



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Vision:

A Sustainable community inspired by the Love of God

Mission:

Enhance integral human development through partnerships and innovations to achieve a sustainable community



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Caritas Director Note:

It is with profound gratitude that I welcome you to read through the Caritas Kitui 2019 Annual Report. This report provides a snapshot of the work done by Caritas Kitui throughout the year. As an introduction, Caritas is a Latin word that means Love for all. Caritas delivers service to all with the Love of Christ hence we do not discriminate on whatever aspect of life be it gender, religion, age etc. In this milieu, it is worth to note that, service is delivered to the community by our staff in a love that transcends self in order to bring about Integral Human Development for all.

Caritas Kitui is the Development Department of Diocese of Kitui mandated to carry out charitable and social activities on behalf of the Diocese. In order to reach out to the community in a significant and transformative way, Caritas operates in a number of thematic areas including **Sustainable Livelihoods, Humanitarian and Emergency Response, Governance and Advocacy, Environment and Climate Change and Resource Mobilization and Institutional Development.** In order to realize our goal, we work in close collaboration with both the County and National Governments, different funding agencies and partners who include CAFOD, Misereor, Trocaire, UNDP, Brooke East Africa, WFP, Fastenopfer, Diakonia Sweden, St Paul's & Minneapolis, and Catholic Relief Services.

I would like to appreciate in a very special way the Caritas Board who have continued to provide their unwavering support at the policy and strategic level as well as playing an advisory role to ensure that Caritas Kitui remains a role model in offering true service to the people it serves. I thank the Apostolic Administrator Catholic Diocese of Kitui and the Vicar Generals for their continued support in ensuring that we remain vigilant in our work and that we are able to utilize every opportune moment to change lives especially the neediest and deserving. I express my gratitude to the Caritas Kitui Staff for their diligence, hard work, commitment, and faith in working towards the realization of an Integral Human Development for all.

Florence Ndeti
Caritas Director



Catholic Diocese of Kitui

Chapter one

Introduction and Background of Caritas Kitui

Caritas Kitui is the Social and Development department of the Catholic Diocese of Kitui established in 1974 as development department and branded as Caritas Kitui in 2010.

Caritas Kitui aims at promoting sustainable human dignity, improved livelihoods and a just society with community participation.

Caritas Kitui mainly operates within Kitui County. Kitui is geographically in the lower Eastern region of Kenya and is approx. 30,496 km² in size with 1,136,187 people (2019 census). It has 8 sub Counties and 40 administrative wards. The County is classified as arid and semi-arid lands with agro-pastoral as the dominant economic activity.

Projects Implementation Context

In the reporting period (2019), Caritas Kitui work was guided by 2018-2022 strategic plan and implemented various interventions across the County of Kitui and one intervention in Makueni County. The table below shows the specific geographical coverage areas with various interventions in the reporting year

Project/ Intervention	Objective	Sub County	Ward(s)
1. Carbon Offset Project	To Increase reduction in CO ₂ -emissions responsible for climate change by using the new cook stoves by rural communities of Kitui	Kitui West, Kitui Rural, Kitui Central and Mwingi West Sub	Yatta/Kwa Vonza, Miambani, Kanyangi, Kisasi/Kavisuni, Mbitini, Ikanga/Kyatune, Chuluni, Kyome/Thaana, Migwani, Mutonguni, Kauwi,
2. Integrated risk reduction project	Increased community preparedness and resilience to risks through a people led approach	Mwingi West	Kyome Thaana
3. Insurance for assets	Build the resilience of farmers and food-insecure rural households through integrated climate risk management	Kitui East, South, Rural and Mwingi North	Kanyangi, Yatta/Kwa Vonza, Mutomo/Kibwea, Kanziko/simisi, Voo/Kyamatu, Endau/Malalani, Zombe/Mwitika, Mutitu/Kaliku, Ikanga/Kyatune, Ngomeni, Kyuso and Tseikuru

