

Stakeholder Mapping Kenya

Summary

This report focuses on inclusive development in Kenya. It looks at the challenge of inclusive development in the country evident in unemployment, especially among the youth, and informalisation of work. It further discusses how to address the challenge of inclusive employment; the government has initiated a number of policy interventions. This report shows how the Kenya Vision 2030 and the five year Medium Term Plans provide a broad framework in which social, economic and political policies to address inclusive development challenges in the country are anchored. In addition, more specific productive employment policies - including the National Diaspora Policy, the Micro and Small Enterprises Act, the Labour Relations Policy, Foreign Employment Policy, National Policy on Youth Polytechnics and the Vocational Sector, the National Youth Policy, the Private sector Internship and Training Policy, Private Sector Capacity Building Policy and the Employment Policy and Strategy for Kenya - are discussed. This report is also about another focus area within inclusive development: social protection. The report shows how, in recognition of the fact that social protection in Kenya is being addressed in many different forms, by different agencies and through different sectoral interventions, a National Social Protection Policy was enacted in 2012 and a National Social Security Fund Pension Scheme Act in 2013.

The last section of this report describes five NWO-WOTRO funded research groups conducting research in Kenya. Overall, by focusing on the IT industry, fresh produce, sex workers, multinational businesses, and inclusive business models, these research groups focus on areas that are important in the country's inclusive development agenda. The first one is led by Prof. Harry Barkema, Erasmus University (NL) and looks at Multipliers for Employment Creation: the IT Industry in Kenya. This research fits well in the context of the government's emphasis on utilisation of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs). As the report shows, several government policy documents consider the IT sector crucial as an enabler of economic growth and employment generation. One of the areas imperative in job creation especially for youth and young professionals in the Kenya Vision 2030 is business process outsourcing and IT-Enabled Services (ITES) through establishment of a Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) Park and Konza technology. The Medium Term Plan 2013-2017 views ICTs as the foundation for a knowledge economy; several flagship projects are lined up in science, technology and innovation to expand human skills to harness IT for development and job creation. Stakeholders involving government ministries, knowledge institutions and other strategic actors contributing in the area of ICTs and employment generation, are also discussed.

The second consortium led by Dr. Bekele Shiferaw investigates the Productive Employment in Segmented Markets of Fresh Produce in Kenya. This area of study is relevant in the country's efforts to promote income generation through sale of fresh produce both in local and export markets. Under the economic pillar of the Kenya Vision 2030, agriculture is one of the sectors to contribute to economic growth through agricultural productivity-marketing and value addition especially for export crops. Other efforts to promote fresh produce marketing shown in this report is the Buy Kenya Policy - in which 'A Touch of Kenya' seeks to ensure that high quality products from Kenya enter the world markets branded as Kenya Products - and agri-business development programmes. Findings of this research could contribute to the agriculture and food security focus of the Netherlands Embassy to Kenya, especially objectives one and two of the Multi Annual Strategic Plan (MASP) 2014-2017 on increased agricultural productivity and better access to local and international markets. Further, a project supported by the Dutch government in Kenya relevant to this research is the Kenya Market-led Horticulture Programme (hortIMPACT). This report also looks at the government agencies, knowledge institutions and trade associations relevant in fresh produce trade.

Dr L. Nencel, VU University Amsterdam leads the third consortium on 'Creating Opportunities? Economic Empowerment, Political Positioning and Participation of Sex Workers in Kenya and Ethiopia'. Though multidisciplinary methods, this study aims to make policy interventions to support and empower sex workers in order to address their vulnerability, stigmatisation, exclusion and their rights and access to social welfare services. Focus on sex workers is timely especially because among others, the Constitution of Kenya 2010 has a Chapter on Bill of Rights, which provides for rights and fundamentals freedoms that must be respected and fulfilled to all Kenyans without discrimination of any kind. Furthermore, due to recognition of the challenges that sex workers experience, many government agencies including those under the Ministry of Health are taking steps to address this through policy changes and initiation of relevant programmes. Therefore, findings of this study would add to efforts by other agencies that seek for decriminalisation of sex work, non-discriminatory access to health services by sex workers and protection of sex workers by the state agencies from violence that they may experience.

Another research consortium led by Dr. C. Uche (African Studies Centre) looks at Dutch Multinational Businesses, Dutch Government and the Promotion of Productive Employment in Sub-Saharan Africa specifically focusing on Nigeria and Kenya. This research fits well in Kenya's national development policies which seek to attract foreign direct investments by increasing the country's competitiveness and creating an enabling environment for private businesses to thrive as a key means to attain long term development objectives. Further, as the Netherlands embassy in Nairobi intends to relate with Kenya more of as a trading partner and seeks investment opportunities for Dutch businesses, findings of this study would shed light on how this changing relationship can be beneficial to both countries.

The last research group that this report looks at is titled 'How Inclusive Business Strategies Can Contribute to Inclusive Development in Sub-Saharan Africa' is led by Prof. R. van Tulder, Erasmus University Rotterdam and covers several countries in Africa including Kenya. This consortium investigates comprehensive indicators of inclusive business development at all functional levels in a multinational company to propose appropriate models for inclusive business. Findings of this study are crucial as priorities for the Netherlands embassy in Nairobi shift from development cooperation to trade and the Netherlands aims to act as a public investor rather than a donor.