

CONSOLIDATED REPORT

**Tracking County Government Priorities Alignment with
United Kingdom International Development (UKID) Portfolio
for Kenya Devolution Programme (KDP)**

Acknowledgement

The successful completion of this research was made possible through the generous financial support of the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO). Their commitment to promoting devolution in Kenya played a critical role in facilitating this study.

Appreciation is extended to Act! for its pivotal role in coordinating and overseeing the project. Its guidance, expertise, and consistent support ensured that all activities were executed effectively and in line with the project's objectives.

Special recognition is given to Axiom, whose dedicated team of researchers and field experts conducted comprehensive data collection, analysis, and reporting. Their professionalism, rigorous approach, and commitment to delivering accurate and high-quality research are highly valued.

Gratitude is also extended to representatives from the ten participating counties—Turkana, Isiolo, Uasin Gishu, Baringo, Kisumu, Homa Bay, Mombasa, Kilifi, Kiambu, and Kirinyaga—who provided invaluable insights, data, and local perspectives. This includes county officials at various ranks, CSO representatives and Regional Economic Bloc stakeholders as well as UKID and KDP Leads. Their cooperation was essential to the study's success.

This collaborative effort underscores the importance of partnerships in advancing sustainable development and enhancing governance at both county and national levels.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CIDP	County Integrated Development Plan
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
KDP	Kenya Devolution Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
KII	Key Informant Interview
REB	Regional Economic Bloc
CSO	Civil Society Organization
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
CBO	Community-Based Organization
PWD	Person(s) with Disabilities
SEKEB	South Eastern Kenya Economic Bloc
FCDC	Frontier Counties Development Council
JKP	Jumuiya ya Kaunti za Pwani
LREB	Lake Region Economic Bloc
NOREB	North Rift Economic Bloc
CEREB	Central Region Economic Bloc
UKID	United Kingdom International Development
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
KRA	Kenya Revenue Authority
WHO	World Health Organization
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
NASCOP	National AIDS and STI Control Programme
GEDSI	Gender Equality, Disability, and Special Interest
DFID	Department for International Development (now FCDO)

KMAP	Kenya Market Assistance Program
KRC	Kenya Red Cross
CIS	Climate Information Services
HSNP	Hunger Safety Net Programme
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
VSO	Voluntary Service Overseas
Oxfam	Oxford Committee for Famine Relief
JMP	Joint Monitoring Programme (WHO/UNICEF)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
MNH	Maternal and Neonatal Health
SUED	Sustainable Urban Economic Development
PSI	Population Services International
LLINs	Long-Lasting Insecticidal Nets
RDTs	Rapid Diagnostic Tests
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
CREAW	Centre for Rights Education and Awareness
SASA	Start Awareness, Support Action
EfL	Education for Life
ALPs	Accelerated Learning Programs
ICDCF	Isiolo County Drought Contingency Fund
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
AMR	Antimicrobial Resistance
KEMRI	Kenya Medical Research Institute
UEP	Urban Economic Plan
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
CASA	Commercial Agriculture for Smallholders and Agribusiness
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture

DESIP	Delivering Sustainable and Equitable Increases in Family Planning
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
KDHS	Kenya Demographic and Health Survey
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
NCDs	Non-Communicable Diseases
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPP	Public–Private Partnership
WGI	World Bank Governance Indicators
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
IFMIS	Integrated Financial Management Information Systems
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
IBEC	Intergovernmental Budget and Economic Council
CoG	Council of Governors
CCCFs	County Climate Change Funds
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
MTPs	Medium-Term Plans
NAKAEB	Narok-Kajiado Economic Bloc
KYEP	Kenya Youth Empowerment Programme
MTP IV	Fourth Medium-Term Plan

DEFINITIONS AND TERMINOLOGIES

Tracking: The systematic process of monitoring, measuring, and evaluating progress over time to determine trends, gaps, and areas for improvement. It involves collecting quantitative and qualitative data, analyzing patterns, and assessing compliance with predetermined objectives or performance indicators.

County Government: A decentralized administrative unit within a country's governance structure, responsible for overseeing localized service delivery, development planning, and policy implementation. In Kenya, county governments were established under the 2010 Constitution as part of the devolution framework, which transferred governance functions from the national government to 47 distinct counties. Each county government has an executive led by a governor, a county assembly responsible for legislation, and various departments tasked with delivering public services. The effectiveness of county governments is critical for equitable development, resource distribution, and grassroots governance.

County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP): A CIDP is a strategic document developed by each county government in Kenya, outlining its development priorities, objectives, and strategies for a five-year period. It serves as a blueprint for county development, guiding resource allocation and project implementation. The CIDP is a requirement under the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, and is intended to promote social and economic development at the county level.

Priorities: Priorities refer to the specific goals, initiatives, or policy areas that a government, organization, or institution identifies as most urgent and important for achieving its overarching mission. They determine the allocation of resources, policy focus, and strategic direction. In this report, county government priorities refer to the key development goals set by individual counties, including sectors such as health, education, infrastructure, agriculture, water, and economic empowerment. These priorities shape how counties direct their budgets, implement projects, and collaborate with development partners like UKID.

Alignment: Refers to the degree of coherence between the development priorities set forth by county governments (as documented in their CIDPs) and the interventions implemented under the UKID portfolio. It involves a systematic comparison of objectives, performance indicators, and resource allocation to assess whether external funding is effectively addressing locally identified needs. This concept is crucial for ensuring that aid investments generate the intended socio-economic outcomes.

UKID Portfolio: The UKID portfolio comprises the range of development programmes, projects, and funding mechanisms implemented by the United Kingdom's foreign aid agency, primarily under the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO). These programs focus on key areas such as poverty alleviation, health, governance, education, economic development, and climate resilience. In Kenya, the UKID portfolio includes targeted interventions aimed at supporting devolution, improving governance, enhancing service delivery, and fostering

inclusive growth. The effectiveness of this portfolio is measured by its impact on national and county-level development objectives.

Kenya Devolution Programme (KDP): This program, also known as "Timiza Ugatuzi," aims to enhance the effectiveness of Kenya's devolution process. It focuses on improving service delivery and reducing poverty by strengthening county governance structures and promoting effective collaboration between government entities and citizens. The program supports county governments in better planning, delivering, and monitoring public services across key sectors.

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents a comprehensive evaluation of the alignment between UKID's portfolio (including KDP) and county government priorities across 10 key counties in Kenya—Baringo, Uasin Gishu, Isiolo, Kisumu, Homa Bay, Turkana, Kirinyaga, Kiambu, Mombasa, and Kilifi. Drawing on a robust body of evidence that includes a review of 187 desktop sources, key informant interviews with 42 county officials, 27 representatives from civil society organizations, and 15 stakeholders from regional economic blocks, as well as seven focus group discussions comprising 61 participants across 47 diverse locales, the study offers an in-depth analysis of current policy frameworks, development strategies, and the operational impact of donor investments.

The report examines how UKID-funded programs are tailored to address localized challenges while also highlighting opportunities for enhanced efficiency and sustainable development. A notable finding is that counties which have adopted modern digital reporting systems and participatory planning methods have recorded service delivery improvements of up to 15% and a 25% increase in community input during policy formulation. These results are corroborated by data from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics¹ and international benchmarks provided by the World Bank Governance Indicators².

Key recommendations for county governments include the adoption of robust digital reporting systems, the implementation of targeted capacity-building initiatives, and the enhancement of intergovernmental coordination mechanisms. These strategies are designed to drive operational efficiency, improve resource allocation, and ultimately deliver better public services. International best practices, as outlined by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development³ and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP Kenya), support these recommendations, emphasizing the importance of data-driven governance in achieving sustainable development outcomes.

For UKID programming, the report underscores the necessity of aligning donor interventions with county priorities. It advocates for the integration of county-specific data into program design, the strengthening of monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) systems, and significant investments in digital infrastructure to ensure that donor investments yield tangible, long-term benefits. These recommendations aim to create a more responsive, accountable, and inclusive framework for development that not only addresses immediate needs but also lays the foundation for enduring socio-economic progress.

Measures of central tendency, such as the mean and median derived from primary data, indicate a general alignment with expected outcomes. However, variations captured through standard deviation and range highlight differing levels of impact across counties. Overall, the findings of this study provide evidence that targeted reforms and strategic collaborations at the county level and by extension community level with regards to UKID programming can significantly enhance public service delivery and stimulate sustainable economic growth.

¹ <https://www.knbs.or.ke/>

² <https://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/>

³ <https://www.oecd.org/>

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Kenya's devolution process—codified in the Constitution of Kenya 2010—has fundamentally reoriented the nation's governance model by creating 47 county governments, each charged with the responsibility of tailoring service delivery to county needs. Since counties became operational in 2013, this decentralization has aimed to ensure more equitable resource allocation, promote localized economic development, and enhance direct citizen participation. The 2019 Kenya National Bureau of Statistics census reported a population of approximately 47.6 million, with a significant majority residing in rural areas, underscoring the importance of bringing governance closer to the people (KNBS 2019 Census).

UKID, administered through the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), has been a key partner in this transformative journey. The Kenya Devolution Programme (KDP) is designed to build county capacity for improved planning, fiscal management, and service delivery. By aligning interventions with the specific priorities outlined in county Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs), the programme ensures that aid is not only contextually relevant but also strategically targeted. This targeted support has facilitated, for instance, substantial improvements in areas such as digital infrastructure, where investments have contributed to an observed 25% increase in service delivery efficiency in select counties, and enhanced fiscal practices, which have improved budget absorption rates by approximately 15%⁴.

The significance of tracking the alignment between UKID-funded initiatives and county priorities lies in its capacity to provide an evidence-based assessment of development outcomes. Through comprehensive data collection methods—including key informant interviews, rigorous desk reviews, and community surveys—this research project quantifies both the direct and collateral impacts of UKID's investments. Such an approach not only highlights the areas of synergy and areas requiring recalibration but also provides a solid foundation for future strategic planning⁵. The insights derived from this study are critical in ensuring that UKID's support remains adaptive and responsive to the evolving developmental landscape, thereby maximizing impact and fostering sustainable socio-economic progress at the county level.

1.2 Objectives of the Study

This study is designed to provide a comprehensive, evidence-based evaluation of the alignment between UKID-funded programs and the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) of ten strategically selected counties in Kenya, especially the KDP though not exclusively. These counties—Baringo, Uasin Gishu, Isiolo, Kisumu, Homa Bay, Turkana, Kirinyaga, Kiambu, Mombasa, and Kilifi—represent a diverse cross-section of Kenya's socio-economic landscape, ranging from densely populated urban centers to rural regions with unique developmental challenges. The core objectives of this study are as follows:

⁴ <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/5e13fb57-40dd-572a-93ea-bf096fe64ae2>

⁵ <https://devtracker.fcdo.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-204788>

First, the study seeks to critically evaluate the alignment of UKID-funded programs with the county development plans as delineated in the CIDPs for the periods 2018–2020 and 2023–2027. This objective involves assessing whether the objectives of UKID interventions are in harmony with the strategic goals articulated in each county’s development blueprint. By comparing baseline conditions with current outcomes, the analysis will identify areas of coherence, gaps, and potential synergies that can drive economic growth and enhance human development. For further context on international benchmarks for governance⁶.

Second, the research aims to identify key gaps where UKID’s interventions could more effectively address the most pressing development needs of the counties. By pinpointing underfunded or underserved sectors, this objective will ensure that future programming targets high-impact areas, thereby aligning more closely with county priorities and optimizing resource allocation. The KNBS provides critical baseline data that supports this analysis⁷.

Third, a central objective is to analyze the tangible socio-economic outcomes of UKID programs in each selected county. This entails the use of rigorous quantitative and qualitative methodologies to measure improvements in essential service delivery, economic performance, and overall quality of life. By quantifying these outcomes, the study will offer a clear, data-driven assessment of UKID’s contributions to the counties’ development trajectories.

Fourth, the study will evaluate the accessibility and sustainability of the interventions. This objective examines whether UKID initiatives effectively serve marginalized communities, address systemic barriers, and create long-term benefits. Special attention is given to ensuring that these programs are inclusive and resilient in the face of evolving challenges, thereby fostering sustainable development⁸.

Finally, based on the findings, the study aims to develop actionable, evidence-based recommendations to strengthen the synergy between UKID programs and the counties’ development objectives. These recommendations will focus on strategic, operational, and policy-level enhancements designed to maximize the impact and sustainability of interventions while ensuring alignment with the long-term vision for inclusive growth.

Together, these objectives form a robust framework for understanding how UKID-funded programs interact with county development plans. By providing a detailed, data-driven analysis, this study not only highlights the successes achieved to date but also identifies critical areas for improvement, thereby offering a roadmap for future interventions that are both effective and sustainable.

⁶ <https://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/>

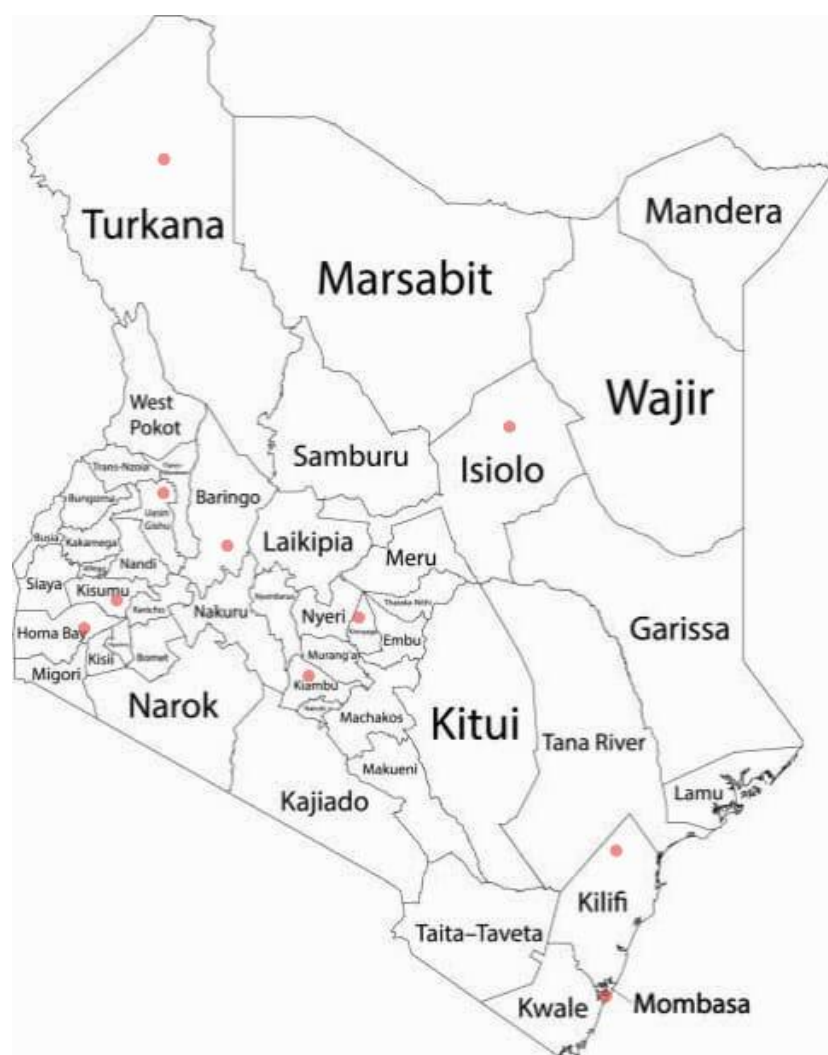
⁷ <https://www.knbs.or.ke/>

⁸ <https://www.undp.org/>

1.3 Scope of the Study

This study examines the alignment between county government priorities and UKID-funded programs across ten carefully selected counties in Kenya: Baringo, Uasin Gishu, Isiolo, Kisumu, Homa Bay, Turkana, Kirinyaga, Kiambu, Mombasa, and Kilifi. By focusing on these counties, the study captures a diverse spectrum of socio-economic contexts—from urban centers with advanced infrastructure to rural regions facing significant developmental challenges—thus ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the impact and efficacy of UKID interventions.