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| 4. | Community resilience and climate change adaptation project | Vulnerable HHs are more Resilient to shocks and stresses related to climate change | Mwingi North, Mwingi Central | Nguni and Ngomeni |
| 5. | Kitui Integrated Food Security Project | Improved access to food and income through good agricultural practices and diversification of livelihoods | Mwingi West and West | Nguutani and Mutonguni |
| 6. | Strengthening market linkages for improved food and nutrition security of agro-pastoralist households in Kitui and Makueni Counties – AMAL Project | Improved Food and Nutrition security for 1,900 agro-pastoralist HHs | Kitui Rural, Kitui South, Kibwezi West and Kibwezi East | Kanyangi, Ikutha/Kasaala, Athi, Ivingoni/Nzambani, Masongaleni, Mtito/Andei, Makindu and Nguumo, Kathonzweni |
| 7. | Improved water Management for Food Security and Livelihoods | To develop community-based systems to enhance food security, environment, living standards and livelihoods including entrepreneurship | Mwingi central | Nguni and Nuu |
| 8. | Kitui Integrated Animal Welfare and Livelihoods Project (KIAWLP) | Enhanced welfare of 36,500 working donkeys for Sustainable Community in Kitui County by 2021 | Mwingi West, Mwingi North, Mwingi Central, Mwingi South and Kitui West | All 25 wards in the 5 sub counties |
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| 9. Madini Yetu Wajibu Wetu Project | Promote effective community engagement and responsible stewardship of extractive resources for inclusive growth and sustainable development | Mwingi Central: Kitui East, Kitui South and Mwingi North | Mui, Mutitu Kaliku, Zombe, Kanziko/Simisi, Athi, Kyuso |
| 10. Energy Advocacy Project | Effective integration of clean and sustainable energy into County Policies, Plans and Implementation | All Counties | Sub All wards |
| 11. Enhancing Opportunities for Women Enterprise (EOWE) Project | Enhancing Opportunities for Women Enterprises | Kitui Central, Township, Mulango Kitui East | |



