

# COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYAMIRA



## COUNTY URBAN INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

CUIDS 2023-2027

## **1.0. BACKGROUND**

Nyamira County and Kenya at large remains to grapple with speedy and uncontrolled urbanization, inadequate infrastructure and services, degradation of the environment, under-utilization of natural resources, uncoordinated development efforts, unplanned urban areas, uneven distribution of resources, uneconomical land fragmentation and food insecurity.

Human settlements play a critical role in development as they are centers of social interactions, services and utility provision. These settlements are influenced by numerous constraints among them climatic conditions, infrastructure networks like roads, water and electricity as well as availability and access to gainful employment especially for the youth. Migration of rural population to major towns in search of employment and other services like education and health has resulted to strained infrastructural facilities in these urban centres. The human settlements and urbanization trends in Nyamira county present several opportunities and challenges as outlined below:

### **1.1. Opportunities**

Majority of the towns and market centres are situated along transportation corridors, enhancing their accessibility. Dense settlements provide ready markets for products and are cheaper to service. The dense population both in the rural areas and urban centres translates to demand for goods and services. These dense settlements are also cheaper to service compared to linear and leap frog developments. High percentage of home ownership at 85.5%: The county's home ownership is estimated at 85.5% compared to the national percentage of 61.3%. This could be attributed to the fact that majority of the population resides in the rural areas where they have constructed their homesteads within the agricultural farms.

### **1.2. Challenges**

Linear and leapfrog developments: Most market centres have developed along the major roads resulting to linear and leap frog developments. These developments are expensive to service. Haphazard developments, urban decay and poor aesthetics within the urban

### **1.3.1 Keroka Municipality**

Keroka town was upgraded to a municipality status in the year 2024. The upgrading was in alignment with the stipulations outlined in the Urban Areas and Cities Act No. 13 of 2011 (Amended 2019).

The upgrading stems not only from historical considerations but also acknowledges the discernible increase in urbanization trends, particularly in regions connecting major towns and cities to thoroughly assessing the town the feasibility for elevation. The robust urbanization trends in the tow, population growth, infrastructure strengthened by its existence along a major transport corridor, Kisii – Sotik places Keroka a regional hub for vibrant growth.

## **1.4. Main urban areas in the county**

The next level of urban centres are mainly rural service centres providing lower-level administrative services (sub-county level), limited commercial services i.e few basic goods stores, shops, few hotels and lodges small agri-business activities and county level educational institutions. These include Nyansiongo, Ikonge, Ekerenyo, Gesima, Kemera, Omogonchoro and Manga. Many other centres provide for open air trading areas with few shops providing minimum basic goods and basic education facilities. These town require regeneration strategies through regularization of the land tenure system.

Nyamira town has fairly good urban infrastructure. The town has few tarmacked roads that has improved rural urban linkages in the county for easy movement of goods money and information, modern street light but have no sewer system. It has also invested in improving urban safety through not only street lighting in urban centres but across the County. In addition, here is also other services like firefighting, financial services, markets, health services, public abolition blocks and garbage/waste management

## **1.5. Urban development challenges**

One of the critical urban development challenges in the county is lack of proper planning. Almost all urban centers have no spatial plans or have very old ones that need urgent updating. Nyansiongo for example has an old plan dating back to 1966, Manga was planned in 2008 through 2016 but the plan is not approved. The county is working on its spatial plan which is on its final stage.

Due to lack of sufficient funding, poor infrastructure development is a feature of urban centers in the county. Nyamira town for example has serious problem of solid waste management, storm water drainage, fire and disaster management. Because of lack of these and other infrastructure, urban centers in the county can hardly play their role of drivers of economic transformation and social cultural integration.

There is also little implementation of the provisions of the Urban Areas and Cities Act in relation to development of managerial structure for Nyamira town. The town now under Nyamira Municipal government structure as stipulated in the Urban Areas and Cities Act.

## **2.0 URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **2.1 Status of Urban and Land Use Planning in the County**

The County Spatial Plan, 2021-2030 is ongoing, Nyamira Municipality Spatial Plan 2020-2030 at final stage, 9 Local Physical Development Plans for (Nyamira Township, Konate, Kebirigo, Miruka, Nyaramba, Sironga, Ting'a, Kioge, Nyamaiya) prepared alongside the Municipality Spatial Plan.

Most of the Urban areas in the County lack current spatial plans.

Most resident in nyamira county have land tenure and at the same time we have rural urbanization in which congestion on rural areas in which we have small lands which



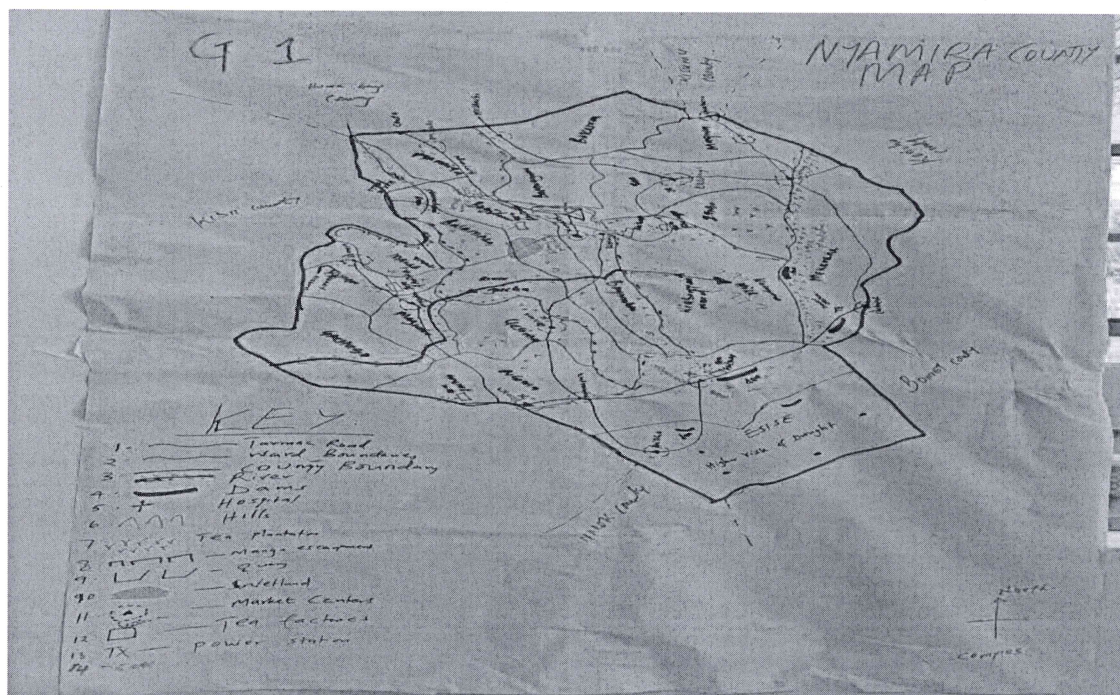
to more frequent and heavier rain events and water encroachment.