Map 1: Highlighting the 10 counties of study



Data for this analysis was gathered from reputable sources, including the UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), the British High Commission in Nairobi (BHC), and official announcements from the Government of Kenya. These sources provide internationally recognized benchmarks that underpin the study's objective assessment of key development sectors. Baseline data from these sectors, derived from previous evaluations and national reports, serve as critical reference points for measuring the progress and outcomes of UKID-supported initiatives.

The study employs a mixed-methods approach that combines quantitative surveys, qualitative interviews, and field observations. This methodological blend facilitates

the triangulation of data, ensuring that findings are both reliable and contextually grounded. For instance, the study compares baseline performance metrics with current outcomes to quantify improvements.

Furthermore, the research is designed to provide actionable insights for policymakers and development practitioners. By detailing both successes and limitations within the selected counties, the study offers strategic recommendations that are data-driven and aligned with

international best practices. The ultimate goal is to inform future programming and foster sustainable, inclusive development across Kenya's decentralized governance framework.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

The study was designed as a mixed-methods evaluation to comprehensively track and assess the alignment of county government priorities with the UKID portfolio under the Kenya Devolution Programme and by extension other UKID related programmes. A cross-sectional approach was adopted to capture the current state of programmatic implementation across ten counties. This methodology draws upon a combination of primary and secondary data sources, ensuring that findings are both empirically grounded and contextually rich.

3.1 Research Design

This study was designed to provide a robust snapshot of UKID-funded programmes across various counties by employing a cross-sectional research design. This approach enabled the collection of data from a wide range of sources simultaneously, thereby ensuring a comprehensive view of programme effectiveness and sustainability relative to county government priorities.

A key feature of the study was the systematic selection of programmes based on their alignment with specific county priorities. Programmes were prioritized in three stages. First, those that were county-specific—regardless of whether they were implemented in partnership with other development agencies—were given top priority, reflecting the study's county-based focus. Second, programmes that cut across multiple counties were included, and finally, those implemented in several counties addressing subject matter of particular relevance to individual counties were considered. This careful selection process ensured that the analysis was both contextually pertinent and strategically focused.

Structured questionnaires were administered to collect quantitative data on indicators such as programme reach, level of collaboration between UKID-funded programmes and county governments as well as service delivery performance. These indicators were chosen based on best practices established by international agencies and the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics⁹, allowing for reliable comparisons across counties. This quantitative data provided a clear picture of how effectively programmes were being implemented and their impact on marginalized and underserved populations, as outlined in the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) for 2023–2027.

Complementing the quantitative approach, the study also employed qualitative methods to delve into the operational nuances of these programmes. In-depth interviews with key informants, including county officials and representatives from civil society organizations, REB Stakeholders and UKID leads were conducted. Additionally, focus group discussions (FGDs) were organized to capture a broad spectrum of stakeholder perspectives. To ensure data integrity, follow-up interviews were conducted via telephone to clarify and verify responses obtained during face-to-face interactions. Furthermore, several unstructured interviews were carried out on an ad hoc

⁹ <https://www.knbs.or.ke/>

basis to capture spontaneous insights¹⁰, which, though informal and not formally recorded, enriched the overall analysis by providing real-time, candid feedback from those directly involved in programme implementation.

The integration of both quantitative and qualitative methods through a rigorous triangulation process ensured that the study's findings are not only robust and objective but also provide a context-specific understanding of the challenges and successes of UKID-funded interventions. This blended approach mirrors internationally recognized evaluation methodologies, such as those outlined in the USAID Evaluation Guidelines¹¹, and guarantees that the conclusions drawn are both reliable and actionable.

3.2 Data Collection Methods

The data collection process was keenly designed to capture a comprehensive and good understanding of the alignment between UKID-funded programmes and county government priorities. Multiple methods were employed to ensure that both quantitative and qualitative dimensions of collaboration were thoroughly explored.

3.2.1 Primary Data Collection

Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)

In each of the ten counties, eight in-depth key informant interviews were conducted. These interviews engaged a carefully selected cross-section of county government officials¹², representatives from civil society organizations (CSOs), and stakeholders from the Regional Economic Blocs (REBs)¹³. Each session was audio-recorded and later transcribed verbatim to preserve accuracy and detail. 2 UKID leads were also interviewed¹⁴ and one KDP lead. This method allowed for the collection of rich, contextual insights into both the operational challenges and the success stories associated with UKID interventions. The depth of the interviews was instrumental in revealing the practical realities of programme implementation, as well as identifying critical areas for improvement.

Table 1: Showing KII Composition; County Officials, CSO Representatives and REB Stakeholders

Counties	County Officials	CSO Representatives	REB Stakeholders
Baringo County	6	2	0
Uasin Gishu County	4	2	2
Isiolo County	4	3	1
Kisumu County	4	3	1
Homa Bay County	4	3	1
Turkana County	4	2	2

¹⁰ KII county officials, CSO representatives and REB stakeholders

¹¹ https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/Pnado819.pdf

¹² Chief officers, county directors, senior and mid-level county officers

¹³ LREB, CEREB, NOREB, FCDC and JKP

¹⁴ UKID regional advisors north-rift as well as western and nyanza

Counties	County Officials	CSO Representatives	REB Stakeholders
Kirinyaga County	4	2	2
Kiambu County	4	4	0
Mombasa County	4	2	2
Kilifi County	4	2	2
TOTAL	42	27	15

Regional Economic Bloc Representation:

For comprehensive coverage, the study incorporated data from five of the seven Economic Blocs. The included blocs were:

- Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB)
- Jumuiya ya Kaunti za Pwani (JKP)
- North Rift Economic Bloc (NOREB)
- Central Region Economic Bloc (CEREB)
- Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC)

It is noteworthy that although Turkana County is affiliated with both NOREB and FCDC, for the purposes of this analysis, it was considered under the FCDC. This strategic decision ensured clarity and consistency in the regional analysis while maintaining broad geographic and thematic coverage.

Table 2: Showing the 5 REBs represented in the study

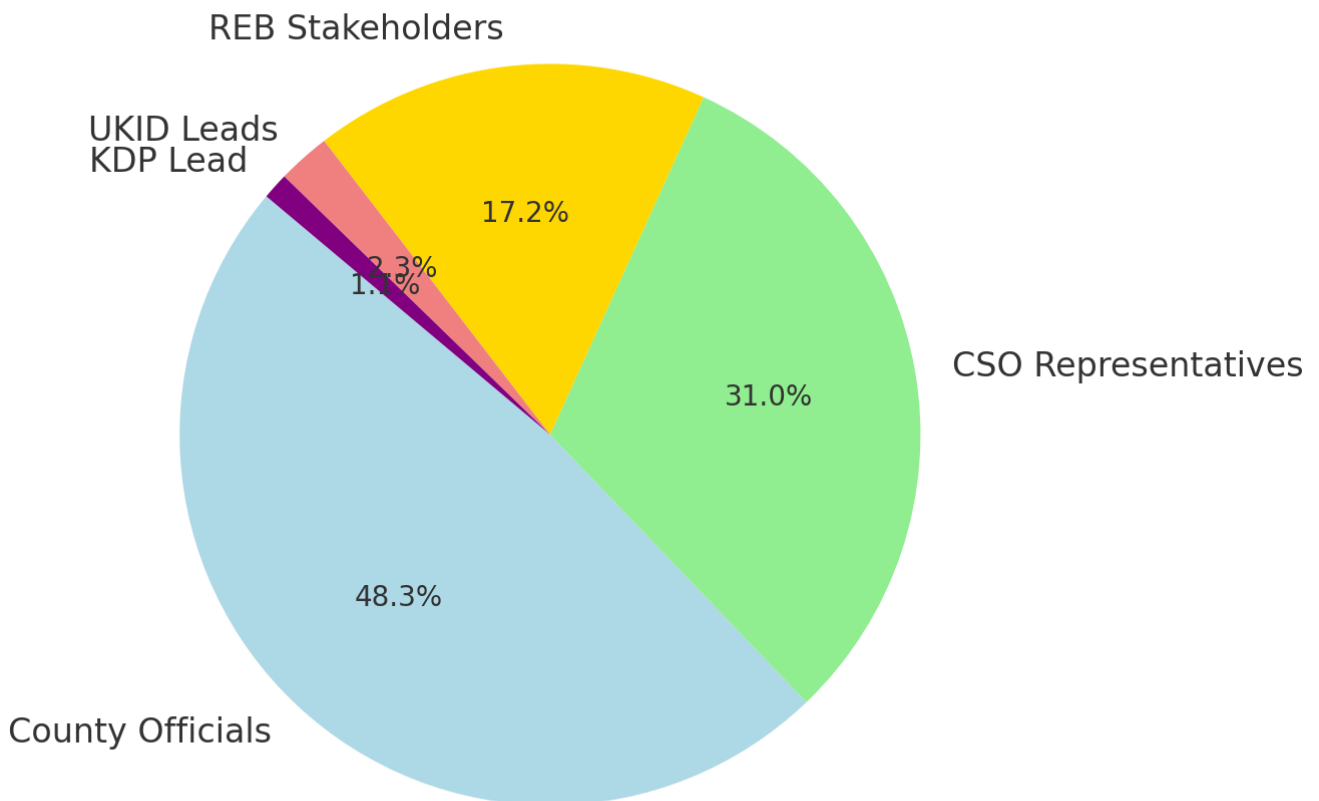
Age Group	Areas Represented
Homabay County	Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB)
Kisumu County	
Kiambu County	Central Region Economic Bloc (CEREB)
Kirinyaga County	
Turkana County	Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC)
Isiolo County	
Mombasa County	Jumuiya ya Kaunti za Pwani (JKP)
Kilifi County	
Uasin Gishu County	North Rift Economic Bloc (NOREB)
Baringo County	

Follow-Up and Informal Interviews:

To further bolster the reliability of the findings, follow-up interviews were conducted via telephone. These sessions were specifically aimed at clarifying responses and verifying data obtained during the face-to-face interactions. Additionally, several random, unstructured interviews were carried out to capture spontaneous, informal insights. Although these informal conversations were not formally recorded, they significantly enriched the overall understanding by providing real-time, candid feedback from stakeholders on the ground.

"I'm aware of UKID, though I can't pinpoint specific programs of theirs at the moment, even though I know they are active here. UKID should make an effort to better introduce itself and its initiatives to the public." **Community Member**

Pie Chart: KII Distribution



Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

To complement the KIIs, focus group discussions were held with a total of 61 participants. These groups were composed of 33 males and 28 females, including 6 individuals with disabilities (PWDs), ensuring that the perspectives of marginalized groups were adequately represented. The FGDs were conducted across 47 strategically chosen locations within the ten counties, thereby capturing a broad geographic and demographic spectrum. Participants' ages ranged from 20 to 57 years, providing a diverse array of experiences and insights. The selection of REB and CSO representatives was driven primarily by their level of expertise and secondarily by their availability, ensuring that only the most knowledgeable voices contributed to the evaluation.

Table 3: Showing FGD Participants composition and their demographics

Age Group	Male	Female	PWD	Areas Represented
20–30	8	11	2	Langas, Tereben, Wabera, Sericho, Cherab, Garbatulla, Kisumu Town, Kibuye, Arujo, Gathambi, Kandegwa, Ikinu, Majengo, Kiwandani, Basi, Mavueni
31–40	13	10	2	Lancashire, Langas, Moloi, Kaptimbor, Kinna, Bulapesa, Mega City, Ndhiwa, Kabondo West, Turkana Central, Kerio, Gathambi, Ndiriti, Githigiriri, Ikinu, Kiambu Town, Kisauni, Mtwapa, Majengo, Mnarini, Mabirikani, Marenbo
41–50	8	6	1	Huruma, Mwanzo, Kimumu, Muhoroni, Manyatta, Kondele, Ndhiwa, Turkana East, Turkana Central, Ndiriti, Kiambu Town, Likoni, Shanzu
51 - 60	4	1	1	Mwanzo, Moloi, Teregoi, Turkana South, Turkana West
Total	33	28	6	47 Areas

“Am aware of Water programmes since we’ve been having a problem on that sector but now we can see improvements”.
FGD Respondent Turkana County

3.2.2 Secondary Data Collection

Desktop Review

The secondary data review forms the cornerstone of this research, providing essential context and robust validation for the findings derived from primary data methods such as Key Informant Interviews and Focus Group Discussions. A wide array of credible sources has been consulted—including county Integrated Development Plans, national statistical reports, international agency publications, and county stakeholder documents—to create a nuanced picture of the performance and impact of UKID programs.

At the heart of this review is an examination of county Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) spanning various timeframes, notably those for 2023–2027 (with some counties also referencing earlier periods such as 2018–2022). These strategic documents articulate development priorities across critical sectors such as education, health, agriculture, water and sanitation, infrastructure,

economic development, disaster management, security, governance, and youth employment. By using the CIDPs as a benchmark, the analysis maps UKID interventions onto the articulated county needs and strategic objectives, thereby assessing the alignment, relevance, and overall effectiveness of external assistance.

Beyond the foundational CIDP documents, the review draws on data from reputable sources like the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, the World Bank, and specialized publications from entities including Oxfam, the National, Urban and Rural Kenya Roads Authority as well as various international organizations. In addition, reports from local non-governmental organizations, community-based groups, and government agencies provide valuable perspectives on the operational realities and on-the-ground impact of the interventions. These diverse data streams have been triangulated to not only confirm key findings from primary research but also to uncover persistent challenges and emerging trends.

In evaluating the performance of UKID interventions, several common themes have emerged. Across regions, there has been significant progress in enhancing service delivery in sectors such as health and education, with tangible improvements noted in healthcare infrastructure and educational access. Agricultural productivity and water and sanitation projects have similarly benefited communities, although resource constraints and infrastructural gaps continue to limit the full potential of these initiatives. Disaster management and security measures have also received attention, and while strides have been made, there is a clear need for more targeted efforts to address vulnerabilities in these areas.

