the integration of digital agricultural solutions⁶. The absence of digital literacy skills alongside the complexity of certain applications, poses significant barriers to adoption. Moreover, the inadequacy of rural infrastructure further hinders the utilization of digital tools. Additionally, the inconsistent and unreliable power supply in rural areas severely limits the efficient utilization of real-time information, data collection, and operation of digital tools and equipment. Further, limited affordability

⁵ <https://fundforyouthemployment.nl/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Nigeria-Youth-Led-Research-on-Digitally-Enabled-Jobs-October-2023.pdf>

⁶ https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/publication/kenya-digital-agriculture-profile_en

and access to smartphones and computers exacerbate the challenges faced by youths in leveraging digital tools effectively. Overcoming these barriers is paramount to unlocking the full potential of technology, empowering youthful farmers to access markets, make informed decisions, and actively participate in the agricultural produce market, thereby fostering economic growth and sustainability in Kenya.

Young farmers more often face challenges when it comes to financial inclusion such as accessing loans. The constraints may include limited collateral, like assets, title deeds to secure a loan (World Bank 2021). This limits their ability to grow their farming activities. When compared to adults, their credit scores which might be incomplete or non-existent restricts them, therefore they are only able to get limited loans. Adoption of technology by young people in agriculture will bridge the gap for financial freedom. These new technologies will enable easier access to simple banking, saving and transfer functions. Access to mobile money account increases aggregate household savings. These savings consequently increase the chances of the young people to access credits from financial banks. Additionally, digital Financial Services facilitates the development and delivery of index-based insurance products that protect young farmers against risks such as adverse weather conditions such as rainfall, yield or vegetation levels and price fluctuations. The payouts are made when the index exceeds a certain threshold. When leveraging on digital platforms, the insurers can tailor the insurance to the needs of the young farmers. Adoption of digital platforms in insurance provision can help streamline the process. This reduces administrative cost which makes it more affordable to the young farmers. Efficiency in insurance companies therefore increases their coverage to a wider population which includes young farmers. Convenience and accessibility are achieved through use of digitized online financial systems as young farmers can easily purchase, manage, and claim insurance policies without the need to visit physical offices. This convenience encourages greater uptake of insurance among young farmers, enhancing their risk management strategies.

The integration of digital technologies within Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programs represents a pivotal step towards enhancing agricultural practices in Kenya. By updating TVET curriculums to include modules on digital agriculture, youth will be equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to leverage modern farming techniques effectively. This would include training in precision farming methods, which optimize resource utilization and enhance crop yield through the targeted application of inputs such as water, fertilizers, and pesticides. Additionally, instruction in remote sensing techniques enables youth to utilize satellite imagery and drones to monitor crop health, detect pest infestations, and assess soil conditions with greater accuracy and efficiency⁷. Furthermore, the integration of data analytics empowers youth to make informed decisions based on real-time data, thereby maximizing productivity and profitability in agricultural operations.

Digital agriculture presents numerous opportunities for youth entrepreneurship through Agri-Tech startups and innovative business models in Kenya. By harnessing technology, young entrepreneurs can develop solutions that address the unique challenges faced by farmers and contribute to food security, improved livelihoods, and sustainable agricultural practices. Some notable examples of agri-tech startups in Kenya include Starmax Kenya, which focuses on providing farmers with necessary farming information, insurance, credit, farm inputs, and market access. Additionally, AgriTech Plus develops digital services to improve farmers' livelihoods, leveraging technologies like drone usage, machine learning, and computer vision⁸. Plusfarm Innovations is another notable startup that identifies challenges in agriculture and creates solutions, such as IoT sensor-powered soil nutrient analysis devices. Moreover, OxfarmAG connects farmers to the fruit value chain, facilitating interactions between seedling farmers and fruit producers. These startups demonstrate the potential of digital agriculture to drive innovation, create jobs, and boost the economy, underscoring the importance of fostering an enabling

environment for youth entrepreneurship.

Digital platforms are playing an increasingly vital role in linking young farmers in Kenya with both domestic and global markets, thereby expanding their market reach and income potential⁹. Key facets of this connectivity include the presence of formal marketplaces like Mkulima Young, which serve as multi-sided platforms enabling farmers to competitively sell their produce and engage with clients¹⁰. Moreover, social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter (X), and Instagram are extensively utilized by young farmers to advertise agricultural commodities and exhibit their farming techniques. The tech-savvy nature of young farmers, coupled with their connectivity, grants them a distinct advantage in leveraging digital platforms for marketing and sales.

The integration of Kenya's agricultural sector into regional and international trade frameworks such as the East African Community (EAC) and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) further amplifies the significance of digital platforms. These agreements offer expanded market opportunities for Kenyan young farmers by facilitating trade within the East African region and across the continent. Digital platforms provide a crucial avenue for young farmers to access information on trade regulations, market trends, and opportunities arising from these regional and continental trade agreements. Additionally, these platforms can facilitate cross-border trade transactions, allowing young farmers to tap into larger markets and diversify their customer base.

India serves as a compelling example of successful promotion of digital agriculture among its youth. It showcases significant progress in leveraging digital technologies to transform its agricultural sector involving the youth in farming activities. Through initiatives such as the Digital India campaign and various agricultural innovation programs, India has spurred the uptake of digital tools and platforms among its young population.¹¹ An illustrative instance is the e-NAM (National Agriculture Market) platform, which facilitates online trading of agricultural

⁷ <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000383050>

⁸ <http://agrotekplus.com/>

⁹ <https://www.platformlivelihoods.com/young-farmers-using-digital-platforms-in-kenya/>

¹⁰ <https://www.mkulimayoung.com/>

¹¹ <https://www.investindia.gov.in/team-india-blogs/digitalisation-agriculture-india>

produce, granting farmers access to broader markets and improved prices. Moreover, the government has introduced multiple mobile applications offering real-time data on weather forecasts, crop prices, and farming methods that empower young farmers to enhance decision-making and productivity. India has also prioritized enhancing digital literacy among its youth through training schemes and educational endeavors, ensuring they possess the requisite skills to effectively utilize digital tools in agriculture. The pertinent lesson for Kenya is to cultivate a supportive environment conducive to digital innovation in agriculture, investing in digital infrastructure, fostering digital literacy among the youth, and providing tailored assistance and incentives to promote the adoption of digital agricultural technologies. By drawing inspiration from India's strategies and tailoring them to the Kenyan context, Kenya can harness the potential of digital agriculture to propel agricultural evolution, empower its youth, and bolster food security and economic advancement.

Policy and regulatory environment for youth participation in agriculture

Strategic policies in support of youths are crucial in promoting their participation in the agriculture sector. The government has put in place policies to support this initiative to allow the youths participate in digital agriculture farming. One of such policies is the National Youth Policy whose aim is to ensure maximum development and empowerment of youths to realize their potential for productive engagement at international, national, county, and local levels. The policy goal is to transform agriculture and agri-business and make it attractive to youth. Youth participation in the sector is likely to enhance the use of technologies in agriculture. This will help in the establishment of innovative and modern farming methods, value addition, marketing, and job creation among the youths. The Policy, therefore, aims to ensure the realization of this noble agenda by ensuring the innovation, energy and passion of the youth are fully incorporated in the operations of the agricultural sector. Additionally, the policy aims at reducing the negative perceptions on agriculture among the youth; promote agriculture, livestock and blue economy skills

development, innovation, information sharing and access to finance; Support youth to access land for agri-business and agricultural adoption to climate change; Strengthen youth's agribusinesses through enhanced coordination, monitoring and evaluation of product development and supply chains in agribusiness activities.

Furthermore, the African Union High Level Panel on Emerging Technology (APET) underscores the importance of engaging youths in agriculture through technological advancements and the enactment of agricultural policies that specifically cater for youth inclusion. This strategy is instrumental in surmounting challenges like inadequate technology access and limited training resulting from the absence of extension services. Enhancing the technological proficiency of youths, ensuring enhanced information accessibility, and making technological innovations more financially viable can enable them to adopt new agricultural technologies with confidence. For instance, young farmers in Kenya stand to gain significantly from timely updates on weather patterns, pest outbreaks, and disease management, thereby augmenting their farming efficiency and overall productivity.

