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**INSTITUTE OF DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

**AN ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ERADICATION IN KENYA (2015-2020)**

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**DECLARATION**

I, Onesmas Ogoti Bokombe, hereby declares that this research project is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any university.

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## **DEDICATION**

I wish to dedicate this research project to my family and friends who supported me throughout the Masters programme. May God's abundance be with you all.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Through God's blessings in health and the people He has positioned around me that I have managed to undertake this study and the whole course. I therefore in give all Thanks to Him. To my supervisor Dr. Anita Kiamba, I give special acknowledgement and appreciation for the guidance and input throughout the study despite the challenges of working remotely. I also extend my gratitude to my family members and friends for your emotional and financial support. To all be Blessed.

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## ACRONYMS

DFRD	-	District Focus for Rural Development
IDGs	-	International Development Goals
GDGs	-	Global Development Goals
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Product
MDGs	-	Millennium Development Goals
NEPAD	-	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NPEP	-	National Poverty Eradication Plan
PRSPs	-	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
SAPs	-	Structural Adjustment Programmes
SDGs	-	Sustainable Development Goals
SSA	-	Sub- Saharan Africa
UNDP	-	United Nations Development Programme
UN	-	United Nations
VNR	-	Voluntary National Review

## **ABSTRACT**

The post-2015 agenda adopted as the Sustainable Development Goals recognize poverty as a major development challenge globally. Poverty limits the capabilities of individuals to achieve other goals and thus forms a critical issue in human development. World governments adopted the goals and declared to achieve them by the set deadline of 2030. Kenya has its experience with poverty with high incidences of poverty in the urban and rural settings, curtailing inclusive growth and development. The internationally formulated goals presented a renewed framework for poverty eradication worldwide and in Kenya entrenched in interconnected goals. As a result, the implementation of the goals is critical to the realization of poverty eradication in Kenya. The main objective of this study was to assess the implementation of sustainable development and poverty eradication in Kenya (2015-2020). The specific objectives included: establishing the causes and nature of poverty in Kenya, examining the strategies undertaken to implement the goal on poverty eradication and determine the challenge faced in the implementation process. The study adopted the Capability approach which provides for a multidimensional approach for human development focusing on individual's freedoms, functioning and capabilities. The study used both qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis methods and purposive sampling. The study findings indicate of a pervasive nature of poverty in Kenya whose causes are found in socio-cultural, economic and political spheres. The study established that Kenya's implementation of the goals are in the form of policies and programmes majorly focusing on the agricultural sector, social protection and the provision of basic services, and it is generally a national government affair with limited localized reporting and mainstreaming. The implementation of the goal is faced by various challenges such as financial constraints due to lack of a needs assessment and partnerships, political challenges in institutional incapacities and the existence of various economic and climatic shocks that derail the gains made in poverty eradication. The study concludes that proper understanding of the causes of poverty in Kenya will aid in the development of effective strategies to implement poverty eradication policies. Further, the study concludes that the implementation of the goals should be in line with national priorities, capacities and be targeted on specific areas that will be impactful.

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

#### 1.1 Background to the Study

Poverty eradication is a global developmental issue. Growing interest in global poverty was found in the 1990s protests by global civil society against the Structural Adjustment Programmes, and in the post-Cold war rise of social democratic governments. It gained prominence in the 1970s when the rural development programmes were developed, in the 1980s focus shifted to the Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) by international financial institutions directed towards least developed countries.<sup>1</sup> Poverty eradication gained traction in global development policy in the 1990s occasioned by the release of human development reports such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Report of 1990. The 1990s decade shaped the international cooperation on poverty eradication as undertaken to date.

Statistically, global poverty in 1990 was, 1.9 billion or 36 percent, out of 5.3 billion people lived on less than \$1.90 daily (2011 purchasing power parity), falling to 736 million or 10.7 percent of 7.2 billion people in 2015 lived in extreme poverty.<sup>2</sup> The distribution of poverty globally indicates that majority of the poor live in rural areas and relied on the agricultural sector.<sup>3</sup> This data was based on monetary measurement of poverty which was a debate in development scholarship since there was increased expansion in indicators of measuring poverty. The post-2015 SDGs agenda sought to reduce these poverty levels to 3 percent of the world population.

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<sup>1</sup>Murunga, O., "Institutional Involvement in Poverty Eradication: The Case of Teso District, Kenya" Post Graduate Diploma Project Paper, University of Nairobi, 2005. Pg. 1

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *The Sustainable Development Goals Report*, (New York, 2019), pg. 4.

<sup>3</sup> World Bank, "Understanding Poverty." April, 2020, Available at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/overview> Accessed: April 10, 2020.

With the focus on poverty reduction strategies since 1990, there has been uneven or unequal poverty reduction between regions in the world thus a concern on equal distribution in the benefits or successes of global reduction in poverty. For example, in comparing the East Asia and Pacific region and the Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), the East Asia and Pacific region in 1990 hosted over half of the global poor and the SSA hosted less than a quarter of the global poor, this shifted in 2015 with more than the half of the global poor residing in Sub-Saharan Africa despite implementation of poverty reduction strategies in all regions. Further, World Bank forecasts that in 2030, the share of the global poor in SSA will be at about 87 percent based on economic growth patterns. Currently, Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for 43 countries with poverty rates above 18 percent and 27 out of the 28 poorest countries in the world are in SSA with poverty rates of above 30 percent. These statistics resonate with the importance SSA countries should place in harnessing the resources, concepts, ideas, inducements and pressures that are entailed in global development goals such as the SDGs. Further, it also revealed the existence of other factors that enhanced the efficacy of poverty reduction strategies, which made up one of the study's objectives.

Kenya recognized poverty as a challenge to its development after independence in 1963 through various development plans and government reports and strategic papers. However, the various approaches towards poverty eradication in Kenya have not achieved the objective. Poverty prevalence in Kenya manifests in the various socio-economic groups in Kenya; those in the rural areas, urban poverty, the employed and unemployed, men and women, and low income earners and middle

income earners.<sup>4</sup> Of much concern was the continuous increase in poverty levels in Kenya despite having various policies implemented to eradicate poverty.

The post- 2015 agenda, represented by the Sustainable Development Goals affirm the centrality of states in partnership with non-state actors to tackle poverty and eradicate it by 2030. Poverty eradication as the core and nucleus of the international development goals, Kenya has the task to achieve the targets within the set time limits. The goal on eradicating poverty in all its forms in the SDGs has key targets such as reducing the number of people living in poverty by half, implementation of social protection systems for the vulnerable, ensure equal economic rights as well as access to basic services, build resilience of the vulnerable against shocks such as economic, climate, social and disasters, mobilization of resources to implement poverty eradication policies, and creation of sound policy frameworks at all levels to support investments in poverty eradication actions. This study entails assessing Kenya's implementation of the SDGs, particularly on poverty eradication. In assessing the goal, these targets would be used to audit Kenya's strategies towards poverty eradication.

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

Poverty remains the most pressing challenge in the development policy circles at the global, regional, domestic or local levels. It poses a major threat to sustainable development, for poverty threatens the existence of poor people with reduced life expectancy, restricted access to knowledge thus illiteracy and social, economic and political participation. World governments and multilateral institutions such as the Bretton Woods: World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF); and the

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<sup>4</sup> Omiti, J., "Poverty Reduction Efforts in Kenya: Institutions, Capacity and Policy", *Discussion Paper No.033/2002*, (Institute of Policy Analysis and Research: Nairobi, 2002), Pg.2.

United Nations (UN) have sought to end poverty by creating global responses and understanding towards poverty eradication through global development goals such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and now the post-2015 agenda or the SDGs. Despite poverty eradication been the nucleus of such goals, poverty levels are declining in slow rates and there is increasing inequalities globally, and specifically in developing countries. The implementation of such global development goals have proved to be a tall order and difficult task for developing countries. Kenya's experience in the MDGs projects that it fell below set targets in achieving the MDG on eradication of poverty; at the start in 2000 the poverty rates measured by those living below the poverty line stood at 56% and by 2014 it had decline to 42% despite the target been halving the number of the poor. The sustainable development goals also acknowledge poverty as the core target, thus providing another policy challenge to Kenya.

Kenya's interpretation and implementation of the goals was faced with various challenges different from other countries, this was because of its unique features, institutional capacities and needs. SDGs are relevant in promoting balanced global development and tackling of developmental challenges such as poverty. Poverty eradication as recognized as the core goal therefore requires contextualized analysis with focus on different countries, their needs, challenges and achievements. Kenya's implementation of the goals is inadequately given academic attention in research. There is a need to assess the implementation framework in Kenya with regards to how it defined poverty, the roles played by various actors, its strategies towards achieving the goals and the challenges faced in implementing the post-2015 agenda.

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

This section covered the general objective and the specific objectives of the research.

#### **1.3.1 General Objective**

To assess Kenya's implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal on poverty eradication.

#### **1.3.2 Specific Objectives**

- i. To establish the causes of poverty in Kenya.
- ii. To examine the strategies employed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal on poverty eradication in Kenya.
- iii. To identify the challenges in the implementation of the strategies to eradicate poverty in Kenya.

### **1.4 Research Questions**

- i. What are the causes of poverty in Kenya?
- ii. How effective are the strategies adopted by Kenya in achieving the eradication of poverty by 2030?
- iii. Which impediments face the implementation of the sustainable development goal on poverty eradication in Kenya?

### **1.5 Literature Review**

The first goal in the SDGs development plan was on eradicating poverty. Poverty has been a challenge for countries world over, in Africa the poverty situation is becoming increasingly an impediment to development, Kenya as a developing country is faced with this problem too. This literature review focused on the definition and conceptualization of poverty, the various approaches to poverty reduction, sustainable development and poverty eradication, global development goals and



poverty eradication, the interpretation of global development goals and the literature gap. This aided in understanding the context of the research problem and also in solving it.

### 1.5.1 A Conceptual Definition of Poverty

The definition of poverty was highly contested and debated by various scholars, and also international agencies. There exists a “lack of consensus” in the conceptualization and measurement of poverty due to the size and multifaceted nature of poverty and the variety in strategies focused on poverty reduction.<sup>5</sup> As a complex concept it included social, economic and political spheres<sup>6</sup>, even in its manifestation or nature it assumed different definitions, manifestations and has different levels or depths with regard to people, nations and regions.<sup>7</sup> Therefore, it was properly recognized and considered that individuals and societies characterize, view and experience poverty in various ways. This explained the lack of consensus in defining poverty uniformly. Poverty was also viewed as dynamic and not static, for example, “some of the poor are not poor all of the time”.<sup>8</sup>

According to the United Nations Human Development Report, poverty refers to deficiency in resources and deprivation of choices or hardship in making decisions that would empower individuals to enjoy decent living conditions.<sup>9</sup> This definition uses the human development approach which focuses more on human rights. It

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<sup>5</sup> Mbula, J. Nganda, B. & Nzioka, C. *Poverty Revisited: Analysis and Strategies Towards Poverty Eradication in Kenya*. (Ruaraka Printing Press: Nairobi, 1998), Pg. 2

<sup>6</sup> Shrestha, P. “Poverty: Condition, Cause, Plans and Achievements of Nepal”, in National Institute for Global Studies (Eds), *International Cooperation on Poverty Reduction: Building a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind*. International Joint Study Report Vol. 1, No. 5. (2019), pg. 194.

<sup>7</sup> Nwonwu, F. (Eds), “*Millennium Development Goals: Achievements and Prospects of meeting the targets in Africa*”. (Pretoria: Africa Institute of South Africa, 2008), Pg. 9.

<sup>8</sup> Yacub, S, “*Intertemporal Welfare Dynamic: Extents and Causes.*” In a Conference Paper given at Brooking Institution/ Carnegie Endowment Workshop, ‘Globalization: New Opportunities, New Vulnerabilities’. Available at [http://www.ceip.org/files/pdf/shanin\\_dynamics.pdf](http://www.ceip.org/files/pdf/shanin_dynamics.pdf) Retrieved: 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2020.

<sup>9</sup> United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). *Human Development Report 1998*. (Oxford University Press: New York, 1998), Pg.25.

viewed poverty as an infringement of human respect whereby humans are deprived from having choices and opportunities or openings. However it does not go deeper to enlist the basic needs of the people which uphold human dignity.

According to the World Bank Development Report, poverty is “pronounced deprivation in well-being and this is often more than being hungry, lacking shelter and clothing, being sick and not cared for, or being illiterate and not schooled; it was also about vulnerability to adverse events, being treated badly by state institutions and society and being voiceless and powerless”.<sup>10</sup> Hunger, lack of shelter and clothing, poor health and illiteracy provide for a human development approach with the core basic human needs for survival listed. In addition access to food, shelter and clothing, good health and education are also some of the indicators used by most researchers in measuring poverty. According to Channing *et al*, non-monetary measures of poverty included lacking wellbeing and sustenance in terms of health and nutrition, proficiency, insufficient social relations, security, low confidence and powerlessness.<sup>11</sup>

The World Bank however has also been in the forefront in defining poverty based on income terms thus monetary measure based on consumption such as the international poverty line of 2011 (Purchasing Power Parity) set at United States Dollars (USD) 1.90. It describes poverty as a state in which an individual or household lives on under two dollars a day and extreme poverty as those that live on less than one dollar daily. Ringen<sup>12</sup> shares this depiction of poverty by postulating that

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<sup>10</sup> World Bank, “Attacking Poverty”. *World Development Report 2000-2001*. (Oxford University Press: Nairobi, 2001), Pg.15.

<sup>11</sup> Channing, A., McKay, A., & Tarp, F. (Eds), *Growth and Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa*. (Oxford University Press, 2016).

<sup>12</sup>Ringen, S. ‘Direct and Indirect Measure of Poverty.’ *Journal of Social Policy*, 17/3. (1988).

it as “a standard of consumption that is below what is generally considered to be a decent minimum”.

On the other hand, Jeffrey Sachs defined poverty as “poverty that kills, depriving individuals of the means to stay alive in the face of hunger, disease and environmental standards.”<sup>13</sup> From this definitions, poverty was endowed by both monetary and non-monetary descriptions by different literature.

According to Ikiara, most interventions center around income as the essential pointer of poverty rather than the significant shift towards the social originations of poverty.<sup>14</sup> An economic argument was therefore trace poverty to people’s incomes and purchasing power to acquire basic human needs and also economic freedom. The debate on income deprivation focused on the national economic policies specifically on employment, human capital, wages and also the general sectors of the economy and their performance. From this perspective poverty was caused by low incomes and thus poverty causes the deficiency in basic human needs.

Poverty was also associated with non-participation or the deprivation of social, economic and political interaction. Morazes and Pintak therefore define poverty as non-participation in the utilization, creation or production, political engagement and social connection.<sup>15</sup> In this context, one can deduce poverty as a function of non-participation in social, economic and political processes or also poverty as a factor that leads to such non-participation. In this case, poverty thus entails also structural exclusion from social participation. Social exclusion of this nature results to

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<sup>13</sup> Sachs, J., “Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals.’ *Report to the United Nations Secretary General*. (2005), pg.74.

<sup>14</sup>Ikiara, G, Economic restructuring and poverty in Kenya, in Ngethe& W. Owino, (ed), *From Sessional Paper No.10 to Structural adjustment: Towards indigenizing the policy debate*, (Institute of Policy Analysis and Research: Nairobi, 1999) pp.301

<sup>15</sup> Morazes, J. & Pintak, I. “Theories of Global Poverty: Comparing Developed World and Developing World Frameworks”, *Journal of Human Behaviour in the Social Environment*, 16, 1-2 (2007).

homelessness, urban crises such as slums, ethnic tension, unemployment and persistent high levels of poverty.<sup>16</sup>

According to Spicker, poverty was defined in various clusters of meaning.<sup>17</sup> Poverty was defined as the availability or lack of material such as goods and services and basic essentials<sup>18</sup> or also as inadequacy in economic resources.<sup>19</sup> Poverty was viewed as a pattern of deprivation over a period of time which is manifested in all domains of life.<sup>20</sup> Deprivation in this case was a state of disadvantage of an individual or group against the confines of the community or society. Poverty was defined as an economic circumstance presented in the variables of standard of living, for example falling below the poverty line. As an inequality, poverty was defined in comparative disadvantages within a society.<sup>21</sup> In essence, deprivation also comprises of the famous Townsend classification of poverty as either been absolute or relative<sup>22</sup>. Absolute poverty was defined in relation to set standards of living while relative poverty was observed from deprivation as compared to others.

Poverty was also defined in terms of classes, Miliband defined poverty as a class thing connected to an overall situation of class disparity in the relations within an economic system.<sup>23</sup> This denotes the Marxist argument that was based on classes within a society or economic system, one class consists of the owners of the factors of production and another consisting of workers. Dependency also is a defining factor,

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<sup>16</sup> Tiemann, S. *Opinion on Social Exclusion*, OJ. (1993).

<sup>17</sup> Spicker, P. "Definitions of poverty: twelve clusters of meaning", *Poverty: An International glossary*, (2007), pg.229-243

<sup>18</sup> George, V. *Wealth, Poverty and Starvation*. (Hemel Hempstead: Wheatsheaf, 1988).

<sup>19</sup> Baratz, M., & Grigsby, W. "Thoughts on Poverty and Its Elimination", *Journal of Social Policy*, ½, (1971), pp.119-34.

<sup>20</sup> Deeleck, H., Van den Bosch, & Lathouwer, L. *Poverty and the Adequacy of Social Security in the EC* (Aldershot: Avebury, 1992).

<sup>21</sup> O'Higgins, M. & Jenkins, S., 'Poverty in the EC: 1975, 1980, 1985' in R. Teekens & B. van Praag, (eds), *Analysing Poverty in the European Community*, Eurostat News, Special Edition 1, (Luxembourg: European Communities, 1990).

<sup>22</sup> Townsend, P. *Poverty in the UK*. (London: Allen Lane and Penguin Books, 1979), Pg. 31

<sup>23</sup> Miliband, R. 'Politics and Poverty' in D. Wedderburn (Eds), *Poverty, Inequality and Class Structure*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1974), Pg. 5

for instance, Simmel described the poor as those who receive assistance because they lack means,<sup>24</sup> this applies at individual and state levels, whereby a state that was dependent on aid was considered as a poor state. Dependency incorporates also the individuals or groups that are beneficiaries of social benefits or assistance such as social security funds in various forms such as cash transfers. Another cluster of meaning focuses on the capability approach by Sen, here poverty was described as the absence of fundamental security whereby the poor struggle to obtain the necessities of life<sup>25</sup> or as a lack of entitlement in fundamental rights that ensure human dignity.

