

Poverty Transitions in Kwale County

Policy Brief, February 2017

Introduction

Kwale County Government is responding to improving the lives of 7 out of 10 residents who live below the poverty line of USD1.25 a day. Reliable and regular data on welfare are essential to leave no one behind. This policy brief reports on findings of the longitudinal socio-economic household surveys in 2014 (n=3,349) and 2015 (n=3,567) in Matuga, Msambweni and Lunga Lunga sub-Counties. The areas include major economic sectors such as tourism, mining and commercial irrigated agriculture as well as livelihoods supported by fishing, farming and small scale enterprises.

Subjective Welfare Transition between 2014 and 2015 (n=3,237)

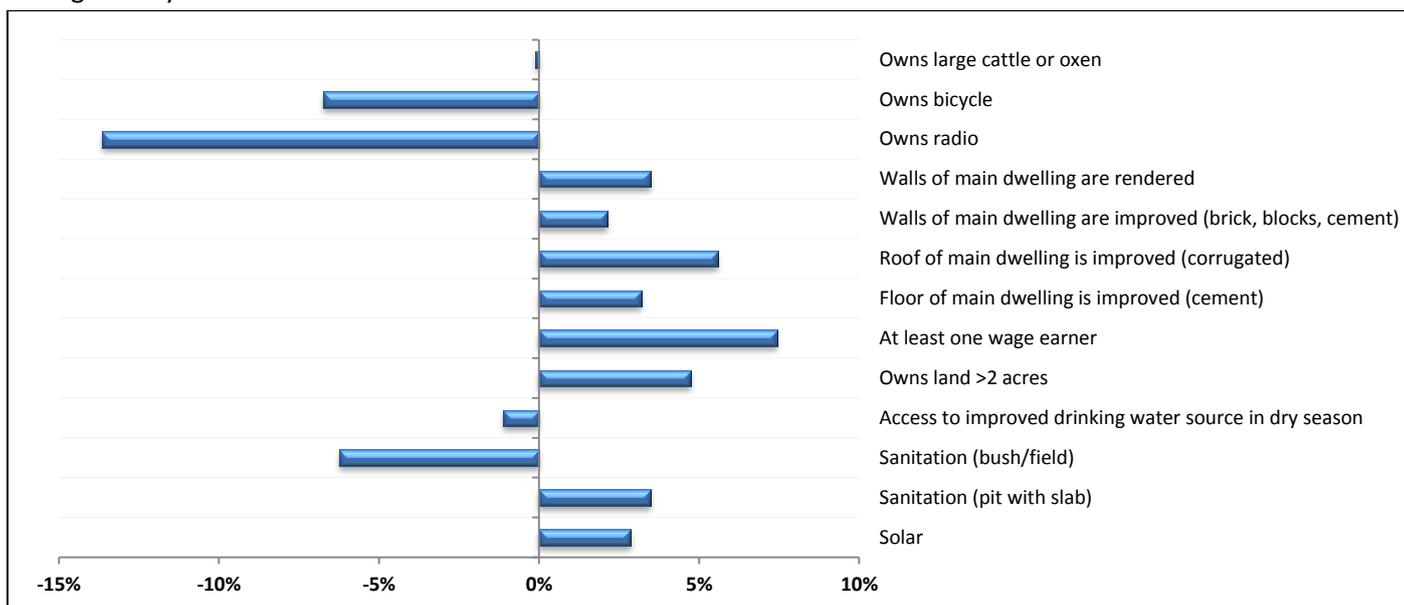
		2015	
		Not well off	Average
2014	Not well off	71%	29%
	Average	49%	51%

Subjective welfare of households was assessed using two categories: 'Not-well-off' and 'Average'

- 7 out of 10, felt they were still 'Not-well-off' in 2015.
- Nearly 3 in 10 households felt they had transitioned from the 'Not-well-off' category and were better off in 2015.
- Of those households who felt they were better off in 2014, nearly 1 in 2 felt they were 'Not-well-off' in 2015.