Additionally, the Kenya Youth Agribusiness Strategy (2018-2022) aims to address barriers hindering youth engagement in agriculture¹². One of the key challenges identified in the strategy is the lack of essential skills, knowledge, and information among young people, which limits their participation in agriculture. To adapt to the changing agricultural landscape driven by technology and digital innovations, the strategy emphasizes the importance of digital literacy among youth. By providing targeted training on digital tools such as data analytics, remote sensing, precision farming technologies, and digital marketing platforms, the strategy aims to empower young farmers with the necessary expertise to effectively utilize technology in their agricultural ventures.

Kenya's Vision 2030 which is Kenya's development blueprint, identifies agriculture as a key Economic pillar. The vision recognizes the importance of agricultural sector

12 https://kilimo.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Kenya-Youth-in-Agribusiness-Strategy_signed-Copy.pdf

contribution to the economy and envisions transformation of young small-holder farmers into modern farmers. The vision recommends 'devolved funds' targeting the youth, women and all vulnerable groups and communities with high incidence of poverty particularly those living in the arid and semi-arid areas of the country.

Policy recommendations.

As the country strives to achieve Sustainable Development Goal number two (2) and ensure we achieve food security, the youths need to be in the forefront of this transformation. Digitalizing agriculture, coupled with financial inclusion for the youth are key in realizing this agenda. Therefore, in ensuring participation of youths in agriculture to leverage on the potential of digitalization, the following policy recommendations are made:

1. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development to accelerate the development of new youth led digital extension services to farmers in ensuring timely dissemination of information on weather patterns, pest outbreaks, and disease management through digital platforms.
2. The Government needs to take advantage of programs focused on enhancing digital literacy among youth farmers by providing training on the use of digital tools such as data analytics, remote sensing, and digital marketing platforms.
3. The Government could support the development of digital platforms that facilitate cross-border trade transactions and provide information on trade regulations, market trends, and opportunities arising from regional and continental trade agreements. Additionally, address challenges such as limited Internet access to fully harness the potential of digital agriculture within and across the regional and continental trade frameworks.
4. The government needs to work towards increasing funding for digitalization of the agricultural infrastructure. This can be achieved through public private partnership incentives support and grants to accelerate adoption of digital tools.
5. The relevant ministries need to formulate and implement comprehensive policies that address digital agriculture and ensure that it focuses on enhancing financial inclusion and job creation for youth.

^[1]https://www.s4ye.org/sites/default/files/202105/S4YE%20Note%20Digital%20Solutions%20for%20Youth%20Agripreneurship_0.pdf



Legislative Developments and Policy News

In the last three months, the government has enacted the following legislations:

A. Acts of Parliament

1. **The County Governments Additional Allocations Act, 2024** was gazetted on 5th March 2024. The principal objective of the Act is to provide for the additional allocations to County Governments for the 2023/2024 financial year; the responsibilities of National Government and county governments pursuant to such allocation; and for connected purposes.
2. **The Affordable Housing Act, 2024** was gazetted on 19th March 2024. The principal objective of the Act is to give effect to Article 43(1)(b) of the Constitution; to provide a framework for development and access to affordable housing and institutional housing; and for connected purposes.

B. National Assembly Bills

1. **The Kenya Sign Language Bill, 2024** was introduced into the National Assembly and was gazetted on 12th January 2024. The principal object of the Bill is to provide a framework for the recognition, promotion, research, preservation and development of the use of the Kenyan Sign Language as contemplated under Article 7(3)(b) and 120 of the Constitution.
2. **The Public Finance Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024** was introduced into the National Assembly and was gazetted on 19th January 2024. The principal object of the Bill is to reduce the time for submission of financial statements by public entities from three months after the end of a financial year to one month after the end of a financial year, to ensure that the Office of the Auditor General has adequate time to carry out required audits and prepare the required reports.

3. **The Statutory Instruments (Amendment) Bill, 2024** was introduced into the National Assembly and was gazetted on 1st February 2024. The principal object of the Bill is to amend the provisions of the Statutory Instruments Act, 2013 to streamline its provisions with the Constitution and ensure better application of its provisions.
4. **The Technopolis Bill, 2024** was introduced into the National Assembly and was gazetted on 2nd February 2024. The principal object of the Bill is to provide a comprehensive framework for the establishment of a Technopolis in Kenya and to create the Technopolis Development Authority which will be responsible for the development, governance, planning, management, improvement, and maintenance of every Technopolis established.
5. **The Cooperatives Bill, 2024** was introduced into the National Assembly and was gazetted on 9th February 2024. The principal object of the Bill is to provide for a legal framework that promotes a sustainable and competitive cooperative sector for socio-economic development in a devolved system of governance.
6. **The Breastfeeding Mothers Bill, 2024** was introduced into the National Assembly and was gazetted on 16th February 2024. The principal object of the Bill is to provide a legal framework on mothers who may wish to breastfeed their children at the workplace.
7. **The Treaty Making and Ratification (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2024** was introduced into the National Assembly and was gazetted on 26th February 2024. The principal object of the Bill is to amend the Treaty Making and Ratification Act, 2012 to incorporate a special enactment procedure for economic treaties, strengthen the participation of the National Assembly in the treaty making process and to generally enhance efficiency in the treaty making process.
8. **The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2024** was introduced into the National Assembly and was gazetted on 4th March 2024. The principal object of the Bill is to give effect to some of the recommendations and views of the public that were submitted during the national dialogue discourse on the Issues of Electoral Justice and Related Matters; Outstanding Constitutional Matters; Fidelity to Political Parties/ Coalitions and the law on multiparty democracy; Entrenchment on the National Government Constituencies Development Fund; the Senate Oversight Fund and the National Government Affirmative Action Fund and Establishment and Entrenchment of State Offices.
9. **The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2024** was introduced into the National Assembly and was gazetted on 4th March 2024. The principal object of the Bill is to amend the Ethics and Anti - Corruption Commission Act No. 22 of 2011 to prescribe the qualifications for appointment of a Chairperson of the Commission.
10. **The Culture Bill, 2024** was introduced into the National Assembly and was gazetted on 5th March 2024. The principal object of the Bill is to give effect to Article 11 of the Constitution as well as to provide for the promotion and protection of culture and cultural heritage of communities in Kenya.
11. **The Insurance Professionals Bill, 2024** was introduced into the National Assembly and was gazetted on 6th March 2024. The principal object of the Bill is to provide a legislative framework for the regulation of professionals in the insurance sector to enhance the standards of service in the sector, promote professionalism

and address concerns regarding professional misconduct in the insurance industry.

12. The Division of Revenue Bill, 2024

was introduced into the National Assembly and was gazetted on 8th March 2024. The principal object of the Bill is to provide for the equitable division of revenue raised nationally among the national and county levels of government as required by Article 218 of the Constitution in order to facilitate the proper functioning of governments and to ensure continuity of service delivery to the citizens.

13. The Unclaimed Financial Assets (Amendment) Bill, 2024

was introduced into the National Assembly and was gazetted on 8th March 2024. The principal object of the Bill is to amend section 28 and 45 of the Unclaimed Financial Assets Act (No. 40 of 2011) to give a claimant or owner the power to designate the payment of a claim to another person.

14. The Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2024

was introduced into the National Assembly and was gazetted on 8th March 2024. The principal object of the Bill is to amend the Universities Act, 2012 in order to allow the President to appoint Chancellors of Public Universities devoid of the current procedures set in the Act.

15. The Public Relations and Communication Management Bill, 2024

was introduced into the National Assembly and was gazetted on 8th March 2024. The principal object of the Bill is to provide a legal framework for the promotion, development and regulation of the public relations and communication management profession.

C. Senate Bills

1. The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2024

was introduced into the Senate and was gazetted on 29th January 2024. The principal object of the Bill is to delete Cathinone and Cathine, being substances found in Miraa, from the ambit of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act.

2. The County Oversight and Accountability Bill, 2024

was introduced into the Senate and was gazetted on 28th February 2024. The principal object of the Bill is to provide a framework for effective oversight over the county government by the Senate. It is an Act of Parliament that seeks to give effect to Articles 96(1) and (3) of the Constitution; to enhance public financial accountability governments; and for connected purposes.

3. The County Civic Education Bill, 2024

was introduced into the Senate and was gazetted on 28th February 2024. The principal object of the Bill is to establish a legal framework for the promotion of civic education in Kenya as an essential tool for building responsible citizenship, civic engagement, and democratic values among the citizens.