According to Alcock<sup>26</sup>, poverty related to economic, social and material circumstances which were interlinked in a ‘family resemblance’ between different concepts of poverty. In this resemblance, economic situation entailed living standards, inequality and economic position as defining concepts; social position entails the concepts of social class, reliance or dependency, exclusion, lack of fundamental security, lack of privilege; and the material condition comprises of restricted resources, need and a pattern of deprivation. In understanding the concept of poverty, Spicker posits that poverty was not a solely recognizable condition but a fluctuating set of situations thus these set of approaches have different implications for policy and that this multidimensional approach implies flexibility in responding to a wide range of problems when undertaking poverty reduction strategies.<sup>27</sup>

This review on the various definitions of poverty, projects the multidimensionality and multifaceted approaches attached to poverty. This multidimensional definition was based on monetary and non-monetary approaches, manifested in income poverty, deprivation, social exclusion and inequality. It was

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<sup>24</sup> Simmel, G. ‘The Poor.’ *Social Problems*, 1965/13. (1908), Pg. 140

<sup>25</sup> Dreze, J. & Sen, A., *Hunger and Public Action*. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1989).

<sup>26</sup> Alcock, P. *Understanding Poverty*. (London: Macmillan, 1997), Pg. 68

<sup>27</sup> Op cit, Spicker, 2007.

such conceptualizations that informed the measurement of poverty and the development of poverty reduction strategies.

### **1.5.2 Approaches to Poverty Eradication**

Many governments world over have the major concern of poverty and thus have developed many poverty reduction or alleviation programs<sup>28</sup>, despite this poverty still is a hindrance to human development and prosperity.<sup>29</sup> The importance of human and economic development in countries, necessitates the need for poverty eradication. Historically, governments have focused on poverty reduction, alleviation and now it is viewed to be a possible venture to develop plans to completely eradicate poverty. According to Webster and Engberg-Perdersen<sup>30</sup>, these programmes were started with the recognition of the challenge it poses to development, and activities that superseded the fulcrum of the actions and behaviours of the poor people were required.

According to Fortman, there are three main approaches to poverty reduction, the productionist approach, international anti-poverty framework approach and the human rights approach<sup>31</sup>. The productionist approach is grounded on the assumption that economic growth would bring about spillover effects to ordinary citizens and thus help in improving the conditions of poor people. For example, the National Rainbow Coalition (NARC) during its regime in 2003, adopted the Economic Recovery for

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<sup>28</sup> Mburu. F & Kiriti-Nganga, "Poverty in Kenya, 1994-1997: A Stochastic Dominance Approach", *Asian-African Journal of Economics and Econometrics (AAJEE)*, 7, 1 (2007), pg.2

<sup>29</sup> Halvorson-Quevedo, R, "Waging the Global War on Poverty Strategies and Case Studies", (OECD Publishing: Paris,2000), Pg.5.

<sup>30</sup> Webster, N., Local Organizations and Political Agency in the Forests of West Bengal, in Webster & P. Engberg, (Eds), *In the Name of the Poor: Contesting Political Space for Poverty Reduction*, (Zed books, London: 2002), Pg.233-254:235.

<sup>31</sup> Fortman. B., Persistent Poverty and Inequality in an Era of Globalization: Opportunities and Limitations of a Rights Approach, in P. Van Seters, B. de Gaay Fortman & A. Ruijter (Eds), *Globalization and Its New Divides: Malcontents, Recipes and Reforms*, (Dutch University Press: Amsterdam, 2003), Pg.66.

Wealth and Employment Creation 2003-2007 (ERSWEC) which aimed at propelling economic growth, creation of jobs, wealth creation as a means for poverty alleviation.

The international development targets approach to poverty were a set of universally agreed and time-bound goals or targets which nations pursue. For example, the Poverty Eradication Strategy Papers (PSRP) by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, the Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) in the 1980s, the International Development Goals by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in 1996, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000-2015, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2015-2030 by the United Nations. This approach places global challenges such as poverty on a global action plan and calls for partnerships between and among various actors in eradicating poverty and in pursuing other goals.

The international development approach identifies poverty and social exclusion as global issues that narrow the north - south divide.<sup>32</sup> Initially and traditionally, international development was associated with those actions designed for or relating to poor countries<sup>33</sup> as in the examples of Bretton Wood's policies such as the PSRPs, SAPs and foreign aid in Africa. However, according to Horner,<sup>34</sup> the widened view of international development beyond the geographical based view has been catalyzed by the global challenges of sustainable development such as poverty, globalized capitalism that has been quoted as a key cause of global inequalities and poverty and the accelerating the blurring of the North- South boundary.

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<sup>32</sup> Therien, J.P., 'Beyond the North-South divide: The two tales of world poverty.' *Third World Quarterly* 20 (4), (1999), pp: 723-742: 724.

<sup>33</sup> Monk, J., Carbonnier, G., Mellet, A. & De Haan, L., "Towards a renewed vision of development studies", *International Development Policy* 8 (1), (2017). Available at <https://journals.openedition.org/poldev/2393> Retrieved on 13th April, 2020.

<sup>34</sup> Horner, R., "Towards a New Paradigm of global development? Beyond limits of international development", *Progress in Human Geography* XX (X), (2019), pp. 1-22:4.

According to Munyao, the right-based approach viewed poverty as a concept related to infringement of rights.<sup>35</sup> The human rights approach focuses on the concept of rights and emphasizes that poverty was a denial of certain freedoms which ensured and enhanced human dignity. It was a ‘people-centered’ approach. A right-based approach utilized the norms, standards and approaches of common human liberties and social activism to address issues at the core of destitution.<sup>36</sup> The human rights approach was linked to non-governmental organizations and also United Nations agencies such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Most scholars on human development viewed the first Millennium and Sustainable Development Goal on eradicating poverty as a goal defined from the human rights perspective.

According to Omiti et al<sup>37</sup>, “there has been an implicit assumption that benefits of rapid growth of the key sectors such as industry, service and agriculture will automatically trickle down to all people.” This translated to more endeavors being directed on enhancing their economic wellbeing while negating promotion of social projects which are key in human development. Countries formulate and develop these poverty eradication plans based on their indicators to measure poverty which are not common, this dents the policies or plans since there exists no framework for understanding poverty. The use of economic growth as a predetermination for poverty alleviation was common in the early poverty eradications policies.

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<sup>35</sup> Munyao, L., “Poverty reduction Approaches in Kenya: Assessing the Usefulness of the Right-Based Approach in Kenya.” *Journal of Arts and Humanities*, 2, 1 (2013) pg. 155

<sup>36</sup> World Bank, “*A source book for Poverty Reduction Strategies.*” (World Bank: Washington D.C, 2005) pg.34

<sup>37</sup> Op cit, Omiti et al, pp.16.



According to the World Bank<sup>38</sup>, sustainable poverty reduction was by two elements; the efficient use of the poor's most abundant resource or asset which was labor. This affirmed the income distribution, economic production, employment and other monetary measures of poverty which were embedded in the income leads to consumption arithmetic. The second element was the provision of basic social services to the poor thus in this case incorporating the non- monetary definition of poverty. Therefore, poverty eradication in this case, was a function of both monetary and non-monetary strategies.

According to Bhalla<sup>39</sup>, the primary consideration in poverty alleviation should be income. This was based on monetary or pure economic approaches to poverty. He further argued that income empowers the poor to gain purchasing power, provides access to resources and empowers them to access and own public goods. This strategy was aimed at ensuring populations have regular income and thus been able to purchase and access basic essentials.

Bhagwati and Panagariya<sup>40</sup> postulate that though it was proved that economic growth was the most remarkable methods for reducing poverty and improving quality of life, different countries have different national conditions, development modes and poverty patterns and the correlation between economic growth and poverty reduction was also significantly different. An example was the 1990s economic growth in Sub-Saharan Africa countries which was not reflected in its poverty alleviation efforts. Two countries can have the same growth rate but different poverty reduction effects due to the difference in the participation of the poor involved in the growth process

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<sup>38</sup> World Bank, *'World Development Report.'* (Oxford University Press, 1990).

<sup>39</sup> Bhalla, S., *'Imagine there's no country: Poverty, Inequality and Growth in the Era of Globalization.'* (Washington DC: Institute for International Economics, 2002).

<sup>40</sup> Bhagwati, J., & Panagariya, A. *'Why Growth Matters: How Economic Growth in India Reduced Poverty and the Lessons for Other Developing Countries.'* (New York: Public Affairs, 2013).

and distribution of growth. According to Molnar<sup>41</sup>, inclusive growth that was integral to poverty reduction, is that which distributes benefits across groups of the society fairly and creates equal opportunities for all.

According to Olena<sup>42</sup>, the fight against poverty was approached differently by different countries, some use prevention while others use socially oriented policies. He posits that developed countries with high standards of living and social guarantees used basic minimum incomes to prevent people from getting into poverty. He further proposed the use of a system of targeted social assistance to those who were in the worst relative situation and the implementation of state programmes such as poverty alleviation plans and strategies.

Shrestha<sup>43</sup> identifies the poverty alleviation approaches in Nepal on the basis of the actors involved or stakeholders; state-centered approaches which include poverty funds, alleviation programs, sectoral support plans and rural development programs; non-governmental organizations centered approaches which took shape in skill development trainings, technical and financial support to groups and community development; community-centered approaches where communities play an important role in identifying their problems and seek solutions themselves with implementation support from state and non-state actors and the market-centered poverty alleviation approaches whereby corporate institutions invest in several sectors and provide employment opportunities thus reducing poverty.

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<sup>41</sup> Molnar, M., 'Towards More Inclusive Growth in China.' *International Joint Study Report*, Vol. 1, No.5. (2019).

<sup>42</sup> Olena, B., 'Economic Development and Poverty Alleviation in Conditions of Sustainable Development of the State.' in National Institute for Global Strategy (Eds), *International Cooperation on Poverty Reduction: Building a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind*. International Joint Study Report, Vol. 1, No. 5. (Social Science Academic Press: China, 2019), pg. 227.

<sup>43</sup> Shrestha, P. (2019). 'Poverty: Condition, Cause, Plans and Achievements of Nepal'. *Op cit* pg. 167.

### 1.5.3 Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication

The SDGs were developed within the concept of sustainable development which entails the integration of ‘economic, social and environmental components’<sup>44</sup> in achieving development. The United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development describes sustainable development as that which “meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”<sup>45</sup> Sustainable development says a little about poverty, however in its components – economic, social and environmental, a relationship between sustainable development and poverty can be said to exist. The most critical problem of sustainable development was eradicating poverty as it limited the attainment of the other development goals. Poverty eradication required a multidimensional approach that considered the economic growth efficiency and sustainability, fundamental social needs and capabilities and environmental factors.

According to Markandya,<sup>46</sup> the definition of sustainable development recognizes the issue of equity across generations, and equity is an important aspect in poverty eradication for eliminates all forms of deprivation. Intergenerational equity therefore enables an escape from the vicious circle of poverty in which poverty was a generational issue that keep recurring.

Sustainable development was founded on the concept and interest of environmental preservation, therefore it was important to review discussion on the linkages between poverty and the environment. More often international reports

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<sup>44</sup> Munasinghe, M. ‘Environmental Economics and Sustainable Development.’ *World Bank Environmental Paper No. 3*. (Washington D.C.: World Bank, 1993).

<sup>45</sup> World Commission on Environment and Development, *Our Common Future*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987).

<sup>46</sup> Markandya, A, “*Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Development: Implications for the Management of Natural Capital*”, (Paper Presented in the Workshop on Poverty and Sustainable Development, 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2001, Ottawa)

claimed that poverty contributed to environmental degradation.<sup>47</sup> De Janvry and Garcia<sup>48</sup> posit that there was an association between poor areas and environmental problems since the problems are linked to the activities of the people in those areas. This was an argument that stated that poverty contributed to environmental damage due to among various factors, population increase, land tenure systems, unsustainable use of natural resources and lack of awareness of environmental sustainability. Rural areas experience fragile lands for agricultural activities thus exposing the populations to vulnerabilities, on the other hand, in urban areas slums and poor neighbourhoods are the most environmentally degraded parts of the towns or cities<sup>49</sup> often close to industrial areas, polluted and lack of proper sanitation facilities.

According to Sachs,<sup>50</sup> natural resources decline was a factor that impeded a household or a country to fail in thriving or rise out of poverty. This was due to the incapability to afford various environmental enhancing products such as fertilizers or unawareness on sustainable environmental use. He further stressed the importance of natural capital to the poor for they depend on agriculture for their income, thus an arable land, healthy soils, and a working ecosystem provided environmental services needed by the human society. The poor often rely heavily on natural resources for their livelihoods, this exposes them to ecological changes, and this emphasizes the importance of sustainable development.

According to Phimphantavong, sustainable development which was a combination of social development, economic growth and environmental protection progress was achieved by equal distribution of economic growth or inclusive growth

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<sup>47</sup> Bharadwaj, N. 'The Relationship between poverty and the environment.' Available online: <https://www.voicesofyouth.org/blog/relationship-between-poverty-and-environment> Accessed: April 18, 2020.

<sup>48</sup> De Janvry, A., & Garcia, R. "Rural Poverty and Environmental Degradation in Latin America: Causes, Effects and Alternative Solutions", S88/1/L.3/Rev.2 (IFAD: Rome, 1988).

<sup>49</sup> Op cit, Markandya, A. (2001). *Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Development: Implications for the Management of Natural Capital* 2001.

<sup>50</sup> Sachs, J. *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities of Our Time* (New York: Penguin Press, 2005), pg.71.

through poverty reduction strategies that aimed to minimize inequality in society.<sup>51</sup> Sustainable development in this case related with poverty reduction strategies that ensured equality and the protection of the environment. Economic sustainability was achieved through the equitable distribution of economic benefits, and the sustainability of consumption and production such that saving became possible for households and individuals.

According to Kaimuri and Kosimbei<sup>52</sup> in a study to on the determinants of sustainable development in Kenya, concluded that focused on social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development ensured increase in individual wealth thus alleviating poverty and progressive development. In their study, the social dimension entailed the variables of household consumption as a measure of reduced poverty and unemployment as a factor of production. They recommended that the Kenyan economy needs to shift from a consumption to a saving economy through savings. However, the study failed to provide the incapability to save due to low incomes and unemployment, it also failed to include various social factors such as education, health and participation as measures for sustainable development.

#### **1.5.4 Global Development Goals and Poverty Eradication**

Global Development Goals (IDGs) have evolved to include contemporary issues and encompass present challenges that require international cooperation to tackle. This recognizes the existence of past efforts or antecedents leading to the development of the MDGs and SDGs. The post-world war 2 period marked individual countries having international development goals targeting devastated countries due to the wars, for example the United States' Marshall Plan of rebuilding Europe. This

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<sup>51</sup>Phimphanthavong, H. 'The Determinants of Sustainable Development in Laos.' *International Journal of Academic Research in Management*, 3(1), (2014), pp.51-75:53.

<sup>52</sup> Kaimuri, B. &Kosimbei, G. "Determinants of Sustainable Development in Kenya", *Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development*, 3, 24 (2017), pp.17-36:33.

followed the development goals to post-colonial countries in Africa and Asia by their former European colonial masters. In the context of global development goals focusing on poverty eradication, they can be traced to the provision in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights 1948, Article 25 which stipulates that “Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care...”<sup>53</sup> The document mentions all rights which are predominantly used as measures to poverty situations.

The 1960s decade was declared as the UN Development decade by the United Nations General Assembly thus bringing about a wave of enthusiasm towards target setting which was however limited due to lack of commitment to action.<sup>54</sup> However in the 1980s the UN’s influence on the global development agenda reduced while that of international financial institutions increased; this saw the imposition of the structural adjustment programmes (SAPS) and policies on poor countries by the Bretton Woods.<sup>55</sup> The structural adjustment policies were used by the World Bank and the IMF as conditions for obtaining financial loans and aid, these policies were in the 1980s seen to be ineffective efforts to eradicate poverty but led to damaged education, health and social services systems and plunged more people into poverty.<sup>56</sup>

The 1990s marked a shift in global development goals from economic based policies to human development and rights approach goals. The international community focused on the end results of development goals such as improved lives rather than the means which was economic growth. This began with the World Bank’s

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<sup>53</sup> United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948.

<sup>54</sup>Toye, J. &Toye, R. “From new era to neo-liberalism: US strategy on trade, finance and development in the United Nations, 1964-82.” *Forum for Development Studies* 1. (2005) pp. 151-180: 154

<sup>55</sup> Hulme, D. “The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): A Short History of the World’s Biggest Promise.” *Brooks World Poverty Institute Working Paper 100*. (University of Manchester: Manchester, 2009) pg. 8. Available online at [www.manchester.ac.uk/bwpi](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/bwpi) Retrieved on 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2020.

<sup>56</sup> Cornia, G., Jolly, R., & Stewart, F. *Adjustment with a Human Face: Protecting the vulnerable and Promoting Growth- 1990*. (Clarendon Press: Oxford, 1989), Pg.172

World Development Report of 1990, which explored poverty reduction and indicated that it was a restored concept, having been underestimated within the Bank. Alongside this the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) distributed its primary Human Development Report, which intensified the message that poverty eradication was on the plan and defended the need for an expanded conceptualization of poverty and poverty reduction.<sup>57</sup>

A major breakthrough was in the World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen (1995), the international community agreed to address key social development issues such as gender equality and education.<sup>58</sup> The UNDP referred the summit as a step in political commitment to eradicate poverty.<sup>59</sup> This would also be replicated in the UNDP's restructuring of its programmes to ensure that poverty eradication was their key goal and declared 1996 as a year for the eradication of poverty. According to Schechter, while the Copenhagen summit may not have accomplished the highest point by coming up with binding goals for poverty eradication, it had an effect globally for development goals to have the definitive objective to eradicate poverty.<sup>60</sup> The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)-Development Assistance Committee proposed seven International Development Goals (IDGs) in 1996, drawn from arrangements and resolutions of UN meetings in the start of the 1990s. Negotiations in the context of the UN General Assembly brought about its appropriation of the Millennium Declaration on September 8, 2000. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were then settled at as a set of 8 goals and 21 targets, observed and monitored through 60

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<sup>57</sup> Hulme, D. "The Millennium Development Goals.." *Op cit*, Pg.9

<sup>58</sup> World Bank & IMF., "A New Approach to Country-Owned Poverty Reduction Strategies." (IBRD: Washington, D.C, 2000), Pg.7

<sup>59</sup> UNDP, "Human Development Report 1997: Human Development to Eradicate Poverty." (Oxford University Press: Oxford, 1997), Pg.10.