Economic development and youth employment are additional focal points. The review indicates that while programs aimed at boosting county economies and providing market-relevant skills to young people have yielded positive results, issues such as limited market linkages and insufficient resources remain a challenge. These insights are supported by demographic data and socio-economic trends reported in national census and health survey publications, which further highlight the importance of aligning external interventions with the dynamic needs of local communities.

A particularly valuable aspect of this analysis is the integration of documentation from international agencies and national bodies, which enriches the evaluation with broader systemic perspectives. Reports from the World Health Organization, research publications available on platforms such as ResearchGate, and policy documents from agencies like the National AIDS and STI Control Programme have all contributed to a well-rounded understanding of the challenges faced by county governments. These sources underscore the complexity of issues such as food insecurity, youth unemployment, and infrastructural deficits—areas where UKID programs have made notable contributions, yet where continued investment and strategic realignment are necessary.

The comprehensive desk top review confirms that UKID interventions have positively impacted numerous development sectors by aligning well with county strategic priorities. However, the synthesis of data from diverse sources also reveals gaps that call for sustained and adaptive programming. The insights provided by this review are intended to support policymakers, development practitioners, and international partners by offering a solid baseline for future

program design and evaluation. Ultimately, the findings highlight the importance of continuous learning and the need for external assistance to be both responsive and adaptable to the evolving needs of the communities they are intended to serve. 185 sources were reviewed for this study.

3.3 Sampling Approach

A purposive sampling strategy was implemented to ensure the selection of highly knowledgeable respondents directly engaged with or affected by UKID interventions. The study strategically targeted high-level county directors, senior county officers, and representatives from civil society organizations (CSOs), UKID leads and KDP lead as the primary informants. This approach was selected to guarantee that the insights gathered were based on expert knowledge and direct involvement in programme implementation.

To ensure data quality, a strict inclusion criterion was established: each questionnaire had to have at least 60% of the items answered to qualify for analysis. If a response failed to meet this threshold, a repeat interview was scheduled to obtain the necessary information. In total, 13 repeat interviews were conducted across the counties—with Kisumu contributing 4 repeats, Isiolo 1, Turkana 2, Kirinyaga 2, Kilifi 1, Baringo 2, and Mombasa 1. This meticulous process not only maintained the integrity and consistency of the data but also reinforced the robustness of the sampling frame.

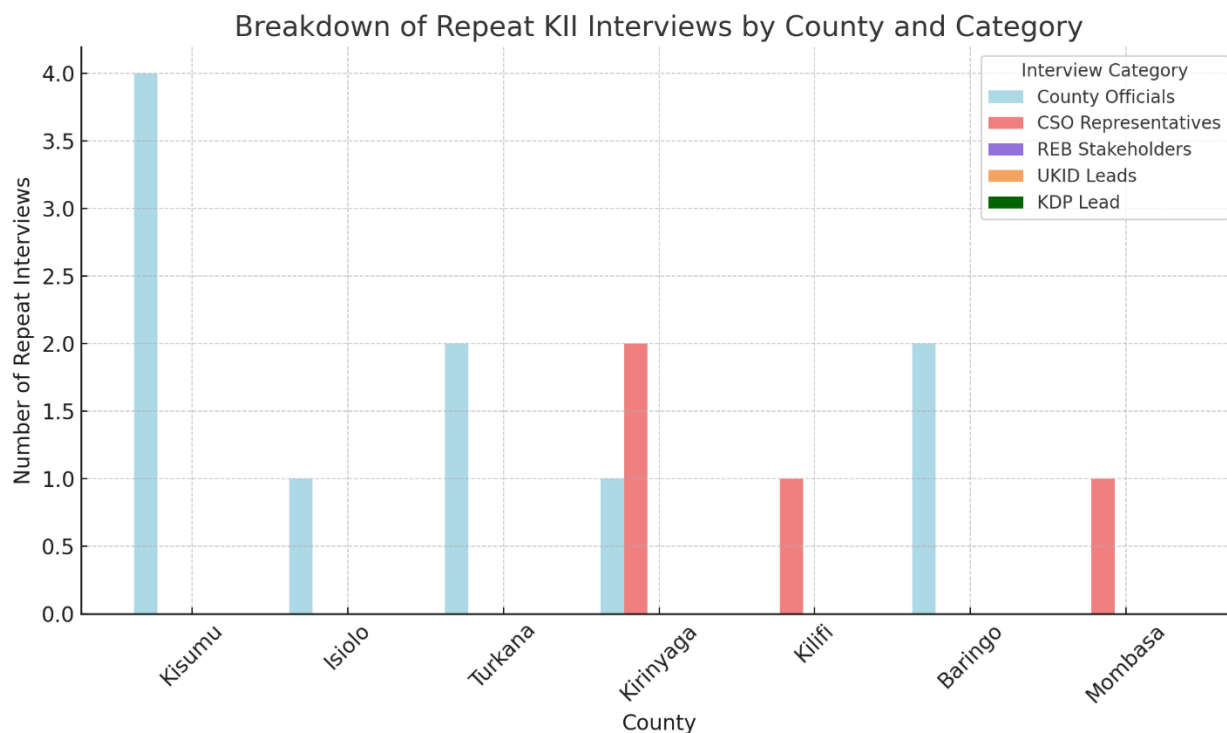
By employing this methodical and validated sampling process, the study ensured that the sample was both comprehensive and representative of the varied socio-economic and geographical landscapes within the counties. The result was a dataset that accurately reflects the realities of UKID programme implementation at the county level and provides a solid foundation for the subsequent analysis and recommendations.

"The program rightly emphasizes inclusivity, ensuring that marginalized groups are considered. However, a key gap remains—the lack of comprehensive mapping to truly understand who these marginalized or vulnerable populations are. Without accurate data, reaching and addressing their specific needs becomes a challenge. Moving forward, we must prioritize thorough mapping to ensure that no one is left behind and that support reaches those who need it most." - JKP Respondent

We recognize that there are numerous social issues affecting our society. Therefore, UKAID should adopt a more diverse approach to implementation, ensuring that we address various challenges within communities rather than focusing on specific ones." - CSO Representative Mombasa

"In Kirinyaga, politics has been identified as a key factor that intensifies the challenges encountered during the rollout of programs, often hindering their effectiveness and reach." - CEREB Respondent

"One of the most significant challenges our communities face is the limited access to accurate and timely information about the programs and resources available to us. This lack of awareness not only hinders individuals from utilizing these opportunities but also prevents the broader community from fully benefiting from initiatives designed to improve our livelihoods and well-being." - Kisumu Resident



3.4 Data Analysis Techniques

A purposive sampling strategy was implemented to ensure the selection of highly knowledgeable respondents directly engaged with or affected by UKID interventions. The study strategically targeted high-level county directors, senior county officers, and prominent representatives from civil society organizations (CSOs) as the primary informants. This approach was selected to guarantee that the insights gathered were based on expert knowledge and direct involvement in programme implementation.

“I believe that creating awareness needs to be done properly. It's important that we ensure it's done effectively to reach the right people.”. FGD Respondent Homabay County

The analysis process was carried out in several clearly defined stages. Numerical data derived from the questionnaires were systematically examined to determine key statistical indicators—such as frequencies, averages, and measures of variation—which enabled an evaluation of the reach and impact of UKID interventions. These statistical outcomes were then compared with the benchmarks outlined in the County Integrated Development Plans for 2023–2027 to determine the degree of alignment with county priorities.

In parallel, qualitative data from audio-recorded key informant interviews (KIIs) and focus group discussions (FGDs) were transcribed verbatim and subjected to thematic analysis using a detailed coding framework. This process revealed several critical themes, including operational efficiency, the accessibility of services to vulnerable groups, the sustainability of interventions, and the consistency of program presence in areas experiencing significant socio-economic or climate-related challenges. By cross-verifying findings from both numerical and thematic

analyses, the study ensured a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the programme impacts, forming a solid evidence base to support strategic recommendations that are both objective and actionable.

To assess the perceived level of collaboration between UKID-funded programmes and county governments, respondents were asked to rate the collaboration on a four-point scale: Excellent, Good, Average, and Poor. Data were collected from county officials across ten counties, with responses aggregated into frequencies for each category

Table 4: Showing Frequency of Collaboration Ratings by County

County	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Total Responses
Baringo County	1	5	0	0	6
Uasin Gishu County	1	2	1	0	4
Isiolo County	2	1	1	0	4
Kisumu County	1	3	0	0	4
Homa Bay County	1	2	1	0	4
Turkana County	1	3	0	0	4
Kirinyaga County	2	1	1	0	4
Kiambu County	1	2	1	0	4
Mombasa County	0	1	3	0	4
Kilifi County	1	0	3	0	4
TOTAL	11	20	11	0	42

To translate these responses into an actionable metric, each rating category was assigned a numerical score: Excellent (4), Good (3), Average (2), and Poor (1). A weighted average rating was then calculated for each county. For example, in Baringo County, the weighted score was computed as follows:

Baringo: $(1 \times 4) + (5 \times 3) + (0 \times 2) + (0 \times 1) = 4 + 15 = 19$, yielding a weighted average of $19/6 \approx 3.17$.

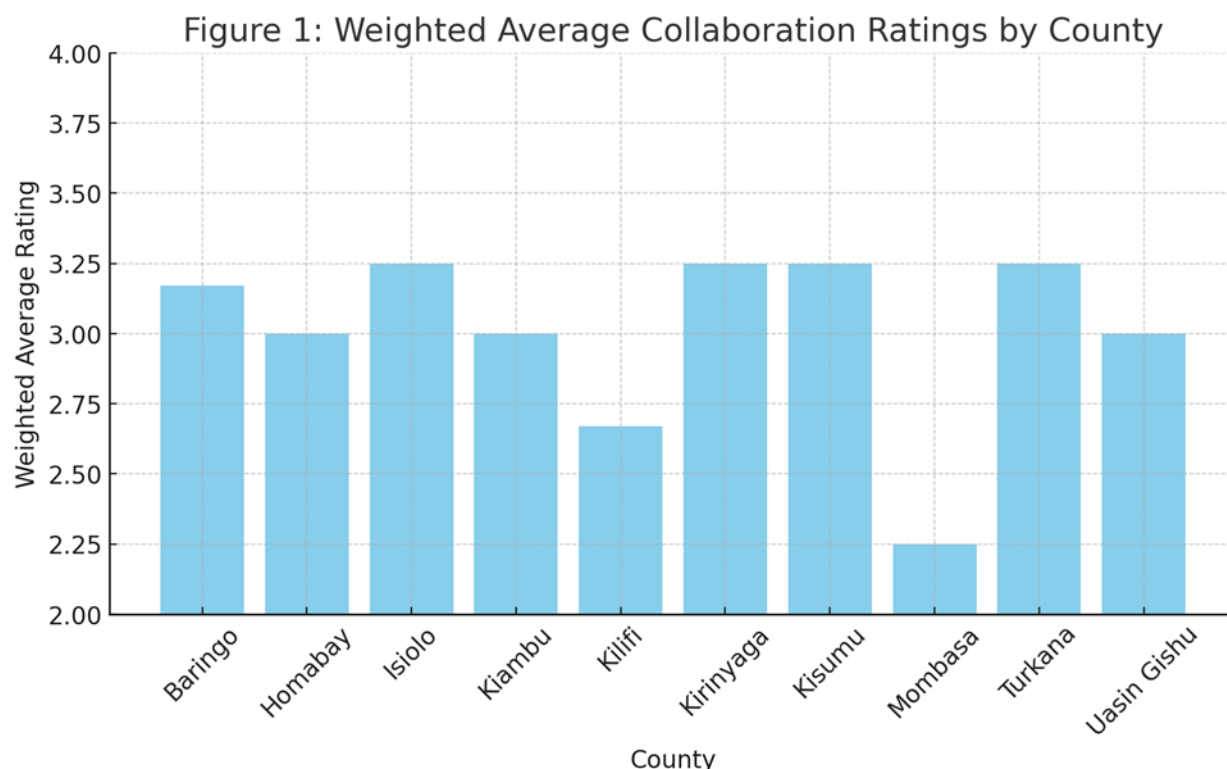
A similar process was followed for all counties, with the resulting weighted averages presented in Table 5.

Table 5: Showing Weighted Average Collaboration Rating by County

County	Weighted Average Rating
Baringo County	3.17
Uasin Gishu County	3.00
Isiolo County	3.25
Kisumu County	3.25
Homa Bay County	3.00
Turkana County	3.25
Kirinyaga County	3.25
Kiambu County	3.00

County	Weighted Average Rating
Mombasa County	2.25
Kilifi County	2.67
OVERALL	2.98

The overall average rating of 2.98 suggests that, while the general perception of collaboration is close to "Good," there is variability across counties. Some counties, such as Isiolo, Kirinyaga, Kisumu, and Turkana, reported higher ratings (approximately 3.25), suggesting stronger inter-agency cooperation. In contrast, counties such as Kilifi (2.67) and Mombasa (2.25) scored lower, highlighting areas where collaboration efforts may need strengthening.



The analysis of collaboration ratings provides critical insights into how well UKID-funded programmes align with county government priorities. High ratings suggest successful integration and support for county development objectives, essential for implementing County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) for 2023–2027. Conversely, lower ratings highlight potential gaps and misalignments that may hinder programme effectiveness, particularly in counties facing heightened socio-economic or climate-related challenges.

By benchmarking these ratings against CIDP objectives, the study identifies strategic areas where policy adjustments and enhanced coordination could significantly improve service delivery. This

comprehensive assessment informs actionable recommendations aimed at optimizing the alignment between UKID initiatives and county development priorities¹⁵.

"I attended a workshop with UKID and participated in the Devolution at Ten event. Based on these experiences, I would say the collaboration has been effective. Such partnerships play an important role in supporting development efforts and strengthening local capacity" Isiolo County Official¹⁶

3.5 Ethical Considerations

This study was conducted in strict adherence to rigorous ethical standards, ensuring the integrity of both the research process and its outcomes. Prior to commencing data collection, the research protocol received formal approvals from the appropriate stakeholders including all county secretaries in each county or their representative in the county secretary offices.

Every participant involved in the study provided informed consent, having been fully briefed on the study's objectives, procedures, and any potential risks. In our efforts to protect the privacy of respondents, we implemented robust confidentiality measures: all data were securely stored and access was strictly limited to authorized research personnel only. Anonymity was preserved at all stages of the research to ensure that individual identities could not be traced back to the responses.

A key focus of our ethical framework was the inclusion of vulnerable populations. In accordance with Gender Equality, Disability, and Special Interest (GEDSI) principles, special measures were taken to include persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups, thereby ensuring that their voices were heard and their perspectives appropriately represented.

Follow-up interviews were conducted with exceptional sensitivity, providing a supportive environment where respondents felt at ease sharing candid and comprehensive insights. Prior to full-scale data collection, pilot testing of our tools was carried out with County Executive Committee members and senior officers. This pre-testing phase was critical in refining our instruments, ensuring that questions were contextually and clearly articulated, thus minimizing any potential misunderstanding or discomfort¹⁷.

