

An overview of socio-economic challenges in Makueni County.



Expansion Focus

This Document contains a brief overview of the County of Makueni. It tackles the Educational background, Family relationships, and economic hurdles as well as cultural practices of the people. The information is meant to aid the intervention program customization to affect fully the impact on the Transformation.

Transform Nations

**Leadership and Community
change**

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Introduction

Makueni County faces various socio-economic challenges. Some of these challenges ranges from the development to domestic violence, witchcraft and inter clan conflicts on wars among other things. Equally facing the county are the political challenges as there are in other counties around the country. Following these problems, there are therefore needs for a quick intervention in the area so as to alleviate the challenges the people are facing. Of importance is the fact that these are issues that are anchored on poor leadership, misguided believes as well as the joblessness that has marred the whole youth population and especially the Boys.

.This document therefore unveils these challenges in greater details from various sources. The areas of Witchcraft, domestic violence as well as leadership gaps are all addressed here but with the need to help determine the correct and most effective programs that will squarely influence the Situation in Makueni County.

Population, education distribution and dynamics

Another factor that needs to be looked into in this enterprise is the area of Economic development and the education distribution between male and female within the county.

Makueni County has only 21% of its population with secondary school education and above. Of this, the highest constituency is Makueni with secondary and post-secondary level at 23%. Kibwezi Administrative center is at 17% and the Wote having the highest level of Post-secondary education at 37%. Equally important to note is that 62% of Makueni county residents have the primary level education while only 17% of the County have no formal education (Society for International Development, 2013).

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This level of Education indicates the need to work on the program so as to customize it for the purposes of understanding and impact maximization.

Economic Challenges

Makueni County also faces various food and water challenges. According to Population Action International, 2009, Makueni County faces challenges in rapid population growth, water shortage, and low resilience to climate change and falling food production. Poverty is in the rising due to the combined of effects of the factors outlined above. An intervention that targets the people of Makueni therefore needs to factor in the Economic challenges that the people are facing for effectiveness of the intervention programs.

TRANSFORM NATIONS' intervention can take an aspect of Population growth. Being a contributor to the overall economic challenge, Transform Nations may seize the opportunity to educate the people on the family planning, birth control practices and generally in the whole family relationships and support to help curb the problem.

Socio-cultural challenges

Witchcraft

There is a wide perception in Kenya concerning the people of Eastern region and the practice of witchcraft. Widely, it is on the perception and perhaps prejudices grounds. However, there have been instances where the express has been real. According to The Standard News Paper, 01, Nov. 2016, a man sent a swarm of bees to recover his motorcycle in Makueni. Reportedly there has been such and more of cases pointing to the question of witchcraft among the people of Makueni County.

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This therefore points to the question of beliefs and the tradition that is still prevalent among the people within this county. With this therefore, there could be a need to incorporate spiritual angle to the Intervention program although in a subtle and more tactical manner so as to avoid any possible confrontation with the traditionalists. Another factor to be understood is that there could be a spiritual component to the programs thus the need for prayers.

Domestic violence

Like many other counties in Kenya, Makueni is facing challenges with the domestic violence. As Daily Nations, 30th, Oct.2016, reports; a man in Makueni County at Wote town, stabbed his wife to death after which he burned the house killing the child as well as himself. Such incidences are numerous in Makueni County.

Attitude towards domestic violence

The challenges however are not only with the prevalence of domestic violence but also the attitude with which it is held. According to (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics,2008), 55% of the women in the whole county of 15-49 years agreed that their husbands were justified to beat them whenever they went out without telling him, neglects children, denies him sex, argues with him or burns food. Women of 45-49 had even a higher agreement level with the need to be beaten on the grounds of above issues and even more.

For TRANSFORM NATIONS, this finding indicates that the cultural belief in Men that supports violence against women is intricate. In the process of program intervention, it is important to understand this perception which could trace its grounds on the cultural understanding. Needless to say, a question that touches on cultures, touches on identity and thus any form of challenge to it needs to be carrying out with caution and wisdom.

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Women of this county definitely needs a forum and or Mother of Sons program so as not to keep endorsing the culturally retrogressive practice as has been shown through the Statistics above. This indicates that while, it is important to look into subtle ways of approaching this Women empowerment move, there is a need to work on the way through which women can be brought to the understanding that is it not proper to address it from Men's viewpoint but women's as well.

Intervention Approach

- ✓ There are various factors to consider in the approach to intervene in the county;
- ✓ Literacy level determines the approach and program customization and selection.
- ✓ Cultural practices and its understanding determine the manner of approach and the packaging of it.
- ✓ Economic challenges needs to also be reflected in the program charge and the expectation on attendance
- ✓ Family relationships need to also reflect the intervention approaches.

References

Kenya National Bureau of Statics, 2009

Society for International Development, 2013

Makueni County Integrated Development Plan, 2013.

Daily Nation News Paper, 30th, Oct.2016

The Standard News Paper, 01, Nov. 2016