<sup>60</sup> Schechter, M., "United Nations Global Conferences." (Routledge: London, 2005), Pg.141

indicators, to accomplish progress towards the Declaration, with a deadline of December 31, 2015.

According to Fukuda-Parr, the MDGs denoted a take-off from the prevailing development methodologies of the 1980s and 1990s which emphasized macroeconomic adjustment and market advancement as key goals and dismissed the human dimension.<sup>61</sup> The shift in global development goals in this context was in the approach in human development thus giving much attention to people-centered goals and policies to eradicate poverty. The MDGs consolidated consensus on the purpose of development as eradication of destitution and improving the prosperity of individuals and societies.<sup>62</sup>

### **1.5.5 Interpretation of Global Development Goals**

Global development goals have also attracted academic debates on how to interpret them. This is to ensure the effectiveness and relevance of the goals in developing implementation frameworks. Fukuda-Parr and Greenstein identify global goals as policy instruments used by the UN since the 1960s to draw attention to or mobilize action towards certain neglected objectives<sup>63</sup>, in this case poverty. They further contended that global goals can be deciphered in three ways and utilized for various purposes as planning targets, as normative objectives, and as evaluative benchmarks.<sup>64</sup> Interpretation of goals as planning targets entails outlining needs or priorities for policies and resource allocation; as normative objectives entailing long

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<sup>61</sup> Fukuda-Parr, S., "Millennium Development Goals: Why they Matter", *Global Governance*, 10(4), (2004) pp. 395-402.

<sup>62</sup> Fukuda-Parr, S., "Are the MDGs Priority in Development Strategies and Aid Programmes: Only few Are!" International Poverty Center Working Paper 48, (2008). Available at [www.ipcundp.org/pub/IPCWorkingPaper48.pdf](http://www.ipcundp.org/pub/IPCWorkingPaper48.pdf). Accessed on 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2020.

<sup>63</sup> Fukuda-Parr, S. & Greenstein, J., "Accountability and MDGs: Methodology for measuring government performance for global goals", *UNICEF Social and Economic Working Paper*. (UNICEF: New York, 2011), pg.10

<sup>64</sup> *Ibid*, pg.10



haul visions and plans and norm or standard setting processes and as evaluative benchmarks against which progress can be estimated in the monitoring cycle.<sup>65</sup>

The role of the UN in global development is explicitly anchored in the UN Charter whose purpose was “to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character...”<sup>66</sup> The UN has always defined its aspirations for international peace and security in a multidimensional way by considering economic and social development in the security agenda. This was through the agencies involved in ensuring such activities under the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) which coordinated the work. The UN worked in various ways to promote economic and social goals: through agenda setting, for example the formulation of the MDGs and the Sustainable Development Goals, assistance for development through technical assistance and humanitarian intervention and also through pooling resources through resource mobilization and financing of key programmes and projects.

#### **1.5.6 Actors in Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication**

Poverty as a multi-approach venture needs several players for it to addresses effectively.<sup>67</sup> Sustainable development and poverty eradication requires the joint efforts of the government, society and the market whereby the government provides the regulations; social forces through philanthropy and the market supports the economic approaches to poverty alleviation. Among the SDGs was the goal on partnerships for the goals based on the targets of financial, trade, capacity building,

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<sup>65</sup> Ibid, pg.11

<sup>66</sup> UN Charter, Chapter 1, Article 2, 3<sup>rd</sup> Section.

<sup>67</sup> Murunga, O., ‘Institutional Involvement in Poverty Eradication: A Case of Teso District, Kenya.’ *Post Graduate Diploma Project Paper*, University of Nairobi, 2005, pg. 3.

technology, systemic issues in policy and data, monitoring and accountability partnerships<sup>68</sup> between and among various actors such as states and non-state actors.

According to Mokhtar and Deng<sup>69</sup>, after carrying out a political, social and technical analysis on the key forces that influenced sustainable development in Taiwan, they recommended that the involvement of stakeholders from central and localized governments, private corporate sector, non-governmental organizations and the civil society as critical to achieve sustainable development. This analysis was however based on the national level, thus failed to capture the global sphere that entailed state and non-actors involvement in sustainable development and poverty eradication.

Natoaia and Camara<sup>70</sup> group the actors involved in sustainable development as the public, private and voluntary, whereby the public is made up of states and their governments who provide basic government services while the private sector brings profit to the individuals or companies and the voluntary sector which includes non-governmental organizations, community based organizations and religious organizations, promote sustainable development and advocate for inclusivity in policy making. They further posit of a hierarchical nature of their roles based on international to national levels, whereby at the global level states through international institutions cooperate and generate multilateral agreements, set up visions such as the SDGs and create frameworks; and at the national levels, direct regulations are developed through laws, plans and policies.

An important concept that arised in the study on the actors involved in sustainable development is global governance. Global governance as a concept

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<sup>68</sup> United Nations, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg17>

<sup>69</sup>Mokhtar, S. & Deng, Y-S., 'Identification of Key Forces Influencing Sustainable Development in Taiwan.' *Journal of Sustainable Development*, 8(2), (2015).

<sup>70</sup>Natoaia, P. & Camara, G., 'Roles of Actors in Promoting Sustainable Development.' *PESD*, Vol. 12, No. 1, (2018).

emerged in the 1970s a period that marked the birth of ‘Sustainable Development’, it was as a result of the need by states to achieve common goals, the realization that genuine new problems can be solved through cooperation and the provision of global public goods. According to Gordenker and Weiss,<sup>71</sup> global governance emphasizes the importance of a multi-actor international system in addressing global problems thus refers to the “efforts to bring more orderly and reliable responses to social and political issues that go beyond capacities of states to address individually.” Therefore this literature acknowledges the multiple actors involved in sustainable development norm setting through state consensus and the development of an integrated vision of international life.<sup>72</sup>

International governmental and non-governmental organizations play a central role in global governance, sustainable development and poverty eradication. According to Veronique and Robyns<sup>73</sup>, international organizations are a powerful force in the international development architecture, through programme approaches, policy dialogue and advocacy campaigns whereby they are involved in raising awareness, mobilizing and influencing global public opinion, lobbying and research. Examples are the Oxfam International report in 2012 on climate change, food security, arms trade and the African Union, United Nations Economic and Social Council reports that inform international economic and social cooperation such as SDGs.

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<sup>71</sup> Gordenker, L. and Weiss, T. “Pluralizing Global Governance: Analytical Approaches and Dimensions.” in Weiss, T. & Gordenker, L. (Eds), *Non-governmental Organizations, the United Nations, and on the Global Governance*. (Westview: Boulder, 1996), Pg.17

<sup>72</sup> Therien, P. and Pouliot, V. “The Global Compact: Shifting the Politics of International Development”, *Global Governance*, 12, 1 (Brill, 2006), pp.55-75:59.

<sup>73</sup> Veronique, G. & Robyns, A., “Strategies used by International NGOs to influence Public Policy.” (2010).

### **1.5.7 Gaps in the Literature**

The reviewed literature provides insights on the various approaches to poverty eradication, it also gives an overview on global development goals and the poverty eradication efforts in Kenya. However there was a literature gap regarding Kenya' implementation of the first millennium and sustainable development goal on poverty eradication, specifically the interpretation of the global goals in the Kenyan context and the approach employed for the same. There exists gaps in the agreed definition of poverty in line with global development goals. Despite the general agreement that poverty was a problem for all humanity, global development goals according to the reviewed literature failed or avoided to specify how the goals were achieved and interpreted by all countries thus providing common goals but differentiated interpretations which was a challenge in implementation.

## **1.6 Justification of the Study**

### **1.6.1 Academic Justification**

The area of international development goals was inadequately given academic attention or value, such as the MDGs and the SDGs which this study focused on. The research obligations have been left to state governments and international organizations whose role in developing and implementation of the goals is enormous. However, academic input is always important in providing awareness and critical insights which help in priority setting and theoretically backed policies. This study contributed to the field of academia by analyzing the SDGs implementation and poverty eradication in Kenya within the multidimensional context proposed by the capability approach.

### **1.6.2 Policy Justification**

The study aimed to inform government policy on the implementation of international development goals. This was through the findings and conclusions which were important in understanding poverty eradication policies and strategies by providing solutions through recommendations on how to face the challenges in implementing and domestication of international development policies in Kenya. It provided for foundation to the inclusion of other actors in the implementation of the SDGs, specifically on poverty eradication. This was because the SDGs are the world's biggest promises to eradicate poverty and deprivation through global cooperative action. Poverty eradication policies were good for the long-term sustainable economic growth and social equity in Kenya.<sup>74</sup> The study was therefore useful in understanding the national definition of poverty in Kenya, and also in assessing the relevant strategies adopted to achieve the SDGs on poverty eradication to inform future policy decisions.

### **1.7 Theoretical Framework**

This research study adopted the capability approach developed by Amartya Sen in the 1980s. The capability approach articulated the core function of development as the enlargement of human capabilities and freedoms to lead valuable lives. The approach critiques utilitarianism and welfare economics as answers to poverty. Sen argued that human life was viewed as a set of functioning's or capabilities, and that development was about people, their well-being as the purpose of development, and the importance to switch focus from incomes to the 'actual

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<sup>74</sup> Ndung'u, N, "Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa: Drivers and Remedial Interventions", In National Institute for Global Strategy (Eds), *International Cooperation on Poverty Reduction: Building a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind*, Vol. 1. International Joint Study Report No. 5. (Social Sciences Academic Press, China, 2019), pg. 117.

opportunities a person has'.<sup>75</sup> The theory understands poverty as deprivation thus proposed a multidimensional view of poverty.

Human development projects the consensus as in the SDGs and defined poverty as multidimensional human suffering thus a shift from the traditional income and consumption measures based definition.<sup>76</sup> The capability approach therefore reflected the influence of human-centered development and measurement of poverty. The slogan 'Leave No One Behind' speaks to the importance of inclusion, opportunities and well-being of all humans through not only income measures but also the provision of basic services that expand human capabilities. The capability approach generated a comprehensive development framework that integrated normative ideas about the purpose of development and in eradication of poverty.

The approach however is criticized for lacking a defined list of such capabilities and functionings that ensured human well-being for example by Nussbaum who develops a list of basic capabilities. This criticism was based on how to operationalize and apply the capability approach in measuring poverty, a discussion this study look into in the second chapter. Additionally, Hill criticized the theory for utilitarianism by focusing on individual capabilities thus failing to consider the societal arrangements as causes of underdevelopment or poverty.<sup>77</sup>

## **1.8 Study Hypotheses**

The study tested the following hypotheses:

- i. That the causes and nature of poverty in states influence their implementation capacities of global development goals on poverty eradication.

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<sup>75</sup> Sen, A. *Development as Freedom*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999), pg.75.

<sup>76</sup> Fukuda-Parr, S. 'Theory and Policy in International Development: Human Development and Capability Approach in the Millennium Development Goals.' *International Studies Review* 13, (2011), pp. 122-132:126.

<sup>77</sup> Hill, M. 'Development as Empowerment.' *Feminist Economics*, Vol. 9, No. 2-3, (2003), pp. 117-13:118.

- ii. Proper domestication and localization strategies for global goals enhanced the eradication of poverty in Kenya.
- iii. That weak strategies against shocks limited the eradication of poverty in Kenya.

## **1.9 Research Methodology**

Research methodology was a system a researcher utilizes in exploring a particular phenomenon to get significant answers to a research issue or problem.<sup>78</sup> Therefore, the following titles are thematically covered research design, data collection method, target and sample population and the chapter outline.

### **1.9.1 Research Design**

This study adopted the descriptive research design to assess and analyze the implementation of global development goals and their impact towards poverty eradication in Kenya. The study employed a mixed method approach research method that included both qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis procedures, this was for triangulation purposes. Qualitative research was important in determining the attitudes, opinions, understanding and knowledge on the implementation process of global development goals in Kenya. Through quantitative research, it was possible to measure the impacts and challenges in the implementation of MDGs and SDGs in Kenya.

### **1.9.2 Data Collection Methods**

The study employed both qualitative and quantitative processes of data collection. Primary data was collected through questionnaires and in-depth interviews while secondary data was obtained from detailed reviews of journals, reports, books, newspapers, online documentation on the topic of study. The questionnaires were

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<sup>78</sup> Kumar, R. *Research Methodology: A Step-by-Step Guide for Beginners*. 2011, 94. Available online at [https://nls.ldls.org.uk/welcome.html?ark:/81055/vdc\\_100025410580.0x000001](https://nls.ldls.org.uk/welcome.html?ark:/81055/vdc_100025410580.0x000001)

both structured and open-ended questions which aided in gathering relevant responses on the implementation of SDGs in Kenya. Interviews were conducted between the researcher and the respondents in confidential and secure ways using an interview guide with identical questions.

### **1.9.3 Target and Sample Population**

The study used purposive sampling to identify the study units which included civil servants in government ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs), academicians, non-state actors, media, professionals and business leaders who are well informed and involved in the implementation of MDGs and SDGs in Kenya. This was accounted to a total of 86 informants. From the above units, random sampling was used to pick specific groups where at least 10 people were interviewed randomly taking into consideration importantly involvement in the SDGs implementation process for the purpose of this study. This enabled the researcher to obtain information from the direct players in the topic of study.

The participants in this research were individuals and institutions involved in the policy formulation and implementation process of MDGs and SDGs in Kenya. This involved ministries of devolution and planning, national treasury, foreign affairs; parliamentary groups and committees on SDGs, council of governors, media, academicians and the United Nations office in Nairobi.

### **1.10 Chapter Outline**

Chapter one covers the background of the study, statement of the research problem, objectives of the research, literature review, justification of the study, theoretical framework, hypothesis and the methodology of the research.



Chapter two is on the capability approach, poverty and sustainable development. The chapter reflected on the theory used in the study in an enhanced theoretical discussion of the relevant literature for the study.

Chapter three was on the causes of poverty in Kenya, with the purpose of identifying the causes of poverty from an international, regional and national perspectives and also aimed to explain how poverty manifests itself in Kenya's population and socio-economic setting.

Chapter four, the strategies and plans implemented to achieve poverty eradication in Kenya so far were assessed and the challenges and impediments that face the implementation of the SDG on poverty eradication will be investigated.

Chapter five draws up the researcher's summary of the findings, conclusions and recommendations which were the ultimate achievement of the research objectives.

## CHAPTER TWO

### AN OVERVIEW OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ERADICATION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CAPABILITY APPROACH

#### 2.0 Introduction

This chapter provides a theoretical literature review based on the Capability approach. The chapter reviews literature on the various concepts key to the study: poverty, sustainable development and also delved into the debate on the measurement of poverty. This review was centered on the capability approach as the theoretical framework of the study.

#### 2.1 Capability Approach and the Concept of Poverty

The capability approach responds to the limited view of development as purely based on economic measures. The capability approach was used to evaluate and explain the integrality of human well-being in development and in this context poverty analysis and eradication. As a criticism of income centrality in defining and measuring poverty, it provided alternatives in the conceptualization of poverty reduction by encompassing variables such as participation, the importance of social investment and expansion of people's freedoms. Popular in the earlier definitions of poverty, deprivation, social exclusion, direct and indirect poverty and other monetary or non-monetary indicators are keywords and mainstays in 'poverty studies'.

The capability approach argued that the core intent of development was the flourishing of human beings, it focused on the abilities of human beings to do or be, as opposed to possessions thus provides a shift from incomes as measurement of poverty to opportunities.<sup>79</sup> The approach emphasizes the broad multidimensional meaning of poverty which was an important conceptual underpinning for the human

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<sup>79</sup>Sen, A. *The Idea of Justice*. (London: Allen Lane, 2009), pg.253.

development paradigm as ‘codified’ in the MDGs and SDGs.<sup>80</sup> Sen, the proponent of the capability approach defines poverty as the deprivation of capabilities, these capabilities can be physical ones captured as basic needs or complex capabilities derived from participation and dignity.<sup>81</sup> The capability approach is dependent on the variables of functioning and capabilities, with functioning been the different things an individual is successful in doing while capabilities refer to an individual’s opportunity to achieve such functioning. Ideally, this created a distinction between actual capabilities a person has and their income as a means to opportunities. This was similar to Ringen’s differentiation between direct and indirect poverty whereby direct poverty entails poverty measured as living standards falling below a certain level, while indirect poverty entails resources falling below a certain level.<sup>82</sup>

The definition of poverty as deprivation focused on the lack of resources to obtain basics.<sup>83</sup> It was deprivation in the sense that is characterized by non-possession or non-consumption thus measures in terms of income poverty, this is criticized by Piachaud who argues that such deprivation does not imply poverty.<sup>84</sup> Townsend describes deprivations based on the indicators of dietary needs, clothing, fuel, household facilities, working conditions, health and social activities.<sup>85</sup> The capability approach counters the income deprivation conceptualization of poverty as narrow and it considered the constraints to well-being in a broader conceptualization encompassing discrimination and natural factors.<sup>86</sup> Further, the capability approach observes poverty as the deprivation of capabilities and it also demands for a criteria to

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<sup>80</sup> Fukuda-Parr, S. ‘The human development paradigm: operationalizing Sen’s ideas on capabilities.’ *Feminist Economics* 9 (2/3), (2003), pp.301-317: 306.

<sup>81</sup> Sen, A. The Political Economy of Targeting, in D. Van de Walle & K. Nead (Eds), *Public Spending and the Poor*. (Washington D.C, World Bank, 1995), pg.15.

<sup>82</sup> Ringen, S. ‘Direct poverty and indirect measures of poverty.’ *Journal of Social Policy*, Vol. 17, No. 3. (1988), pp. 351-365.

<sup>83</sup> Op Cit, Townsend, 1979, pg.31.

<sup>84</sup> Piachaud, D. ‘Peter Townsend and the Holy Grail.’ *New Society*, (1981), pp. 420.

<sup>85</sup> Op Cit, Townsend, 1979.

<sup>86</sup> Nolan, B. & Whelan, C. *Resources, Deprivation and Poverty*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996), p.2

select the dimensions of poverty or its indicators. This was a key debate even in the formulation of goals such as the SDGs, but the goals on poverty sought to eliminate all forms of poverty everywhere thus does not curtail itself on narrow dimensions of poverty.

Social exclusion as another factor or cause of poverty was also used to define poverty. Unlike deprivation and other income measures of poverty, social exclusion is broad in its characterization of poverty beyond deficiency in material resources.<sup>87</sup> Exclusion is based on non-participation in various distribution structures of a society either in social, economic, political or cultural spheres.<sup>88</sup> In defining poverty as social exclusion, it resembles the concept of capabilities approach as they both focus on the constraints to achieve well-being, they are both multidimensional in their definition of poverty.