Total of 11 projects implemented in the year 2019



At least 1 project in each of the 8 sub counties in Kitui County

Projects Implemented in 39 wards in Kitui County and 6 wards in Makueni County



40758 beneficiaries reached through various interventions in 2019



Total Ksh 78,926,270 spent in 2019



Institutional Management Information System Launched and operationalized in 2019

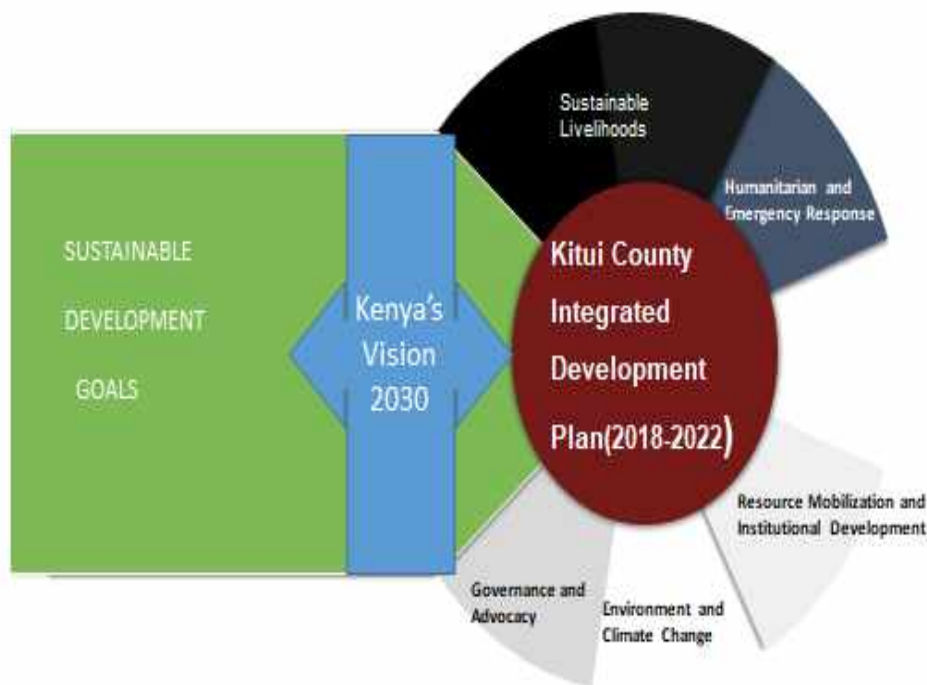


5 county development plans/policies influenced

Caritas thematic areas and linkage with development blueprints

Caritas Kitui revised its 5 year strategic plan in 2018 and within it are the thematic areas of focus which are aligned to the local, national and global development blueprints. It is in line with the Kitui County Integrated Development Plan (2018-2022), Kenya Vision 2030 as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Linkage with development blueprints

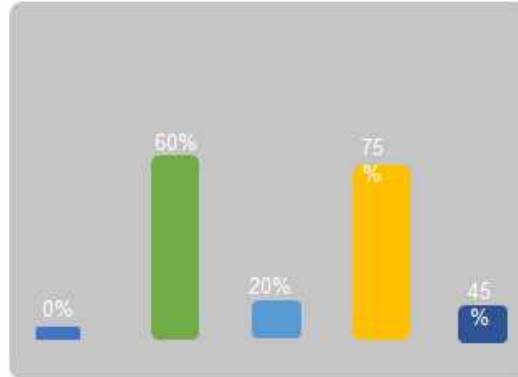


Caritas Kitui work is guided by the new strategic plan 2018-2021. Having conducted an assessment basing on the annual achievements and targets per thematic area, the progress report is presented as below:

Caritas Strategic Plan Implementation Progress

as at December, 2019

- Humanitarian and disaster Response
- Sustainable Livelihoods
- Environment and Climate Change
- Governance and Advocacy
- Institutional Dev and Resource Mob



2019 ACHIEVEMENTS BY PROJECTS

Thematic Area	Project Name	Project Objective/Goal	Overall	Beneficiaries Reached	Key Achievements
SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS	1. Integrated risk reduction project	Increased community preparedness and resilience to risks through a people led approach		2000 HHs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 98% of surveyed farmers indicated to have adopted at least 3 smart farming technologies including conservation agriculture, zaipits, organic farming, kitchen gardening, tree growing, grafting, poultry farming Project interventions increased productions of the drought tolerant crops by more than 100% as evidenced in the changes from 2016 baseline data 56% of the farmers have established individual tree nurseries and 51000 trees planted across the project area One Producer cooperative society formed 4,790,070 KES earned from sales by beneficiaries 96% of the farmers accessed credit facilities from the group savings and lending schemes

<p>2. Insurance Assets</p>	<p>Build the resilience for of farmers and food-insecure rural households through integrated climate risk management</p>	<p>8,747 HHs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful sign up of 8,747 farmers for crop insurance • 92.7 Tonnes of cow peas, green gram, Millets & sorghum harvested by farmers reached by the project
<p>3. Community Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation Project</p>	<p>Vulnerable HHs are more Resilient to shocks and stresses related to climate change</p>	<p>3625HHs(</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 demonstration farms established and functioning as community learning centres on agroecology • 1.7 tonnes of honey processed and sold @ Ksh 350 earning Ksh 595,000 as well Increased women participation in bee keeping • 2 Community Based Organizations established for collective marketing and advocacy • Improved access to credit through SILC Model- Increase in value of savings and loans from Ksh 129,002 and Ksh180,000 to 597,827 and Ksh 650,688 respectively as at September 2019 • Improved nutrition and income from poultry - consumption and sale of chicken and eggs.

2 groups reported cumulative income of Ksh 360, 600 as at Sept 2019.