4. The County Statistics Bill, 2024

was introduced into the Senate and was gazetted on 28th February 2024. The principal object of the Bill is to establish a county statistical system that will enable evidence-based county planning for the development of counties and to measure the gains made by the county governments implementation of their policies.

5. **The Central Bank (Amendment) Bill, 2024** was introduced into the Senate and was gazetted on 1st March 2024. The principal object of the Bill is to amend the Central Bank Act to provide that Parliament shall approve the nomination of the Governor of the Central Bank.
6. **The Digital Literacy and Opportunities Bill, 2024** was introduced into the Senate and was gazetted on 1st March 2024.

The principal object of the Bill is to provide a coordinated approach in the planning, designing, deployment and management of government digital literacy programmes within the country.

7. **The Election Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2024** was introduced into the Senate and was gazetted on 7th March 2024. The principal object of the Bill is to amend Section 6 of the Election Offences Act, 2016.

Policy News

a) Domestic News

i. Investment in the Special Economic Zone will spur industrial growth.

The government is equipping Special Economic Zones with the necessary facilities to attract investors positioning the country to benefit from the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), African Growth and Opportunity (AGOA) Act and other markets. This will attract foreign direct investment, drive industrial growth and increase exports. His excellency President William Ruto made the remarks on Saturday at Maai Mahiu, Nakuru County, where he commissioned 90 MVA Naivasha Special Economic Zone Sub-Station. The President said the KSh700 million facility will have 3 separate lines that will complement one another to ensure uninterrupted power supply and will use geothermal power to produce 100 per cent clean energy, setting the pace for the country's green industrialization. To ease the cost of operations, He noted that the Government has reduced the cost of power in the Naivasha Special Economic Zone. During this exercise the President also issued licenses to six companies that will invest a total of KSh30 billion in the energy sector, creating more than 3,000 jobs.

ii. The trade deficit falls by Sh300bn as fuel, machinery imports dip.

Kenya's imports of machinery, fuel, and raw materials dropped by double-digit rates

last year for the first time since the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic-linked shutdowns, signaling a slowdown in production activities in key sectors such as manufacturing and construction. The value of imported goods dropped 10.61 per cent to nearly US\$ 17.12 billion (Ksh 2.74 trillion under prevailing dollar conversion rates) compared with the year before, according to the provisional data from CBK and KRA. Reduced imports amid a surprise decline in earnings from exports cut the gap between exports and imports by 15.94 per cent, or nearly US\$ 1.87 billion (Ksh 298.72 billion). It marked the first full-year contraction since 2020 during global lockdowns and shutdowns to curb the spread of coronavirus. Total exports in the review period dropped a marginal 2.2 per cent to US\$ 7.26 billion (Ksh 1.16 trillion) going against CBK's earlier projection of a 6.7 percent growth. A faster growth in expenditure on shipments from foreign countries than earnings from exports narrowed the goods trade deficit to US\$ 9.85 billion (Ksh 1.58 trillion) from US\$ 11.72 billion in 2023. The narrowing of the gap between exports and imports was largely driven further by a slowdown in demand for primary goods, which drive production in key sectors such as manufacturing than luxury goods. Kenya has over the years struggled to narrow its goods trade deficit partly due to reliance on traditional farm produce exports such as tea, horticulture, and coffee which are largely sold raw, fetching relatively lower earnings. Most

Kenyan traders export produce raw because of higher taxes slapped on semi-processed or processed products in destination markets like Europe, fearing that value-addition will make exports less competitive in the global markets.

b) Bilateral Relations

i. Kenya, US To Forge Stronger Ties in Trade Partnership

Kenya and the United States underscored their mutual dedication to strengthening bilateral trade and investment. The focus areas include agriculture, regulatory practices, and the rights and protections of workers. The commitment was highlighted in a meeting where negotiating teams from both countries in the Strategic Trade and Investment Partnership gathered to assess the advancement of ongoing talks. Led by Cabinet Secretary for Investment, Trade, and Industry, Hon. Rebecca Miano, and United States Ambassador to Kenya, HE Meg Whitman, the teams, alongside Prime Cabinet Secretary Hon. Musalia Mudavadi, convened to provide updates on the progressing partnership. Hon. Miano said their goal is to foster economic prosperity, ensure security, protect human rights, and uphold democratic principles. The negotiations mark a crucial step towards a more comprehensive and mutually beneficial partnership between the two nations. Both sides highlighted their commitment to advancing mutual prosperity, security, human rights protection, and the promotion of democratic values. The discussions mirrored a shared vision for

a partnership that goes beyond economic considerations, emphasizing a commitment to broader regional stability and global prosperity. The Kenya's negotiation team was led by Alfred K. Ombudo, the Principal Secretary in the State Department for Trade.

c) Regional News

i. Boost for Kenya tea exporters as Tanzania lifts imports ban.

Tanzania has reversed its decision to suspend imports of tea from Kenya, enabling Kenyan traders to resume exports to the neighbouring country. In a memo on Wednesday 14th February, the Tea Board of Tanzania, the regulator of the country's tea sector, said it would resume issuing import licences. Tanzania suspended the issuance of new tea import permits earlier in February amid concerns about the low-quality shipments into its market. Kenya has lauded Tanzania's decision to resume the issuance of tea importation permits after it lobbied for the country to reverse the suspension of the issuance of permits. The PS trade noted that the two trade partners would hold a Joint Trade Council in the coming weeks to review and resolve barriers that are affecting trade between the two countries. However, Kenya has been striving to grow its exports to its EAC partner to boost foreign exchange earnings from the cash crop. As part of its efforts to improve exports of tea, the government is also planning to drop the minimum price of \$2.43 per kg of tea sold at the Mombasa auction.



KIPPRA Demand-Driven and Collaborative Research Projects

A. Demand-Driven Projects:

FAO/World Bank project on Analyzing Public Expenditure Spending in Agriculture Sector in Kenya

KIPPRA is implementing the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Bank Group project on analysing public expenditure spending in the agriculture sector in Kenya. The goal of the project is to update the Public Expenditure indicators and classify the PE according to MAFAP methodology for the National and the six counties of Baringo, Kakamega, Nakuru, Kilifi, West-Pokot and Makueni. The exercise will cover data the period 2018/2019 to 2022/2023 period. The exercise will also involve preparation of Kenya Agriculture Expenditure Reports for the national and the six counties for the same period. KIPPRA collected the data for the national and the counties and prepared the dataset for the national and the six counties. The team working on the project are in the process of classifying the data according to MAFAP methodology, the exercise expected to be completed by end of April 2024.

FANRPAN Project on ClimBeR WP3: Building Systemic Resilience against Climate Variability and Extremes

The Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) and KIPPRA are implementing the ClimBeR WP3, a CGIAR project supported by the University of Leeds.

Through IFEED modeling, the partners will work with local organisations and government in Kenya, to create an evidence base that can be used to provide integrated evidence for policy pathways, by bringing together state-of-the-art crop-climate modelling with trade and nutrition analyses, expert knowledge, and stakeholder-driven research agendas. The objective of the project are to identify local experts with a deep understanding of policy processes in Kenya and constitute them into a national iFEED Working Group; develop a stakeholder mapping and engagement plan to communicate with stakeholders that are of interest to the project; plan and Conduct stakeholders' consultation workshop as needed to co-develop policy pathways towards sustainable, resilient, and nutrition-secure futures and convene National policy dialogue to bring in stakeholders to discuss the findings of the baseline and issues related to the co-development of policy pathways towards sustainable, resilient, and nutrition-secure futures. KIPPRA constituted the technical working group in December 2023 and the technical working group has had three meetings with the last physical meeting concluding the project activities held on 28th March 2024, in Nairobi.

Kisumu Project on Local Economic Development Plan

KIPPRA is supporting the County Government of Kisumu to develop a Kisumu Local Economic

Development Plan. Through this plan, the county will establish its Local Economic Development status and social and economic safeguards for urban MSMEs, determine Local Economic Development priorities and interventions and build a profile for investment attraction, among other activities. Additionally, the Plan will bring together all pre-existing visions and plans to attain the SDGs while considering Kisumu's strengths and assets. Among other developmental aspects, the Local Economic Development Plan aims to analyze the major trends and opportunities of an integrated local economic development, considering the significant impact of COVID 19 and consolidating all opportunities for private sector investment for city development. The LED report is currently being finalized, with a target of it being launched in the month of June, 2024.