According to Rod,<sup>89</sup> the capability approach proposed a multidimensional framework for analyzing poverty thus overcoming the traditional shortcomings of analyzing poverty in monetary and resource indicators. He further posed that the capability approach questions the possibility of neutrality between direct and indirect approaches to poverty analysis, this is answered by the neutrality taken by Sen in refusing to validate a fixed list of indicators; that the approach provides for wider clarity to the concept of deprivation; it seeks to liberalize the existing monopoly of 'lack of resources' as a factor of interest in analyzing poverty and that the capability approach reconciles the tension between narrow and broadened approaches to poverty.

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<sup>87</sup> Hills, J. and Stewart, K. (Eds). *A more equal society? New Labour, poverty, inequality and exclusion*. (Bristol: The Policy Press, 2005).

<sup>88</sup> Stewart, F., Ruggeri, C., & Saith, R. *Introduction: four approaches to defining and measuring poverty*. (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007).

<sup>89</sup> Rod, H. "The Capability approach: insights for a new poverty focus", *Journal of Social Policy*. (Cambridge University Press, 2012).

## 2.2 Capability Approach and Sustainable Development

Literature on the link between the capability approach and sustainable development was majorly focused on the analysis of sustainable development using the fundamental tenets of the capability approach. The two concepts were developed or coined in the same decade, the 1990s. Sustainable development concerns the abilities of the current and future generations meeting their needs.<sup>90</sup> The definition focuses on needs which are not defined similar to the capabilities in the theoretical framework of this study. This showed the similarity between sustainable development and the capability approach in applying multidimensional indicators of development. Both concepts are ambiguous and abstract thus expansionist in measurement of human well-being. Sen defined sustainable development as development that promotes capabilities of the present generation without curtailing the capabilities of the future generations.<sup>91</sup> Capability approach posits that sustainability should not be about needs but the capacity and freedoms of the people to achieve whatever they would like to.<sup>92</sup> Further, Sen argues that sustainable development is preoccupied with people's freedoms overtime, these freedoms may be in the forms of political, economic, social, guarantees for transparency and protective security.<sup>93</sup>

According to Mahadi<sup>94</sup>, the capability approach expands the limitations of the needs concept in sustainable development, thus agreeing with Sen who posits that people are not limited by needs but also have values and seek the ability to reason and

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<sup>90</sup> World Commission on Environment and Development. *Our Common Future*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987).

<sup>91</sup>Anand, S. and Sen, A., "Sustainable Human Development: Concepts and Priorities", *Occasional Paper*. (UNDP Human Development Office, 1994). Available at: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2294664> Retrieved: 28 May 2020.

<sup>92</sup>Anand, P. 'Sustainability and the Capability Approach: From Theory to Practice?' in Ibrahim. S. & Tiwari, M. (Eds), *Capability Approach: From Theory to Practice*. (London: Palgrave, 2014), pg. 118-147.

<sup>93</sup> Op cit, Sen, 2000.

<sup>94</sup>Mahadi, A. *Adopting the Capabilities Approach in Developing a global Framework for measuring Sustainable Development*, Master Thesis, Uppsala University, 2012.

participate thus focusing on needs is a limited view of humanity.<sup>95</sup> Mahadi further posits that the capability approach brings a comprehensive view of ends or the purpose of development as freedoms and also that it addresses intra and intergenerational rights as a theory of distributive justice, one that is open and normative allowing adaptation.

Ballet et al also argued that the capability approach gives the framework to consider sustainability past the satisfaction of needs, considered that efficiency applies to natural resources and provides for equity thus ensuring generational distribution which is central to sustainable development.<sup>96</sup> There was a debate on how the capability approach analyzes the issue of environmental sustainability. Polishchuk and Rauschmayer argue that the capability approach pays little attention on the relationship between humans and the environment.<sup>97</sup> Anand and Sen posit that sustainability was not about the natural resources but people's lives.<sup>98</sup> Sen further argues that the environment obtains its value not by its resources but by what it provides to the people in terms of opportunities thus sustainability should not only focus on human activities that erode the environment but also those that improve it.<sup>99</sup> In this context, the capability approach views the environment as an enabler of present and future generations' capabilities for well-being and expands sustainable development beyond limiting present generations from obtaining natural capital. This argument is supportive of the discussions on poverty and the environment, whereby it shifts the debate to what the environment can provide to the poor and not how the

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<sup>95</sup> Sen, A. *The Idea of Justice*. (London: Allen Lane, 2009), pg. 250.

<sup>96</sup> Ballet, J., Bazin, D., Dubois, J. & Mahieu, F. 'A Note on Sustainability Economics and the Capability Approach.' *Ecological Economics*, Vol. 70, No. 11. (2011), pp. 1831-34.

<sup>97</sup> Polishchuk, Y., and Rauschmayer, F. *Ecosystem effects on well-being: More than just "benefits"? Looking at ecosystem services through the capability approach*. (Helmholtz-Zentrum für Umweltforschung (UFZ), 2011).

<sup>98</sup> Anand, S. and Sen, A. 'Human Development and Economic Sustainability.' *World Development*, Vol. 28, Issue. 12 (2000), pp. 2029-2049:2040.

<sup>99</sup> Sen, A. 'Why We Should Preserve the Spotted Owl.' *London Review of Book* (2004), pg.52

poor ‘destroy’ the environment. It advocates for the sustainable use of the environment to give the people capabilities to thrive across generations.

According to Alkire and also Fukuda-Parr, the human development agenda was conceptually underpinned in the capabilities approach. The approach advocates for universalism in developing policies such as poverty alleviation programmes. Development policies should be formulated through deliberate and inclusive public policy mechanisms such as in the formulation of the global development agenda as enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals. Universalism is also evident in the focus on functionings and capabilities rather than a set of needs.

In the context of the SDGs, Alkire argued that the capabilities approach gives the framework robustness which is both results and process based.<sup>100</sup> Alkire explains this by providing four reasons. First, that the approach offers a new perspective to assess the progress of societies as in its shift from material measurements to well-being thus affirming that individuals are ‘the real wealth of nations’.<sup>101</sup> Secondly, Alkire opines that both the SDGs and the capabilities approach are applicable to all societies, recognizing the interdependence among people. Third is the SDGs concern of “leaving no one behind” just like the capabilities approach which view each person as an end.<sup>102</sup> Finally, she posits that the capabilities approach puts emphasis on the processes to human dignity not only on the outcomes, advocating for the empowerment of people as agents to shape their own lives.<sup>103</sup>

### **2.3 Capability Approach and the Measurement of Poverty**

Core in the study on poverty and the related poverty reduction approaches in both theory and practice is the question on how to measure poverty. This goes beyond

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<sup>100</sup>Alkire, S. ‘*The Real Wealth of Nations.*’ 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2018. Available at: <https://www.sustainablegoals.org.uk/real-wealth-nations/>

<sup>101</sup> Ibid

<sup>102</sup> Ibid

<sup>103</sup> Ibid

the definition of poverty either as exclusion, deprivation or the lack of resources, this is based on the domains that should be focused on in poverty reduction programmes thus those indexes that were used to deduce impacts of such programmes and also to measure poverty in a particular context. Therefore, in the context of the study the capability approach has no particular or specific list of the functions or capabilities that equate to well-being when achieved. The approach argued for a multidimensional analysis of poverty one that is universal and does not purely depend on monetary measures, however it fails to provide a broad and distinct list.

Sen argued that selection of a list creates predetermined capabilities that limited public reasoning which were core in the participatory realm of the capability approach, he further posits that a list failed to capture the variance between regions and social contexts over time.<sup>104</sup> This places the capability approach at the center of the SDGs agenda since the goals are based on national interpretation and streamlining, for example, nations are obliged to develop national definitions of poverty, this definitions guided the development of measurement regimes.

According to Robeyns, Sen does not select and endorse a list of functionings because he sought to propel the capability approach as an overall methodology of individual advantage and social arrangement.<sup>105</sup> In this case, the argument fronted here is that individuals and the social environments determine the goals they seek to achieve or freedoms through development. Another reason fronted by Robeyns was that Sen and generally the capability approach argued for participatory processes in selection of capabilities.<sup>106</sup> Alkire also opined that the lack of such a list was meant to

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<sup>104</sup> Sen, A. "Dialogue Capabilities, Lists and Public Reason: Continuing the Conversation", *Feminist Economics*, 10 (3), (2004), pp. 77-80:77.

<sup>105</sup> Robeyns, I. "An unworkable idea or a promising alternative? Sen's capability approach re-examined", *Center for Economic Studies, Discussion Paper, No. 00.30*, (Leuven:Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, 2000).

<sup>106</sup> Ibid



promote the freedom of choice and to ensure that the approach remains relevant in various places.<sup>107</sup>

It was against this background that Nussbaum proposes a list of capabilities seeking to fill the 'gap' in Sen's capability approach. She proposes a list of guarantees a government should give to its citizens, the list included the capabilities of life (life expectancy), good health, bodily integrity, senses (education), imagination and thought, emotional attachment, practical reason, interaction through affiliation (participation), respect for and living with other species, play, finally the political and material control over the environment.<sup>108</sup> This forms part of a wider debate on what should be counted in measuring poverty under the capability approach which advocates for a multidimensional approach, one that is not casted on income measures alone.

Sen in his '*Development as Freedom*' identified five instrumental freedoms as means of development. The freedoms have been used in the debate on the measurement of poverty as a subject of development. They include: political freedoms which entails aspects of democracy and the rule of law; economic facilities which encompasses the ability of people to utilize and own economic resources; social opportunities includes enjoyment of healthcare and education as social goods; transparency guarantees provides for honest and credible information, and protective security as a freedom entails the cushioning of the vulnerable through social protection.<sup>109</sup> The development freedoms as identified by Sen, are critical factors in poverty eradication as they include the concerns in political, social and economic deprivation of people thus curtailing their well-being. Robeyns acknowledges that the

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<sup>107</sup>Alkire, S. 'A Practical Reasoning, Theory of Development Ethics: Furthering the Capability Approach.' *Journal of International Development*, Vol. 9, No. 2. (1997), pg. 79.

<sup>108</sup> Nussbaum, M. 'Capabilities as Fundamental Entitlements: Sen and Social Justice.' *Feminist Economics*, Vol.9, (2003), PP. 33-59.

<sup>109</sup> Op cit, Sen (1999), pg. 38-40

capability approach considers poverty as deprivation of freedoms as it evaluates poverty multidimensionally encompassing equity, efficiency, sustainability and participation as capabilities as captured in Sen's freedoms.<sup>110</sup>

Sen also posits that human functionings and capabilities can vary from nourishment, good health, reduced mortality, happiness and participation.<sup>111</sup> This seems to be priority indicators upon which Sen measured poverty under the capability approach, however Sen insisted that such capabilities vary in terms of time, places and people or societies. This trend was also seen in another writing where Sen and Anand posit that the basic features of well-being include longevity (life expectancy), reduced child mortality, prevention of morbidity, literacy, nourishment, and personal liberty.<sup>112</sup> These 'basics' are identical in global goals such as the MDGs and the SDGs as enablers in ensuring poverty eradication.

According to Seers, in adopting a similar view as the capability approach, he argued that economic approaches should not be the monopoly of development, but also people-centered development. He proposed that development should focused on low levels of material poverty, low unemployment, equality, democratization, independence for the nation, literacy, empowerment and participation of women and sustainability.<sup>113</sup> These proposed conditions are integral in poverty eradication policy and also entail key tenets of the capability approach that seek to empower people to be able to be and to do.

Notable in the literature on the domains or dimensions used in measuring poverty and development are various measures adopted by global institutions such as

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<sup>110</sup> Op cit, Robeyns (2000).

<sup>111</sup> Sen, A. *Inequality Re-examined*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1992), pg. 39

<sup>112</sup> Anand, S., & Sen, A. *Human Development Index: Methodology and Measurement*. (New York: Human Development Report Office, UNDP, 1994).

<sup>113</sup> Seers, D. 'The meaning of development' in Lehmann, D. (ed) *Development Theory: Four Critical Studies*, (London: Frank Cass, 1979).

the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The World Bank uses the international poverty line measuring consumption or purchasing power parity (PPP), which currently places households spending less than United States Dollars 1.90 (Ksh. 190) a day to be poor. Though methodologically determined or developed, this measurement is criticized as consumption patterns vary from one household to another, pricing of goods and services also varies from one territory to another and also it does not consider the income levels against consumption.

Derived from the capability approach are the Human Development Index (HDI), the Human Poverty Index (HPI) and the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), adopted by the UNDP to measure development and poverty in countries. The indexes are concerned with multiple capabilities that ensure human wellbeing. The HDI was developed in 1990 through the Human Development Reports with the triple indicators of life expectancy, knowledge or literacy measured by schooling mean years for adults (aged 25 years and above) and the expected years of schooling for children and decent living standards measured by per capita income.<sup>114</sup> The Human Poverty Index was developed in 1997 by the UNDP, it aims at “measuring poverty as a failure in capabilities in multiple dimensions.”<sup>115</sup> The index also focuses on longevity, knowledge and living standards as essential elements of human life.

The UNDP also adopted the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) in 2010 whereby it provides ten indicators of measuring poverty and inequalities in countries. The MPI also entails the three key dimensions of health which is measured by nutrition and mortality; education measured by years of schooling and school attendance and standards of living measured by the indicators of cooking fuel,

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<sup>114</sup> United Nations Development Programme, ‘*Human Development Reports: Human Development Index.*’ Available at: [hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi](http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi) Accessed: 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

<sup>115</sup> Chakravarty, S. & Majumder, A. “Measuring Human Poverty: A Generalized Index and an Application Using Basic Dimensions of Life and Some Anthropometric Indicators”, *Journal of Human Development*, 6, 3 (2003), pp. 275-299:276.

sanitation, access to drinking water, electricity, housing and assets.<sup>116</sup> These indicators provide a multidimensional approach towards poverty encompassing various elements of human wellbeing. The index is adoptive of the capability approach's argument for a multidimensional analysis of poverty. The capability approach influenced much of development policies since the 1990s with the adoption of wider view of development issues by the inclusion of non-monetary measurements or indicators to gauge the challenges, formulate policies and assess their effectiveness. This is also evident in the SDGs process.

## **2.4 Conclusion**

The capability approach emphasized the importance of people-centered development which acknowledges not only listed needs or indicators but development that was wide and multidimensional focusing on enabling people to be and to do things for their own well-being. From the reviewed literature, the capability approach created an important and relevant framework for analyzing and assessing the implementation of the sustainable development goals, in the context of this study the goal on poverty eradication.

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<sup>116</sup> Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) & United Nations Development Programme, *Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2019: Illuminating Inequalities.* Available at: [hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/mpi\\_2019\\_publication.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/mpi_2019_publication.pdf) Accessed: 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

## CHAPTER THREE

### THE NATURE AND CAUSES OF POVERTY IN KENYA

#### 3.0 Introduction

This chapter sought to establish the causes of poverty in Kenya. It outlines the characteristics of poverty in Kenya and how it manifests itself across various socio-economic groupings. It also delves into an analysis of the causes of poverty in Kenya through a multidimensional approach which captures political, social and economic factors, and contextualizes the research on the capability approach.

#### 3.1 Poverty in Kenya

In 1963, poverty was conceptualized in absolute terms of income and consumption as the measuring indicators on the degree of poverty in the population. In the mid-1970s, the conceptualization of poverty shifted not only focusing on income disparities, but also in terms of lack of redistributive measures<sup>117</sup>. The conceptualization of poverty in any country informs the kind of policies developed to alleviate or eradicate poverty. The acknowledgement redistributive measures in the eradication of poverty shifted government policies to incorporate subsidies in accessing social services such as education for example the free primary education, healthcare, housing, water and food.<sup>118</sup> The 1999 Kenya Sessional Paper No. 3 acknowledged that manifestation of poverty is in the forms of malnutrition, ignorance, improper housing or shelter and the inaccessibility of basic essential services.

An analysis of poverty in Kenya entails understanding what characterizes poverty in Kenya and how it manifests itself or its determinants and identifying the

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<sup>117</sup> Republic of Kenya, *Welfare Monitoring Survey* (Government Printer: Nairobi, 1974).

<sup>118</sup> Ng'ethe, N. & Omosa, M., *Drivers and Maintainers of Poverty in Kenya: A Research Agenda.* IDS Occasional Paper No. 73. (Institute of Development Studies – University of Nairobi: Nairobi), pg. 8

causes of poverty. Poverty in Kenya is pervasive<sup>119</sup> and has a spatial dimension; it is widespread all over the country both in the urban and rural areas, and also across regions. Poverty in Kenya is characterized by social, economic and political dimensions. The social dimension captures the social welfare issues and social policy. Social policy in this context entails “the set of systematic interventions aimed at ensuring satisfaction of basic needs and citizens’ well-being”.<sup>120</sup> Basically, the social dimension describes the nature of poverty based on social welfare systems, facilities or infrastructure supplementing the acquisition of basic needs by the people. These include healthcare, education, and social security systems. In computing poverty in Kenya, the government adopts the basic needs approach, placing consumption rather than incomes as a measure. The government focuses on food measure, whereby a food basket is created, and the cost of attaining the calorie requirement as in the developed food basket is the food poverty line which is then used as a measure in determining the percentage of the population that is not able to meet basic food consumption needs in addition to non-food consumption expenditure in education, health, clothing are added to comprise of a national poverty line.<sup>121</sup> In 2015, the overall poverty lines for rural and urban areas in Kenya for adults were computed as Ksh 3,252 and Ksh5,995 per month, respectively which is equivalent to \$2 (US dollars) a day.<sup>122</sup>

The economic dimension is widely used in describing the nature of poverty. This is through economic measures such as income distribution, consumption levels,

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<sup>119</sup> Geda, A. et al, “*Determinants of Poverty in Kenya: A Household Level Analysis*”, (Institute of Social Studies: The Hague, Netherlands, 2001), pg. 6

<sup>120</sup> Aina, T., “West and Central Africa: Social Policy for Reconstruction and Development”, In D. Morales-Gomez (eds.), *Transnational Social Policies. The New Challenges of Globalization*. (Earthscan: London, 1999)pp. 73

<sup>121</sup> Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, *Basic Report on Well-Being in Kenya*, based on the 2015/16 Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey. pg. 23. (March 21, 2018). Available at: [https://www.knbs.or.ke/?page\\_id=3142&wpdmc=the-2015-16-kenya-integrated-household-budget-survey-basic-reports#](https://www.knbs.or.ke/?page_id=3142&wpdmc=the-2015-16-kenya-integrated-household-budget-survey-basic-reports#) Accessed: July 18, 2020.