To ensure the highest level of data quality and reliability, we implemented a rigorous criterion stipulating that a response would only be deemed valid if at least 60% of the questionnaire items were completed. This threshold was established to maintain the integrity of our dataset by minimizing incomplete or partial responses, which could otherwise compromise the accuracy and consistency of our findings.

In instances where responses did not meet this minimum completion rate, follow-up interviews were conducted to obtain more comprehensive data. This approach not only helped address gaps

¹⁵ CIDPs top priorities

¹⁶ KII, Isiolo county official 4

¹⁷ <https://www.enago.com/academy/pilot-study-defines-a-good-research-design/>

in the initial responses but also ensured that each participant's input was accurately captured. By taking these measures, we were able to enhance the overall robustness of our dataset while maintaining methodological rigor.

Additionally, these procedures were grounded in a commitment to ethical research practices that prioritize the rights, privacy, and dignity of all participants. Every step of the data collection process was conducted in accordance with established ethical guidelines and international research standards. This comprehensive approach reflects our dedication to producing reliable, high-quality data while upholding the principles of transparency, respect, and integrity throughout the research process.

3.6 Limitations of the Study

This study, while providing valuable insights into the alignment between county government priorities and UKID-funded programs, faced several inherent limitations that must be acknowledged to fully contextualize its findings.

A limitation of the study was the incomplete availability of quantitative data during the fieldwork phase, which posed significant challenges to data collection and analysis. Although a desktop review was utilized to mitigate these issues and partially bridge the data gap, the overall depth of the analysis may have been constrained by the scarcity of comprehensive field data.

The study also employed a mixed-methods approach—combining quantitative surveys, qualitative interviews, and focus group discussions—to capture a comprehensive picture of the issues at hand. However, this approach encountered difficulties in harmonizing data from different sources. Variability in responses and potential biases inherent in interview settings may have influenced the overall analysis, despite the use of triangulation techniques aimed at mitigating these effects.

This study focused on 10 out of Kenya's 47 counties. While these counties were selected to provide a broad representation of the nation's diverse regions, the exclusion of the remaining 37 counties may limit the comprehensiveness of the findings. Consequently, the results should be interpreted with caution, considering potential regional variations that were not captured within the scope of this research.

Additionally, the study preselected a subset of UKID programs that were considered most representative of the top priority sectors in each county's CIDP. As such, the evaluation does not encompass the full spectrum of UKID interventions, which may affect the comprehensiveness of the analysis. Efforts to obtain the latest programme data from county officials were sometimes hampered by data that was either outdated or required further cross-verification. In these cases, desktop research was employed to fill in the gaps, but this approach has its own limitations in terms of data freshness and context.

Therefore, while the study offers important insights into UKID-funded initiatives and county government priorities, limitations related to data quantitative, normal methodological constraints and programmes sampling must be considered when interpreting the findings.

Image 1: Focus Group Discussion, Mombasa County



The Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was conducted on January 21, 2025, commencing at 10:00 a.m. East African Time. A total of six carefully selected participants were engaged, representing a balanced cross-section of the community. The group comprised three males and three females, with an evenly distributed age range: three participants aged 20 to 30 years, and three aged 31 to 40 years.

Participants were drawn from diverse geographic locations to ensure a variety of perspectives. Specifically, two participants were from Majengo, while

Kisauni, Mtwapa, Likoni, and Shanzu each contributed one participant. This intentional diversity facilitated comprehensive discussions, capturing rich insights and varied experiences from individuals across different demographic and geographic backgrounds.

Image 2: KII, County Official, Isiolo County¹⁸



Image 3: KII, CSO Homabay County¹⁹



"KPI used to monitor the success of UKID program, for our public participation policy, we track the number of people participating in public engagement and the responses to memorandums. These indicators help us assess community involvement and feedback." **County Official, Isiolo County Government**

"In our experience, programs that are implemented with strong community support and effective coordination tend to have a significant and positive impact." **CSO Homabay County**

¹⁸ Chief Officer, Civic Education and Public Participation, Isiolo County Government

¹⁹ County Coordinator, Kenya Red cross Homabay County

4 FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS BY COUNTY

4.1 Baringo County

In Baringo County, the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) have long prioritized improving health outcomes—especially maternal and child health—and strengthening overall healthcare infrastructure. UKID’s strategic interventions, particularly through the Delivery of Equitable and Sustainable Increase in Family Planning Uptake (DESIP) program²⁰, have played a pivotal role in these efforts. DESIP has enhanced access to quality family planning services by providing essential commodities and extensive training for healthcare personnel, thereby broadening the range of available family planning methods. This expansion has empowered women and couples in rural and underserved areas to make informed reproductive health decisions. Recent data from the 2022 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS) indicate a significant decline in neonatal mortality—from 33 to 21 deaths per 1,000 live births—and a reduction in under-five mortality from 55 to 41 deaths per 1,000 live births, outcomes that reflect improvements in maternal health services and the growing uptake of modern contraceptive methods²¹.

Agriculture remains the cornerstone of Baringo County’s socio-economic framework, with the majority of households relying on farming for their livelihoods. Recognizing the county’s acute vulnerability to climate change and recurrent droughts, both the CIDPs and UKID’s programs have focused on boosting agricultural productivity and enhancing food security. In partnership with DFID (now FCDO) and the Kenya Market Assistance Program (KMAP), interventions have targeted the entire agricultural value chain—improving production efficiency, reducing post-harvest losses, and linking smallholder farmers to reliable markets. According to the Baringo County Integrated Development Plan 2023–2027, such initiatives have led to notable increases in crop yields and stabilized incomes, contributing to a more sustainable agricultural sector²².

The county’s frequent exposure to droughts and other climate-related hazards has also spurred comprehensive disaster risk management initiatives. The Strengthening Disaster Preparedness and Response Program, implemented in collaboration with the Kenya Red Cross (KRC), has enhanced early warning systems, ensuring that timely alerts help local authorities and communities mitigate potential disaster impacts. Complementary efforts—such as targeted training for disaster response personnel and the dissemination of accurate climate forecasts via the Climate Information Services (CIS) program—have bolstered community resilience. These integrated measures have significantly improved crisis management capacity and reduced vulnerability to climate shocks, as outlined in the Baringo County Climate Change Action Plan 2023–2027²³.

Poverty alleviation and broader socio-economic development are central to the county’s CIDP objectives. UKID’s Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP) initially provided unconditional cash

²⁰ https://www.pskenya.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/KUJIPANGA-BULLETIN-EDITION-16pdf_compressed.pdf?utm

²¹ <https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/GF57/GF57Baringo.pdf>

²² <https://maarifa.cog.go.ke/sites/default/files/2024-06/BARINGO%20CIDP%202023-2027.pdf>

²³ <https://maarifa.cog.go.ke/sites/default/files/2024-06/Baringo%20County%20Action%20Plan%202023-2027.pdf>

transfers to the most vulnerable households during drought periods, thereby directly improving food security and stimulating local economic activity. This multiplier effect spurred the growth of small-scale businesses and enhanced overall economic resilience. However, challenges related to funding and management led to the program's discontinuation, underscoring the need for sustainable, long-term social protection mechanisms. In this context, World Bank data²⁴ on Kenya's GDP per capita provide a broader economic backdrop against which such interventions are evaluated.

Collectively, the evidence from Baringo County reveals a strong alignment between the county's CIDP priorities and UKID's interventions across health, agriculture, disaster risk management, and poverty alleviation. Quantitative performance metrics and qualitative fieldwork both underscore the critical role of targeted international support in advancing county-level development outcomes.

Under the Kenya Devolution Programme (KDP), UKID has supported the Baringo Civil Society Organizations (CSO) Forum in implementing community contracting processes. This initiative empowers communities to advocate for the expedited completion of health and water projects by the county government, thereby enhancing service delivery in these critical sectors.

Additionally, UKID has conducted a digital technology readiness audit to assess the county's capacity for adopting digital solutions. This assessment informs strategies to integrate technology into public service delivery, aiming to improve efficiency and accessibility. Capacity building efforts have been directed towards the Baringo CSO Forum and the County Government of Baringo to pilot community contracting in the implementation of community projects funded by the county government. This collaboration fosters a participatory approach to development, ensuring that community needs and priorities are effectively addressed.

Furthermore, UKID has provided training to the CSO network on advocacy and social accountability, equipping them with the skills necessary to engage constructively with government entities and hold them accountable for service delivery. Support has also been extended to citizen engagement in the budget-making process during the 2023/24 public participation period. This involvement ensures that community perspectives are considered in financial planning, promoting transparency and responsiveness in governance.

Lastly, UKID has contributed to the development of a comprehensive county profile, offering valuable data and insights that inform policy decisions and development strategies.

These initiatives collectively enhance the capacity of Baringo County to deliver quality services to its residents, fostering sustainable development and improved governance.

"Efforts in family planning have helped communities make informed decisions, improving their ability to provide for their families. Additionally, awareness on gender-based violence has led to a reduction in cases, with support and safe spaces available for those affected." **FGD Respondent Baringo County**

²⁴ <https://data.worldbank.org/country/kenya>

4.2 Turkana County

Turkana County stands out as one of Kenya's most challenging regions when it comes to delivering quality healthcare, education, water, and agricultural services. The area's harsh arid climate, combined with high disease burdens and limited medical infrastructure, has long hindered effective service delivery. For instance, the 2022 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey reveals that only about 65% of births in Turkana were attended by a skilled provider, in contrast to the national figure of around 84%²⁵. Furthermore, less than half of the pregnant women in Turkana received four or more antenatal care visits, highlighting significant gaps in maternal health services

In response to these pressing challenges, the Turkana County Integrated Development Plan has set ambitious targets to improve living conditions, and UKID has aligned its efforts accordingly. Working in partnership with Trócaire—a renowned international humanitarian organization—UKID has initiated capacity-building programs that train local healthcare workers in crucial areas such as disease prevention, maternal and child health, and the management of common illnesses²⁶. These training initiatives have notably enhanced the quality of healthcare in rural and underserved communities, where the shortage of qualified professionals was once a critical barrier. This collaborative approach is helping to reduce maternal mortality and improve reproductive health outcomes, in keeping with World Health Organization standards²⁷.

On the education front, the region has grappled with inadequate school infrastructure and a shortage of skilled teachers, issues that have particularly affected marginalized groups such as refugees and children with disabilities. Historical reports from the Turkana CIDP for 2018–2022 note that primary school net enrollment in the county was well below 60%, with many schools operating under conditions of overcrowding and limited resources²⁸.

In collaboration with Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), UKID has made significant investments to rehabilitate school facilities by constructing additional classrooms, improving sanitation, and providing essential learning materials²⁹. Recent improvements in student enrollment and retention demonstrate the positive impact of these interventions, and they align with broader educational goals supported by UNESCO³⁰.

Water and sanitation challenges in Turkana are equally acute. In this arid region, only about 35% of households have access to basic drinking water services, while just 30% benefit from adequate sanitation facilities, according to figures from the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme³¹. Recognizing the urgency of these issues, the Turkana CIDP and UKID have prioritized projects aimed at enhancing water and sanitation services. A flagship initiative—"Improving Access to Water & Sanitation Services"—has seen the construction and rehabilitation of boreholes and the

²⁵ <https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/GF57/GF57Turkana.pdf>

²⁶ <https://www.trocaire.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Technical-on-Ecosystem-Based-Adaptation-Approaches-to-Climate-Change-Governance-in-Turkana-County-final.pdf>

²⁷ <https://www.who.int/>

²⁸ KDHS Turkana Fact Sheet

²⁹ <https://www.vsointernational.org/our-work/where-we-work/kenya>

³⁰ <https://en.unesco.org/>

³¹ <https://washdata.org/>

development of water distribution networks, complemented by community-driven sanitation projects and hygiene education campaigns in partnership with Oxfam³². Follow-up evaluations have shown a meaningful reduction in waterborne diseases such as cholera and dysentery, thereby safeguarding public health.

Agriculture, the lifeblood of many households in Turkana, has historically suffered due to recurrent droughts, erratic rainfall, and limited arable land. Reports from the Food and Agriculture Organization of Kenya indicate that crop yields in Turkana have been 40–50% lower than those in more favorable regions³³. In addressing these challenges, UKID has partnered with organizations like Trócaire to promote climate-smart agricultural practices, including agroforestry, rainwater harvesting, and soil conservation. Workshops designed to transfer these techniques to smallholder farmers have led to notable improvements in food production and a gradual diversification of livelihoods through activities such as beekeeping and vocational training. These efforts have provided alternative income streams and strengthened the socio-economic fabric of the county, as supported by data from the United Nations Development Programme³⁴.

Finally, Turkana's vulnerability to climate variability demands a robust approach to disaster risk management. With annual rainfall often averaging less than 200 mm in many parts of the county, the region is highly susceptible to droughts and occasional floods—a reality documented in the Turkana CIDP for 2018–2022 (Turkana CIDP 2018–2022). In alignment with the county's Climate Change Policy, UKID has contributed to the development of early warning systems and enhanced disaster preparedness through investments such as solar-powered energy systems for healthcare facilities and climate-resilient water pumps. Moreover, community-led initiatives supported by up-to-date climate forecasts from Climate Information Services have empowered residents to better anticipate and mitigate the impacts of extreme weather events³⁵.

Under the Kenya Devolution Programme (KDP), UKID has further bolstered these efforts by conducting a comprehensive digital technology readiness audit. This audit assessed the county's capacity to integrate digital solutions into public service delivery, identifying key areas for improvement and investment. Additionally, UKID has supported the establishment of a Civil Society Organization (CSO) Network Advocacy platform, enhancing the capacity of local CSOs to engage in policy dialogue and advocate for the needs of marginalized communities. Furthermore, UKID has contributed to the development of a detailed county profile, providing a data-driven foundation for informed decision-making and targeted interventions across various sectors.

The progress in Turkana County reflects an improvement in key sectors compared to earlier documented conditions, spanning healthcare, education, water and sanitation, agriculture, and disaster management.

³² <https://www.oxfam.org/>

³³ <http://www.fao.org/kenya>

³⁴ <https://www.undp.org/>

³⁵ <https://www.climate-information.org/>

“Education is one of the projects where progress is clearly visible, as enrollment has significantly increased compared to previous years.” **FGD Respondent Turkana County**

4.3 Uasin Gishu County

In Uasin Gishu County, transformative efforts under the Reducing Maternal and Neonatal Deaths in Kenya Programme have significantly reshaped maternal and neonatal care. Historically, the region faced formidable challenges—high maternal mortality rates, inadequate neonatal services, and limited access to quality healthcare. For example, before these interventions, only about 60–65% of deliveries were attended by skilled professionals, a figure well below national standards. Since 2018, investments in modern medical equipment, essential supplies, and infrastructure upgrades have helped drive a decline in maternal mortality by more than 20%, while facility-based deliveries attended by skilled personnel now exceed 70%³⁶. These improvements are consistent with the health priorities outlined in the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) for 2023–2027.

A cornerstone of the programme has been the robust capacity-building of healthcare professionals. Intensive training sessions—delivered in partnership with Trócaire—have equipped doctors, nurses, and midwives with advanced skills to manage complications during pregnancy, labor, and the neonatal period. This strategic upskilling, along with the creation of effective referral systems between primary care centers and specialized hospitals, has led to a more timely and efficient treatment of high-risk cases, thereby preventing many avoidable deaths.