- Climate change policy developed at the cabinet stage with support from Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)

4. Kitui Integrated Food Security Project
 Improved access to food and income through good agricultural practices and diversification of livelihoods
 600HHs

- Enhanced women donkey owner’s economic empowerment and resilience through; collaboration with Catholic Medical Mission Board (CMMB) – 7 donkey welfare groups supported with 14 water tanks of 2,500 liters capacity each.
- Enhanced awareness on donkey protection from theft and slaughter through anti-donkey theft forum. The awareness forums have reached 10832 donkeys’ owners with 9840 donkeys during the 350 public forums conducted by the chiefs at community level.
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- 568 HHs (out of 600HHs) have adopted at least 3 climate resilient agriculture technologies following intensive trainings on

good agricultural practices and improved extension services

- 5 youth groups of 10 members each identified and trained on collective marketing of farm produce
- 220 HHs (out of 540HHs) have diversified their income sources through vegetable production, poultry and production and establishment of small enterprises

5. Strengthening market linkages for improved food and nutrition security of agro-pastoralist households in Kitui and Makueni Counties – AMAL Project

Improved Food and Nutrition security for 1,900 agro-pastoralist HHs

1900HHs

- 526 women trained and utilizing knowledge and skills on Nutrition & dietary diversification
- 15 Farmer Organizations Established & each with Village Savings and Lending Association (VSLA) formed
- 21 Mother To Mother Support Groups formed and established 21 Kitchen gardens
- Identified and Trained 15 Community Resource Persons to assist FOs/MTMSG

6. Improved water Management for To develop community-based

600HHs

- One Earth dam Constructed of 43,875 M³ capacity therefore leading to reduced

Food Security and Livelihoods systems to enhance food security, environment, living standards and livelihoods including entrepreneurship

distances to water from 14km to 7Km by 350HH for at least 6 months of the year

- One Water Management committee formed and trained on Governance, Operations & Maintenance
- 360 community members sensitized on hygiene and sanitation practices
- 30 community Members trained on savings and internal lending in communities (**SILC**) methodology and are adopting the saving culture.
- Diversified income from 4,000 interlocking blocks made and sold.

18250

7. Kitui Integrated Animal Welfare and Livelihoods Project (KIAWLP) Enhanced welfare of 36,500 working donkeys for Sustainable Community in Kitui County by 2021

- Enhanced women donkey owners economic empowerment and resilience through; collaboration with Catholic Medical Mission Board (CMMB) – 7 donkey welfare groups supported with 14 water tanks of 2,500 liters capacity
- Total donkey owners reached 14,718 out of 18,250
- 70 Vets reached during CPD training

- 22 Ambassador donkey welfare groups engaged
- 21 Tutors expected reach 660 (64M and 592 F) adult learners/ community members, in the 17 centers, who own 529 donkeys.
- 3 CBOs formed (Mwingi central, north and Mwingi west
- **62 Groups** (Mwingi Central, North and West and Kitui South, 2,008 Donkey owners/Users (277M 1704 F) and 3,707 donkeys reached directly. 10 new groups formed in Kitui west with 641 owners and 615 donkeys.

**GOVERNANCE
AND ADVOCACY**

1. Madini Yetu Promote effective 461
Wajibu Wetu community Beneficiaries
Project engagement and
responsible
stewardship of
extractive resources
for inclusive growth
and sustainable
development

- Participation in Public participation fora, National Mining Dialogues and submission of communique to relevant ministries for further action. Submission of Block D petition to the National Assemble by the area MP.
- Increased Knowledge in extractives through Exposure visits to Migori county Radio Talk shows and Platform training.

- Development and Submission of Memorandum articulating mining issues in the 2020/2021 Annual Development Plan.

<p>2. Energy Advocacy Project</p>	<p>Effective integration of clean and sustainable energy into County Policies, Plans and Implementation</p>	<p>Entire Kitui County</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness creation of caritas staff and county Officials on Energy Delivery Model (EDM) approach • Finalization of baseline survey across representative wards • Formation of technical committee to advice in development of County Energy Master Plan (CEMP) • Validation of GIZ framework to develop CEMP •
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<p>3. Enhancing Opportunities for Women Enterprise (EOWE) Project</p>	<p>Enhancing Opportunities for Women Enterprises</p>	<p>64 Beneficiaries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kitui County Gender Policy draft developed. At the county executive level • Submission of a memorandum during the development of the 2020/2021 Annual Development Plan. 10 Issues were submitted
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ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE	1. Carbon Offset Project	Offset	To reduce CO2-emissions responsible for climate change by using the new cook stoves by rural communities of Kitui	Increase 4511HHs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased women input in decision making at household level from 44% to 98% and gendered division of labour from 15% to 100%. 2347 Cook stoves constructed in the year 124 artisans (Both Male (51%) and Female (49%) trained and gained skills on cook stove principles and construction. 70 artisans actively engaged in construction. Kitchen Performance Test carried out in September 2019 - indicated fuel wood savings of 1.11tons per year/stove 400 village elders and 2000 persons reached through 20 climate change and project awareness events
RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT	1. Anti Fraud Policy, CHM 2. MIS 3. Staff trainings 4. Resource Mobilization			All caritas staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13 funding proposals developed and submitted in 2019 Launching and operationalization of the institutional management information system