<sup>122</sup> Ibid, pg.30.

growth versus poverty eradication and also the distribution of economic benefits from the state to the people<sup>123</sup>. In this context income inequalities are analyzed. On the political dimension focus is on public governance, state policies on poverty reduction or eradication and the institutional capacities.

Poverty is characterized as been not static whereby people “move in and out” of poverty sporadically.<sup>124</sup> This statement can be linked to the manifestation of poverty in Kenya. In the available data, 45.5% of Kenya’s populace is underneath the poverty line; further there is the distribution of poverty manifestation in both rural and urban populations. Rural poverty in Kenya represents more than half in the total percentage. This is because of the main economic activity in the rural areas, agriculture which depends of various factors such as weather, land ownership and the inequalities between regions in Kenya. The rural poor are also socially excluded (social exclusion); the poor are those who are limited or curtailed from access to resources, opportunities, information and connections through having limited access to opportunities, uncompetitive markets, and poor information flow.<sup>125</sup>

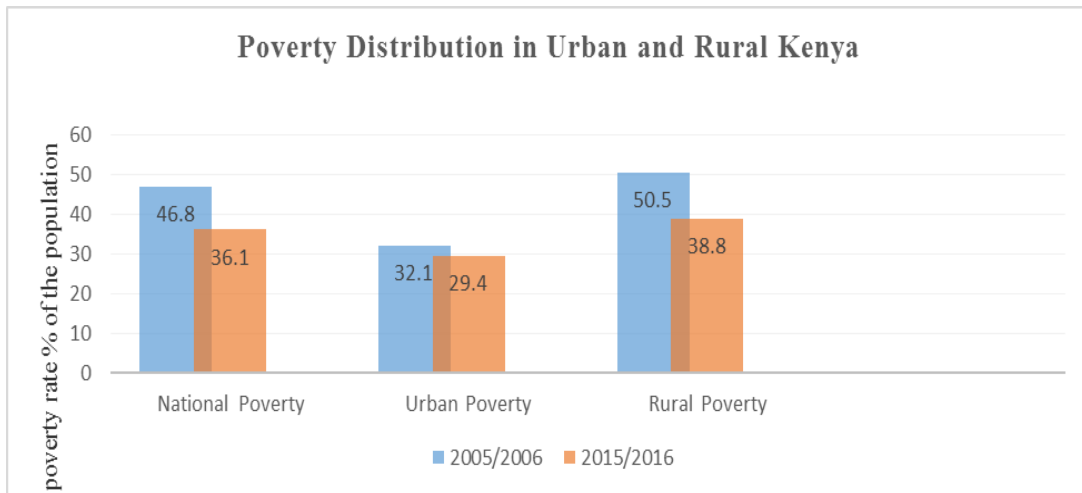
The figure below provided the data on the distribution of poverty between the urban and rural population in Kenya.

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<sup>123</sup>Gakuru, R. &Mathenge, N., “*Poverty, Growth, and Income Distribution in Kenya: A SAM Perspective.*” AGRODEP Working Paper 0001, (KIPPRA: Nairobi, 2012)pg. 6

<sup>124</sup>Suri, T., “*Rural Incomes, Inequality and Poverty Dynamics in Kenya.*” WPS 30/2008. (Tegemeo Institute of Agricultural Policy and Development: Nairobi, 2009) pg.7

<sup>125</sup> Amis 2003



**Source:** Kenya National Bureau of Statistics 2015/16<sup>126</sup>

**Figure 3.1: Urban and Rural Distribution of Poverty**

The description of rural poverty is a contentious debate in the academic circles specifically in the chronic versus transient poverty debate. Chronic poverty is that which is passed from generation to generation.<sup>127</sup> The characteristics of chronic poverty closely reflect the nature of rural poverty whereby its causes are often lack of assets and high dependency, malnutrition, illiteracy, inaccessibility of health services, social exclusion and exploitation<sup>128</sup>. On the other hand, transient poverty captures the nature of income activities attached to rural populations. Transient poverty manifests itself in those that have limited resilience against shocks such as adverse weather changes.<sup>129</sup> These shocks affect the agrarian factor in the rural areas thus low harvest and produce which translates to low incomes. The debate is however neutralized by the argument that rural poverty is due to exclusion and major regional and local

<sup>126</sup> Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2018), pg. 14

<sup>127</sup> Bird K, Hulme D, Moore, K, & Shepherd A., "Chronic Poverty and Remote Rural Areas." Chronic Poverty Research Centre (CPRC) Working Paper 13, (Institute of Development Policy and Management, University of Manchester, 2002).

<sup>128</sup> Op cit, Ng'ethe & Omosa, pg. 7

<sup>129</sup> McKay, A., & Lawson, D., "Chronic Poverty: A Review of Current Quantitative Evidence." Chronic Poverty Research Centre Working Paper No. 15 (CPRC: Manchester, 2002). Available online at <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1754485> Accessed: July 20, 2020.



differences in development but not assuming the fact that both chronic and transient poverty exists in not only rural area but also in the urban.

Urban poverty is characterized by poor housing conditions often in overcrowded locations (slums), limited access to income and employment opportunities, insecurity in terms of crime and violence, lack of community social security mechanisms, least access to water and sanitation facilities and exposure to various risks such as environmental hazards.<sup>130</sup> These characteristics are visible in Kenya's urban areas especially in slum areas, for example in Nairobi's Kibera, Mukuru, Mathare among others.

### **3.2 Causes of Poverty in Kenya**

The realization of the targets embedded in the SDGs were more effective if the causative factors of the problems were addressed are identified and understood. Poverty eradication was at the core of achieving the SDGs thus has no exception. General literature provides that causes of poverty can be grouped into different groups of factors; for example, Bradshaw highlighted some popular referred theories in poverty alleviation projects such as poverty caused by individual paucity, cultural systems that support economic, political, social and geographical disparities.<sup>131</sup> Individual factors that fuel poverty include human capital, individual attitude and welfare participation.<sup>132</sup> The individualist belief system was old and finds its roots in the American ideology of capitalism, a system presumed to provide development opportunity for all.<sup>133</sup> The individual deficiencies factors emphasizes on individuals

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<sup>130</sup> Baker, J.L. *Urban Poverty: A Global View*. (Washington DC: World Bank, 2008), pg.5-11.

<sup>131</sup> Bradshaw, T., *Theories of Poverty and Anti-Poverty Programs in Community Development*. Rural Poverty Research Center (RPRC) Working Paper No. 06-05. (RPRC: Columbia, 2005) pg. 5/6.

<sup>132</sup> Gans, H., *The war against the poor*. (Basic Book: New York, NY, 1995).

<sup>133</sup> Sameti, M, et al., "Theories of Poverty: A Comparative Analysis." *Kuwait Chapter of Arabian Journal of Business and Management Review*, Vol. 2, No. 6 (2012) pp. 45-56: 45.

labour and responsibility to access basic needs mainly.<sup>134</sup> This view was however refuted on the fact that individuals work and thrive within a system (states) whereby their hard work and efforts as reflected in the final results will be determined by existing structural factors.

### **3.2.1 Socio-Cultural Causes of Poverty**

The cultural belief system and poverty entails socio-cultural issues and their impact on livelihoods and welfare. This angle of argument has a psychological attachment to poverty, explained by the ‘culture of poverty’ concept. This concept is founded on the postulation that the poor and the rich exist within separate values, beliefs, and behavioral norms.<sup>135</sup> However, there are many other socio-cultural factors that cause poverty such as the analysis of gender dimensions of poverty proves to be critical. Some social and cultural norms emphasize the unequal power status shared between men and women and also gender roles as prescribed by such systems.<sup>136</sup> Other socio-cultural processes that can “explain the high levels of poverty in Kenya include stratification of the society through formal education and heavy commercialization of the economy, urbanization that has outstripped economic growth rates, and changes in the family institution”.<sup>137</sup>

In Kenya, it was established that women are more affected by poverty than men, this was because of the discrimination that women face before the law as in their rights and control over resources, personal security and disparities in the allocation of responsibilities and division of labour.<sup>138</sup> The ownership of land and assets is unequal

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<sup>134</sup> Rank, M., *“One nation underprivileged: Why American Poverty affects us all.”* (Oxford Press: New York, NY, 2004).

<sup>135</sup> Sameti et al (2012). pg. 46

<sup>136</sup> International Monetary Fund (IMF), *“Kenya: Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.”* IMF Country Report No. 05/11. (IMF: Washington, DC, 2005), pg.18.

<sup>137</sup> Op cit, Ng’ethe, N & Omosa. Pg. 9

<sup>138</sup> Tatria, H., “Poverty and Gender in Africa”, In Kifle, A. & Wohigemuth, L. (eds.) *A New Partnership for African Development: Issues and Parameters.* (Uppsala: Nordiska Afrikanstitutet, 1997), pp. 168-174

as only 1% of land titles in Kenya are held by women despite 32% of households been headed by women.<sup>139</sup> Mwabu et al in a study on the *Poverty in Kenya* concluded that property is mostly owned by men thus they are less likely to be poor as compared to women who are discriminated against.<sup>140</sup> Due to urban migration by men majorly, women are left to be household heads in the rural areas. Urban migration affects the sex ratio in rural areas. Women in this case are therefore breadwinners for extended families in rural areas with income from subsistence farming thus making them more vulnerable to the effects of poverty.<sup>141</sup> Kenya's population and housing census 2019 shows that the male population in rural areas is 14,034,674 while that of women is 14,415,969. In the urban areas, though women are more than men, more women are unemployed.

Other factors that expose women to poverty than men include; the gender burden, whereby women spend more time in searching for fuel and water thus reducing their time in productive activities especially in the rural areas; control over labour whereby women contribute highly in labour inputs however their control on decisions concerning household expenditure is curtailed by men and limited access to education by women due to cultural norms.<sup>142</sup>

Socio-cultural factors also included demographic features such as population increase. There was a disconnect between income and population, specifically in relation to households where the income levels barely sustain the needs of the many children or dependants. This was also translated to the national welfare or social

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<sup>139</sup> Federation of Women Lawyers in Kenya (FIDA). *Women's Land and Property Rights in Kenya: A Training Handbook.*

<sup>140</sup> Mwabu, G., Masai, W., Gesami, R., Kiriimi, Ndeng'e, G., Kiriti, T., Munene, F., & Mariara, J. *Poverty in Kenya: Profile and Determinants.* (Nairobi: University of Nairobi and Ministry of Finance and Planning, 2000).

<sup>141</sup> Republic of Kenya., *Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper 2000-2003 Vols. I & II.* (Government Printers: Nairobi, 2001).

<sup>142</sup> Op cit, Omiti et al, pp. 15

overheads infrastructure such as health and education facilities. The available resources are not adequate in providing cheap and equal services to the high population of people thus creating an environment where poverty can prevail due to inaccessibility of social services. Kenya's population has been growing at an average rate of 2.4% yearly since 2015 to 2019.

Education and illiteracy was also a social factor that causes poverty. Education is important for sustainable development and in the mitigation of poverty and unemployment. Poverty was not only low incomes problem but also one that includes limited access to opportunities for developing human capital mainly through education.<sup>143</sup> Education poverty was manifested in non-involvement or low rates of children participation in schooling, high drop out and failures rates, low schooling continuation rates, exclusion from education, distance of school facilities, low quality curriculum and low parental education. Education is a means of increasing earnings, enhancing jobs quality and improving the quality of life.

Kenya's situation was initially a problem of poverty causing the low school enrollment rates, however after the introduction of free primary education, the issues evolved to become social factors such as insecurity in some areas, drought, inadequate number and inequitable distribution of teachers, inadequate physical facilities and regional disparities, child labour, early marriages and pregnancy.<sup>144</sup> Poor countries experience increased poverty levels due to lack of training skills and valuable human capital.<sup>145</sup> Illiteracy also increases dependency levels. Despite Kenya having high

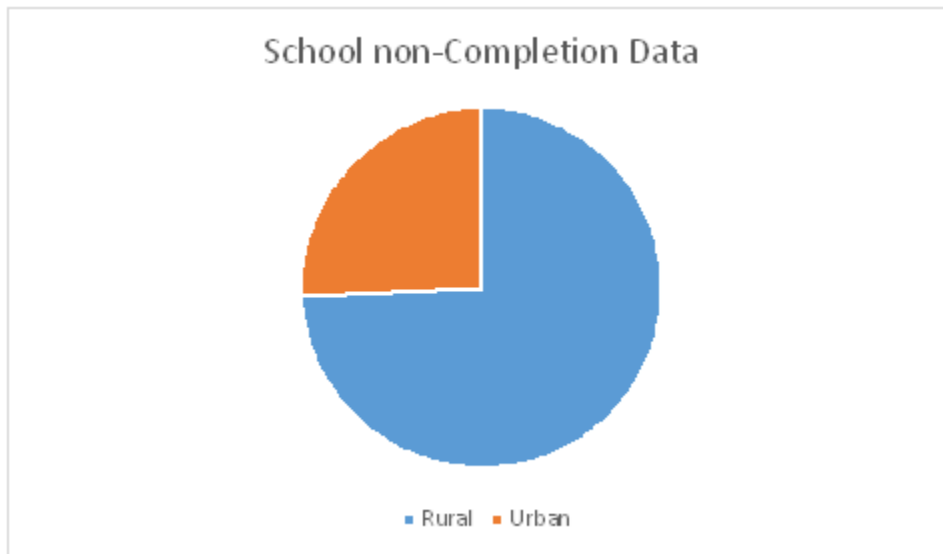
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<sup>143</sup> World Bank, *"Nigeria Structural Adjustment Program: Policies, Implementation and Impact."* (World Bank: Washington, D.C, 1994).

<sup>144</sup> Republic of Kenya, Millennium Development Goals: Status Report for Kenya 2013.

<sup>145</sup> Ayub, M. J. "Factors contributing to low completion rates of girls in pricing schools in Mogotio Sub County, Baringo County, Kenya", *International Journal of Scientific Research and Innovative Technology*, Vol. 5, No.1, (2018), pp. 92-106:94.

literacy rate of 83%, data on low completion rates are alarming and threaten the actualization of the SDGs.



**Source:** KNBS, Kenya Population and Housing Census, 2019.<sup>146</sup>

**Figure 3.2: School non-completion data**

The figure above illustrated that school non-completion is more prevalent in rural areas at 74% of the 32.7 million rural population in Kenya compared to 26% of the 14.8 million urban population in Kenya, majority of Kenyans' highest level of education been secondary school thus leaving them out from important skills and knowledge for economic and personal development. Additionally, the census data indicated that 7.12 million Kenyans have never been to school, this data centrally places the factor of education as cause of poverty especially in rural areas. Poverty in this case can be considered as a cause and also an effect of insufficient access to

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<sup>146</sup> Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, "2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census Volume IV: Distribution of Population by Socio-Economic Characteristics", (Feb 21, 2020). Available at: <https://www.knbs.or.ke/?wpdmpro=2019-kenya-population-and-husing-census-volume-iv-distribution-of-population-by-socio-economic-characteristics> Accessed: July 20, 2020.

education or completion of school, further education influences the level of employment and wages in the labour market.<sup>147</sup>

### 3.2.2 Political and Economic Causes of Poverty

Political factors encompass various issues such as public governance structures and institutions and how the various political policies affect economic development thus poverty. Since independence, development governance in Kenya has faced a myriad of challenges leading to poor economic performance.<sup>148</sup> Of particular concern, was the centralized system of governance and planning which had no strong grassroots involvement in the formulation and implementation of planned development projects. “This top-down approach of governance is partly to blame for development malaise in much of the developing world in general and Kenya in particular”.<sup>149</sup> This led to challenges of geographical variations and imbalanced development across regions since political leaders used development as a tool of coercion, enforcement and awards to their loyal support bases. This was however rectified by the introduction of decentralized units of government; county governments. However, still various political governance challenges fuel the rising levels of poverty. Inequality in Kenya is also catalyzed by negative ethnicity and ethnic conflicts, and political patronage. This have an effect on peaceful coexistence and nation building.<sup>150</sup>

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<sup>147</sup> Mihai, M., Emilia, T. & Manea, D., “Education and Poverty”, *Procedia Economic and Finance* 32, (2015), pp. 855-860: 856, 857.

<sup>148</sup> Mwenzwa, E., “From Centre to Margin: An Appraisal of the Constituencies Development Fund as a Decentralization Strategy in Kenya”, Available online at [www.eldis.org](http://www.eldis.org) Accessed: July 21, 2020.

<sup>149</sup> Ontita, G; Mwenzwa, M, & Misati, J., “Themes in Contemporary Community Development in Africa: A Multi-Disciplinary perspective.” (Delizon Publishers: France, 2013).

<sup>150</sup> Mwenzwa, M, & Misati, J., “Kenya’s Social Development Proposals and Challenges: Review of Kenya Vision 2030 First Medium-Term Plan, 2008-2012”, *American Journal of Contemporary Research*. Vol. 4 No. 1 (2014) pp. 246-253: 251. Available online at [www.aijcrnet.com](http://www.aijcrnet.com) Accessed: July 21, 2020.

Corruption has since independence been a central topic when discussing causes of poverty in Kenya. Corruption is both a governance issue and also an economic challenge that impedes development. Corruption often “weakens public service delivery, misdirects public resources and holds back growth that is necessary to pull people out of poverty and also weakens public trust in government”.<sup>151</sup> The attitude of corruption derails poverty reduction rates, erodes economic growth and the well-being of the population.<sup>152</sup> Through corruption significant resources meant for the provision of basic services such as education, security, health and water, key areas in poverty eradication has been lost. This was often manifested in financial indiscipline in the public and private sectors which is detrimental to development.<sup>153</sup>

Agriculture the largest economic activity in Kenya, where 12 million Kenyans are engaged does not spur real capability development for the people. Mwabu et al posit that households engaged in agricultural activities are more bound to be poor than those engaged in the modern industrial sector. This was due to various factors that leave the farmers vulnerable to poverty, these factors include: low investment in the sector to ensure value addition, low productivity, low incomes and the various risks faced by the farmers in the biophysical and socio-economic environment.<sup>154</sup> Many regions in Kenya, particularly, ASALs (Arid and Semi-Arid Lands) in the North Eastern, experience perennial hunger, malnutrition and starvation due to frequent yet unsurprising adverse weather patterns which lead to loss of livestock thus affecting

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<sup>151</sup> World Bank., “*Anticorruption in transition: A Contribution to the Policy Debate.*” (World Bank: Washington, D.C, 2000).

<sup>152</sup> Mauro, P., “Corruption and Growth.” *The Quarterly Journal of Economics.* 110(3): (1995) Pp. 681-712: 685.