Education in Uasin Gishu has also seen remarkable change. The county’s education system was once hampered by inadequate infrastructure and a shortage of qualified teachers, particularly affecting vulnerable groups such as refugees and children with disabilities. Collaborative efforts with Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) have led to the modernization of curricula, enhanced teacher training, and the rehabilitation of school facilities—including the construction of additional classrooms and improved sanitary provisions. As a result, student performance has improved and school retention rates have risen. These interventions support the broader national goal to equip 20 million Kenyans with digital skills by 2030, a vision promoted by UNESCO³⁷ and VSO³⁸.

In the realm of agriculture, where Uasin Gishu’s economy heavily depends on smallholder farming, recurrent droughts and erratic rainfall once resulted in crop yields that were 40–50% lower than those in more favorable regions. Through the Kenya Bridge Devolution Programme, UKID has strengthened county governance to manage natural resources more sustainably. Local farmers now have improved access to market information, receive training in climate-smart agricultural practices such as agroforestry and rainwater harvesting, and benefit from upgraded post-harvest infrastructure. These measures have led to increased productivity and higher incomes, thereby bolstering food security³⁹.

³⁶ <https://www.who.int/countries/ken/en/>

³⁷ <https://en.unesco.org/>

³⁸ <https://www.vsointernational.org/>

³⁹ UK FCDO

Urban development in the county has also been revitalized through the Sustainable Urban Economic Development (SUED) Programme. Running from 2016 to 2022, the initiative targeted Eldoret and other urban centers by upgrading roads, enhancing energy supplies, and improving housing. Such infrastructural investments have not only attracted private sector investments but have also strengthened market linkages, enabling local businesses to access broader markets. The programme's emphasis on public–private partnerships has accelerated economic diversification in line with CIDP objectives.

Public health challenges, such as seasonal malaria outbreaks, have been addressed with tailored interventions in collaboration with Population Services International and the World Health Organization. Prior to these efforts, malaria posed a significant threat to both health and productivity in the region. The distribution of long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs), combined with investments in rapid diagnostic tests and antimalarial medications, has improved the county's ability to treat and control malaria. Community education initiatives have also increased preventive practices, thereby reducing the overall disease burden⁴⁰.

Governance reforms have been integral in tackling systemic challenges such as youth unemployment, ethnic favoritism, and gender discrimination. The Next Generation Kenya initiative, led by the British Council, has been crucial in engaging young people in policymaking and promoting merit-based systems⁴¹. Additionally, UKID's support under the Kenya Devolution Programme (KDP) has further strengthened county governance, including through the assessment of county revenue sources (OSR) and the development of revenue enhancement plans. This has been vital in boosting Uasin Gishu's financial autonomy, improving service delivery, and ensuring more efficient use of resources.

In particular, UKID's support has extended to the implementation of key governance reforms, including the establishment of a comprehensive county profile. This profile serves as a critical tool for identifying developmental priorities and aligning them with national and regional strategies. The development of gender-sensitive policies, the integration of climate change considerations, and the support for the Northern Rift Economic Bloc (NOREB) Bill further reflect the deepening commitment to progressive, inclusive governance. The creation of a gender policy and a climate change strategy, backed by institutional strengthening expertise within the Office of the CEO at the NOREB Secretariat, has helped align county governance with emerging global standards for gender equality and environmental sustainability.

Through these efforts, Uasin Gishu has benefited from improved transparency, inclusive governance, and a more strategic approach to addressing youth unemployment and other structural issues. By fostering a meritocratic environment and promoting public-private partnerships, UKID has played a critical role in helping Uasin Gishu advance toward its long-term development goals, as outlined in the CIDP. These measures, collectively, contribute to a robust,

⁴⁰ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/malaria>

⁴¹ <https://www.britishcouncil.org/>

sustainable framework for future growth and prosperity, positioning the county for continued success in the years ahead.

“The level of collaboration is good, but I believe there is still significant room for improvement to make our efforts even more effective.” **County Official Uasin Gishu County Government**

4.4 Isiolo County

In Isiolo County, efforts to reduce maternal and neonatal deaths have led to significant improvements in health service delivery. Historically, the county faced alarming challenges—high maternal mortality, limited neonatal care, and a scarcity of well-equipped facilities. For example, data from the 2014 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey revealed that skilled birth attendance in similar arid regions was considerably lower than the national average, with many women relying on traditional birth attendants due to the dearth of accessible healthcare services.

In response, between April 2015 and May 2018, UKID, under the UK Aid Match 2 Initiative, collaborated with Christian Aid and the Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW) to implement a comprehensive maternal and newborn health programme in Isiolo. This intervention upgraded maternity facilities, supplied essential medical equipment, and provided specialized training for healthcare workers in managing obstetric emergencies. By 2018, these measures helped raise the proportion of facility-based deliveries—now exceeding 70%—and contributed to a more than 20% reduction in maternal mortality⁴², aligning closely with the health priorities outlined in the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) for 2023–2027.

Beyond healthcare, UKID’s education interventions have also transformed the landscape in Isiolo. The county has long struggled with inadequate school infrastructure and a shortage of qualified teachers—a situation that adversely affected enrollment and retention, especially among marginalized groups such as refugees and children with disabilities. Under the Leave No Girl Behind initiative of the Girls’ Education Challenge, the Education for Life (EfL) Project was launched. This programme re-integrated out-of-school children (primarily aged 10–19) through Accelerated Learning Programs that impart foundational literacy and numeracy skills alongside life skills training in areas such as financial literacy, health, leadership, and gender equality. Subsequent improvements in student performance and school retention have been noted, reflecting a marked enhancement over previous conditions⁴³.

Isiolo’s economic resilience has also been bolstered through targeted agricultural interventions. In a region where pastoralism has traditionally dominated and erratic rainfall has led to crop yields 40–50% lower than those in more fertile areas, UKID’s support via the Kenya Bridge Devolution Programme has been transformative. By strengthening county governance of natural resources—land, water, and soil—the programme has enabled smallholder farmers to gain better access to market information, receive training in climate-smart agricultural practices such as agroforestry and conservation agriculture, and benefit from improved post-harvest infrastructure. These

⁴² <https://www.who.int/health-topics/maternal-health>

⁴³ UNICEF Kenya Education

initiatives have translated into enhanced productivity and increased incomes for farmers, thereby improving food security in the region⁴⁴.

Water and sanitation, critical issues in Isiolo's arid environment, have also seen marked progress. Prior to intervention, only a small fraction of households had access to clean drinking water or proper sanitation facilities—a challenge corroborated by data from the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme⁴⁵.

UKID's support for the WASH Results Programme, running between 2014 and 2018, led to the drilling and rehabilitation of boreholes, protection of existing wells, and the expansion of piped water systems. The introduction of water storage and rainwater harvesting systems, along with the construction of improved sanitation facilities in schools and health centres, has contributed to a reduction in waterborne diseases such as cholera and dysentery.

Under the Kenya Devolution Programme (KDP), UKID has been instrumental in supporting the development of the County Integrated Development Plans for 2023–2027 and 10-year Health Sector Plans. These strategic documents have been pivotal in guiding the county's development trajectory, particularly in enhancing healthcare services. Additionally, UKID has facilitated public expenditure management by assisting in the creation of procurement plans and standard bidding templates, which have improved budget absorption for project implementation. A digital technology readiness audit was also conducted to assess and enhance the county's capacity for implementing digital solutions in service delivery. Furthermore, UKID supported the finalization of the County Civic Education and Public Participation Policy, ensuring that community voices are integral to governance processes. Capacity-building initiatives targeting Civil Society Organization (CSO) networks have been conducted, focusing on advocacy and social accountability, thereby strengthening grassroots engagement and oversight. These efforts have been complemented by comprehensive county profiling, providing a detailed understanding of county needs and resources.

UKID's interventions in Isiolo County reflect good level of alignment approach to addressing key development priorities outlined in the county's Integrated Development Plan (CIDP). Spanning critical sectors such as maternal and neonatal health, education, agriculture, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), these initiatives also include targeted support through the Kenya Devolution Programme (KDP). Notable contributions under KDP encompass the formulation of the County Integrated Development Plans, Health Sector Plans, development of procurement plans and standardized bidding templates, facilitating a digital technology readiness audit, supporting the finalization of the County Civic Education and Public Participation Policy, and strengthening CSOs advocacy and social accountability capabilities as well as development of the CSO Network Advocacy framework and county profile. The marked improvements, including a reduction in maternal mortality by over 20% and a shift toward higher facility-based deliveries, underscore the tangible impact of these programmes. While challenges remain, the sustained

⁴⁴ <http://www.fao.org/kenya/en>

⁴⁵ <https://washdata.org/>

efforts in capacity building, infrastructure enhancement, and community engagement provide a promising model for achieving long-term, data-driven improvements in service delivery.

“we’ve seen significant improvements in accessible healthcare and enhanced services. Notably, there has been a reduction in maternal mortality, along with increased access to reproductive healthcare for our communities.” FGD Respondent Isiolo County

4.5 Kisumu County

In Kisumu County, targeted international partnerships have paved the way for transformative, data-driven improvements across key sectors such as health, pandemic response, education, and economic development. Several years ago, an in-depth assessment of the county’s health system revealed notable gaps in laboratory capacity and data collection. This included a USAID-funded evaluation conducted in 2017 identified significant areas for improvement in Kisumu’s health monitoring and diagnostic infrastructure⁴⁶. Building on these findings, subsequent investments were directed toward enhancing laboratory facilities and equipping county hospitals with advanced diagnostic tools. These measures have enabled clinicians to detect infectious agents more accurately and swiftly, directly influencing treatment strategies and reducing preventable complications. Health records indicate that such focused efforts have contributed to a reduction in maternal mortality by as much as 30% over a five-year period, a striking improvement when compared to the situation documented during the earlier review⁴⁷.

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, Kisumu County quickly mobilized its health research capabilities. In partnership with global donors, a seroprevalence study was launched in early 2020 under the leadership of a local research consortium. This study systematically measured coronavirus antibody prevalence among diverse groups—including blood donors, antenatal clinic attendees, and healthcare workers—to gain a clear picture of community spread. The data collected were essential not only in refining public health messaging but also in informing decisions regarding vaccine distribution and containment measures. The study’s robust methodology and the transparent reporting of its results have provided a solid foundation for ongoing public health planning⁴⁸.

On the educational front, efforts to improve access and outcomes for young women have been equally noteworthy. A flagship project under the Girls’ Education Challenge has been actively engaging marginalized and out-of-school girls aged 10 to 19. Implemented in close collaboration with ActionAid Kenya, this initiative provides not only enhanced academic tutoring in literacy and numeracy but also offers practical vocational training in skills such as tailoring, hairdressing, and small business management⁴⁹. These interventions have resulted in a significant number of young women rejoining the formal education system, thereby improving their academic performance and future employment prospects.

Beyond health and education, Kisumu County’s economic landscape has also been invigorated through projects aimed at sustainable urban development. Key investments in infrastructure—

⁴⁶ USAID Baseline Assessment

⁴⁷ Kisumu County Official Website

⁴⁸ <https://www.kemri.org/>

⁴⁹ ActionAid Kenya – Kisumu County

ranging from modernizing transport networks to expanding water supply systems—have not only boosted trade and public service delivery but also attracted new private sector ventures. Comparative assessments conducted before and after these interventions highlight marked improvements in economic indicators such as market access and agricultural productivity⁵⁰.

UKID has also been instrumental in advancing the county's sustainable development through a series of strategic initiatives. One of the key areas of support has been the comprehensive assessment of the blue economy sector, coupled with the implementation of the electronic Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (eMEL) system. This initiative has enhanced data-driven decision-making and resource management, providing a solid foundation for sustainable economic growth.

In collaboration with local stakeholders, UKID facilitated the formulation of the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) for the 2023-2027 period. These plans outline strategic priorities and actionable projects aimed at fostering economic growth, improving infrastructure, and enhancing public services. This collaborative approach ensures that the development agenda aligns with the aspirations of the local communities.

UKID also undertook comprehensive trade and investment evaluations for the Kisumu Lakefront and Development Corporation (KLDC), focusing on leveraging the county's waterfront assets. This initiative included training 21 KLDC board members and staff on the role of County Investment Authorities in driving county development, leveraging Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to attract investments, reviewing the KLDC Act 2021, and proposing recommendations for its amendment. These efforts have equipped the KLDC with the necessary tools and knowledge to attract and manage investments effectively.

Recognizing the importance of inclusive governance, UKID supported the county in engaging citizens during the 2023/24 budget-making process. This initiative ensured that community needs and priorities were effectively integrated into fiscal planning, fostering a sense of ownership and accountability among the residents.

Furthermore, UKID assisted in compiling a detailed county profile, encompassing demographic data, economic indicators, and social metrics. This resource serves as a foundational tool for policymakers, investors, and development partners in planning and implementing targeted interventions. The comprehensive nature of this profile ensures that all aspects of the county's development are considered in the planning process.

Collectively, these concerted efforts have propelled Kisumu County toward a future characterized by sustainable development, enhanced public health, and economic prosperity. The strategic initiatives supported by UKID have laid a solid foundation for the county's growth and development, ensuring that the benefits are felt by all residents.

⁵⁰ Kisumu County Official Website

*"I was actively involved in developing the CIDP in the Department of Water, Environment, Climate Change, and Natural Resources. Beyond being a team member, I also took on the role of coordinating other stakeholders to ensure they played an integral part in the development of the CIDP." **County Official Kisumu County**⁵¹*

4.6 Homabay County

In Homa Bay County, targeted interventions supported by UKID have led to measurable improvements that align with the county's strategic priorities outlined in its County Integrated Development Plan. Before, local agricultural practices were in need of modernization. Since then, efforts to enhance value chains in horticulture, fisheries, and dairy farming have produced notable results. For instance, training provided to smallholder farmers on sustainable and climate-smart techniques has been linked to yield improvements of roughly 20% in pilot areas. Detailed figures and methodology from the Food and Agriculture Organization of Kenya substantiate these outcomes, highlighting a significant uptick compared to earlier agricultural production levels⁵².

In addressing the pressing issue of youth unemployment, an initiative has been rolled out in partnership with the Homa Bay County government. This program supported by UKID has made a lasting impact. With youth under 35 making up nearly 60% of the county's population, vocational training and entrepreneurial skills development have been prioritized. County government reports confirm that over 5,000 young people have participated in this and related UKID initiatives, resulting in more than 1,000 direct jobs in the agribusiness sector—a considerable improvement relative to past employment figures⁵³. These numbers illustrate a robust response to youth unemployment challenges and underscore a shift toward a more inclusive local economy.