Communication Authority of Kenya's Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

KIPPRA is supporting the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) to develop a Monitoring and Evaluation framework. The framework will track the Authority's progress and implementation of initiatives using performance indicators. It will also assess the Authority's progress of its Strategic Plan's implementation, measure the achievement of objectives, evaluate program outcomes and determine the desired impact on the consumer awareness programmes. The project is at the contracting phase.

Nakuru Affordable Housing Project

KIPPRA is currently engaging with the County Government of Nakuru to undertake a survey on affordable housing in the county. The survey will inform on the development of a county housing policy. The development of this policy will be research based and will ultimately provide a sustainable framework that will guide the development and management of the county's housing programme, in line with the National Agenda on Slum Upgrading and Affordable Housing Programme. The project's general objectives would be to analyze the county's housing and related construction sectors. More specifically, the project would explore the county's housing management, demand and supply, analyze the housing status and patterns and construction costs

and materials used, and have other relevant outputs.

Development of Kenya Quality Policy

KIPPRA is providing support to the State Department for Industry in the development of the Kenya Quality Policy. The objective of the Kenya Quality Policy is to bring together all stakeholders involved in quality infrastructures. The policy aims to support the country in benefiting from trade, meeting quality standards for both local and global markets, and adhering to standards, technical regulations, and sanitary and phytosanitary measures as stipulated by WTO's Agreement on TBT, and related regional obligations concerning health, safety, environmental requirements, and fair-trade practices. By developing the Quality Policy, Kenya will have a framework that supports compliance with globally recognized standards. KIPPRA in conjunction with the State Department for Industry conducted public participation for the policy across various counties in the month of March 2024.

Africa Center For Economic Transformation (ACET) Project on Country Economic Transformation Outlook for Kenya.

KIPPRA is collaborating with Africa Center for Economic Transformation on the project, country economic transformation outlook for Kenya. The goal of this project is to undertake a comprehensive diagnostic analysis of Kenya's economic transformation progress and challenges and to offer policy advice to public and non-public actors. The Institute conducted data collection exercise for the two selected deep dives ((i) Harnessing the digital and innovation economy for Kenya's economic transformation and (ii) Leveraging Kenya's MSMEs for increased productivity ,trade and economic transformation) in 9 counties (Nairobi, Machakos, Mombasa, Kilifi, Nyeri, Nakuru, Uasin- Gishu, Kisumu and Kiambu) between 12th and 29th February 2024. The team is developing a report and will host a stakeholder meeting within from April 2024.

USAID/AMREF-Uongozi wa Afya Thabiti Project

This is a 5-year USAID funded project that aims at providing system-level support to achieve leadership and governance programmatic

outcomes across 10 counties (Nairobi, Baringo, Kilifi, Elgeyo Marakwet, Tharaka Nithi, Taita Taveta, Laikipia, Samburu, Trans-Nzoia and Turkana). The specific objectives of the project are to strengthen Health Systems' Governance, Institutions, and Stewardship for Improved Delivery of Quality Health Services' Improve Health Systems Accountability and Structures for Transparent, Efficient, and Effective Delivery of Quality Health Services; Strengthen Structures for National and County Level Legislation and Policy Development and Review; and Strengthen National, County, and Intergovernmental Coordination Structures Capacity to Manage Health Systems. The contractual process for this project is ongoing.

B. Collaborative Projects:

Partnership for economic policy (PEP)-National Engagement Report-Earth4all Kenya Report

KIPPRA is collaborating with Partnership for economic policy (PEP) in the preparation of the National engagement report for Kenya which is a local contextualization of the Earth4All. KIPPRA is expected to develop an elaborate report on the current national context of the economic, political and social pillars and provide policy implications and to jointly hold the National Stakeholder engagements workshop with PEP. KIPPRA submitted the first two deliverables in December 2024 and held a stakeholder's workshop on 1st March 2024. The report is currently being revised to incorporate comments from the stakeholders.

KIPPRA – PEP and MCF Collaboration on the Project to Review Youth Employment Policies

KIPPRA in collaborating with the Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP) and the Mastercard Foundation Kenya in implementing the second phase of a project entitled "Review of Youth Employment Policies and their Impact in Kenya." The broad objective of the project is to provide a comprehensive review of youth employment policies and their impact in Kenya. The ongoing project is a follow up of the review focusing on emergent changes in policies and practices after the first review was completed in early 2023. The activities undertaken between January to March included literature review of emergent issues

and consultation with relevant local/national policy stakeholders. The project will identify key knowledge gaps and provide information and lessons on accelerating efforts to create job opportunities.

KIPPRA-World Bank Collaborative Research on Fiscal Incidence Analysis

The World Bank and KIPPRA initiated a collaborative engagement whose objective it to conduct a fiscal incidence analysis across various sectors. In this regard, various meetings have been held between KIPPRA and World Bank Teams. KIPPRA staff will benefit from planned capacity building efforts from World Bank while sharing County level Data to be used in the analyses. The new collaborative initiative targets to conduct county level fiscal incidence analysis focusing on changes from 2015/16 to 2021/22.

Project on the Development of Climate Change Preparedness Index for Kenya

KIPPRA is implementing the project on county climate change Readiness index supported by the World Resources Institute. The main objective of the project is to develop the County Climate Change Readiness Index for Kenya. Specifically, the project aims to examine the status of climate change Readiness across Kenyan Counties; develop a survey tool that can be used to acquire data on climate change matters and develop the County Climate Change Readiness Index for Kenya. The scope of this index will focus on five sectors namely – Agriculture, Manufacturing, Environment & natural resources (including WASH), Infrastructure, and the Social Sectors (encompassing health and education). The development of the index will help the country in reporting to UNFCCC obligations such as NDCs. Field data collection was completed in March 2024 and the process of report preparation is on-going.

KIPPRA – UNU-WIDER Collaboration on a book on savings project titled "The Domestic Savings Shortfall in Sub-Saharan Africa: What Can Be Done About It?"

KIPPRA in collaboration with UNU-WIDER is working on a book on savings project titled "The Domestic Savings Shortfall in Sub-Saharan Africa: What Can Be Done About It?". The book aims to close the gap in knowledge

about drivers of domestic saving rates in Sub-Saharan Africa; whether alternative approaches, such as pension funds or fintech, could provide new solutions to increase domestic savings; and lessons learnt from the experiences so far in different countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and other regions which have been more successful in raising savings rates. KIPPRA authors are in the process of drafting the manuscripts for three chapters on; The determinants of domestic savings in Kenya; Pension Funds in Sub-Saharan Africa; and Capital markets in sub-Saharan Africa. The manuscripts are expected to be completed in April 2024.

KIPPRA – IFPRI Collaboration on the Project to develop CGE framework in support of KIPPRA Modeling Hub

KIPPRA and IFPRI signed an MOU on 11th July 2022 with the objective to collaborate on policy research, capacity sharing and policy communication activities. Since then,

the collaboration between KIPPRA and IFPRI under the CGIAR Initiative on National Policies and Strategies (NPS) with inputs from the CGIAR Initiative on Foresight has been very successfully moving towards reaching these goals by co-creating research and database and tools. The focus of the collaboration this year is to tax based computable general equilibrium (CGE) models and other related modeling tools for model-based policy analysis and advice. This will be achieved in a step-by-step and hands-on manner using the training-of-trainer (ToT) approach and the co-creation of model-based research. A team of CGE modelers have been attending both physical and online training and working sessions. So far, the team has focused on taxation of agricultural income focusing on the proposed 5 per cent for produce delivered to cooperatives. The team will hold a stakeholder's seminar to discuss preliminary results in April 2024.



Kippra Events



a) KIPPRA organized Workshops.

i. Validation Workshop on Impact of Trade Agreements on Kenya Market Access, March 28th, 2024



KIPPRA held a stakeholder validation workshop focusing on studies in impact of trade agreements on Kenya market access on 28th March 2024 in Nairobi. The workshop led by the Trade and Foreign Policy Department presented several papers on: Impact of Trade Agreements on Welfare, Investment, Economic Growth, and Tax Revenue A Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) Application to Kenya; Trade Agreements, Technical Regulations, and Standards: Competitiveness Implications for Kenyan Exporters to Europe; and Enhancing Competitiveness of Kenya's Exports in Regional and International Markets. The primary objective of the workshop was to solicit feedback from stakeholders to enhance the quality and depth of the studies. The workshop brought together participants from various public and private institutions and experts in trade and foreign policy.

ii. KIPPRA Holds a Researchers' Workshop, March 21st - 22nd, 2024.