<sup>153</sup> Mullei, A. “*The Link between Corruption and Poverty: Lessons from Kenya Case Studies.*” (African Center for Economic Growth: Nairobi, 2000).

<sup>154</sup> Kuyiah, J., Obare, G., Herrero, M., & Waitthaka, M. “Agriculture, Income Risks and Rural Poverty Dynamics: Strategies of Smallholder Producers in Kenya”, *Presentation paper at the International Association of Agricultural Economists Conference, Gold Coast, Australia, (August 12-18, 2006), pg.3.*

their livelihoods. Consequently, many people affected by such shocks are incapacitated in affording their basic necessities of food, water and shelter.<sup>155</sup>

Economic growth is an important condition for poverty eradication, however low economic growth and disparities or unequal distribution of economic growth are substantial drivers of poverty.<sup>156</sup> Kenya has experienced economic growth at an average annual rate of 5%, however this does not translate to economic development as it is not substantial to have ripple effects to eradicate poverty. The challenge is in ensuring that economic growth benefits all socio-economic segments of the population.<sup>157</sup> Additionally, this growth is not reflected in the dominant agricultural sector which constitutes a large percentage of people's livelihoods thus deviates growth and development from a majority in the rural areas. There are high levels of inequality in Kenya, represented in the spatial dimension between the rural and urban in terms of development, regional disparities occasioned by marginalization and in redistributive policies such as incomes, taxes across wage bands, public expenditure and budgeting. For example, Friedrich – Ebert – Stiftung reports that 36% of national wealth in Kenya is controlled by 10% of the richest households while 10% of the poorest control 2%.<sup>158</sup>

The figure below illustrated the Gross Domestic Product percentage growth in Kenya, the agricultural percentage of GDP and the GINI index in Kenya. The GINI index measures income inequality and wealth dispersion in a country. The GINI index which measures income inequality shows that in 2015 was at 40.8% and 41.6% in 2018 compared to similar levels in Brazil, Russia, India, even China at the similar

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<sup>155</sup> Op cit, Mwenzwa&Misati, pg. 252.

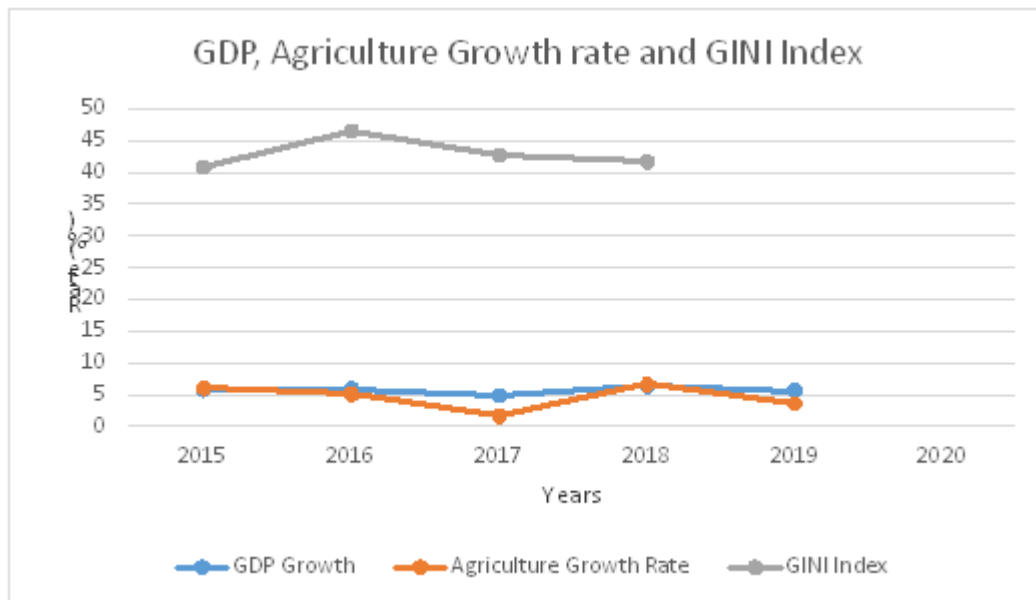
<sup>156</sup> Op Cit, Ndung'u, N. (2019), pg. 115. See reference in pg. 6.

<sup>157</sup> Pape, U. & Mejia – Mantilla, C. "More than just growth: Accelerating poverty reduction in Kenya". *World Bank Blogs*, February 12, 2019. Available at: <https://blogs.worldbank.org/african/more-than-just-growth-accelerating-poverty-reduction-in-kenya> Accessed: July 20, 2020.

<sup>158</sup> Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, *Regional Disparities and Marginalization in Kenya*, (2012), pg. 2.



period, countries that also have high levels of poverty despite robust economic growth. Additionally, the share of agriculture growth is low as compared to the overall GDP, this shows that the growth is not underpinned by agricultural productivity thus minimal dispersion of economic growth to the majority agricultural households in Kenya.



Source: World Bank.<sup>159</sup>

**Figure 3.3: GDP, Agriculture Growth Rate and GINI Index**

Other factors that are considered as causes of poverty in Kenya include unemployment, for the efficient utilization of labor is considered as an important element in sustainable poverty eradication.<sup>160</sup> Unemployment and underemployment are the main obstacles in ensuring people earn a livelihood and to meet the cost of basic needs. In Kenya, the unemployment rates in 2015 were at 7.4%, in 2020 the rates are estimated to be 4.9% and underemployment at the rate of 8% of the total labor force of 18 million Kenyans. The youth make up a huge percentage of the

<sup>159</sup> World Bank, at: <https://data.worldbank.org/country/KE> Retrieved: July 20, 2020.

<sup>160</sup> World Bank, *World Development Report 1990*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1990), pg. 62.

unemployed at 25% - 39%, and the variations in employment between the urban and rural areas are also substantial with the urban population having more unemployed people than the rural areas.

### **3.3 Conclusion**

The chapter's findings shows that the causes and manifestation of poverty in Kenya is multidimensional as it has social, economic, political and cultural dimensions. Kenya's poverty can be measured by various indicators; income based – household level, expenditure or consumption, economic growth; socially through the accessibility of social infrastructures such as education, health and water resources and also through political factors which entail inclusion and participation. The same is reflected in the major causes of poverty in Kenya. The importance of the analysis of the causes of poverty in Kenya will be in providing for a foundational base to develop effective and efficient poverty eradication policies and in the context of this study, it will aid in analyzing the effectiveness of the implementation strategies pursued to achieve the SDG on eradicating poverty in all forms everywhere.

**CHAPTER FOUR**  
**THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**  
**GOALS AND POVERTY ERADICATION IN KENYA**

**4.0 Introduction**

This chapter provides an analysis of Kenya's implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals with particular interest on the strategies deployed to eradicate poverty. It presents a historical overview of Kenya's poverty eradication efforts, the MDGs implementation process, the SDGs implementation process in Kenya, policy and programme based interventions, and finally identify the challenges faced by the country in its efforts towards eradicating poverty by 2030.

**4.1 Poverty eradication in Kenya: A Historical - Policy Review**

According to Nafula et al, "Kenya's development strategy was based on the idea that poverty would be alleviated through rapid economic growth as the poor would also benefit from sustained growth."<sup>161</sup> Economic growth entailed income levels which led to increased gaps between the rich and the poor since the economic policies were no sustainable and also the benefits accrued were not equitably distributed to all the socio-economic groups. For example, despite the country recording considerable economic growth in the 1960s and 1970s decades, and in the early 2000s, the country remains one of the world's most unequal societies.<sup>162</sup>

Since independence Kenya has pursued a number of policies geared towards poverty eradication and reduction. The first one originated before independence, the Swynnerton Plan of 1954. It was marked by the implementation of measures to accelerate agricultural development of the rural farmers in Kenya and also to undo the

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<sup>161</sup> Nafula, N, et al., *Review of Policy Options for Poverty Reduction in Kenya*. KIPPRA Discussion Paper No. 49/2005, (Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis: Nairobi, 2005), pp.7.

<sup>162</sup> Kenya National Bureau of Statistics & Society for International Development, *Exploring Kenya's Inequality: Pulling Apart or Pooling Together?*, National Report, (KNBS: Nairobi, 2013),pg. 9.

alienation of locals to unproductive and undocumented small lands for farming thus increased poverty levels and vulnerability. The plan was led by R.J.M Swynnerton an Assistant Director of Agriculture under the colonial administration thus the name of the plan. The plan aimed at making the locals self-sufficient in food and raising their levels of income. However, the Swynnerton plan was criticized to be one that gave protection of the European mixed farm settlers, thus assisted large-scale farmers to the disadvantage and abandonment of the majority local smallholder farmers.<sup>163</sup>

The post-independence ruling political party, the Kenya African National Union (KANU) developed its own manifesto which centered majorly on economic growth and independence. It had the objective, “to achieve the fastest rate of economic growth and to secure a just distribution of the national income”.<sup>164</sup> In this case, poverty reduction strategies were not explicitly anchored in the manifesto which guides the government development priorities in policy making. It took the “economic growth is equal to poverty reduction” arithmetic which did not equalize practically. “This is an indication that the genesis of weak poverty alleviation strategies began with the manifesto”.<sup>165</sup>

The Sessional Paper No. 10 of 1965 on African Socialism and its Application in Kenya was another strategy for development in Kenya. It was rooted in the African ideals with the core goals of enhancing social justice, human dignity and economic welfare for all Kenyans. It also had the main objectives of political stability, freedom from want, disease and exploitation (which can be translated as freedom from

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<sup>163</sup> Heyer, J et al., *Agricultural Development in Kenya: An Economic Assessment*. (Oxford University Press: Nairobi, 1976)pp.147

<sup>164</sup> Kenya African National Union, *KANU Manifesto*. (KANU: Nairobi, 1963)pp.2

<sup>165</sup> Op cit, Omiti, J. et al. pg.18

poverty), equal opportunities and distribution of resources.<sup>166</sup> Kenya's development planning was also in part motivated by the desire to embrace a coordinated approach to address poverty, illiteracy and ignorance, which were the key developmental concerns at independence.

In 1983, the Decentralization in Development Planning: District Focus for Rural Development (DRFD) stood out. The aim of the plan was to focus on the district level rural development and economic growth. The plan was to stimulate rural development, problem identification, priority setting and implementation of national policies at the local level. Today, the plan has been replicated to the devolved forms of government; county governments with important mandates which are core in human development and rural development. The DRFD decentralization policy was not successful due to limitations such as inadequate budgetary allocations, lack of public participation, lack of accountability and transparency.<sup>167</sup>

The National Poverty Eradication Plan 1999-2015 (NPEP), was launched by the government to specifically focus on the essential needs of the people. The NPEP can be categorized as human-rights based approach in poverty eradication. This is because it had goals touching on basic needs such as increasing school enrollments and completion rates (education), universal primary health care (good health), enhancing access to safe drinking water and inclusivity through engaging communities in developing action plans.<sup>168</sup> The government also institutionalized the implementation of the plan through the establishment of the Poverty Eradication Commission.

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<sup>166</sup> Republic of Kenya, *Sessional Paper No. 10 of 1965 on African Socialism and its Application to Planning to Kenya*, (Government of Kenya Press: Nairobi, 1965)pp1-2

<sup>167</sup> Op cit, Omiti, J et al. pg. 19

<sup>168</sup> Ibid

On the international development targets or goals approach, the government adopted the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) of 2000-2003 championed by the World Bank. The paper aimed at enhancing the principles of transparency and accountability, openness and close partnerships and participation by all stakeholders; the government, donors, the private sector and the civil society.<sup>169</sup> The paper had the objectives to achieve sustainable and rapid economic growth, improved governance and security institutions, increase in income capabilities and improving citizens' quality of life. The implementation of this strategy paper was however derailed by challenges such as insufficient monitoring and evaluation frameworks, lack of decentralization plans, and the lack of budgetary mainstreaming.<sup>170</sup>

Further, in the National Rainbow Coalition (NARC) during its regime from 2003, it adopted a blueprint namely the Economic Recovery for Wealth and Employment Creation 2003-2007 (ERSWEC) or the Economic Recovery Strategy Paper which aimed at spurring economic growth through increased investments, job creation, increase agricultural productivity, improved infrastructure as means towards poverty alleviation.

#### **4.1.1 The Millennium Development Goals and Poverty Eradication in Kenya**

The assessment of the implementation of the MDGs will provide a foundational base to compare Kenya's strategies and implementation towards achieving the SDGs, specifically the goal on poverty eradication. As a signatory to the Millennium Declaration in 2000, Kenya had the responsibility to actualize the realization of the MDGs nationally through the domestication of the goal into national development plans. The inchoate MDGs related activity in Kenya took was in

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<sup>169</sup> Misaro, J., et al, "Collateral Strategies for Poverty Reduction in Kenya: Prospects and Challenges." *Journal of Economic and Sustainable Development*. Vol. 5, No. 12 (2014) pp.2

<sup>170</sup> Wakwabubi, E. "Lessons Learnt on Civil Society Engagement in PRSP Process in Bolivia, Kenya and Uganda". *Participatory Methodologies Forum of Kenya*, pp. 8.

September 2002 when a national stakeholders' workshop was held. The workshop had the objective to seek consensus and promote understanding of the significance of the MDGs.<sup>171</sup> The outcome of the workshop was the establishment of a national MDGs Task Force to lead the MDG campaign and prepare the initial MDGs status report in Kenya which was launched in July 2003.

Later in 2004, the official launch of MDG based planning and budgeting process begun led by the Ministry for Planning and National Development. This led to the preparation of the MDGs Needs Assessment Concept Note which highlighted the needs and costs for the implementation of the goals in Kenya. In October 2004, a second stakeholders' workshop was held, attended by government officials, development partners', policy advisors, researchers, the civil society and the general public.<sup>172</sup> The following year 2005 was crucial in streamlining the implementation of the MDGs in Kenya. However, it is evident the implementation process was delayed due to planning. In 2005, the cabinet made a decision to mainstream MDGs into the development plans in all ministries, departments and agencies.<sup>173</sup>

The budgeting process and estimation of financial resources needed to implement the MDGs in Kenya was also critical in the process. Through the Needs Assessment, the Kenyan government required US \$61 Billion between 2005-2015 to achieve the MDGs.<sup>174</sup> In this context, the Minister of Finance in June 2005 while presenting budgetary estimates to the National Assembly underscored that the budget's core mandate was tackling poverty sustainably and ultimately achieve the MDGs. Poverty eradication was core in the whole budgeting process. The budgetary

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<sup>171</sup> Republic of Kenya, *MDGs Status Report for Kenya 2005*, (Government Press: Nairobi, 2005) pg.10

<sup>172</sup> Ibid, pg. 34

<sup>173</sup> Op Cit, Republic of Kenya, *MDGs: Status Report for Kenya 2013*.

<sup>174</sup> Republic of Kenya, "*Achieving Millennium Development Goals in Kenya: A Needs Assessment and Costing Report.*" (UNDP: Nairobi, 2005).

needs as estimated by the Needs Assessment and Costs report underscored the need for support from development partners.<sup>175</sup> The government thereafter provided for yearly reports on the MDGs implementation progress.

The ultimate purpose of the MDGs was to eradicate poverty globally by 2015. The first goal on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger had three targets; that between 1990 and 2015 the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar is halved, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all and to halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.<sup>176</sup>

According to the Needs and Costs report, Kenya's approach towards achieving and implementing the first MDG was to focus on the large agricultural sector because the sector dominates economic activity in the country. The Kenyan economy like other African states economies is centered on agriculture which is therefore a core sector in reducing poverty.<sup>177</sup> The agricultural sector contributes directly and indirectly to Kenya's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) thus due focus on the sector would translate to achieving the MDGs. The sector represents the vulnerable majority in the rural areas and also the whole country in terms of food security.

The Kenyan government prioritized agricultural sector growth to ensure the achievement of the goal through increased production. Generally, growth in agriculture was essential to the MDGs by improving food security, farm incomes, and provision of direct and indirect jobs, empowering poor and marginalized groups.<sup>178</sup> This is also embedded in the African development agenda through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in 2001 which acknowledges the

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<sup>175</sup> Ibid.

<sup>176</sup> Op cit, Millennium Declaration 2000.

<sup>177</sup> Republic of Kenya & UNDP, *"Draft Progress in Attainment of MDGs and Way Forward towards Achieving MDGs by 2015 in Kenya."* (Government Press: Nairobi, 2010) pg. 36.

<sup>178</sup> Republic of Kenya, *"Strategy for Revitalizing Agriculture 2004 – 2014: Short Version."* Ministries of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Development and Marketing. (Government Press: Nairobi, 2005).



centrality of agriculture in the pursuit for sustainable growth.<sup>179</sup> There is consensus that the agricultural sector is important in the eradication of poverty, creating revenue and employment opportunities for many people residing in the rural areas and also enhance food security.

Having acknowledged the importance of the agricultural sector in the Kenyan economy, the government designed various policy and programme based interventions to accelerate the achievement of the MDG one. The eradication of poverty and hunger (food poverty) in this case was contextualized around solving and improving agricultural productivity. In the various reports on the progress of MDGs in Kenya such interventions are mentioned and documented. Programs include the Kenya Agricultural Productivity Project (KAPP), the National Agriculture and Livestock Extension Programme (NALEP), Njaa Marufuku Kenya (NMK) as a strategy to eradicate hunger in Kenya, Agricultural Sector Programme Support (ASPS), Farmer Field Schools (FFS), National Accelerated Agricultural Inputs Access Program (NAAIAP) and Small Holder Horticulture Empowerment Programme (SHHEP).<sup>180</sup>

The Strategy for Revitalizing Agriculture 2004-2014 (SRA) was a long term policy aimed at increasing production and commercializing agriculture into an enterprise through provision of credit to farmers, reforming of farmers' institutions, strengthening agricultural research and extension, amendment of legal frameworks, and the provision of cheap subsidized farm inputs.<sup>181</sup> Regarding the dependency on rain fed agriculture by a majority of small scale rural farmers in Kenya which left them vulnerable to climate change effects, thus low production which translated to

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<sup>179</sup> Op cit, Republic of Kenya & UNDP, pg. 36

<sup>180</sup> Republic of Kenya, *MDG Status Report for Kenya 2007*, (Government Press: Nairobi, 2007) pg. 17

<sup>181</sup> Op cit, Republic of Kenya, SRA 2004-2014.

poverty and hunger, the government developed the national policy on irrigation and drainage development. This would support sustainable farming and the empowerment of communities<sup>182</sup>, an example is the Tana Delta irrigation scheme.

