



# Lake Victoria City Development Strategies for Improved Environment and Poverty Reduction

Homa Bay Town  
Draft Profile

## **INTRODUCTION.**

### **Vision.**

The vision of Homa Bay is to be “a working and developing city”.

### **Mission.**

The mission of Homa Bay is “to be the best service provider by being effective and efficient in revenue collection and delivery of services”.

### **1.1. Geographical Location**

Homa Bay Town is located along the north - eastern part of Lake Victoria. It borders the Homa Bay, from which the town derived its name. In the northwest, the town boundary is formed inside the Lake, in the east by Kochia / Kanyada boundary, in the west by Kanyada Kanyamwa location boundaries, and in the south by the line between Kabunde airstrip and Oturbam passing through Ogande Girls secondary school.

Homa Bay Town is located 105 kilometers South of Kisumu City and 405 kilometers southwest of Nairobi the capital city of Kenya.

### **1.2. Altitude and Area**

The town lies at an altitude of approximately 4000 feet at 1330 meters above sea level. It covers an area of 197 square kilometers of which half is inside Lake Victoria leaving the remaining area for active development.

### **1.3. Climate**

Homa Bay town's climatic condition is semi- arid and it has two rainy seasons. Long rains which fall between the months of March and May while short rains fall between September and November with approximately measurements of 1180 millimeters. Its daily temperature falls between 26-28 °C.

### **1.4. Transport network**

Homa Bay town is accessible by road through Kisumu to Nairobi and Kisumu to Kampala through Jinja, on the northeastern part of the Town. On the southeastern it is accessible by road through Kisii to Nairobi and through Migori Sirare and Mwanza. It is also accessible by Lake through Mbita Point, Musoma, Bukoba and Jinja. Homa Bay town also has an air strip located 5 kilometers away from the Town centre which is used occasionally by light planes. Railway connection from this town is Kisumu by steamer or road.

### **1.5. Population**

Homa Bay Municipal population is 85,000 persons (1999 census) of which 51% are female and 49% male.

## **1.6. Administrative Structure**

### Composition of the Council.

Homa Bay Municipal council is divided into 6 wards each ward represented by a councillor totaling to six councillors. The Minister nominates 2 councillors and a Public Officer representing parties and the government. Homa Bay Municipal Council is composed of gender sensitive representations out of 9 councillors 2 of them are women. The municipal wards are:

1. Market ward
2. Posta/Bonde ward
3. Katuma ward
4. Kanyabala ward
5. Kanyadier/Kothidha ward
6. Kanyango/Kalanya ward

The civic wing is headed by a non - executive mayor assisted by the deputy Mayor.

### Council Committees.

Civic body is divided into 4 committees headed by a committee chairman. The committees are:

1. Finance staff and general purposes committee in charge of staff and financial matters
2. Works town planning and markets committee which deals with planning developments and plot allocation matters.
3. Public Health & environment deals with Health and environment matters.
4. Education & social services deals with education activities i.e. Nursery schools Welfare of staffs and town residents and sports.

The committee functions on policy and guidance's.

## **1.7. Activities Homa Bay Municipal Undertaken**

The core function of Local Authorities to deliver the following services to the people:

- Refuse collections and disposal.
- Provision and maintenance of Markets.
- Provisions of sewer network and maintenance.
- Provision of cemetery services.
- Provision and maintenance of Bus Park.
- Provision and maintenance of roads.
- Provision and maintenance of slaughter services.
- Provision and maintenance of nursery schools, teaching and support staffs.
- Provision and maintenance of streetlights
- Provision and maintenance of stadium.
- Provision and maintenance of car wash.
- Provision and maintenance of Recreation Park.

To meet all the above needs the council takes an initiative to mobilize internal and external resources within the existing regulating framework.

## **1.8. Socio-Economic Profile**

The major activities taking place within the municipality are:

1. Employment of skilled and unskilled workers.
2. Trading and wholesale, retail, hawking, micro enterprise, touting, non - motorized transport business, motor boat, taxi buses, minibuses transport.
3. Fishing and fish mongering.
4. Industrial business, fish processing and by products factory, maize, sorghum, ground nuts, millet and potatoes.

## **1.9. Education**

Homa Bay Municipal council has both public and private primary and secondary schools.

- 2 youth polytechnics
- 31 farmers training centre
- 41 medical training centre

## **2.0. Health**

Homa Bay has one public hospital which is the district hospital, private hospitals and dispensaries all which takes care of all kinds of sicknesses both in patients and out patients. There are several VCT centre both public and private to take care of HIV (AIDS) pandemics.

### **2.01. Land Development**

The land uses which are taken into account for the following suitability classification are housing, crop cultivation and forestry.

#### Housing

The land use type housing is considered as Homa Bay town is rapidly growing and degradation of the living environment is encountered. Most likely they are the result from building on for this use unsuitable land. Town planning could not keep up with the rapid growth.

#### Crop Cultivation

The land use type crop cultivation is considered as Homa Bay is not self sufficient in food production however there is still a lot of land that is not yet under urban use and will not be in the near future. This land that is of important value and good suitability for crop production is sufficiently being used for agriculture crop production which serves the town and also sold outside the Municipal area.

#### Forestry

A lot of trees are grown within the urban and peri-urban areas for conservation of environment. However, shortage of wood fuel is being experienced in town, therefore forcing people to import from outside though import of wood is very expensive and causes land degradation in the area of origin.