KIPPRA held a two-day researcher's workshop on 21st and 22nd of March 2024 in Nairobi. The objective of the workshop was to equip KIPPRA policy analysts and researchers with

skills to undertake relevant and responsive policy research and analysis as well as adopt effective dissemination and communication methods. Among the key areas discussed during the workshop include developing effective research methodologies, adoption of artificial intelligence to enhance policy research, tools for policy research analysis, research communication of policy research output and findings, and linking research evidence to public policy formulation and policy recommendations. This workshop is part of the Institute capacity building its staff on transformative and evidence-based policy formulation and analysis.

iii. Validation Workshop on Policy and Institutional Environment for Creative Economy, March 19th, 2024



KIPPRA held a stakeholder validation workshop on the policy and institutional environment for the creative economy in Kenya on 19th March 2024 in Nairobi. The workshop, which was led by the Private Sector and Development Department, aimed at sharing and discussing the findings of a study on the policy and institutional environment of Kenya's creative economy. The report highlighted the existing policy and institutional frameworks in the industry, gaps as well as recent interventions to address these gaps. One of the policy interventions highlighted included the draft Music Policy 2020 that seeks to integrate music in the education system. Stakeholders at the workshop were drawn from State Department for Culture, the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO the Creative Economy Working Group, the Kenya Film Commission, Ushanga Kenya Initiative, Performers Rights Society of Kenya, Amp Studios, Fashion Agenda Africa, the Association of Visual Artists and Collectives and Twaweza Communications.

iv. KIPPRA Inducts its Board of Directors, February 26th -1st March, 2024



KIPPRA through its management team held an induction workshop for its new Board of Directors focusing on the functions of various research and non-research departments at the Institute on 26th February to 1st March 2024 in Nairobi. The Induction was spearheaded by the KIPPRA Executive Director Dr Rose Ngugi. The new Board Directors got an overview of the institute's structure, strategic plan, workplan and performance contract targets for the current financial year as well as the staff capacities for the departments. Further, ideas on how to improve service delivery by the institute were also discussed. The workshop provided an opportunity for the new board directors to understand in depth the mandate of the institute and to interact with the management staff.

v. Validation Workshop on Kenya Economic Report 2024, February 28th, 2024



KIPPRA held a validation workshop on Kenya Economic Report 2024 on 28th February 2024 in Nairobi. The validation workshop aimed to gather stakeholder views and insight on the Kenya Economic Report 2024 which is themed Enhancing Productivity for Sustained Inclusive Growth. KER 2024 has 10 areas of focus: trends in macroeconomic performance; Kenya's medium term macroeconomic prospects; increasing labour productivity in manufacturing; enhancing productivity through trade; investing in skills for a productive and dynamic workforce; transforming agricultural for enhanced productivity; reimagining strategic partnerships in unlocking technology transfer; assessing productivity at county level; enhancing productivity in the public service and leveraging on digitization to increase productivity in the informal economy. The overarching goal for the report will be to present evidence-based public policy options that can foster sustainable and inclusive economic growth in Kenya by boosting productivity across various sectors. The workshop was officiated by the Director Economic Management, Dr Eldah Onsomu and drew stakeholders from the National and county governments, SAGAs, MDAs, and the private sector.

b) KIPPRA organized roundtables / stakeholder engagements.

i. Dissemination Workshop on Influence of Elections on Macroeconomic Indicators in Kenya, March 28th, 2024



KIPPRA held a stakeholder dissemination workshop on the Influence of Elections on Macroeconomic Indicators in Kenya, alongside the Dynamics of Exchange Rate Misalignment and Portfolio Flows in the country on March 28th, 2024, in Nairobi. The workshop that was spearheaded by the Macroeconomics Development Department, aimed to disseminate, and deliberate upon the findings of two distinct studies. The first study delved into the historical impact of Kenyan elections on macroeconomic indicators, while the second explored exchange rate misalignment and portfolio flows within Kenya. The workshop brought together participants from the State Department for Economic Planning, The Central Bank of Kenya, The Kenya Revenue Authority, Parliamentary Budget Office, and various institutions of higher education.

ii. Dissemination Workshop on Entrepreneurship Culture, Innovation, and Digital Technology Utilization among MSMEs in Kenya, March 26th, 2024



KIPPRA held a dissemination workshop on Entrepreneurship Culture, Innovation, and Digital Technology Utilization among Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Kenya on 26th March 2024 in Nairobi. Spearheaded by the Private Sector and Development Department, the workshop aimed to facilitate the sharing and discussion of findings from a comprehensive study examining entrepreneurial culture and technology adoption within Kenya's MSME sector. The workshop, served as a nexus for convergence, drawing together a rich tapestry of stakeholders deeply vested in the advancement of the MSME sector. from the workshop brought together participants from the Micro and Small Enterprises Authority (MSEA), Communications Authority, The Competition Authority of Kenya, Huduma Kenya Secretariat, ICT Authority, Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, various State departments, as well as members of academia. The event provided a platform for robust discourse and knowledge exchange among stakeholders, fostering collaborative efforts to enhance the entrepreneurial landscape and technological integration within Kenya's MSME sector.

iii. Stakeholder Workshop on Young Professionals Research Papers, February 1st, 2024.



KIPPRA held a stakeholder workshop on Young Professionals' research papers on 1st February 2024. The workshop aimed to get input from stakeholders to enrich the outcomes of the YPs' research papers. The theme of this year's YP research is "The Future of Industrialization in Kenya: Leveraging on the 4th Industrial Revolution". The workshop brought together stakeholders from different sectors and academia who provided valuable inputs to the Young Professionals.

iv. Stakeholder Workshop on the Review of KIPPRA Treasury Macroeconomic Model (KTMM), January 29th, 2024



KIPPRA held a stakeholder workshop on the Review of the KIPPRA Treasury Macroeconomic Model (KTMM) on 29th January 2024 in Nairobi. The workshop was graced by Executive Director Dr Rose Ngugi and attended by representatives from the National Treasury, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Central Bank of Kenya, Kenya

Revenue Authority, Addis Ababa and Kenyatta Universities.

KTMM was developed between 2000 to 2003 by KIPPRA. Over the years, KIPPRA and the National Treasury have used the model for budget planning process, building scenarios for discussions with the donors especially during the IMF's Article IV consultations, and also in conducting research. The model has also formed an important foundation for KIPPRA's capacity building initiatives for economists serving in the government of Kenya and even other governments in the region.

c) Capacity Building Activities

i. Executive Public Policy Making Process



KIPPRA capacity-built officers from Masinde Muliro University for Science and Technology (MMUST) in Executive Public Policy Making Process on 14th March 2024 in Kisumu. The workshop facilitated by Senior Policy Analyst, Mr Victor Mose and Research Mentor, Dr George Lutomia, aimed to build the capacity of executives in public policy making examining the various stages of policy making and policy analysis as well as the policy instruments that governments use to achieve their intended goals. The workshop that brought together 18 participants from MMUST covered the Public Policy Making Process module and included the key elements on creating a public policy, role of stakeholders in public policy, participation, problem identification, agenda setting, policy design, policy implementation, policy monitoring and evaluation.

ii. KIPPRA Hosts the KIPPRA Mentorship Programme for Universities and TVETs at Sigalagala National Polytechnic



KIPPRA hosted the KIPPRA Mentorship Programme for Universities and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVETs) on the 6th - 7th March 2024 at Sigalagala National Polytechnic in Kakamega County. The theme for the event was Kenya's Transformation Agenda Since Independence and Future Projections. The two-day event was graced by the Governor Kakamega County, H.E. FCPA. Fernandes Barasa. Economic Planning Secretary, State Department for Economic Planning, Mr Timothy Gitari Gakuu, KIPPRA Board Chair Prof. Benson Ateng, KIPPRA's Executive Director Dr Rose Ngugi and Sigalagala National Polytechnic Principal, Mr Evans Bosire.