The Arid and Semi-Arid lands in Kenya, mostly in the North Eastern part are characterized by populations hit by poverty and hunger due to many factors including the climate, unsustainable land use, and low development of social and economic sectors. Therefore the government targeted the common pastoralist activity in the areas with programmes such as the Sustainable Land Management programme, irrigation projects and construction of infrastructure to promote livestock trade and boost value addition in the sector.<sup>183</sup>

Economically, various programmes and policies were developed to intervene in the attainment of the first MDG. They targeted unemployment among the youths and the empowerment of women and other marginalized groups. This includes the operationalization of youth and women empowerment funds and social protection funds for the elderly an example is the Youth Enterprise Fund. These social protection and affirmative action plans are important policy interventions in Kenya's SDGs process.

#### **4.2 The Sustainable Development Goals Implementation Process in Kenya**

Kenya's post-2015 development agenda kicked off at the international level as an active member in the formulation of the agenda. Kenya sat at the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post- 2015 Development Agenda, comprising 26 states,

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<sup>182</sup> Op cit, MDGs Status Report 2013, GoK, pg.6

<sup>183</sup> Ibid.

Kenya was represented in the panel by Betty Maina.<sup>184</sup> With a view of ending poverty, the High-Level Panel was tasked to give counsel on the post-2015 development agenda, the principles for global development partnership and on how to build sustainable political consensus on the SDGs.<sup>185</sup> Further on Kenya's early involvement, the current Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Principal Secretary Ambassador Macharia Kamau (Former Kenya's Permanent Representative to the UN) co-chaired the Open Working Group on SDGs, tasked with coming up with the list of goals and indicators.<sup>186</sup>

Kenya's efforts and involvement in the formulation of the SDGs was guided by a National Common position on the Post-2015 Agenda born out of national stakeholders' engagements which was integrated to the Common African Position on the Post 2015 Agenda which had six pillars of "structural economic transformation and inclusive growth, science, technology and innovation, people centered development, environmental sustainability, peace and security, finance and partnerships".<sup>187</sup> These pillars are notably similar and representative of the SDG goals as adopted by the UN member states. The formulation process led to the adoption of the SDGs by states thus mandating them to implement the goals.

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<sup>184</sup> United Nations Secretary General, "*The Secretary-General's High-Level Panel of eminent persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda*". Available at: <https://www.un.org/sg/en/management/hlpost2015.shtml> Accessed: 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2020.

<sup>185</sup> United Nations, "Terms of Reference for the High-Level Panel of eminent persons on the post-2015 Development Agenda", Available at: <https://www.un.org/sg/sites/www.un.org.sg/files/documents/management/ToRpost2015.pdf> Accessed: August 30, 2020.

<sup>186</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals*. (1<sup>st</sup> Session 14-15 March, 2013). Available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/owg.html/#intro> Accessed: 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2020.

<sup>187</sup> African Union, 'Common African Position (CAP) on the Post 2015 Development Agenda.' (March, 2014). Available at: [https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/32848-doc-common\\_african\\_position.pdf](https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/32848-doc-common_african_position.pdf) Accessed: 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020.

Nationally, Kenya developed a ‘Roadmap to Sustainable Development Goals: Kenya’s Transition Strategy 2016-2018’<sup>188</sup> through the Ministry of Devolution and Planning with other stakeholders such as non-state actors and the business community. This was an important step towards mainstreaming the lessons learnt in the MDGs implementation in planning for the transition to the SDGs. The strategy identified advocacy and awareness creation, domestication, localization and nationalization, capacity building, stakeholders mapping and engagement, resource mobilization, monitoring, evaluation and reporting as the key activities and necessities to meet the SDGs in Kenya. Localization of the SDGs entailed mainstreaming of the SDGs into local and devolved system of governments’ development plans, domestication of the goals entailed the development of national specific targets and reporting mechanisms while nationalization entailed adoption of the SDGs in national plans such as the Kenya Vision 2030. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2016, an executive order was issued by the President mandating the Ministry of Devolution and Planning to coordinate the implementation of the SDGs in the country. However, the Executive order failed to provide for tangible plans and guidelines on the implementation models and priorities. Generally, as in the MDGs the government chose to mainstream SDGs into its development plans and blueprints. Kenya has continued to provide Voluntary National Reports on the implementation of the SDGs with the latest one been in June 2020.

#### **4.3 Poverty Eradication and the SDGs in Kenya**

Poverty eradication in the framework of the SDGs recognizes the multidimensional nature of poverty as it seeks to eradicate poverty in all its forms

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<sup>188</sup> Republic of Kenya, *Roadmap to Sustainable Development Goals: Kenya’s Transition Strategy 2016-2018*. (2016). Available at: <https://sdgkenyaforum.org/content/uploads/documents/be8abe1688c20682.pdf> Retrieved: 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020.

through focus on various deprivations in accessing basic services, inequality and low economic growth among other goals. This multidimensional focus deepens the interconnectedness between the 17 SDGs and their impact on the 2030 goal for a world free of poverty. The targets and goals guide on the formulation of policies and programmes to meet the goal on ending poverty. Table 4.1 shows the SDG 1, its targets and indicators.

**Table 4.1: SDG One Targets and Indicators**

<b>Goal 1: End Poverty in all its Forms Everywhere</b>	
<b>Targets</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
1.1: Eradicate poverty for all people everywhere by 2030.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of population below international poverty line.</li> </ul>
1.2: Halve the proportion of population living in poverty in all dimensions (national definitions).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of population living below the national poverty line in all dimensions.</li> </ul>
1.3: Implement appropriate national social protection systems and achieve substantial coverage of the poor and vulnerable by 2030.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of people covered by social protection systems.</li> </ul>
1.4: Ensure equal rights to economic resources, access to basic services, ownership and control over property and financial services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of people in a household with access to basic services.</li> <li>• Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land.</li> </ul>
1.5: Reduce vulnerability to climate, economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters through building resilience of the poor by 2030.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of deaths, missing persons affected by disaster.</li> <li>• Direct disaster economic loss in relation to global GDP.</li> <li>• Number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies.</li> </ul>
Target 1a: Mobilization of resources to implement poverty eradication programmes and policies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resources allocated to poverty eradication programmes by government.</li> <li>• Government spending on essential services – education, health and social protection</li> </ul>
Target 1b: Create policies based on pro-poor and gender sensitive development strategies to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government recurrent and capital expenditure to sectors that disproportionately benefit women, the poor and vulnerable groups.</li> </ul>

**Source: United Nations (2015)<sup>189</sup>**

<sup>189</sup> United Nations, *SDGs Goal 1: End Poverty in all its forms everywhere*. Available at: [https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal1#targets\\_and\\_indicators](https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal1#targets_and_indicators) Accessed: 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2020.

### 4.3.1 Policy and Programme Interventions

To implement the SDGs on poverty eradication, Kenya adopted various policies and developed various programmes to achieve the targets and indicators of the goals. Some of the policies existed before the SDGs process but they have been identified as important plugs in the eradication of poverty. In a report on Kenya's SDGs readiness by the Kenya Association of Manufacturers<sup>190</sup>, identifies the Kenya Vision 2030 as an important plan in achieving the SDGs.

The Vision 2030 focuses on sustainable economic growth, poverty eradication and equity. It is divided into three pillars that give it a multidimensional approach to development in Kenya, the pillars are social, economic and political. The economic pillar focuses on ensuring a sustained economic growth; the social pillar concerns social development especially programmes and policies that target the essential services and needs of health and education, it fundamentally seeks to ensure access to social facilities and development; while the political pillar aspires for political stability, entrenched equality, democracy, accountability and a people-centered development system.<sup>191</sup>

The implementation of the Vision 2030 is done through Medium Term Plans which outline the policies and programmes to be implemented to achieve the objectives of the development blueprint. Therefore it is an important document that guides policy and programme interventions. The Vision 2030 is the first step in streamlining of development priorities, the MDGs and SDGs were mainstreamed into the Medium term plans, the Third Medium Term Plan (2018-2022) acknowledges and prioritizes the alignment of sector plans, county integrated development plans with the

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<sup>190</sup> Kenya Manufacturers Association, *SDGs Readiness Report: A Policy, Legislative and Institutional Review of the 17 SDGs in Kenya*. (February, 2020). Available at: <https://kam.co.ke/kam/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/SDGs-Readiness-Report-2020.pdf> Accessed: September 5<sup>th</sup> 2020.

<sup>191</sup> Republic of Kenya, *Vision 2030, 2008-2030*. (Government Press: Nairobi, 2007), pg. 7.

SDGs.<sup>192</sup> For example, the plan lists among its priorities the implementation of comprehensive social protection programmes and the need to end drought emergencies, these are indicators in the SDG on ending poverty.

As noted in the causes of poverty and the manifestation of poverty in Kenya, households engaged in agriculture are more vulnerable to poverty than those that do not. This makes the agricultural sector, the largest in GDP contribution in Kenya an important target sector to end poverty. Kenya developed the Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (2019-2029) anchored on the core objectives of increasing farmer incomes (majority of whom are small-scale farmers), increase agricultural output and enhance household resilience against food insecurity which is also a form of poverty.<sup>193</sup> The sector represents a majority of Kenya's informal workers, a huge share of Kenya's GDP and thus provides a sectoral tool in ending poverty through plans that support sustainable development and growth. The focus on enhancing food security in the strategy, targets to reduce vulnerabilities to various shocks such as climate change. Further, the government developed the Kenya Climate Smart Agricultural Strategy which focuses on addressing food security and climate change challenges through building resilience of the agricultural sector to climate change by enhancing the access and use of technology such as irrigation and value addition, providing insurance and safety nets to farmers for example the Kenya Livestock Insurance Program which provided insurance to livestock farmers who experience extreme weather patterns leading to loss and increasing communication of

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<sup>192</sup> Republic of Kenya, *Third Medium Term Plan 2018-2022*. (Government Press: Nairobi, 2018). Available at: <https://vision2030.go.ke/inc/uploads/2019/01/THIRD-MEDIUM-TERM-PLAN-2018-2022.pdf> Accessed: September 5<sup>th</sup> 2020.

<sup>193</sup> Republic of Kenya, *Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy: Towards Sustainable Agricultural Transformation and Food Security in Kenya 2019-2029*. Available at: [www.kilimo.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/ASTGS-Full-version-1.pdf](http://www.kilimo.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/ASTGS-Full-version-1.pdf) Accessed: September 5<sup>th</sup> 2020. pg. 16-17.

agro-weather information. These policies respond to the target on reducing vulnerability to shocks thus aid in eradicating poverty.

The policies are firmed up by the National Climate Change Response Strategy, the National Disaster Reduction Strategy, National Disaster Preparedness and Response Strategy, which are further localized in the 47 counties. The integrated goal and objectives of these policies is prevent loss of life and build community resilience through effective mechanisms for managing disasters. However, Kenya still faces various disasters whose response does not prevent the loss of life or build resilience among communities. This may be due to lack of preventive mechanisms in some disasters which are human made. Kenya's most common disasters are floods, drought, structural collapse in urban areas, road accidents, fires, epidemics, landslides, among others. The government reports in the Voluntary National Review 2020 that the number of deaths, missing persons and those directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population remained at 1 for the period 2016 to 2018, this data is not inclusive of the year 2019.

#### **4.3.1.1 Social Protection Programmes**

The SDG One targets of implementation of social protection systems and the target on mobilization of resources for poverty eradication programmes especially budgetary allocations on essential and basic services, have attracted programme based interventions. Further, Kenya has developed policies to support increased investment in poverty eradication targeting disproportionately represented and vulnerable groups consisting of women, youth and people living with disabilities. Social protection reduces vulnerability and enhances resilience against social, economic, environmental



and any other shocks, it further aids in reducing inequalities and social exclusion.<sup>194</sup> Kenya through its National Social Protection Policy<sup>195</sup> has implemented various social assistance programmes which it highlights in the Voluntary National Reviews on the SDGs implementation as key programmes geared towards poverty eradication. These programmes are implemented through cash transfers to identified vulnerable groups and households and involve government and non-government initiatives. Under the National Safety Net Program the country has the Older Persons Cash Transfer (OPCT), Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP), Cash Transfer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (CT-OVC), and the Cash Transfer for Persons with Severe Disabilities (PWSD-CT).<sup>196</sup> The table below illustrates the social protection programmes, the beneficiaries, the amount of money received per beneficiary and the trend in terms of proportion of people covered by the social protection systems. These data will aid in analyzing the efficacy of the programmes in achieving zero poverty rates by 2030.

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<sup>194</sup> Barrientos, A. 'Social Protection and Poverty.' *Social Policy Development Programme Paper, No. 42.* (United Nations Research Institute for Social Development: Geneva, 2010), pg.3.

<sup>195</sup> Republic of Kenya, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development, *Kenya National Social Protection Policy*, (2011). Available at: <https://www.socialprotection.or.ke/images/downloads/kenya-national-social-protection-policy.pdf> Retrieved: September 5<sup>th</sup> 2020.

<sup>196</sup> Republic of Kenya, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, *Social Protection Components*, Available at: <https://www.socialprotection.or.ke/social-protection-components/social-assistance> Accessed: September 5<sup>th</sup> 2020.

**Table 4.2: Social Protection Programmes Data**

<i>Social Protection Programme</i>	<i>Target/Purpose</i>	<i>Amount per Month (Ksh)</i>	<i>Proportion of People Covered (households ever Paid)</i>			
			<i>2015/2016</i>	<i>2016/2017</i>	<i>2017/2018</i>	<i>2018/2019<sup>197</sup></i>
OPCT	Non-pensioned, poor and vulnerable older persons (65 Years and above).	2000	342,660	345,269	345,314	800,000
HSNP	Arid and Semi-Arid areas people.	2500	98,818	98,818	98,818	101,287
CT-OVC	Families living with Orphans and Vulnerable Children.	2000	260,112	359,770	359,770	353,000
PWSD-CT	Adults and Children with severe disabilities.	2000	51,888	51,888	51,890	47,000

**Source: Government of Kenya, Social Protection Registry (2020)<sup>198</sup>**

From the above table, it can be deduced that Kenya has the required policies and programmes that serve as positive indicators of its commitment to address poverty and enhance peoples' capabilities and freedoms. The social protection programmes have netted a favourable number of households with visible increase from 2015 to 2019. The research findings were that the programmes are impactful in many ways such as the Hunger and Safety Net Programme has led to a decrease in the level of food insecurity (a form of poverty) measured by the increase in food

<sup>197</sup> Republic of Kenya, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, *Kenya Social Protection Sector Annual Report 2018/2019*. (July, 2020). pg.21.

<sup>198</sup> Available at: <https://mis.socialprotection.go.ke/20307/Public/Beneficiaries>

expenditure in beneficiary households, and in periods of unexpected shocks such as droughts the beneficiaries tend to retain their assets more rather than selling them off.<sup>199</sup> The programme targeting vulnerable children such as orphans has decreased the number of children engaged in child labour in various agricultural activities for income, improved household nutritional consumption, enhanced the access to health services and enrollment to schools.<sup>200</sup> The other programmes targeting the older persons and people with disabilities have enhanced their access to social services and importantly empowered the beneficiaries and increased their confidence and the sense of belonging to their societies and communities.<sup>201</sup>

The implementation of these social protection programmes has impacted on livelihoods positively but has also been faced by various challenges. The most common issues identified are: the challenge of coverage whereby only a small percentage of households are targeted and most of which are in rural areas, leaving out the urban poor, the transferred amounts are low pointing at the increased cost of various commodities and do not even meet the national poverty line consumption rate of \$1.25 a day, however the programmes serve as safety nets there is need for more consideration of universal systems that enhance peoples' capabilities, and also the funds may increase dependency, there is lack of information and awareness among the people on the processes and the general architecture of the social protection programmes.

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<sup>199</sup> Mathiu, P. and Mathiu, E. K. 'Social Protection for the Elderly as a Development Strategy: A Case study of Kenya's Old Persons cash transfer programme'. *Conference Paper*. Available at: Available at: <http://www.iese.ac.mz/lib/publication/IIIConf2012/IESEIIIConfPaper32.pdf>

<sup>200</sup> Kirera, P. G. "Implications of Cash Transfer Programmes for Social Relations: Kenya's Cash Transfer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (CT-OVC)". *Public Policy and Management*. (2012), pg. 38. Available at: <https://thesis.eur.nl/pub/13070> Accessed: September 6<sup>th</sup> 2020.

<sup>201</sup> Omolo, J. A. "Impacts of Older Persons Cash Transfer on its Beneficiaries in Kenya: A Case of Makadara Constituency, Nairobi County". Masters Thesis, University of Nairobi. (2017). Pg. 38.

#### 4.3.1.2 Expenditure on Basic Services

Among the targets in the SDG on poverty eradication is the mobilization of resources to implement policies and programmes towards poverty eradication. This is measured by the resources allocated to provide essential services. Therefore, the access to these basic and essential services is determined by the efficient and effective use of such resources. In Kenya like any other country, resources are distributed among sectors and functions through budgeting. Kenya's governance structure is based on devolution which entail the decentralization of functions such as health, early childhood or basic education among others. The study sought to establish government spending on essential services from 2015 to 2020. This will also include exploring the various affirmative action funds established to ensure accelerated development in vulnerable groups. The table below shows data on government spending on essential services since 2015.

**Table 4.3: Government Spending on Basic Services 2015-2020**

Sector	Financial Year ( <i>Amount in Ksh. Billions</i> )					
	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Education	335.7	339	375.3	444.1	494.8	505.1
Health	59.2	60	61.7	90	92.7	111.7
Social Protection	31.5	34	45.2	44.4	63.4	70.1
County Disbursement	260.9	285.0	291.1	314.0	310.0	316.5

**Source: National Treasury Budget statements 2015-2020**

The study deduces that in the financial years 2015/2016 to 2020/2021 Kenya has averagely allocated 21% of its budget to the basic essential services of education, health and social protection, with the education budget been the highest, followed by health at 3%, then social protection at 2%. The low investment in these essential services slows the pace of achieving equity and poverty reduction. Due to the increased spending on the basic essential services in every financial year, the proportion of Kenya's population without access to government has also been decreasing though minimally by an average of 0.5% between 2014 to 2016; as in 2014 the proportion stood at 21.2%, 20.4% in 2015 and 20.2% in 2016,<sup>202</sup> the data for the period between 2017 to 2019 is unavailable thus making the impact of this spending immeasurable. This is reinforced by county government allocations which are minimal at 15% of the total national revenue which is averagely 1.8trillion Kenya Shillings, thus starving the local settings the resources to perform and provide the functions of health specifically. Further, the cash transfer model of social protection, may not have effective and sustainable impacts on poverty reduction, therefore it is important for Kenya to invest more on the provision of services thus accord its people with the capabilities to develop.