5. Caritas walk

- All staff participated in one or more capacity building forum either by the institution or by project donors
 - Institutional policy (Anti -Fraud policy) was developed and adopted in 2019 whose commitment is Zero tolerance to fraud. Complaint Handling and Feedback Mechanism policy guidelines were also developed
 - Strengthened Caritas resource mobilization team for livelihoods and resilience projects with training support from Brooke East Africa and USIU
 - Caritas successfully organized a Caritas walk as a visibility and resource mobilization event
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SUCCESS STORY

Agroecology in practice: A case of Elizabeth Irughi's Household in Kathaalani sub-location in Ngomeni ward, Kitui County

Agroecology is one of the key implementations approaches that the *Community Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation (UKAM)* project was designed to incorporate in pursuit to realizing its objective of building a resilient community in the face of a variable and changing climate. Prior to and after commencement of the project in 2017, knowledge and practice of agroecology was quite low and scanty among the project beneficiaries. However, through formal and practical on-farm trainings as well as constant mentorships and exchange visits, there is an evident shift in knowledge and practice of agroecology and permaculture within beneficiaries' farming systems.

Elizaeth Irughi (Joseph Irughi's wife) is a member of *Wathimo* poultry group who was targeted under the poultry intervention which is one of the nine major project interventions. Besides poultry keeping and in the spirit of diversifying their household livelihood sources, Elizabeth decided to replicate in their farm some of the farming technologies learnt from the demonstration farm which was established through the UKAM project as a community learning center on various agro-ecological practices and technologies.

Ngomeni demonstration farm is approximately 5 kilometers away from Irughi's home but her wife attends most of the trainings conducted there. This is where she has acquired the practical skills and technologies which they have replicated within their farm after passing on the knowledge and skills to her husband (Joseph) who then supports her in implementing the learnings in their own farm.

"My wife goes to the trainings organized by caritas in Ngomeni demo farm and she later teaches me what she has learnt, and thereafter we practice together in our farm. We have also been shown how to make standard raised and sunken beds by our TOT- Kithome Muthangya," Joseph Irughi explains.

A visit to Joseph Irughi's farm demonstrates the transformation role that agroecology can play/contribute in enhancing sustainable food production systems for household food security and resilience building. They now have a food forest, kitchen garden with fruit trees; raised and sunken beds, *shamba gunias*, as well as terraces in the main farm. They also have a farm pond to harvest and store surface water which supports the kitchen garden during the dry season.

"In spite of the little rains we receive in our area, my whole farm always retains adequate water to support my green grams and other crops until maturity and I hardly miss a harvest from my 4 acres farm. I was also supported with a farm pond liner and a pumping machine so as to harvest enough water to support my kitchen garden and food forest".

His farm has become another agroecology model farm where the surrounding farmers within his village come to learn. He is now able to produce tomatoes, amaranth, kales and spinach which are

adequate for his household consumption and some surplus for sale. He earned over Ksh 4000 during the dry period (February, 2018) through sale of vegetables from his kitchen garden.

“I am very grateful to Caritas Kitui for this project and for showing us that, we can still produce food in our area if we only conserve our soil and water and having some of the technologies that I have already tried.If all our people can try this, then no one will lack something to eat” Elizabeth Concludes.