Speaking during the event, the Governor remarked that the County Government of Kakamega is proud to support initiatives like the KMPUTs that empower the youth and invest in their future. The two-day event aimed to build the capacity of the TVETs communities in understanding the public policy making process. Also present were the Deputy Director, Partnerships Department Dr Eliud Moyi, Ag. Deputy Director Capacity

Building, Dr Nancy Nafula and Policy Analysts Dr Irene Nyamu and Mr Silvanus Opiyo. The event brought together over 500 students and representatives from government and private institutions.

iii. KIPPRA Hosts the KIPPRA Mentorship Programme for Universities and TVETs at Kibabii University



KIPPRA hosted the KIPPRA Mentorship Programme for Universities and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVETs) on the 28th - 29th February 2024 at Kibabii University in Bungoma County. The theme for the event was Kenya's Transformation Agenda Since Independence and Future Projections. The two-day event was graced by the KIPPRA Board Vice Chair Ms Christine Wanjala, KIPPRA's Executive Director Dr Rose Ngugi and Kibabii University Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor Planning, Partnerships, Research, and Innovation Prof. Munir Muganda and aimed to build the capacity of university and TVETs communities in understanding the public policy making process. Also present were the Director, Corporate Services Ms Irene Mithia and Ag. Deputy Director Capacity Building, Dr Nancy Nafula. The event brought together over 400 students and representatives from government and private institutions.

iv. KIPPRA Hosts the KIPPRA Mentorship Programme for Universities and TVETS at South Eastern Kenya University



KIPPRA hosted the KIPPRA Mentorship Programme for Universities and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVETS) on the 21st- 22nd February 2024 at the South Eastern Kenya University (SEKU) in Kitui County. The theme for the event was Kenya's Transformation Agenda Since Independence and Future Projections. The two- day event was graced by the KIPPRA Board Chair Prof Benson Ateng,' KIPPRA's Executive Director Dr Rose Ngugi and SEKU Vice- Chancellor Prof. Eng. Douglas Shitanda and aimed to build the capacity of university and TVETs communities in understanding the public policy making process. Also present were the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Corporate Services, Prof. Francis Wachira, Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academics, Research & Innovation, Prof. Harrison Maithya, Director, Corporate Services Ms Irene Mithia and Ag. Director Integrated

Development, Dr John Karanja. The event brought together over 500 students and representatives from government and private institutions.

v. Monitoring and Evaluation



KIPPRA capacity-built officers from the Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee (IGRTC) on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of Devolution and implementation of Summit Resolutions on 15th – 16th February 2024 in Machakos. The sessions which were facilitated by KIPPRA Policy Analyst, from the Capacity building department and consultants from Kenya School of Government (KSG) and IGRTC, gave the officers an opportunity to gain understanding and skills on M&E indicators and key result areas, data management, control, analysis, & dissemination of M&E information, legal frameworks pertinent to M&E, intergovernmental approaches to M&E, and application of M&E tools at the national government. The capacity building workshop brought together 14 officers from IGRTC.

d) CSR and Welfare Activities

i. Sports Talent Event at Sosit Girls Secondary School



KIPPRA through its CSR team supported a sports talent event hosted by Sosit Girls Secondary School on 30th March 2024 in Kapkatet, Kericho County. The event, which was organized by Sosit Schools alumni, empowered the youth through sporting activities. Among the games that were played included women's football, amputee football and wheelchair race. KIPPRA supported the event by donating trophies which were awarded to the winners of the sporting competition that was graced by County official, members of the community and students from Sosit Girls Secondary. This is part of the Institute's corporate social responsibility of investing in youth development through sports.

ii. Tree Planting at Naivasha Game Farm.



KIPPRA participated in tree planting exercise at the Naivasha Game Farm, Kiambu County

on 27th January 2024. The KIPPRA CSR team completed the replanting of 670 tree seedlings aiming to achieve 100% survival rate of the trees replanted. This activity is part of the Institute's corporate social responsibility and in compliance with the presidential directive of planting 15 billion trees by 2032. Tree planting stands as one of the most impactful and accessible actions individuals and communities can take to address pressing environmental concerns. From mitigating climate change to fostering biodiversity and enhancing the quality of life for both humans and wildlife, the benefits of tree planting are multifaceted and far-reaching.

iii. Mangrove Tree Planting Exercise at Mida Creek, Malindi



KIPPRA participated in the mangrove tree planting exercise at the Mida Creek, Watamu, Kilifi County on 23rd January 2024. Through its CSR team, KIPPRA donated and planted 1000 mangrove tree seedlings in support of the government initiative of planting 15bn trees by 2032 to tackle the climate change crisis. The exercise brought together stakeholders from the Kenya Forest Service, Dabaso Creek Conservation Group, and several stakeholders under the World Bank-funded KEMSFED programme. Mangrove trees act as buffers against rising water tides, protecting communities living along the shores of the Indian ocean from flooding. The CSR team later visited Baraka Children's Home in Mombasa and handed over gifts and sundries donated by KIPPRA staff. The activities are part of the Institute's corporate social responsibility.

iv. KIPPRA Holds Staff Sports Day, February 16th, 2024.



KIPPRA staff participated in the KIPPRA Sports Day on Friday, 16th February 2024 at the Public Service Club in Nairobi. The event mostly entailed outdoor activities with several lessons. Each of the well-thought out, creative and often rib-cracking activities was followed by brief sessions of reflection and identification of lessons the teams could implement to synergize and carry out their tasks effectively and efficiently. The event brought together KIPPRA management and staff, the young professionals, and interns. The event included staff introductions, a speech by the Executive Director Dr Rose Ngugi and later engagement in activities in sports like football, sack race, 100m and 400m races, badminton, table tennis, darts, among others. Dr Ngugi thanked the staff for their hard work and participation in the event noting that the exercise is important

towards building team spirit and synergy at the workplace. She reiterated that more of such engagements will be carried out in the Institute in future.

e) Partnerships and Engagement

1. Collaborative workshops and stakeholder engagements

i. KIPPRA - Ministry of Investment Trade and Industry Public Participation Forum for the Draft Kenya Quality Policy



KIPPRA participated in the public participation forum to disseminate the Draft Kenya Quality Policy on 12th March 2024 in Nairobi. The Policy which was developed by the Ministry of Investment Trade and Industry with technical support from KIPPRA will govern the implementation of Standardization, Metrology, Accreditation, & Conformity Assessment activities & align relevant policies, the legal and regulatory framework for quality of goods, services, and processes. The policy will be subjected to public participation forums across the country.

ii. KIPPRA - AERC Validation Workshop on tax policy reform



KIPPRA held a collaborative validation workshop with African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) for three research studies on 8th March 2024 in Nairobi. The workshop was graced by the Cabinet Secretary, National Treasury and Economic Planning, Prof. Njuguna Ndung'u and attended by representatives from Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), AERC, University of Copenhagen and Kenya National Bureau of Statistics. The research papers presented at the workshop are part of the priority research areas under the GOK-AERC-UCPH-DERG collaborative three-year economic research and policy making project that is geared towards developing fourteen (14) research papers that will inform tax reforms in Kenya and the finance bill FY 2024/25.

iii. Launch of the StEPPFoS Project

KIPPRA, participated in the launch of EC-AU collaborative project on Strengthening Evidence-Based Policy Practice for Sustainable Food Systems (StEPPFoS) on the 15th -16th February 2024 in Tema, Ghana. The overarching objective of the StEPPFoS project is to bolster capacities in economic policy analysis, fortify the science-policy interface, promote scientific support in policy development, and expand the PANAP Network.

The launch convened key stakeholders and marked a momentous step forward in Africa's pursuit of transformative change.

During the launch event, Ms. Paola de Caro, representing the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) of the European Commission, emphasized the project's significance within the AU-EU Innovation Agenda. She commended StEPPFoS for its comprehensive approach to addressing the entire agricultural value chain and stressed the pivotal role of capacity building in driving sustainable agricultural development. The project sets the stage for impactful interventions poised to catalyze positive change across the continent.

iv. KIPPRA-KNBS Stakeholder Meeting on NIPFN Policy Research Papers



KIPPRA in collaboration with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) held a stakeholder consultative meeting to review NIPFN papers on 2nd February 2024 in Nairobi. The aim of the meeting was to review the progress and status of the eight NIPFN policy research papers. The meeting was graced by KIPPRA Executive Director Dr Rose Ngugi and attended by representatives from the Ministries of Health, Water and Education. During the meeting, discussions centred on fast tracking the completion of the research papers. Also present were KIPPRA Director Economic Management, Dr Eldah Onsomu, NIPFN project team led by Project Manager Mr James Gatungu and a host of KIPPRA and KNBS staff.

