**COVID RECOVERY PLANS AND STRATEGIES**

**(From a Right to Development Perspective)**

The right to development is an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized.

**County Covid-19 Social Economic Re-engineering recovery Strategy 2020/21-2022-23**

The County Covid-19 Social Economic Re-engineering recovery Strategy 2020/21-2022-23 highlights some of the steps that the County Governments are taking to ensure faster recovery and growth of various sectors and ultimately mitigate the effects of Covid-19 on the Economy.

Some of the pillars for County Recovery and Re-engineering strategies that cover different sectors at an individual and community level include:

**Boosting Private Sector Activity.**

The private sector is dominated by micro-enterprises (89.2%) and small farm holders (99.0%) majority of whom were adversely affected by the pandemic. To improve the business environment, there is need to:

* Enhance access to affordable credit: For the Micro and Small Enterprises (MSE’s), initiate and strengthen self-sustaining funds dedicated and easily accessible to MSEs; promote tailor made financial literacy programmes; and establish frameworks for micro-leasing; utilize the SMEs credit guarantee scheme.
* Provide for worksites: Develop adequate, cluster-informed and well-equipped worksites with workshops, common user facilities, incubation centres and showrooms for artisans, and provide machines and safety gear.
* Improve infrastructure and security: Provide for connectivity to roads, electricity, water and drainage and enhance security to reduce crime in continuing to improve Kenya’s global Ease of Doing Business ranking.

**Strengthening ICT Capacity**

Enhancing Information and Communication Technology (ICT) capacity in the public sector and households will enable business continuity and build resilience to future disasters and pandemics. These include:

* Complete the County Connectivity Project to the Government Common Core Network (GCCN).
* Enhance connectivity of businesses to ICT by extending the National Optic Fibre Backbone Infrastructure (NOFBI) in trade centres, public buildings and public spaces to boost e-commerce.
* Enhance household access to reliable, stable and affordable internet connectivity through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) between County Governments and ICT service providers such as the Google Loon and Telkom Kenya partnership.
* Promote household access to and use of ICT by providing devices such as smartphones that are 4G enabled and affordable.

**Human Capital Development**

Investing in human resource development enhances productivity which supports long term growth and development at county level. With the COVID-19, workers across various sectors reported reduced working hours and only a few who managed to provide new and expanded goods and services during the period managed to enhance their income. As such, human resource development will entail addressing health and education risks exposed by COVID-19. The interventions include:

* Extending the scope of Universal Health Coverage to collectively finance health services for all, including uninsured workers and their families; and investing in community and public health.
* Investing in technical education, training and skills development to create more employment opportunities.
* Establishing a pool fund to finance a seasonal public works or employment guarantee scheme.
* Promoting safety at workplaces with enforcement of guidelines to reduce the exposure of all workers including informal workers to the virus.

**Policy, Legislative, and Institutional Reforms**

The Constitution gives the National Government the role of policy development, and thus County Governments rely on policy and legislative frameworks passed at the national level for activities in various sectors. Counties also develop their policy frameworks and it is important to improve inter-governmental relations to facilitate the integration and coordination of policies at national and county levels. With the pandemic, some of the recovery strategies recommended include:

* Review the Public Health Act, Cap 242, to consider modern public health trends, developments, challenges and emerging opportunities.
* Harmonization and rationalization of the various laws on agriculture to streamline operations between the National and County Governments.
* Enact appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks to regulate and control the protection of data and status of individuals who are confirmed, suspected or recovered cases of COVID-19 and other future pandemics or public health outbreaks that may occur in future.
* Develop regulations for protection and regulation of information shared, recorded or documented through online platforms including video conferencing platforms and mobile applications.
* Review the Employment Act 2007 to protect patients, or suspected patients, of COVID-19 from discrimination, harassment, unlawful disclosure of their status, stigmatization, reprisals or termination of employment due to fear of COVID-19, infectious disease or on grounds of their health status.

These among other measures highlighted will ensure recovery for small businesses which will improve the welfare of the community at large as well as at an individual level.

The report also highlights the strategies to be taken at each sector including: Agriculture, Water and Sanitation, Urban Development and Housing, Transport, Tourism, Health, Education, Social Protection and Gender and Youth.