Image1: On-farm practical trainings at the demo farm
wife in their farm



Replication of technologies at household level(M. Joseph Irughi and His



Mr. Joseph Irughi's Farm after the short rains



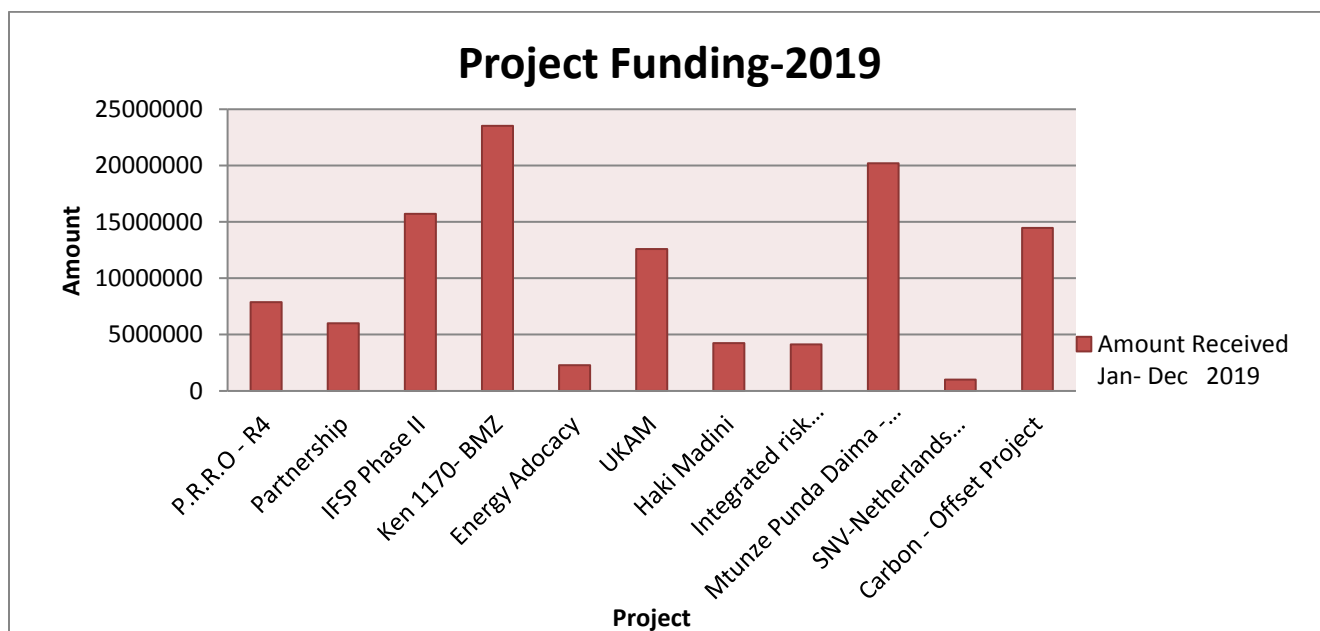
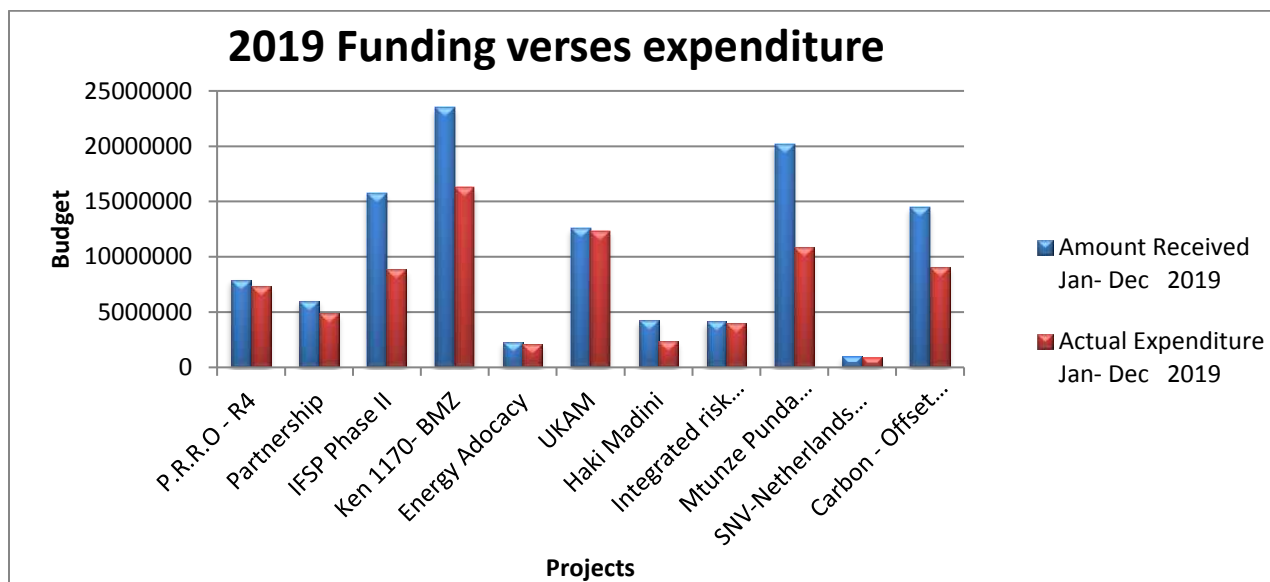
Bio-pesticides locally made for use to control pests