2. Participation in conferences

i. KIPPRA Participates in the Kakamega International Investment Conference.



KIPPRA participated in the Kakamega International Investment Conference (KAIICO) on 19th to 22nd March 2024 at Masinde Muliro University grounds, Kakamega County. Led by Principal Librarian Winnie Nguyu, KIPPRA exhibited and disseminated a diverse array of its initiatives and research findings at the event. The conference which was graced by H.E. President William Samoei Ruto as the chief guest, attracted an impressive turnout of over 2,000 attendees. The event provided a platform for interaction and collaboration between public and private sector institutions converging to showcase their contributions and engage in meaningful dialogue. Among the delegates in attendance were Prime Cabinet Secretary and CS for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Hon Musalia Mudavadi, CS

for East African Community, the ASALs, and Regional Development, Rebecca Miano, as well as the US Ambassador to Kenya, Ms Meg Whitman. Additionally, the conference boasted a notable presence of Governors, Senators, members of the National Assembly, and heads of various state corporations.

ii. KIPPRA Participates in Data Privacy Week 2024



KIPPRA participated in Data Privacy Day 2024 on 26th January 2024 in Kisumu County. The institute was represented by Principal Policy Analyst, Dr Humphrey Njogu who participated in a panel discussion on Emerging Technologies and Data Privacy. This year's theme, "Fostering a Culture of Data Privacy," aimed to establish a comprehensive approach to data protection within organizations, communities, and society at large. KIPPRA also showcased its products and services at the event welcoming several delegates and dignitaries at its exhibition booth including CS ICT and Digital Economy Hon. Eliud Owalo and Data Commissioner Ms Immaculate Kassait. The event was organized by the Office of Data Protection Commissioner and commemorates the signing of Convention 108, the only international convention on data protection, and aims to raise awareness about personal data protection among citizens, data controllers, and data processors in both the private and public sectors.

iii. KIPPRA Participates in the Government Delivery and Performance Roadshow



KIPPRA participated in the Government Delivery and Performance Roadshow organized by the Ministry of Public Service and Performance Management on 24th January 2024 in Nairobi. The Institute was represented by Executive Director Dr Rose Ngugi at the roadshow that aimed to evaluate government programmes and projects in alignment with The Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, Medium Term Plan and Vision 2030. A report generated from the exercise will be presented at the Cabinet Retreat later in January. The week-long exercise was today graced by CS, The National Treasury and Economic Planning, Prof. Njuguna Ndung'u, CS Public Service and Performance Management, Moses Kuria, ministries and SAGAs under The National Treasury and Economic Planning who presented their achievements for the year.

3. Hosting Partners

i. National Economic Council of Somalia



KIPPRA hosted a delegation from the National Economic Council (NEC) of Somalia on 11th March 2024. The delegation was led

the Executive Director Mr Hassan Hosow and was received by KIPPRA Executive Director Dr Rose Ngugi. The purpose of the visit was to discuss possible areas of partnership and collaboration including best practices-in generating evidence based public policy, capacity building and policy research programmes as well as networking engagements. The meeting further focused on possible areas of engagement including exchange of learning ideas and exploring areas of governance that would potentially aid Somalia's post-conflict recovery. Also present during the courtesy call was Director Economic Management, Dr Eldah Onsomu. Ag. Director Integrated Development, Dr John Karanja and other KIPPRA staff.

ii. The International Food Policy Research Institute Country and Regional Program Leader



KIPPRA hosted a delegation from the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) on 8th February 2024. The purpose of the visit was to discuss areas of partnership and collaboration with KIPPRA. The delegation was led by Country and Regional Program Leader & Senior Research Fellow, Dr Clemens Breisinger. The delegation was received by KIPPRA's Executive Director Dr Rose Ngugi, who took them through the Institute's mandate, including capacity building and policy research programmes as well as networking engagements. Among the issues

discussed were partnership and collaborations between the two institutions with a focus on partnerships in Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) Modelling. Also present during the courtesy call were the Director of Corporate Services, Ms Irene Mithia, Director Economic Management, Dr Eldah Onsomu & Ag. Director Integrated Development, Dr John Karanja. IFPRI provides research-based policy solutions to sustainably reduce poverty and end hunger and malnutrition in developing countries.

iii. County Executive Committee, Health, Kakamega County



KIPPRRA hosted a delegation from the Kakamega County Government on 7th February 2024. The delegation was led by the County Executive Committee (CEC) for Health Dr Bernard Wesonga. The delegation received by KIPPRRA Executive Director Dr Rose Ngugi. The aim of the meeting was to discuss possible areas of collaboration and partnership between the two institutions. The discussions focused on the Kakamega International Investment Conference, the KIPPRRA Mentorship Programme for University and TVETs (KMPUT) at Sigalagala National Polytechnic, the upcoming KIPPRRA Annual Regional Conference (KARC) scheduled for

the 19th to 21st June in Kisumu among other areas of cooperation. Also in attendance were Director, Economic Management Dr Eldah Onsomu, Ag. Director Integrated Development, Dr John Karanja, Director Corporate Services Ms Irene Mithia among other KIPPRRA staff.

iv. Courtesy Call to Governor, Kisumu County



KIPPRRA called on Governor Kisumu County, Prof. Anyang' Ny'ong'o on 6th February at the County offices in Kisumu. The KIPPRRA delegation was led by the Executive Director, Dr Rose Ngugi accompanied by 7th KIPPRRA Annual Regional Conference planning committee members. The aim of the meeting was to discuss possible areas of collaboration with regards to 7th KIPPRRA Annual Regional Conference (KARC) scheduled for the 19th-21st June 2024 in Kisumu. Dr Ngugi provided an overview of the conference noting that the Institute organizes the annual conferences in fulfilment of its mandate to provide a platform for policy dialogue among stakeholders in the public policy space to explore and discuss potential areas and opportunities to exploit in forging a common front to accelerate achievement of a sustainable and inclusive development. The member of the planning committee also provided overview of the conference, the objectives and sub themes and partnership opportunities. The Governor pledged to support KIPPRRA in the conference, including providing technical staff to make presentations and participate in panel discussions on various issues, including industrialization from the County Government perspective. Prof, Ny'ong'o also noted the need to include the Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB) as partners in the conference.

v. Taita Taveta University Students



KIPPRA hosted students from Taita Taveta University on a benchmarking visit on 2nd February 2024. The students who were accompanied by the University faculty members were taken on a tour of the Institute. The students were later taken through KIPPRA's mandate and the public policy making process by Principal Policy Analyst, Dr Douglas Kivoi. Dr Kivoi further made a presentation on the KIPPRA Mentorship Programme for Universities and TVETs (KMPUT). The visit is part of the Institute's Mentorship Programme for Universities and TVETs. The programme strives to create awareness and develop the capacity of the university community in understanding the public policy making process.

vi. Chief Executive Officer Frontier Counties Development Council



KIPPRA hosted a delegation from the Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC) on 1st February 2024. The purpose of the visit was to discuss areas of partnership and collaboration with KIPPRA. The delegation was led by the FCDC Chief Executive Officer Dr Idle Farah and was received by Director, Economic Management Dr Eldah Onsomu. Among the issues discussed were collaborations between the two institutions on a project supported by the World Bank and implemented by FCDC on Tackling Regional Inequalities and Inclusion in Northern Kenya. Also in attendance during the courtesy call were Ag. Director Integrated Development, Dr John Karanja among other KIPPRA staff. The Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC) is a regional economic bloc composed of the County Governments of Lamu, Tana River, Garissa, Wajir, Mandera, Marsabit, Isiolo, Turkana, Samburu and West Pokot in the aftermath of devolution.

