



# Meru County



## Meru County at a glance

*It borders Isiolo to the north, Nyeri to the south west, Tharaka-Nithi to the south west and Laikipia to the west*

**Area:** 6,936 km<sup>2</sup>

**Population:** 1,356,301  
(Male - 49%, Female - 51%)



Prosperity **Peace**  
Partnership  
**Planet** People





## Accountability and Governance

The Constitution of Kenya (2010) has provided the opportunity for resources to be transferred to a new level of government at the grassroots. While devolution has created a new reform space for more responsive, equitable, efficient and accountable local service delivery, converting this into actual transformation at the grassroots will depend on the quality of county institutions charged with this responsibility.

Since devolution entails the simultaneous transfer of power and resources to an entire new level of government, counties face unique challenges that demand innovative solutions. The EU is therefore working with the Government of Kenya to promote transparency and accountability in the management of county public finances. Sound economic and political governance will allow the residents of all counties to reap the benefits that devolution promises to bring to the people.

## Sustainable Infrastructure

The EU together with its development partners, has committed to continue supporting Kenya in its infrastructure projects with a focus on energy, transport, water and sanitation and housing. This is in line with Vision 2030 (MTPII) and the government's Big Four agenda.

The EU is also supporting the country towards the modernisation its energy infrastructure with a special focus on development of renewable, affordable and reliable energy sources. This support is also targeting access to energy in rural areas in Kenya in order to increase the economic and social development of communities, households, and to spur the creation and growth of energy-based and reliant small enterprises.

Through this support and partnership, the Government of Kenya will be able to achieve its aspirations in poverty reduction and accelerated and inclusive economic growth through more sustainable and efficient energy and transport infrastructure.

## Employment Creation

Employment creation, particularly among youth, is one of the top priorities of the Government of Kenya. In addition, Vision 2030 through the Third Medium Term Plan (MTP III), highlights the need for institutional and economic reforms to accelerate growth for job creation, notably in the informal sector. The government is committed to create more new jobs annually to address the pressing problem of youth unemployment.

It is in line with these efforts that the EU will seek to promote growth and employment through identification of opportunities in sectors with great employment potential, such as agriculture and agri-business; sustainable housing; sustainable infrastructure; and the manufacturing sector.



These sectors are the backbone of the government's Big Four agenda and contribute directly to the Vision 2030 goals of creating social-economic transformation, increasing job creation and improving quality of life for all Kenyans.

By aligning its support to these efforts, the EU's work within the counties is seeking to improve the social and economic opportunities for youth in all counties.

## Resilience Building

Agriculture is the bedrock of Kenya's economy and contributes to a large percentage of Kenya's GDP. It is also the source of livelihood for a majority of Kenya's population.

The EU in partnership with the government of Kenya are working towards more climate-resilient agricultural production and enhanced adaptation to climate change while following a low-carbon development pathway in light of the fact that Kenya's agriculture is mostly rain-fed.

Specific EU investments will go towards improved food security at national and county level. This will be with the view to achieve sustainable drought management; increased food security and nutrition; livelihood diversification and value chains; and research and adoption of climate-smart agriculture.



## Partnering with the EU

The EU provides funding for a broad range of projects and programmes covering areas such as: regional & urban development; employment & social inclusion; agriculture & rural development; maritime & fisheries policies; research & innovation; humanitarian aid.

Funding is managed according to strict rules to ensure there is tight control over how funds are used and that the money is spent in a transparent, accountable manner.

In Kenya over 80% of the EU budget is managed in partnership with national and regional authorities through a system of "joint management", largely through the European Development Fund implemented through the EU-GoK Country Strategy Paper.

Other funds are managed directly by the EU. These are provided in the form of:

- Grants for **specific projects in relation to EU policies**, usually following a public announcement known as a 'call for proposals'. Part of the funding comes from the EU, part from other sources.
- Contracts issued by EU institutions to **buy in services, goods or works** they need for their operations – like studies, training, conference organization, IT equipment. Contracts are awarded through calls for tender.

Young people may access two main types of funding:

- Education & training - study opportunities through Erasmus+, support for pupils nearing the end of secondary education, and vocational training in another country
- Youth – co-funding of projects which encourage civic involvement, volunteer work and a broader multicultural outlook.