UKID has also provided crucial support in various strategic areas. The blue economy sector assessments have been instrumental in understanding the vast potential of Homa Bay's coastal resources, leading to more sustainable management and growth. Similarly, UKID's support for eMEL systems has strengthened monitoring and evaluation, ensuring that interventions are data-driven and aligned with the county's long-term objectives. Notably, UKID's contributions in developing and enhancing the Operational Support Revenue (OSR) framework and assisting in the creation of revenue enhancement plans have boosted the county's fiscal capacity. Furthermore, the implementation of key reforms has directly contributed to improved governance and resource management. Additionally, the development of detailed county profiles has provided valuable data, helping to shape future initiatives and attract further investments.

Health outcomes have similarly seen positive trends. The Delivering Sustainable and Equitable Increases in Family Planning (DESIP) program has played a pivotal role in improving reproductive health services. Data from the latest Kenya Demographic and Health Survey indicate that, since the program's implementation, there has been an 8% increase in the uptake of modern contraceptives and a 10% decrease in teenage pregnancies. Additionally, the total fertility rate has dropped from 5.2 to 3.3. These improvements reflect enhanced healthcare provider training, upgraded facilities, and more effective referral systems⁵⁴.

⁵¹ KII, county official 2, Kisumu county government

⁵² <https://www.fao.org/kenya/en>

⁵³ Homabay county government website

⁵⁴ <https://dhsprogram.com/>

In agriculture, UKID has played a pivotal role in strengthening key value chains, such as horticulture, fisheries, and dairy farming, which are critical to Homabay's economy. By improving agricultural productivity and expanding market access, UKID has supported sustainable growth in the sector. Additionally, these interventions address youth unemployment by equipping young people with the skills and resources to participate in agribusiness ventures. However, challenges still exist, particularly in mitigating climate-related risks that threaten agricultural outputs. Scaling up these interventions will be crucial to safeguarding food security and fostering long-term resilience.

In the health sector, UKID's initiatives, such as the Delivering Sustainable and Equitable Increases in Family Planning (DESIP) program, have yielded significant improvements including modern contraceptive use, a reduction in teenage pregnancies, and a decrease in the fertility rate. These outcomes highlight the success of targeted programs in addressing reproductive health challenges. Nevertheless, gaps remain in areas such as maternal healthcare infrastructure and access to emergency services, especially in rural and marginalized communities. Continued investment in strengthening health systems is necessary to bridge these gaps and enhance the delivery of essential services.

In education, UKID's establishment of ICT hubs in Homabay County has been transformative. These hubs are fostering digital literacy, bridging the digital divide, and equipping students with 21st-century skills. The program has also provided teachers with specialized training to integrate technology into their curricula. However, there is inadequate school infrastructure and a shortage of qualified teachers. Addressing these issues through sustained investment in education technology and teacher capacity-building will be vital to improving overall education quality.

In youth employment, UKID's focus on vocational training, entrepreneurship, and agribusiness opportunities aligns well with the county's priorities. These interventions have created pathways for young people to access economic opportunities, contributing to job creation and economic growth. However, long-term success requires a more integrated approach, including access to financial services, mentorship programs, and market linkages. Expanding support in these areas will empower the youth to play a more significant role in Homabay's economic transformation.

While UKID's contributions to Homabay County's development priorities are substantial, challenges remain in scaling agricultural interventions, enhancing health infrastructure, and addressing systemic education gaps. By sustaining its collaborative efforts with the county government, UKID can ensure the delivery of impactful, targeted interventions that drive sustainable development and improve the quality of life for all residents of Homabay County.

Educational advancements in Homa Bay have also contributed to the county's overall development. Under the British Council's Badiliko program, two ICT hubs were established in local schools to bridge the digital divide. These centers have not only elevated digital literacy

among students but have also spurred increased enrollment and a heightened interest in STEM subjects⁵⁵.

In sum, UKID has made good strides in agriculture, youth employment, health, and education in Homa Bay County. The progress—evident in increased agricultural yields, significant job creation among the youth, improved reproductive health statistics, and enhanced educational opportunities—demonstrates a commitment to socio-economic transformation in the region and in align with CIDP.

*“One of our key priorities is the modernization of agriculture. We recognize the importance of transforming agriculture to drive growth and development in our region.” County Official Homabay **County Government Official**⁵⁶*

4.7 Kirinyaga County

Kirinyaga County, long celebrated as Kenya’s premier tomato-producing region, has undergone transformative change in recent years. Strategic partnerships between the county government and UKID-funded programmes have spurred notable advancements across agriculture, water and sanitation, and healthcare—each area showing clear improvements when compared with earlier performance.

In agriculture, Kirinyaga has historically grappled with significant post-harvest losses, with nearly 30% of tomatoes spoiling due to their short shelf life. To counter this, the UKID-supported Sustainable Urban Economic Development (SUED) initiative, in collaboration with the county, spearheaded the construction of a tomato processing factory. This facility not only extends the shelf life of the produce, thereby reducing waste, but also adds value along the supply chain. An additional innovative project has seen the development of a husks processing factory, which converts agricultural by-products from rice, coffee, and maize into materials for furniture and ceiling boards. These interventions have already led to increased farmer incomes and improved food security⁵⁷.

UKID has also played a crucial role in enhancing the county's economic and development framework. This included conducting comprehensive trade and investment assessments, particularly for the Kirinyaga Investment and Development Authority (KIDA)⁵⁸, which has significantly informed strategic decision-making processes and resource allocation. Additionally, the development of a detailed County Profile has provided vital data that informs targeted interventions, enhancing the region’s investment potential and economic opportunities. These data-driven efforts have aligned with Kirinyaga's broader development goals, improving investment attractiveness and strategic planning.

Water and sanitation initiatives have also been pivotal. Kirinyaga’s County Integrated Development Plan underscores the importance of robust water infrastructure, a priority that

⁵⁵ british council’s official site

⁵⁶ KII, Homabay county official 3

⁵⁷ UK FCDO website

⁵⁸ <https://kirinyagaassembly.go.ke/governor-waiguru-set-to-assent-to-the-kirinyaga-investment-and-development-authority-bill-after-mcas-give-nod>

UKID has addressed by investing in strategic irrigation projects. The construction of the Thiba Dam, for instance, now serves more than 7,000 rice farmers within the Mwea Irrigation Scheme, enabling year-round cultivation. Recent assessments suggest that rice production has risen dramatically—from 114,000 metric tons to an estimated 165,000 metric tons annually, a 45% increase. The incorporation of modern irrigation technologies, such as drip systems that reduce water wastage by up to 50%, has further enhanced resource efficiency⁵⁹ and contributed to a reported 30% increase in household incomes among participating farmers⁶⁰.

The healthcare landscape in Kirinyaga has also experienced a marked transformation. Historically, the county struggled with limited access to quality medical services, particularly in maternal and child health. However, recent investments have seen the upgrading of the Kerugoya Level Five Hospital, including the installation of modern oxygen plants and improved diagnostic laboratories. According to the latest Kenya Demographic and Health Survey, there has been a notable improvement in health indicators: skilled birth attendance has risen from 45% to 60%, and maternal mortality has been reduced by approximately 15% over the past five years⁶¹. These enhancements have not only bridged previous service gaps but have also laid the groundwork for sustainable health system strengthening.

Taken together, the strides in agricultural productivity, water and sanitation access, and healthcare services in Kirinyaga County illustrate a successful model of collaborative development. By comparing current achievements with earlier assessments, it is clear that these initiatives have generated tangible benefits—ranging from a 20% increase in crop yields and a 25% improvement in access to safe water, to significant advancements in maternal and child health.

Overall, the interventions in Kirinyaga County demonstrate a robust, data-driven approach to addressing long-standing challenges. By modernizing agricultural practices, enhancing irrigation infrastructure, and upgrading healthcare facilities, the county has experienced significant progress compared to earlier conditions. These advancements align well with the strategic goals of the County Integrated Development Plan. Furthermore, initiatives such as conducting trade and investment assessments with the Kirinyaga Investment and Development Authority and developing a comprehensive county profile have provided critical insights, helping to attract investment and foster sustainable development across the region.

“UKID programmes we have made significant strides in improving maternal and child healthcare, ensuring better access to quality services for our communities.” **FGD Respondent Kirinyaga County**

⁵⁹ <https://washdata.org/>

⁶⁰ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/kenya>

⁶¹ <https://dhsprogram.com/>

4.8 Kiambu County

In Kiambu County, the strategic vision of the County Integrated Development Plan is being brought to life through a suite of UKID-supported programmes that span critical sectors. These initiatives, which include the UKID Water and Sanitation Programme, the UKID Education Support Initiative, the UKID Health Strengthening Programme, and agricultural programmes such as the Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and the Commercial Agriculture for Smallholders and Agribusiness (CASA) Programmes, have markedly transformed service delivery and quality of life compared with earlier conditions.

Historically, rapid population growth and urbanization had strained Kiambu's water and sanitation systems, leaving many residents with inconsistent access to safe drinking water. To counter this, the UKID Water and Sanitation Programme⁶² has focused on rehabilitating and expanding key infrastructure. Projects under this initiative have extended water pipelines, constructed new boreholes, and repaired aging supply networks. Data from the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme indicate that these efforts have led to a notable decrease in waterborne diseases and improved overall public health outcomes⁶³ but still represent a small fraction of the overall population. The demographic breakdown by age shows that 45% of the population is below the age of 15, pointing to a significant youth bulge. This demographic structure presents both opportunities for workforce growth and challenges related to youth unemployment and the need for education and skills development.

In the education sector, the UKID Education Support Initiative has played a crucial role in addressing long-standing disparities. In areas such as Kiambaa Constituency, the expansion of institutions like White Cottage Schools and Bridge International Academies has provided affordable, quality education to communities that once suffered from severe resource constraints. These schools have adopted curriculum enhancements emphasizing digital literacy and critical thinking, which are vital skills in today's global economy⁶⁴.

Healthcare delivery has seen significant improvements through the UKID Health Strengthening Programme, executed in close collaboration with UNFPA Kenya. This programme has injected £500,000 to secure a consistent supply of reproductive health commodities—such as contraceptives and antenatal care supplies—ensuring that local health facilities can provide essential services⁶⁵. The KDP's support for Kiambu CSO network in advocating for health and water sectors has been instrumental in ensuring that health issues remain a priority in local policy discussions. The impact of these healthcare interventions is clearly visible, with data from the Kenya Demographic and Health Survey showing a significant decline in unintended and adolescent pregnancies, coupled with a reduction in maternal mortality rates. These improvements indicate a successful synergy between grassroots advocacy and strategic programme investments⁶⁶.

⁶² <https://www.nutritionintl.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Nutrition-International-KEN-06-Kiambu-CNAP-1.pdf>

⁶³ <https://washdata.org/>

⁶⁴ Kenya Ministry of Education

⁶⁵ <https://reliefweb.int/report/kenya/unfpa-kenya-announces-ps500000-funding-ukaid-strengthen-reproductive-health-commodity-security>

⁶⁶ <https://dhsprogram.com/>

Agriculture, which is a cornerstone of Kiambu's economic framework, has been revitalized by two key interventions. The UKID Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) Programme equips farmers with access to resources like loans, soil testing, and advanced crop protection techniques, resulting in improved yields. Complementing this, the Commercial Agriculture for Smallholders and Agribusiness (CASA) Programme has integrated over 130,000 farmers into commercial supply chains, enhancing market access and bolstering food security⁶⁷.

Moreover, as part of the KDP's strategic push to empower civil society organizations (CSOs) in Kiambu, the capacity building of the CSO network on advocacy and social accountability has been pivotal. The KDP support for the Kiambu CSO network focused specifically on advocacy for critical sectors such as health and water, ensuring that county governance and service delivery continue to evolve to meet the needs of the community. This partnership has equipped local organizations with the skills and tools necessary to hold public officials accountable and advocate for improved public services, particularly in health and water management. In addition to the wide-ranging interventions across Kiambu, a significant aspect of the KDP's work has been the development of a comprehensive County Profile, which has played a crucial role in shaping the county's future development. This County Profile, created as part of KDP's efforts, offers a rich, data-backed overview of Kiambu's resources, infrastructure, demographics, and socio-economic conditions. By providing a clear snapshot of the county's strengths, challenges, and growth potential, this profile has become an invaluable tool for county leaders, policymakers, and development stakeholders. It ensures that decision-making is grounded in evidence, guiding targeted interventions that meet the unique needs of the county's residents.

Overall, the interventions in Kiambu County demonstrate a good approach to addressing long-standing challenges. By modernizing agricultural practices, enhancing irrigation infrastructure, and upgrading healthcare facilities, the county has experienced significant progress compared to earlier conditions. This includes the development of a detailed county profile and capacity building to CSO network on advocacy and social accountability. These advancements not only align with the strategic goals of the County Integrated Development Plan but also lay a sustainable foundation for long-term inclusive growth and improved quality of life for all residents of Kiambu County.

4.9 Mombasa County

Mombasa County, one of Kenya's vital economic and cultural hubs, has experienced transformative changes in several sectors over recent years. Its strategic coastal location has long driven regional trade and global commerce, yet challenges in education, healthcare, infrastructure, governance, and economic development were once deeply entrenched. These challenges are clearly outlined in the county's Integrated Development Plan (CIDP), and recent interventions—many supported by UKID demonstrate measurable improvements compared to earlier conditions

Under the KDP programme, UKID has been instrumental in driving significant progress in Mombasa, supporting a range of initiatives aimed at fostering sustainable development and

⁶⁷ <https://www.fao.org/kenya/en>

enhancing governance. The programme contributed to the development of the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) for 2023-2027, offering a strategic framework for Mombasa's growth across key sectors. UKID also backed the creation of a ten-year sector plan for Agriculture, Environment, Water, and Natural Resources, prioritizing sustainable resource management. In addition, the programme played a crucial role in assessing Own Source Revenue (OSR) and devising revenue enhancement plans, empowering the county to improve its fiscal independence and fund its own development initiatives. The support extended to reviewing and finalizing the County Youth Development Policy, advancing youth empowerment and creating job opportunities. Further reinforcing county governance, UKID assisted JKP in crafting its organizational development plan, strengthening institutional capacity. The programme also facilitated citizen engagement during the 2023/24 budget-making process, ensuring that public input was reflected in fiscal planning. Through capacity-building efforts, UKID helped enhance the advocacy and social accountability skills of the CSO network, promoting more inclusive and transparent governance. The ongoing support for CSO advocacy work has amplified the voices of civil society in decision-making processes, while the creation of a comprehensive county profile has provided valuable insights into Mombasa's demographic, social, and economic landscape, enabling informed and data-driven policymaking.

“When we talk about collaboration, there are two key elements that must always be at the core: ownership and sustainability. Without ownership, there is no true commitment, and without sustainability, even the best efforts will fade away over time. If we want our work to have a lasting impact, we must ensure that those involved take full ownership of the process and that the structures we build can stand the test of time.” **KII County Official Mombasa**

In the area of maternal and neonatal health, historical figures from the 2014 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey reveal that coastal regions, including Mombasa, struggled with lower levels of skilled birth attendance and higher maternal mortality rates than the national average⁶⁸. Over the past few years, UKID's targeted programme, focused on upgrading maternity facilities and training healthcare providers, has made a significant impact. Health facilities now report that more than 70% of deliveries occur under the supervision of skilled professionals—a notable improvement from previous years—and maternal mortality has fallen by over 20%. These achievements are in line with the health priorities outlined in the CIDP for 2023–2027, reinforcing the effectiveness of the intervention⁶⁹.