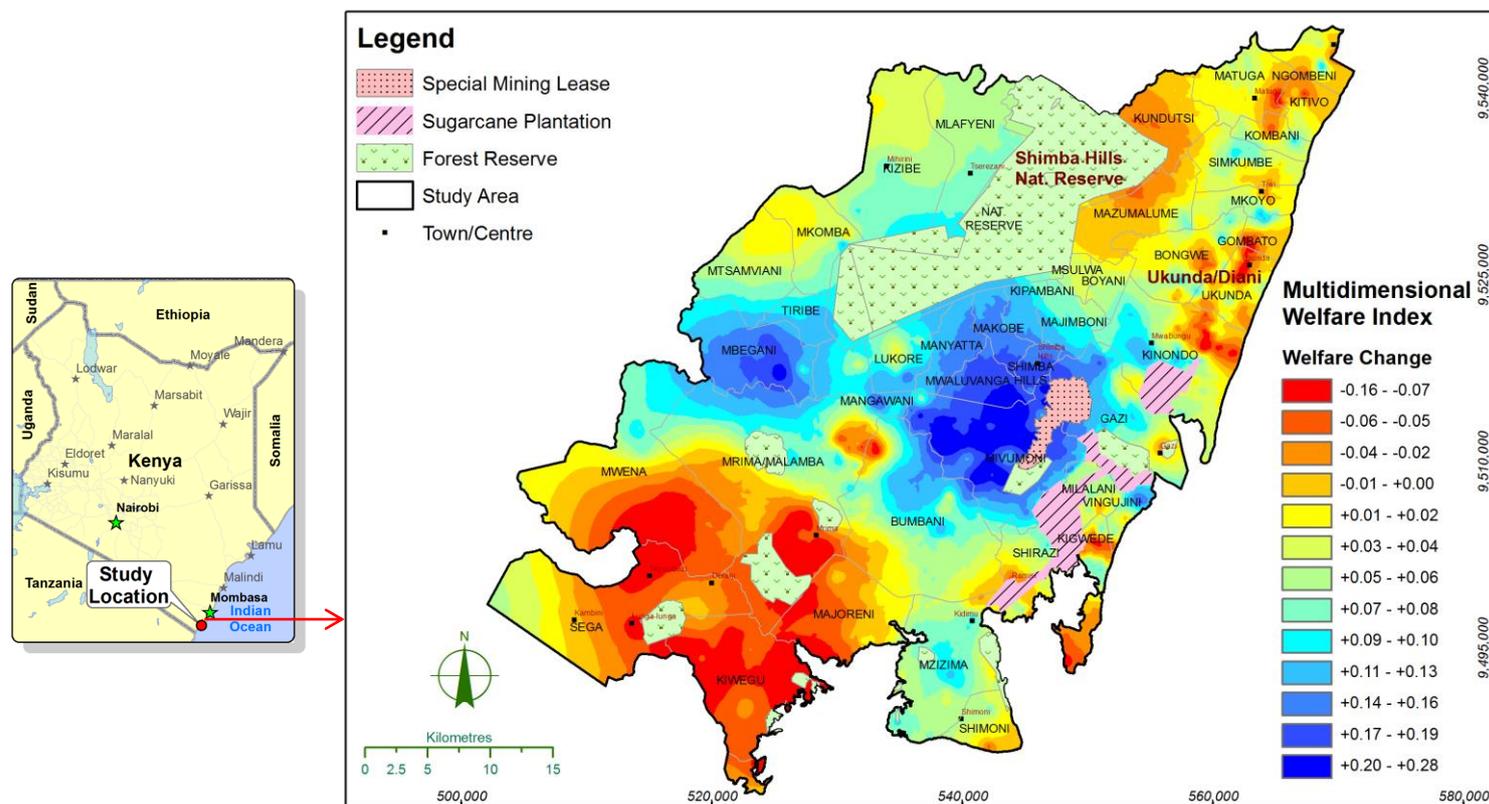
Multidimensional Welfare Transitions between 2014 and 2015 (n=3,329)

Household composition, dwelling characteristics, assets, sanitation and health, and drinking water data was used to construct and map households' multidimensional welfare changes between year 2014 (baseline) and 2015. Between 2014 and 2015, 7% more households found wage labour. Sanitation access improved by 4% with the number of people using bush/field decreasing by 6%. People's dwellings saw a modest rise in improvements including 3% more households installing solar panels. There was slight decline in the number of people with improved acces to water during the dry season.

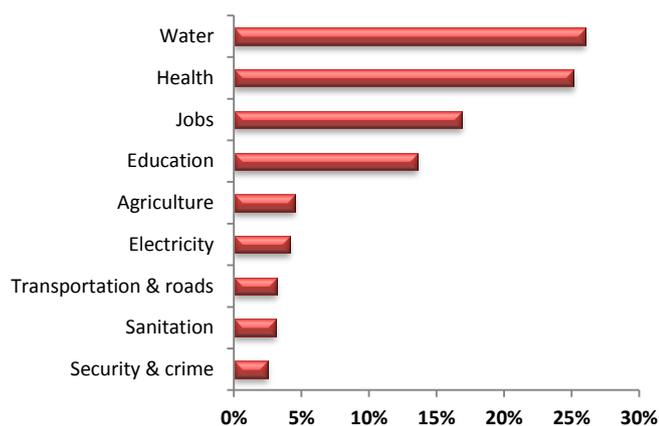


Where is Welfare Rising or Falling?

Households experiencing declining welfare are observed to be near Ukunda/Diani and towards the border with Tanzania. However, some pockets within the coastal strip (Kinondo and Vingungini) estimated a positive welfare change. Areas with households that experienced positive welfare changes include Lukore, Shimba hills, Mivumoni, Mbegani, Majimboni, Mangawani, Mzizima, Kinondo and Mwaluvanga. The Lunga Lunga sub-County had a majority of households falling in welfare. Further research is currently on-going to understand the determinants of poverty and links between the environmental, economic and political factors that drive welfare in Kwale County.



Major Household Concerns (2015, n=3,329)



Policy Implications

These results provide insights for **planning, budgeting and policy on poverty reduction programmes in Kwale**. It provides credible information on **where the poor are**, which regions have experienced positive/negative welfare changes as well as starting **discussions on community investment priorities**. For example, **water, health, job and education** being cited as the top four priorities.

Poverty reduction strategies should be **focused on 'leaving no one behind'**. **Monitoring and mapping** of welfare should be conducted more **frequently** to evaluate **impacts** of different **poverty reduction strategies**.

More Information

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