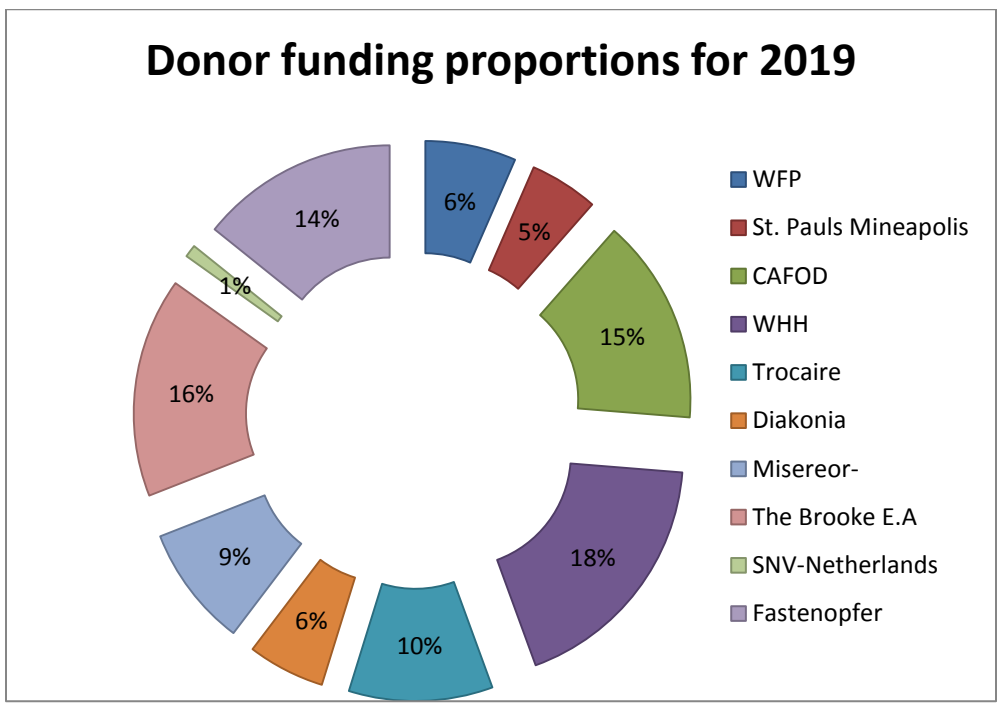
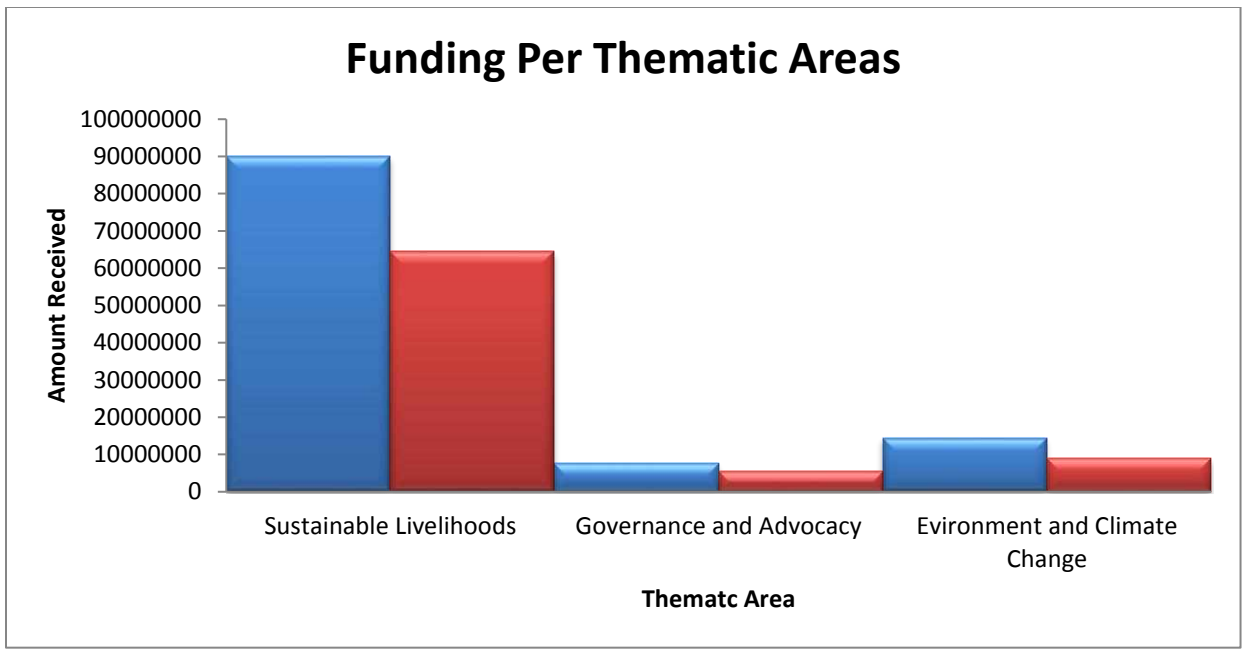