Kenya has also enacted various funds that seek to promote equity and development in marginalized areas and support the development of vulnerable groups. These funds have the purpose to reduce poverty and enhance equity, thus are important programmes for the 2030 agenda. They include the National Government Constituency Fund which through disbursement of funds to the 290 constituencies in Kenya, it seeks to address socio-economic development at the local levels.

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<sup>202</sup> Republic of Kenya, *Implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development in Kenya*. (Government Press: Nairobi, 2017), pg.31. Available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15689Kenya.pdf>

Cumulatively, the fund has allocated 221.5 billion Kenya shillings to constituencies between 2015 to 2020<sup>203</sup>; the National Government Affirmative Action Fund whose purpose is to empower women, the youth, People with Disabilities (PWDs) and elderly persons through enhancing financial inclusion, enterprise promotion and value addition.<sup>204</sup> The fund has disbursed 13 billion Kenya shillings (2015-2020) to various groups comprised women, youth and PWDs. Also the government has in place the Equalization Fund which caters for marginalized areas to provide basic services, further the Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF), the Women Development Fund, and the Kenya Youth Employment Opportunities Project are some of the funds and programmes in place to provide funds for business ventures through credit, and to also enhance skills for wealth and employment creation.

#### **4.4 Challenges in Implementing SDG One in Kenya**

In assessing the implementation of SDGs and Poverty Eradication in Kenya, the study also sought to establish the challenges faced in the implementation process. Poverty eradication requires multifaceted approaches to eradicate as such political, social and economic solutions embedded in various policy and programme interventions, face numerous huddles or challenges that may curtail the eradication of poverty by 2030. Notably, the COVID-19, a health pandemic that shut country borders, economic activities and shifted expenditure to the health sector, has dealt a major blow to the implementation of SDGs. The pandemic has led to job losses, lost lives and livelihoods, exposed weaknesses in social protection systems consequently pushing people and households to poverty and limiting their capabilities to escape

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<sup>203</sup> National Government Constituency Development Fund, *About NGCDF*, Available at: <https://ngcdf.go.ke/about-us/> Accessed: September 18, 2020.

<sup>204</sup> National Government Affirmative Action Fund, *Introduction*, Available at: <https://www.ngaaf.go.ke/index.php/about> Accessed: September 18, 2020.

poverty.<sup>205</sup> COVID-19 has mostly affected the tourism, agricultural, transport, education and manufacturing sectors of the economy thus negatively impacting on a huge percentage of Kenya's labour force.

Kenya in particular has identified challenges in implementing the SDG on eradication of poverty in its VNR of 2020. Most of challenges are linked to the agricultural sector in which the government seems to prioritize in poverty eradication. Climate change has led to reduced productivity as majority of farmers depend on rain, further it has led to high commodity and food prices hence deepening food insecurity. Poor infrastructure in remote agricultural areas continue to curtail market access for agricultural produce, inadequate capacity to address pests and diseases such as the locust invasion in early 2020 are other challenges. These challenges affect the productivity of farmers and thus hurt the contribution of the big sector to the country's GDP.

The streamlining of the SDGs in both national and county governments development plans is also a challenge. Both levels of government have acknowledged SDGs but they have not declared their interpretation of the SDGs either as normative objectives, planning targets or as benchmarks for evaluation. The streamlining lacks monitoring and evaluation tools as the SDGs implementation is not purely based on specific programmes. The crucial role of the county governments in the implementation of the SDGs is also underrated as the budgetary allocations are insufficient at only 15% of the national budget despite the mandates to provide basic essential services, and the high prevalence of poverty in rural counties.

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<sup>205</sup> United Nations Development Programme, "Articulating the Pathways of the Socio-Economic Impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic on the Kenyan Economy", *Policy Brief 4/2020*. Available at: <https://www.undp.org/content/dam/rba/docs/COVID-19-CO-Response/Socio-Economic-Impact-COVID-19-Kenya-Policy-Brief-UNDP-Kenya-April-2020.pdf> Accessed: September 20, 2020.

Also identified is the lack of available and reliable data on the SDGs, poverty indicators and other variables that will enable effective monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs. This also affects various policy and programme interventions, such as the social protection programmes which require data in implementation. Further, this limits the country's capability to develop efficient, effective and comprehensive policies that target all the vulnerable persons and sectors that require intervention to achieve zero poverty in all forms by 2030. Also indicated is the lack of a needs assessment for the implementation of the SDGs. As such the government has no reliable information and baseline for planning, resource mobilization and partnerships in implementing the SDGs.

#### **4.5 Conclusion**

The assessment of the implementation of the SDG on poverty eradication in Kenya according to the study, has established that there are various policies and programmes that are in place to achieve the targets set out in the SDGs. Kenya prioritized the agricultural sector in the MDG goal on poverty eradication, and in the SDGs social protection is more visible as a priority and also the agricultural sector. Social protection through cash transfers has been used through the various programmes mentioned in the chapter, and they are key in enhancing peoples' capabilities to develop and to escape poverty, however, the sustainability of such programmes is not assured due to financial challenges and shifting economic environment, thus it is important for the government to prioritize the provision of basic and essential services universally.



## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.0 Introduction**

This chapter provides a summary of the study findings on the assessment of the implementation of sustainable development and poverty eradication in Kenya focusing on the study objectives that sought to establish the causes of poverty in Kenya, examine the strategies employed in implementing the SDG on poverty eradication in Kenya and identify the challenges faced in the implementation process. The chapter will further make conclusions based on the study findings and proffer recommendations on the problem of study.

#### **5.1 Summary of the Findings**

The study in the second chapter sought to establish the nexus that exists between the key concepts of poverty and sustainable development with the theoretical foundation of the research, the capability approach. The overview and analysis of literature on this linkage revealed that there exists analytical relationships between the concepts. The capability approach seeks to widen the development paradigm by providing alternative conceptualization of development challenges such as poverty and its eradication. Further the study found that to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication, a multidimensional approach espoused in the ideas of the capability approach and not only the traditional economic and material measures should be embedded in policies. The capability approach proposes a framework for poverty analysis that overcomes the monetary and resource measures.

The expansionist nature of sustainable development and the capability nature was also noted as they promote the enhancement of individuals' capacities and freedoms in both the present and future generations. The link is further seen in the

lack of limitations of needs in the concepts of sustainable development and the capability approach. Important to the objective of the study, the study established that the capability approach provides an analytical framework with the same call for eradication of poverty in all forms everywhere. The SDG on poverty eradication seeks to eliminate destitution in all forms and thus gives a multidimensional measurement of poverty encompassing social, political and economic deprivations and seeks to enhance peoples' capacities and freedoms to move out and stay out of poverty.

### **5.1.1 Causes of Poverty in Kenya**

The first objective of this study sought to establish the causes and nature of poverty in Kenya. The researcher established that poverty in Kenya is caused by multidimensional factors and its nature is defined by how it manifests itself in the society. The causes of poverty in Kenya were found to be social, economic, political and cultural dimensions. In the social sphere, poverty is in the form of deprivation in social amenities and basics such as education facilities thus illiteracy, health facilities and services, food insecurity, inadequate water and sanitation facilities and many other factors. In the cultural sphere, the study established that poverty is also as a result of unequal socio-cultural structures which deprive some groups the capabilities to meet their needs. The study identified gender inequality, the gender burden that is on women in the rural areas, the cultural norms that limit ownership of properties by women, cultural norms that impede the use of family planning thus increased population in households with inadequate income thus more destitution. On the political front, the study established that issues of bad governance, historical injustices in the form of imbalanced regional development in the country, and institutional incapacities in the implementation of economic and social policies. Economically, poverty was found to as a result of low rates of economic growth and development,

unemployment, unequal distribution of economic growth, and the lack of effective and efficient policies to harness the benefits of the agricultural sector in poverty reduction.

The nature of poverty in Kenya was established to be characterized by social, economic and political dimensions. The social dimension entailed social welfare systems, facilities or infrastructure supplementing the acquisition of basic needs by the people such as healthcare, education, and social security systems. In computing poverty in Kenya, the government's approach uses the basic needs approach, placing consumption rather than incomes as a measure. The economic dimension measures poverty using income distribution, consumption levels, growth versus poverty eradication and also the distribution of economic benefits from the state to the people. Politically poverty is manifested in poor public governance, exclusive state policies and institutional incapacities. Poverty was also found to be pervasive in Kenya, with both rural and urban footprints.

### **5.1.2 Strategies Employed by Kenya in Implementing the SDG on Poverty Eradication**

In responding to the second objective which examined the strategies employed in achieving the sustainable development goal on poverty eradication in Kenya, it was found that the government has put in place various strategies which majorly prioritized social protection. In comparison to the MDGs implementation process, the SDGs process has not focused on a particular economic sector but employed a multidimensional approach with various policy and programme interventions. The study established that the government implementation strategy also entails alignment of the SDGs with national development plans such as the Vision 2030 through its Medium Term Plans. Further, the strategies are largely national with minimal county

based programmes, therefore lacked proper mainstreaming or localization policies. However, the study established that there is increased expenditure on basic services by the government since the adoption of the SDGs but this is not directly due to the implementation of the SDGs, the access to basic services has been enhanced and the social protection programmes and other agricultural policies are building resilience of the poor against various shocks.

### **5.1.3 Challenges to the Implementation of the SDG on Poverty Eradication**

The study sought to identify the challenges faced by Kenya in the implementation of the SDG on poverty eradication. Though Kenya was at the center of the formulation process of the SDGs at the multilateral level, the country faces various challenges in implementing the goals. As in the implementation of the MDGs which entailed a needs and cost assessment, the SDGs process lacked one that would guide the country in resource mobilization and partnerships for SDGs specific programmes and policies. This hints at funding challenges in achieving the goals. Additionally, despite increased government expenditure in basic services there is a challenge in institutional capacity in public finance management as the problem of corruption and mismanagement or misappropriation of funds persists.

The study established that the SDGs are more of a national government responsibility, with minimal reporting and engagement of county government efforts. This is despite the devolution of major functions critical to eradication of poverty and the high prevalence of poverty in the rural areas which accounts for many counties. As such the domestication and localization factor is a challenge as Kenya's political structures entail county specific and independent development policy formulation which therefore disaggregates collective efforts towards the implementation of international development goals. Further, the partnerships between the government,

the private corporate sector and the non-state actors was identified in the implementation policy formulation and reporting but minimal contact was seen the actual implementation, this is either due to limited reporting capacity by the other actors and the coordination of efforts by the SDGs implementation unit.

In respect of emerging issues and their implications to the implementation of the SDG on poverty eradication, climate change has presented a major challenge to the agricultural sector which is the core sector in poverty eradication. With it Kenya and other countries are experiencing unpredictable weather patterns, increased pests and diseases such as the locust invasion of early 2020 thus has led to losses in both livestock and crop production. This has affected millions of small-holder farmers who depend on the sector for livelihoods and will also decrease food supply in the market thus food insecurity and poverty. Additionally, with these effects the governments are forced to expand their social protection bases with limited resources thus ineffective and unsustainable protection programmes to raise people's capacities to move out of poverty. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 has derailed many gains in poverty eradication as it has led to job losses, contracted opportunities, shut down supply chains for medical and other necessities. The pandemic has also shifted public expenditure to the health sector, leading to reduced budgetary support in other sectors that enhance economic growth and development thus slowing down poverty eradication efforts. However, the pandemic has also revealed the social protection needs and has improved health infrastructure which is also important in poverty eradication.

Another challenge identified is the lack of available and reliable data on the SDGs, poverty indicators and other variables that will enable effective monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs. This also affects various policy and programme

interventions, such as the social protection programmes which require data in implementation. Further, this limits the country's capability to develop efficient, effective and comprehensive policies that target all the vulnerable persons and sectors that require intervention to achieve zero poverty in all forms by 2030.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

It is evident from the study that Kenya has undertaken various policy and programme interventions to implement and consequently achieve the SDG on eradicating poverty in all its forms by 2030. The government has its key reporting points on social protection programmes, setting up of funds that benefit vulnerable groups and policies that seek to reduce vulnerabilities to multidimensional shocks and disasters. However, these efforts are faced by various challenges which can be overcome by deeper streamlining, domestication and localization of the implementation efforts to county and local levels and enhanced partnerships with other actors.

The study concludes that the causes and nature of poverty in Kenya reveal the need for multidimensional responses that encompass strategies that seek to increase or develop individuals' capabilities to sustainably move out of poverty. The study's findings indicated of social, economic, political, and cultural causes of poverty and thus the need for expanded analysis, measurement and tackling of the poverty problem. This affirms the hypothesis that the causes and nature poverty in Kenya should guide its poverty eradication policy and programme interventions. The study also concludes that poverty eradication in the SDGs framework entails the total implementation of all goals to support the ultimate goal of developing people and their livelihoods. The goals are interconnected and provide for a multidimensional approach to poverty eradication globally.

Further, the study concludes that with increased challenges to the efforts in poverty eradication, most of which are presented in various shocks and disasters, the government needs efficient and effective policies and strategies to mitigate the impacts of such shocks to people's socio-economic and political livelihoods. Therefore, through enhanced social protection, sustainable development focused initiatives as those identified in the SDGs process the impact of such challenges will be mitigated. The government further needs to improve its data collection and dissemination capacities to support policy development.

### **5.3 Recommendations**

Based on the study findings the following policy and academic recommendations are made:

#### **5.3.1 Policy Recommendations**

1. The study recommends that the Kenyan government should examine all the causes of poverty in the social, cultural, economic and political spheres and employ the relevant strategies to eradicate poverty. This will ensure relevant information is collected, indicating the poverty incidence and manifestation in Kenya including the nature of poverty in the rural and urban areas thus provide targeted responses to eradicate poverty.
2. Kenya should adopt nationally achievable targets based on the SDGs framework and develop policies using the international goals as evaluative benchmarks and normative objectives rather than planning targets. This will ensure policy applicability based on national capabilities and priorities.
3. The implementation of the SDG on poverty eradication should encompass the realization of other goals in the SDGs as they are mutually reinforcing and provide for a multidimensional approach in realizing sustainable development.

Therefore, all implementation strategies should be interlinked through multiagency planning, monitoring and evaluation.

4. To firm up its poverty eradication strategies, the government should consider replacing its relief poverty alleviation programmes by development ones. In this context, the state and county government should amass efforts and resources in poverty concentrated areas through the development of social and economic undertakings such as hospitals, education facilities, infrastructure, industrial development, financial facilities and other inclusive undertakings that enhance human development capabilities.
5. The study recommends that the government undertakes various sectoral reforms in the agricultural sector which is the major economic activity in the country. This should include policies that lead to agricultural structural adjustment, industrialization, self-marketing capabilities and urbanization which increases demand for agricultural produce.
6. The government should effectively through establishing an institution for poverty eradication, needs assessment, monitoring, mobilization of all forces in providing technical, social and financial resources towards implementing the SDGs. This should include the provision of funds to the institution for the purpose of poverty eradication budgeting.

### **5.3.2 Academic Recommendations**

1. Further studies are needed on the socio-economic impacts of implementing the sustainable development goals.
2. The capacity of county-governments in the implementation of international development goals is another possible areas for further research.



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## **APPENDICES**

### **Appendix I: Research Questionnaire**

Dear Respondent,

I kindly request you to provide information for my research project titled: An Assessment of the implementation of sustainable development and poverty eradication in Kenya. The study intends to analyze the nature and causes of poverty in Kenya; the implementation of sustainable development goals (poverty eradication) in Kenya and identify the challenges faced in implementing the goals.

You have been identified to provide critical information to make this study a success. All responses will be acknowledged, credited and strictly used only for academic purposes. Information obtained will be treated in confidence. Your cooperation is highly appreciated.

Thank you.

Onesmas Ogoti Bokombe.

Master of Arts in International Studies candidate,

University of Nairobi, Kenya.



**SECTION A: Bio Data.**

*PLEASE TICK AS APPROPRIATE*

- i. Sex: Male  Female
- ii. Age: 20 – 30  31-40  41 – 50  50 and above
- iii. Highest level of formal education attained:
  - None at all
  - Primary education
  - Secondary education
  - College education
  - University education
- iv. Organization:
  - Government Ministry, department or agency
  - Academia
  - Media
  - Non-governmental (UN or any other)
  - Business

**SECTION B: General Questions**

Q1. Are you aware of the international development goals (MDGs and SDGs)?

Yes  No

Q2. What is your general opinion on the content of the goals, their necessity and effectiveness?

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Q3. Which goal do you consider as the most important among the SDGs?

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Q4. Poverty eradication is at the core of most international development goals, why is it so (in your opinion, what is the importance of the goals).

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**SECTION C: Questions on the Nature and Causes of Poverty in Kenya.**

Q5. In the Kenyan context, how can you define or measure poverty?

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Q6. What are some of the salient characteristics that define and project a state of poverty in Kenya?

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Q7. In your opinion, what distinguishes urban poverty from rural poverty?

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Q8. What are some of the political, economic, and socio-cultural causes of poverty in Kenya?

<b>Factor <i>i.e. economic</i></b>	<b>Causes (<i>specific</i>) <i>i.e. unemployment</i></b>
Political	
Economic	
Socio-cultural	

**SECTION D:** Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Kenya.

Q9. In the formulation of international development goals such as SDGs, what role did Kenya play, and what were some of its interests?

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Q10. Is there a policy guideline or framework for the implementation of International Development Goals (MDGs & SDGs) in Kenya? (*Tick where appropriate*)

Yes                          No   

Q11. How does Kenya interpret global development goals? (*Tick where appropriate*)

- a) As planning targets
- b) As normative objects
- c) As evaluative benchmarks

Q12. What strategies has Kenya put in place to achieve the SDG goal on ending Poverty by 2030?

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Q13. Which actors do you consider as core and integral in the implementation of the goal on poverty eradication? (*List the key actors below*)

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Q14. Is the government engaging the citizens effectively in the implementation process of international development goals, and how?

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Q15. How effectively can Kenya domesticate the goal on poverty eradication in policy and planning and in achieving its targets?

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Q16. Which partnerships are critical for the Kenyan government in implementing the goal on poverty eradication?

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**SECTION E:** Challenges in the implementation of the SDG on poverty eradication in Kenya.

Q17. What are some of the key challenges faced in implementing international development goals in Kenya and the sub-Saharan Africa?

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Q18. What are some of the recommendations you can proffer to enhance Kenya's implementation of the SDG on poverty eradication?

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***THANK YOU.***

## Appendix II: Similarity Report

ogotirun

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