4. MOU Signing

i. KIPPRRA - Economics Students Association of Kenya



KIPPRRA and Economics Students Association of Kenya (KESA) signed an MOU on mutual areas of collaboration on 14th February 2024 in Nairobi. The signing ceremony of the MOU signed by KIPPRRA Executive Director, Dr Rose Ngugi and KESA President Victor Kimwamu. Also, present were KIPPRRA Principal Analyst Dr Eliud Moyi, Senior Legal Officer Ms Jane Mugambi among other KESA officials. The mutual areas of collaboration include capacity building through mentorship of KESA members, capacity building in public policy and planning and holding of joint workshops.

ii. KIPPRRA - National Crime Research Centre



KIPPRRA and National Crime Research Center (NCRC) signed an MOU on mutual areas of collaboration on 26th January 2024 in Nairobi. The signing ceremony of the MOU was attended by KIPPRRA Executive Director, Dr Rose Ngugi and NCRC Director/CEO Dr Mutuma Ruteere. Also, present were NCRC staff and KIPPRRA Senior Policy Analyst Dr Irene Nyamu among other KIPPRRA staff. The mutual areas of collaboration include capacity building through mentorship, short training courses, tailor-made courses for NCRC staff, and planning and holding of joint policy seminars. Other areas of partnership include collaborative research in the areas of mutual interest, joint research workshops to disseminate research findings, and joint resource mobilization.

5. Trainings

i. KIPPRA-CIP Training Workshop for the Youth

KIPPRA in collaboration with the International Potato Center (CIP) organized a training targeting the youth in climate action and KMPUTs alumnae on 12th - February -8th March 2024 in Nairobi. The aim of the training was to capacity build the youth on public policy making process, policy brief development, writing blogs and negotiation skills focusing on the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA). The training brought together 157 participants drawn from 15 policy clubs from universities and TVETs and 15 youth climate change action groups.

ii. Capacity Building Workshop on Research Communication and Media Engagement



KIPPRA organized a capacity-building workshop on research communication and media engagement for KIPPRA staff on 9th February 2024. The primary objective of the workshop was to equip KIPPRA staff with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively communicate their research findings to diverse audiences through various media channels. By the end of the workshop, participants were able to confidently engage with the media, communicate complex research ideas in a clear and accessible manner, and leverage different communication tools and platforms to maximize the impact of their research. The workshop was facilitated by KIPPRA's Principal Communication Officer, Ms Jane Kenda, and Communications Officer Mr Mohamednur Duba.

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UPCOMING

ACTIVITIES

APR - JUN”

a) KIPPRA organized conferences/ symposia

i. The Kenya Think Tank Symposium

KIPPRA in collaboration with Kenya Think Tanks Forum will be hosting the 5th Kenya Think Tank Forum from the 24th to 25th April 2024 at the Strathmore University Business School Auditorium in Nairobi. The symposium of the Kenya Think Tanks Forum is an annual event that brings together Think Tanks in Kenya to deliberate on current policy issues. The theme of this year's symposium is "Advancing Healthcare Futures in Kenya: Preparedness, Financing, Vaccine Manufacturing, Market Efficiency, and Strategic Partnerships." The symposium through insightful discussions and strategic planning, aims to contribute to a transformative agenda that ensures the well-being of Kenya's population in the years to come. The event will bring together policymakers, healthcare professionals, researchers, and industry leaders to collaboratively envision and shape a resilient and inclusive healthcare future for the nation.

ii. The 7th KIPPRA Annual Regional Conference

KIPPRA will host its 7th KIPPRA Annual Regional Conference on the 19th to the 21st of June in Kisumu County. The theme of this year's conference is "*Future of Industrialization in Kenya: Pathways to Industrialization in the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA)*". The conference will provide a platform to explore the pathways and opportunities for industrialization in the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA). This will accelerate the attainment of the Vision 2030 development agenda, which aims to transform Kenya into an industrialized middle-income country, offering a high quality of life to all citizens. The President, H.E. Dr William Ruto will be the chief guest at this conference that aims to bring together over 1.000 delegates from Lake Regional Economic Bloc, MDAs, Counties and private sector.

b) Policy Seminars

The upcoming policy seminars will focus on the following policy issues: Preparedness for pandemics focusing on vaccination; African investment summit; Securing digital economy;

World Economic Outlook (WEO); Banking sector performance in Kenya; and Sustainable charcoal value chain and climate change.

c) Roundtables / Stakeholder engagement

The planned roundtables will discuss the following: the Kenya-UK economic partnership agreement; Public Affairs Index Report (2021/22-2023/24): A Trend Analysis (2019 and 2023); CBEM 2023/24 validation workshop; Digital Economy; Fertilizer markets in Kenya; taxation of agricultural income and KTMM Review.

d) Dissemination Workshops

The following research work will be disseminated: FDI as a source of growth in investment in Kenya; Kenya Economic Report 2024; Nexus Between Devolution and Good Governance in Kenya; Community Healthcare; Fintech and financing; Trade agreements and competition; and Jobs and labour market.

d) Capacity Building

i. KIPPRA Mentorship Programme for Universities and TVETs

As part of its KIPPRA Mentorship Programme for Universities and TVETs (KMPUT)s, the Institute will conduct the 2-day programme at National Youth Service (NYS) in Nairobi and Meru University in the next quarter. The KMPUTs aims to bridge the divide between government agenda and university research capacity building and TVET communities in public policy making process.

ii. KIPPRA Young Professional (YPs) Training

KIPPRA in partnership with Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) will undertake a training for the KIPPRA Young Professional 2023/24 cohort on System of National Accounts (SNA) in the next quarter. This is part of enhancing the capacity of the YPs in policy research and analysis.

iii. KIPPRA Commercialized Programmes

In the next quarter, the Institute will undertake commercialized capacity building programmes on Public Policy Making Process; Applied Policy Research Methods; Macroeconomic modelling and forecasting; and Monitoring and Evaluation. This is in line with the Institute's

mandate of developing human and institution capacities.

e) Corporate Social Responsibility Welfare Activities

i. UHAI Festival at Kisii University

KIPPRA will participate in this year's UHAI Festival at Kisii University, Kisii County as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility. The CSR team led by the Director Corporate Services will also support the festival and later hand over sundries donated by KIPPRA staff and the Institute. UHAI festival is an annual event, which was started in 2018 by Signs TV in partnership with Machakos County Government where participants showcase their talents and take part in sports namely

blind football, roll ball, sitting volleyball, deaf football, and amputee soccer.

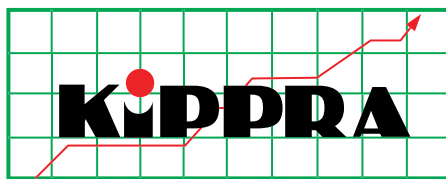
ii. KIPPRA Staff Team Building

KIPPRA will hold its annual staff team building activity on the 1st-3rd of May 2024 in Naivasha. The aim of the team building exercise is to enhance team spirit, collaboration, and morale of the staff. The three-day event will encompass indoor sessions and outdoor activities focusing on organizational culture development and management; effective communication for optimum performance and service delivery; transformational leadership; and strategy development and implementation. The event will bring together a total workforce of 177 members encompassing KIPPRA staff, Young Professionals, interns, and attaches.

ABOUT KIPPRA

The Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) is an autonomous institute whose primary mission is to conduct public policy research leading to policy advice. KIPPRA's mission is to produce consistently high-quality analysis of key issues of public policy and to contribute to the achievement of national long-term development objectives by positively influencing the decision making process. These goals are met through effective dissemination of recommendations resulting from analysis and by training policy analysts in the public and private sectors. KIPPRA therefore produces a body of well-researched and documented information on public policy, and in the process assists in formulating long-term strategic perspectives. KIPPRA serves as a centralized source from which the Government and the private sector may obtain information and advice on public policy issues.

Send us your comments on the articles published in this newsletter and any other aspects that may help to make the KIPPRA Policy Monitor useful to you. This may include policy issues you would like KIPPRA to prioritize.



The KENYA INSTITUTE for PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH and ANALYSIS

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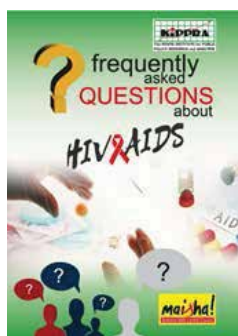
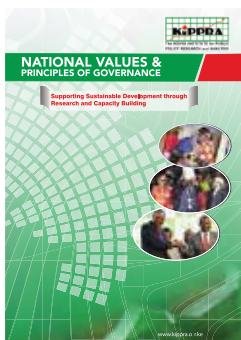
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