Mr. Joseph Irughi and his wife show casing water melons from their farm Elizabeth Irughi in her vegetable farm

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Below is a summarized representation of financial information for the year 2019. *(Refer to the 2019 financial reports)*





CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Challenges

- Limited / short term financing for projects from donors as a result of global changes
- Frequent droughts which affects adoption of appropriate agricultural technologies hence subjection of target communities to vulnerability hence increased dependence.
- Relatively slow uptake of agro ecology (new approach) technologies.
- Unreliable markets for farmers' produce
- Low literacy levels and passive participation of platform members especially for women

Opportunities

- Geographical Location of Caritas at the grass roots which enhances constant contact with target communities.
- High demand for Caritas Kitui Interventions by communities due to experience in response to community needs in its interventions. by local and international partners among others interested parties
- Increased community and government acceptance as key partners in development
- Increased demand for capacity development among communities on devolved governance
- Working with the County governance system

Recommendation:

- Caritas to diversify its funding opportunities.
- Caritas Need to invest in long term projects that result to great impact
- Caritas to enhance its integrated approach to development for it has more impact.

- Support the resource mobilization team to be able to fundraise for the future and attain unrestricted funds to support its staff capacity development for enhanced efficiency in project management and also develop a reserve for marching fund.

Lessons learnt

- Continuous community needs assessments and profiling helps to design better projects (Using participatory approaches e.g. ABCD)
- Inventorize existing institutions of common interest in the county to guide selection of project participants
- Adopt common Organizational training manuals (Agriculture, Livestock, SILC/VSLA) etc.
- Periodic internal project reviews and planning meeting to track the implementation process helps in project adjustments/corrections and improvements
- Continuous staff capacity development and organised information sharing forums for staff to share after specific trainings

Appreciation to 2019 Caritas Kitui Donors and other partners