- Increased cost of maintenance of the physical infrastructure as a result of extreme weather effects.
  - Greater resource scarcity, such as water and raw materials that are inputs in manufacturing processes.
  - Greater risk of plant, product and infrastructure damage, and supply chain disruptions from extreme climate events.
  - Higher costs to companies, including for insurance
  - Reduced availability of surface water for activities, such as irrigation, livestock production, household use and industry.
  - Increased water loss from reservoirs, due to evaporation.
  - Lower water levels in boreholes and springs, particularly during dry seasons
- Safety risks associated with existing buildings that do not meet standards

## **2.2 Vulnerability and exposure trends in the County.**

- The County is characterized by a rapid growing population, high population density, portable water scarcity, falling food production, and low resilience to climate change. The combined effects of climate change and rapid population growth are increasing food insecurity, environmental degradation, and poverty levels in the county. The Nyamira County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP), 2018-2022; identified environmental degradation and climate change as key development challenges.
- The growing population in the region coupled with the changing climate has resulted in severe environmental concern in the County. These challenges include poor land use planning, improper waste management; source and non-source pollution; dropping water levels; increase in catchment degradation (land and forest ecosystems); wetland degradation; and loss of biodiversity as well as deteriorating ecosystem services.

## 2.3 County Climate Hazard Map



• Figure 1: Sketch of Nyamira county Hazard Map

## 2.4 Legal and regulatory systems for urban management, climate resilience and disaster risk management in the county

### 2.4.1 Legal and regulatory systems for urban management in the county

Article 184 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 provides for the governance and management of urban areas and cities in the country. This was effected through the Urban Areas and Cities Act, 2011 that clearly defines various classes of urban areas and the nature and function of urban management structures. Other supportive legislations and policies include the County Government Act 2012 and the Physical Planning Act cap 286 of Kenya which is under review.

Since the upgrade of Nyamira town to municipality status, the county government has drafted charter that is currently working. Nyamira municipality has been given functions which were gazette in 2018 on the functions they will be doing. The county prepared

the two areas to fully fledged towns as per the guidelines of Urban Areas and Cities Act (UACA) 2012, (Amended 2019). There are other market centres such as; Ikonge, Manga, Kemera, Magombo & Magwagwa which exhibits urban characteristics but have not been planned. Nyamira municipality is managed by a Municipal board appointed as per the UACA 2012, which comprises of board members and a Municipal Manager who are responsible for managing the growth of Nyamira and Keroka municipalities.

The two Municipalities in Nyamira have Management Boards that prepare budgets that get approved the County Assembly alongside other County Budgets. Further, they post great revenue potential and in fact lead all the other existing urban areas.

In a bid to develop Nyansiongo as town, the county intends to carry out boundary delineation and conferment to Town status as provided by law. The towns will be governed by Town administrators' and town committees, appointed by the governor subject to approval of the county assembly as per UACA 2012, sec 20 (2) who will be fully in charge of making their own budgets to be sent to the county assembly for approval.



5.0 Appendices

Attachment 1

URBAN AREA MATRIX: CURRENT SITUATION

Name(s) of urban area	Geographical and demographic data			Institutional status		Urban management						Hazards and climate impacts	
	Location	Estimated Population	Coun-ty cap-ital (Y/N)	Pre-2010 adminis-trative status	Current adminis-trative status and/or current urban manage-ment	Board Com-mit-tee (Y/N)	Town or city manage-r or adminis-trator (Y/N)	Off-ice (Y/N)	Staffing of munic-ipal-ity or town adminis-tration	Bud-get and financ-e	Urban plan-ning		Infrastruc-ture and service deliv-ery responsi-bilities



Keroka Municipality			N	Town	Town	N	Y (Sub-County Administrator)	Y	Y	N	LPD P Outdated	Market Stalls Parking spaces Construction of Roads and other social amenities	
Nyansongo Town			N	Town	Town	N	Y (Sub-County Admin)	Y	Y	N	LPD P Outdated	Waste Collection Point	

											is there a dedicated CC budget? Y/N
Nyamira Town	Chartered Municipality	Municipal Status	Y (Board in Place)	Y (Municipal Manager Appointed)	Y (There is an existing Office)	Y (148)	Y (Separate vote in county budget)	Y	Y (Some Functions gazetted but not transferred)	Y	Y
Keroka Municipality	Municipality	Y (Plans underway to be granted)	Y	Y (sub-county administrator in	Y	Y	Y	LPDP (Outdated)	Town offices Waste	Y	Y