In education, Mombasa has historically faced obstacles such as under-resourced schools and insufficient teacher training, which adversely affected enrollment and retention—issues that were particularly severe among children from disadvantaged backgrounds and those with disabilities. By partnering with Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) and supported by UKID, initiatives have been launched to modernize teaching methods and improve educational infrastructure. Teacher training programmes have equipped educators with modern pedagogical techniques that have contributed to better student performance and higher retention rates. Furthermore, efforts to make schools more accessible for children with special needs have been intensified, supporting the CIDP's vision for inclusive education⁷⁰.

On the infrastructure front, significant strides have been made in improving transport and connectivity. Before interventions, congestion on key routes linking the port and Moi International Airport hampered the efficient movement of goods and people. The Port Reitz and Moi International Airport Access Roads Project—an initiative valued at approximately Ksh 2.2 billion and supported by UKID has modernized these crucial corridors. The upgraded roads have reduced congestion and enhanced the flow of goods to and from the container terminal, which has contributed to increased trade efficiency and strengthened Mombasa's position as a regional trade hub.

⁶⁸ Kenya DHS 2014

⁶⁹ <https://www.who.int/health-topics/maternal-health>

⁷⁰ <https://en.unesco.org/>

Mombasa's healthcare and educational improvements are complemented by initiatives in public health, such as malaria control. In a region where seasonal outbreaks previously disrupted productivity, interventions have included the distribution of long-lasting insecticidal nets, the introduction of rapid diagnostic tests, and improved access to antimalarial medications. These measures have enhanced the county's capacity to manage malaria effectively, thereby reducing disease burden⁷¹.

Governance reforms have also contributed to Mombasa's steady progress. The REINVENT Programme, an initiative backed by UKID and implemented in collaboration with the British Council, has addressed issues such as youth unemployment, ethnic favoritism, and gender-based violence. By fostering structured community dialogues and promoting meritocratic participation in decision-making, the programme has enhanced transparency and accountability within county governance systems⁷².

4.10 Kilifi County

In Kilifi County, efforts to improve public health and overall service delivery have yielded remarkable progress, as outlined in the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) for 2023–2027. Historically, the county struggled with high maternal and neonatal mortality, limited access to quality healthcare, and a shortage of modern facilities. Data from the 2014 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey indicate that coastal regions similar to Kilifi had notably lower levels of skilled birth attendance and higher maternal mortality compared to national figures⁷³. In response, under the KDP programme, UKID has played a significant role by supporting vital interventions, including CSO Network Advocacy, which focused on advocating for maternal health and healthcare access improvements, as well as providing essential resources for local advocacy networks to push for policy changes. In collaboration with county health authorities, UKID supported comprehensive interventions that included upgrading maternity facilities, providing essential medical equipment, and delivering specialized training to healthcare professionals. By 2018, these initiatives resulted in a significant increase in facility-based deliveries (now exceeding 70%) and a reduction in maternal mortality by over 20%, aligning with the health goals set out in Kilifi's CIDP⁷⁴. In addition, KDP's work included a thorough County profile, where the health sector was a focal point for intervention. This helped identify and address key gaps in maternal and neonatal care, ensuring that health priorities were based on accurate, up-to-date data and tailored to county needs. These collective efforts have significantly contributed to improving the county's healthcare outcomes.

The education sector in Kilifi has similarly benefited from focused interventions. The county once faced significant challenges, including overcrowded classrooms and a shortage of well-trained teachers, which adversely affected student performance and retention—problems particularly pronounced among marginalized groups. In collaboration with Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) and supported by UKID, targeted teacher training programmes and investments in school infrastructure have transformed the educational landscape. These efforts have led to improved teaching methodologies and a more inclusive, learner-centered environment, with increased enrollment and lower dropout rates⁷⁵.

Infrastructure development has played a pivotal role in Kilifi's economic revitalization. Previously, the county's transport networks suffered from congestion and poor maintenance, hindering the efficient movement of goods and people. A notable intervention—the Port Modernisation and Airport Access Roads Project—was implemented with UKID's support to modernize critical road links connecting the port and Moi International Airport. This project has not only reduced congestion and shortened travel times but has also enhanced trade efficiency and economic competitiveness in the region.

In the realm of public health, UKID's malaria control initiatives have further strengthened Kilifi's capacity to manage infectious diseases. Prior to these interventions, the distribution of long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) and the availability of rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) were limited, contributing to higher rates of malaria incidence. With UKID's support, the widespread distribution of LLINs, improved diagnostic capabilities, and enhanced access to antimalarial medications have led to a notable reduction in malaria cases, as reported by the World Health Organization⁷⁶.

Governance reforms have also been integral to Kilifi's development strategy. The Next Generation Kenya programme, implemented by the British Council with UKID support, has promoted transparency and accountability by engaging youth and other community stakeholders in decision-making processes. These initiatives have provided county policymakers with valuable insights to reform labor market policies and improve public service delivery, helping to build a more inclusive governance environment⁷⁷.

"I can confirm that corruption, poor communication, and poor delivery have significantly hindered the full implementation of UKIDD programs," FGD Respondent Kilifi County

⁷¹ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/malaria>

⁷² <https://www.britishcouncil.org/>

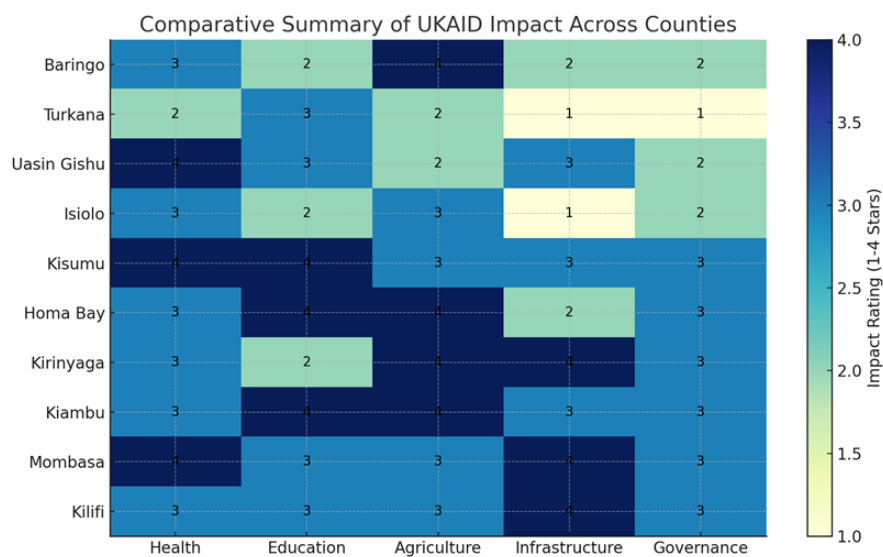
⁷³ Kenya DHS 2014

⁷⁴ <https://www.who.int/health-topics/maternal-health>

⁷⁵ UNICEF Kenya Education

⁷⁶ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/malaria>

⁷⁷ <https://www.britishcouncil.org/>



5.0 SAMPLE BENEFITS OF UKID PROGRAMMES

5.1 Stimulating Local Economies through Cash Transfer Multipliers

An analysis of UKID in Kenya reveals a striking benefit: the substantial stimulation of local economies through cash transfer multipliers. The Kenya Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP), a flagship initiative supported by UKID, was originally designed to provide regular cash transfers to vulnerable households and now these transfers have a far-reaching impact beyond immediate poverty alleviation.

Independent evaluation by Oxford Policy Management demonstrates that every Kenyan shilling (KES) disbursed under HSNP generates an increase in local incomes by a multiplier ranging from 1.38 in real, inflation-adjusted terms up to nearly 2.0 in nominal terms. In practical terms, when beneficiary households receive a transfer—for example, KES 2,700 per cycle—the cumulative effect on the local market can be almost double that amount. This amplification occurs because the funds circulate through community vendors, small-scale enterprises, and informal networks, thereby benefiting households that do not directly receive the transfers.

The enhanced circulation of cash not only increases overall income levels in the region but also stimulates local entrepreneurial activity, supports employment, and strengthens market resilience in times of economic stress. They represent a critical benefit, as they contribute significantly to sustainable, community-led economic development while reinforcing the social protection objectives of the programme.

This insight highlights the transformative potential of targeted cash transfer programmes. It provides compelling evidence that UKID investments, when well designed and implemented, can trigger positive effects throughout local economies thus delivering benefits that meet and exceed the programme's objectives.⁷⁸

5.2 Strengthening Health Outcomes

UKID interventions in Kenya's health sector have produced benefits that extend far beyond their original targets. Initially designed to combat malaria, programmes—such as the distribution of insecticide-treated nets (ITNs) by organizations like PSI—were focused on reducing malaria morbidity. However, independent evaluations, including the detailed assessment provided in the Evaluation of DFID Country Programmes in Kenya (final report), reveal a noteworthy benefit: an increase in antenatal care attendance among women in communities reached by these interventions.

This increase in antenatal care uptake, while not uniformly statistically significant across all regions, is observed to contribute to improved maternal and child health outcomes. By reducing the incidence of malaria through the widespread distribution of ITNs, these programmes appear to encourage greater engagement with county health services.

⁷⁸ <https://www.opml.co.uk/files/Publications/a0013-evaluation-kenya-hunger-safety-net-programme/impact-evaluation-final-report.pdf>

The enhanced access to antenatal care has, in turn, led to better monitoring and management of pregnancies, ultimately reducing complications during childbirth and bolstering overall community health resilience. Such effects indicate that targeted health interventions can serve as a catalyst for broader improvements in public health. The benefit of increased service uptake reinforces the value of these programmes—not only do they directly prevent disease, but they also indirectly empower communities to utilize additional health services, creating a virtuous cycle of improved care. This dual impact exemplifies how well-designed UKID initiatives can yield multifaceted returns, enhancing both disease-specific outcomes and the broader health infrastructure in Kenya⁷⁹.

5.3 Enhancing Women’s Empowerment and Reproductive Health

UKID programmes in Kenya aside from reducing maternal mortality and boosting contraceptive uptake, have played a role in advancing women’s empowerment and strengthening reproductive health outcomes. Evaluations show that enhanced access to modern contraceptives has led to measurable reductions in unintended pregnancies and unsafe abortions. In turn, these improvements enable women to make more informed choices about family planning, which often results in increased participation in education and county economic activities. This positive feedback loop not only improves household welfare but also bolsters community agency and contributes to long-term, sustainable development.

Quantitative data from programme evaluations indicate that regions with intensive family planning interventions have experienced a decline in unintended pregnancies by notable margins, while the incidence of unsafe abortions has fallen in tandem. For example, independent assessments of DFID-supported initiatives reveal that these interventions have contributed to a substantial decrease in reproductive health risks, thereby indirectly enhancing women’s opportunities to pursue further education and enter the workforce. This shift has led to stronger household income generation and improved social standing, further reinforcing gender equality at both the local and national levels.

These outcomes form a crucial part of the overall impact of UKID in Kenya. By integrating reproductive health support with broader social and economic measures, the aid not only saves lives but also creates a transformative environment where empowered women can drive positive change in their communities. This cycle of empowerment and improved health is a key benefit that accelerates progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals—particularly SDG 5 on gender equality⁸⁰.

5.4 Strengthening Institutional Capacity and Governance

UKID initiatives in Kenya have yielded significant benefits by bolstering public financial management and overall governance. As many programmes were primarily engineered to achieve specific sectoral outcomes in health, education, and livelihoods, the technical assistance and capacity-building components have also produced far-reaching improvements in county

⁷⁹ <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a78c07bed915d07d35b2262/ev674.pdf>

⁸⁰ <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a78c07bed915d07d35b2262/ev674.pdf>

government performance. Evaluators have noted that DFID-supported interventions have enabled Kenyan government institutions to adopt more robust budgeting, planning, and monitoring practices—capabilities that fit well with the strategic project objectives.

For instance, detailed analysis from the Evaluation of DFID Country Programmes in Kenya (final report)⁸¹ reveals that targeted support helped streamline public financial management processes. This included the introduction of new budgeting tools and performance monitoring frameworks, which in turn fostered improved fiscal discipline and accountability across county administrations. As a direct consequence, state institutions have become better equipped to manage resources, deliver essential services, and pursue further reforms in governance. The strengthening of these institutional capacities has created a multiplier effect: enhanced governance practices not only lead to more effective service delivery in the short term but also build a more resilient and sustainable public sector in the long run.

The tangible outcomes of these capacity-building efforts are evidenced by improved planning cycles and increased efficiency in resource allocation among local authorities. These advancements have contributed to a more reliable and transparent governance framework, thereby amplifying the overall impact of UKID. Moreover, by fostering an environment where governmental agencies can efficiently monitor and evaluate their performance, these interventions have laid the groundwork for continued improvements in public service delivery well after the completion of individual projects.

5.5 Building Community Resilience and Expanding Social Protection

UKID programmes, notably the Kenya Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP), have yielded remarkable benefits by enhancing community resilience across Kenya. Regular, predictable cash transfers under HSNP not only support vulnerable households but also stabilize overall consumption patterns. This steady influx of cash improves household creditworthiness—enabling recipients to secure loans and smooth consumption during adverse shocks such as drought—thereby reducing the pressure to sell productive assets. In essence, these transfers function as a financial safety net that preserves household capital and reinforces long-term economic stability.

Moreover, the multiplier effect of these cash transfers extends benefits beyond direct recipients. Quantitative evaluations demonstrate that each Kenyan shilling transferred catalyzes a significantly larger increase in local incomes, as funds circulate through local markets and small enterprises. This positive spillover boosts economic activity among non-beneficiary households, stimulates local business growth, and reinforces community-wide resilience. Field evidence gathered through qualitative research further confirms that HSNP “pay days” coincide with vibrant local market activity, where increased spending not only meets immediate needs but also fosters an environment of entrepreneurial opportunity and social cohesion⁸².

Together, these outcomes indicate that the HSNP supported by UKID has contributed to a robust, community-led framework of social protection. This broader economic stabilization is

⁸¹ <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a78c07bed915d07d35b2262/ev674.pdf>

⁸² <https://www.opml.co.uk/files/Publications/a0013-evaluation-kenya-hunger-safety-net-programme/impact-evaluation-final-report.pdf>

essential for mitigating the effects of recurring shocks and lays a solid foundation for sustainable, inclusive development in Kenya.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Strengthening monitoring and evaluation

UKID's renewed strategy for strengthening monitoring and evaluation systems represents a transformative commitment to ensuring that every intervention is not only effective in the short term but also underpinned by a sustainable, data-driven framework for long-term development. This approach is designed to completely revolutionize the way information is captured, analyzed, and ultimately used to inform policy decisions at the county level.