## EU Supported Projects in Meru County

### Road Transport

#### REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION BY MEANS OF TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE - TOURIST ROADS

Mt. Kenya National Park and Aberdare National Park, component: Nyeri + Meru + Nyandarua

#### SUPPORT TO ROAD SECTOR POLICY: 10TH EDF RURAL ROADS REHABILITATION PROJECT IN KENYA

EU contribution is €14.85M (equivalent to 70% of the total cost of the project)

##### Rural Roads Project in Eastern Region of Kenya: Lot 3:

Meru Region (E773/R24 Ndurumo - Giaki - Miamponi road 24km) - EU contribution is €3.2M (equivalent to 70% of the total cost of the project)

#### ENDING DROUGHT EMERGENCY: SUPPORT TO CLIMATE PROOFED RURAL ROADS IN ARID AND SEMI ARID AREAS IN KENYA €30M

Location: Kenya (Laikipia, Meru, Isiolo, Samburu, Tharaka Nithi, Marsabit)

### Support to food security and Resilience

#### ENDING DROUGHT EMERGENCIES: SUPPORT TO DROUGHT MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION - €30M

Grants to support Pillar 5 and 6 for Drought Risk Management, and Institutional Development and Knowledge Management

Arid counties: Baringo, Garissa, Isiolo, Mandera, Marsabit, Samburu, Tana River, Turkana and Wajir. Wajir

Semi-arid counties: Embu, Kilifi, Kwale, Laikipia, Lamu, Makueni, Meru, Narok, Nyeri, Taita Taveta, Tharaka Nithi, Kitui, Kajiado and West Pokot.

Implementing Partner: National Drought Management Authority (NDMA)





## ENDING DROUGHT EMERGENCIES: SUPPORT TO RESILIENT LIVELIHOODS AND DROUGHT RISK MANAGEMENT (AAP 2017) - €37.5M

*The overall objective is that communities in ASAL areas of Kenya are more resilient to drought and other effects of climate change, through improved food and nutrition security and sustained livelihoods contributing to enhanced peace and stability.*

**Component 1:** West Pokot, Baringo, Isiolo and Tana River  
Implementing Partner: **National Drought Management Authority (tbc)**

**Component 2:** 23 ASAL Counties (Baringo, Embu, Garissa, Isiolo, Kajiado, Kilifi, Kitui, Kwale, Laikipia, Lamu, Makueni, Mandera, Marsabit, Meru, Narok, Nyeri, Samburu, Taita Taveta, Tana River, Tharaka Nithi, Turkana, Wajir, West Pokot)  
Implementing Partners: Call for proposals

## KENYA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME €37.5M

*The general objective of the Kenya Rural Development Programme will be to contribute to improved food security in Kenya. The project purpose is to increase productivity and efficiency of food systems in Kenya.*

### Programme estimate 4 – ASAL drought management €4.5M

ASAL Drought Management Arid counties: Baringo, Garissa, Isiolo, Mandera, Marsabit, Samburu, Tana River, Turkana and Wajir. Semi-arid counties: Embu, Kilifi, Kwale, Laikipia, Lamu, Makueni, Meru, Narok, Nyeri, Taita Taveta, Tharaka Nithi, Kitui, Kajiado and West Pokot.

Implementing Partner: **National Drought Management Authority (NDMA)**

### ASAL Drought Contingency Fund Project €10M

Arid counties: Baringo, Garissa, Isiolo, Mandera, Marsabit, Samburu, Tana River, Turkana and Wajir.

Semi-arid counties: Embu, Kilifi, Kwale, Laikipia, Lamu, Makueni, Meru, Narok, Nyeri, Taita Taveta, Tharaka Nithi, Kitui, Kajiado and West

Implementing Partner: **National Drought Management Authority**

### Establishment of an Index Based Livestock Insurance for pastoralists communities in Kenya Arid and Semi - Arid Lands (ASAL) – Index Based Livestock Insurance €1M

Implementing Partner: **United Kingdom of Great Britain And Northern Ireland**

## Kenya Cereal Enhancement Programme (KCEP) - €27.1M

**Location:** Kenya, maize production zones - Bungoma, Kakamega, Nakuru, Nandi and Trans Nzoia- Semi - arid - Embu, Kitui, Tharaka, Machakos, Makweni, Taita Taveta, Kilifi, Kwale

**Implementing Partner:** **International Fund for Agricultural Development**

## Increased productivity and profitability of small holder farmers through promotion and up – scaling of GAP & CA in productive Semi-Arid areas of Kenya (IPP-GAP) - €9.5M

**Locations:** Machakos, Makueni, Kilifi, Kwale, Laikipia, Meru, Kitui and Tharaka Nithi

**Implementing Partner:** **Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)**



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