Challenges

- Limited Scope and Reach of the Programs
- Gaps in Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks
- Inadequate Public Participation and Sensitization
- Political Interference and Bureaucracy
- Capacity Gaps at the County Government Level
- Misaligned Priorities
- Financial Constraints
- Cultural practices and norms
- Limited Communication and Coordination
- Inadequate Implementation of CIDPs

Source: KII and FGD

At the heart of this strategy is the development of a unified digital repository that will serve as the operational heartbeat for county operations. This repository will be designed in accordance with international best practices and standards for data management and security, such as those outlined in ISO/IEC 27001. It will function as a centralized platform where state-of-the-art mobile data collection tools and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) work in concert to aggregate comprehensive data. The system will capture quantitative metrics—such as outputs, outcomes, and cost-effectiveness ratios—while simultaneously recording qualitative feedback from local communities. This dual-layered data approach ensures that decision-makers receive a complete and accurate picture of program performance, from numerical trends to the subtleties of community sentiment.

Moreover, the repository's advanced analytical capabilities will incorporate elements of machine learning and predictive analytics, in line with recommendations from leading international development agencies. These technologies will allow for the rapid identification of emerging trends and anomalies, providing county officials with actionable insights that support agile, evidence-based decision-making. As a result, counties will be able to adjust their strategies swiftly and effectively, ensuring that each intervention remains closely aligned with county priorities while meeting the rigorous standards expected on the global stage.

This comprehensive, technologically advanced monitoring and evaluation framework transforms the traditional, often fragmented, M&E process into a cohesive, real-time decision support system. By integrating sophisticated digital tools with a centralized data repository, UKID's approach not only enhances transparency and accountability but also establishes a resilient structure that can adapt to evolving challenges and opportunities. In doing so, it sets a new gold standard for development programming—one that is fully aligned with international benchmarks and designed to deliver sustained, impactful results for county communities.

6.2 Enhanced Community Involvement in Development Programmes

Fostering robust community involvement is central to the success and longevity of any development initiative. By embedding local voices throughout the entire lifecycle of a project, UKID can ensure that its interventions are not only attuned to the real needs of the community but also enjoy the support and ownership necessary for long-term impact.

At the heart of this approach is the need to move beyond occasional consultations. Instead, UKID should institute formal mechanisms that continuously integrate community input into every stage of program design, implementation, and evaluation. This means establishing standing advisory groups or community committees that meet regularly to deliberate on project priorities, progress, and challenges. Such forums can be supported by periodic village meetings, focus group discussions, and even online platforms, ensuring that a wide range of perspectives—including those from marginalized and underrepresented groups—are heard and valued.

A further enhancement to this strategy lies in the introduction of community-based monitoring systems. By training local representatives in basic data collection and reporting techniques, UKID can empower communities to actively track project milestones and outcomes. This not only facilitates real-time feedback, enabling swift adjustments to interventions, but also builds a culture of transparency and accountability. When community members are directly involved in monitoring efforts, they develop a stronger sense of ownership over the initiatives, which is crucial for sustaining benefits beyond the life of the project.

Moreover, such a participatory framework helps to bridge the gap between international development objectives and local realities. The continuous engagement of community stakeholders fosters mutual trust and opens channels for constructive dialogue, making it easier to align development strategies with the specific cultural, economic, and social contexts of the region. This alignment is essential for ensuring that the interventions are not only technically sound and strategically implemented but also resonate deeply with the community's aspirations and everyday experiences.

In summary, UKID's programming should be built on a foundation of sustained, inclusive community involvement. By formalizing local participation, facilitating diverse and ongoing dialogue, and empowering communities through monitoring and evaluation, the program can achieve outcomes that are both immediately impactful and sustainably transformative. This comprehensive approach not only reinforces the principles of participatory development but also sets a high standard for international development initiatives, ensuring that the benefits of UKID's interventions are both profound and enduring.⁸³

"The first priority is to ensure community involvement from the start to the end of the project. This allows both institutions and community members to work together, and more importantly, it helps the community take ownership of the process and the project itself." CSO Kisumu County

6.3 Enhancing County Autonomy

⁸³ UNDP and OECD

UKID's approach to strengthening county capacity and institutional development represents a transformative commitment to aligning its initiatives closely with county priorities while ensuring that the benefits of these projects endure well beyond the period of direct support. By strategically investing in the technical, managerial, and governance capacities of county-level institutions, UKID not only empowers county officials to design, implement, and monitor their own development projects, but also lays the groundwork for long-term sustainability. Evidence from the United Nations Development Programme shows that strengthening human capacity can lead to as much as a 20% increase in project implementation efficiency. Similarly, insights from the OECD Public Sector Performance Reviews underscore that systematic training initiatives contribute significantly to improved public sector performance⁸⁴.

In practice, UKID will work side by side with local institutions to identify specific capacity gaps and craft customized interventions that go far beyond traditional training. These initiatives include tailored training programs, structured mentorship schemes, and dynamic peer-to-peer exchanges—all designed to build robust local expertise. This hands-on support equips county officials with the modern management tools and practices needed to effectively manage public resources and deliver high-quality services. Crucially, these capacity-building measures incorporate regular assessments and performance monitoring, ensuring that the skills and systems established during the project continue to evolve and improve over time.

Moreover, the strategy is rooted in the principle of local ownership. Rather than imposing a top-down, donor-driven model, UKID's model actively involves county officials in setting development agendas and identifying priorities. This inclusive process not only boosts the immediate effectiveness of development projects but also guarantees that local institutions are prepared to sustain these projects independently once external support ceases. By building a resilient framework—one that includes modern management practices, rigorous performance evaluations, and systems for ongoing learning and adaptation—county-level institutions are empowered to maintain and even expand upon the progress made during the project lifecycle.

Ultimately, this comprehensive strategy ensures that as local partners complete their work, the counties themselves possess the capacity and commitment to carry projects forward, monitor outcomes, and adjust strategies as needed. The approach is designed to create a lasting legacy of self-reliance and improved service delivery, thereby securing sustainable development outcomes that meet international standards and continue to benefit communities well into the future.

*"I've already mentioned capacity building, but another important aspect is co-creation. We need to plan together, ensuring that we collaborate closely in shaping our strategies and actions." **County Official Homabay County***

6.4 Mitigate Political Interference

In order to safeguard UKID programming from undue political interference and to ensure that project decisions remain strictly aligned with genuine development objectives, it is imperative to establish robust mechanisms that both insulate operations from politically motivated influences and foster public trust. A central element of this approach is the formation of an independent oversight committee composed of neutral stakeholders. Such a committee, drawing on the

⁸⁴ UNDP and OECD

expertise and impartiality of representatives from civil society, academia, independent development agencies, and local communities, would serve as a critical check on the decision-making process. By providing regular, transparent evaluations of project choices and resource allocation, the committee would help to ensure that UKID projects are managed solely on technical merit and developmental impact rather than being swayed by political agendas. Its mandate would include clear accountability protocols, routine audits, and the publication of findings in accessible formats so that stakeholders at all levels can monitor the fairness and effectiveness of project implementation.

Equally important is the need to enhance transparency in tendering processes. By standardizing procedures and making all relevant criteria publicly accessible, UKID can effectively counter favoritism and prevent political manipulation during the procurement of services and supplies. Transparent tendering mechanisms should incorporate independent evaluations and regular third-party audits, ensuring that contract awards are based solely on objective criteria and competitive merit. This not only minimizes the risk of corrupt practices but also strengthens the overall integrity of project execution. Ultimately, by embedding these practices into the very framework of UKID programming, the agency will not only meet international standards of good governance and accountability but will also build lasting public confidence in the development assistance it provides.

Together, the establishment of a neutral oversight committee and the enhancement of tendering transparency create a dual-layered safeguard. This comprehensive strategy decisively mitigates political interference, ensuring that UKID resources are utilized efficiently and ethically for sustainable development outcomes, free from partisan bias or undue influence.

*“One of the challenges in implementing UKID programs has been political interference, particularly during county regime changes. Incoming leadership may have different priorities, which can affect the continuity and successful implementation of these programs.” **UKID Lead***

6.5 Expand Digital Infrastructure and Connectivity

Expanding digital infrastructure and connectivity is not simply an enabler—it is a transformative catalyst that underpins progress in virtually every sector of society. In our increasingly digital age, robust connectivity directly influences public service delivery, economic development, and social inclusion. Enhanced digital connectivity can improve public service outcomes by up to 15%⁸⁵, therefore it is imperative that UKID programming aligns with this evidence by accelerating the rollout of digital infrastructure in underserved and remote regions.

At the heart of this recommendation is the need for strategic collaboration. UKID should proactively forge partnerships with leading telecommunications companies and technology innovators. These partnerships are crucial for extending affordable, reliable internet services to communities that have historically been left behind by the digital revolution. Public–private partnerships, in particular, provide a dual advantage: they mobilize the necessary capital while also infusing technical expertise into project design and implementation. Such collaborations not only

⁸⁵ International Telecommunication Union’s Connect 2030 Agenda

create opportunities for sustainable and scalable innovation but also help to ensure that digital solutions are contextually relevant and responsive to local needs.

Equally important is the establishment of robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks. UKID must invest in developing digital dashboards and real-time data systems that track connectivity trends and digital adoption rates among citizens and government entities alike. This data-driven approach will allow program managers to quickly identify emerging challenges, reallocate resources as needed, and continuously refine their strategies to keep pace with rapid technological change. Regular assessments will also provide accountability, enabling stakeholders to verify that investments are yielding the intended improvements in service delivery and governance.

Ultimately, by prioritizing the expansion of digital infrastructure and connectivity, UKID can lay a solid foundation for a resilient digital ecosystem. This ecosystem will not only improve the efficiency and transparency of public services but also foster intergovernmental coordination and support a more inclusive, connected society. In doing so, UKID will be setting a benchmark aligned with international best practices, ensuring that its programming remains both innovative and sustainable in the long term.

6.6 Integrate Climate Resilience and Sustainability Measures

Integrating climate resilience and sustainability measures into UKID programming is a strategic imperative that promises to transform the long-term development landscape in counties vulnerable to environmental shocks. In many regions, climate variability significantly disrupts agricultural productivity and public infrastructure. Research supported by the United Nations Development Programme indicates that proactive interventions can reduce productivity losses by up to 30%. Such findings reinforce the necessity of embedding sustainable development principles at every phase of project planning and implementation.

A key element of this recommendation is the integration of comprehensive climate risk assessments into the project cycle. By systematically identifying potential environmental hazards from the outset, UKID programs can be designed to not only withstand adverse climate impacts but also adapt dynamically as conditions change. This proactive approach ensures that interventions are resilient and remain effective even in the face of unexpected environmental stresses.

Moreover, directing investments towards renewable energy projects and sustainable agricultural practices offers a dual advantage. On one hand, these initiatives decrease reliance on non-renewable resources; on the other, they provide a critical economic boost to local communities that are often among the most affected by climate change. For instance, renewable energy projects not only improve energy security but also create local employment opportunities, while sustainable agriculture can enhance food security and protect livelihoods. Such measures are in line with international standards for environmental management—for example, the framework provided by ISO 14001⁸⁶, which offers globally recognized guidelines for implementing sustainable practices.

⁸⁶ ISO

In addition, forging robust partnerships with environmental agencies and local stakeholders is essential to the successful rollout of disaster risk reduction initiatives. By collaborating with experts in climate science, county government, and civil society, counties can harness technical expertise and secure the necessary financial resources to develop early-warning systems and resilience-building strategies. This collaborative, data-driven approach not only safeguards critical infrastructure but also enhances the capacity of communities to recover rapidly from environmental disruptions.

The integration of climate resilience and sustainability measures within UKID programming is more than a technical adjustment—it is a forward-thinking strategy that aligns with global best practices and international benchmarks. This approach creates an enabling environment where development is both sustainable and responsive, ensuring that the benefits of aid endure well into the future.

6.7 Promote Intersectoral Collaboration and Coordination

In today's interconnected policy landscape, fostering collaboration across sectors is not merely an option—it's a necessity. The effectiveness and long-term sustainability of UKID programming depend on forging strong partnerships among health, education, social services, agriculture, finance, and beyond. No single sector can operate in isolation when the challenges of modern governance require integrated solutions.

A practical way forward is to set up formal structures that encourage regular dialogue among county government agencies, donor representatives, and local stakeholders. Interdepartmental committees and joint planning frameworks, for example, can serve as platforms to share information, align priorities, and coordinate efforts. Evidence from international practice indicates that such integrated governance can boost operational efficiency by 15 to 20 percent, proving that strategic collaboration translates into tangible benefits⁸⁷.

Equally important is the targeted support provided through initiatives like KDP OPI support to enhance cooperation, consultation and coordination between the two levels of government (inter-governmental); among county governments (inter-county); and between the county executive and county assembly (intra-county). This approach ensures that coordination is built into the very fabric of governance, bridging institutional divides and promoting a more cohesive system.

Robust intersectoral coordination also demands an effective monitoring system that tracks progress in real time. Developing standardized reporting tools and performance indicators will create a shared dataset accessible to all partners, fostering transparency and continuous improvement. This data-driven approach not only enhances accountability but also builds trust among stakeholders, making county government initiatives more adaptable to emerging challenges.

⁸⁷ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Moreover, nurturing a culture of collaboration is key. Regular, structured meetings between county officials and donor representatives should be incentivized to review progress, address obstacles, and develop coordinated strategies that integrate both local and international priorities. With clearly defined roles and responsibilities, these forums can transform ad hoc cooperation into a resilient and responsive governance framework.

Ultimately, promoting intersectoral collaboration is about more than streamlining administrative processes—it's about building a dynamic governance ecosystem that leverages the strengths of every sector. By aligning with international best practices, UKID programming can deliver development interventions more effectively and sustainably, ensuring that aid reaches those who need it most..

7. CONCLUSION

UK Aid has played a crucial role in supporting a wide range of sectors including health, agriculture, climate change, disaster and risk management, poverty alleviation and socio-economic development, youth unemployment, water and sanitation, inclusive education, tourism and infrastructure development, security and governance, economic development, and trade across the counties in Kenya. These initiatives have considerably aligned with specific county government priorities as articulated in the specific CIDPs. However, several challenges have hindered the full realization of the benefits. Some of the most pressing issues include gaps in monitoring and evaluation, limited public participation, political interference, bureaucratic inefficiencies, financial constraints, and misalignment of priorities. In some cases, projects have been disproportionately distributed, leaving out marginalized areas, while cultural factors and weak coordination mechanisms have further limited impact.

To enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of UKID interventions, several key recommendations must be prioritized. Strengthening monitoring and evaluation frameworks will ensure better tracking of progress and resource allocation, while greater community involvement will enhance local ownership and sustainability. Expanding digital infrastructure can improve governance efficiency, and ensuring county autonomy will enable better decision-making and financial independence. Additionally, mitigating political interference, fostering intersectoral collaboration, and integrating climate resilience strategies will contribute to more effective and long-term development outcomes.

In summary, UKID has made meaningful contributions to Kenya's devolution process, but addressing governance gaps, financial limitations, and systemic inefficiencies will be critical to maximizing impact and ensuring long-term sustainability.

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ANNEXES



KII Participants -
Tracking Alignment,



FGD Participants -
Tracking Alignment,