

Children, Youth and Women Sensitive Planning and Budgeting in Kenya: Busia County Brief, 2014/15-2017/18



County Government of Busia

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BRIEF

This brief review how the County Government of **Busia** develops its plans and budgets in support of the needs of children, youth and women. The analysis focused on social sector budgets and actual expenditures for the period 2014/15-2017/18. The brief specifically focuses on health, education, child protection services, water and sanitation, and nutrition sectors. Finally, the analysis is based on budget data and information collected through interviews with relevant county stakeholders. The key findings and recommendations from the analysis are summarized below:

- a) **An estimated 58 per cent of the Gross County Product (GCP)¹ of Busia comes from agriculture while services produce the bulk of the remainder.** The county was ranked 14th out of the 47 counties in Kenya in terms of its contribution of 1.0 per cent to national GDP. However, agricultural productivity is vulnerable to weather shocks and weak marketing systems resulting in unpredictable economic growth trends. Moving forward, the county needs to continue supporting services and farmers to enhance the marketing of their produce and promote value addition. It also needs to attract more investments in manufacturing (which is absent), and services to have a more balanced economy.
- b) **The county's own source revenue decreased, and the equitable share transfer increased during the review period.** In nominal terms, own source revenue decreased from Ksh 315.2 million in 2014/15 to Ksh 176.3 million in 2017/18 while equitable share increased from Ksh 4.7 billion to Ksh 5.8 billion in the same period. Own source revenue as a share of total revenue fell from 6 per cent in 2014/15 to 3 per cent in 2017/18. Revenue leakages due to weak internal controls, weak resource mobilization strategies and non-performing revenue streams are the core factors driving the decline in the own source revenue. To improve the share of its own source revenue, the county should implement innovative strategies and accountable strategies for revenue payment and management.
- c) **The budget for health increased from Ksh 1.5 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 1.8 billion in 2017/18, but there was no clear-cut improvement in maternal and child health outcomes over the review period.** The proportion of children who are fully immunized was lower in 2018 at 73 per cent than it was in 2014 at 83 per cent. Although the skilled birth attendant coverage improved from 53.3 per cent in 2014 to 62.4 per cent in 2018, it remained below the national average. The county should continue strengthening efficiency in utilization of available resources and creating awareness on availability and importance of free maternity services. There is need to promote exploration of other non-financial constraints to access of child and maternal health services.
- d) **The budget for Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) increased from Ksh 0.3 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.6 billion in 2017/18.** The gross ECDE enrolment rate increased from 79.6 per cent in 2014/15 to 114.8 per cent in 2017/18 while net enrolment rate (NER) decreased from 76.6 per cent to 60.5 per cent during the same period, indicating the presence of over-age and under-age children in the ECDE centres. Looking forward, the county should ensure adequate provision of financial resources, teaching staff and provide adequate teaching and learning materials and equipment for ECDE sector.
- e) **The budget for wash was lower in 2017/18 (Ksh 0.313 billion) than it was in 2014/15 (Ksh 0.319 billion) despite increases between these points.** Nearly all WASH indicators worsened, including the county population within service area of water service providers which declined from 15 per cent to 12 per cent. The water coverage by utilities declined by more than half from 72 per cent to 32 per cent while sewerage coverage declined from 5 per cent to 2 per cent. Approximately 25 per cent of the population lacked access to improved water sources at the beginning and end of the review period. The non-revenue water deteriorated by recording an increase from 45 per cent to 53 per cent, denying

the water service providers revenues. There is need for the county to put in place initiatives to reverse these trends, including the reduction of non-revenue water to minimize losses and hence channel funds towards improvement of water supply. The county should improve execution of WASH budget for improved WASH-related indicators.

- f) **The county's allocation and actual spending to child protection, youth and women declined in 2017/18 relative to their respective 2014/15 levels.** Actual spending in 2014/15 was 0.121 billion and 0.115 in 2017/18. This was despite increasing reported cases of child neglect and abandonment which rose from 26 cases in 2014 to 1,637 cases in 2018. Reported cases of child trafficking, abduction and kidnapping increased from 3 to 43 while reported cases of child physical abuse rose from 11 in 2014 to 62 in 2018. Looking forward, the county needs to increase allocation to child protection given the high levels of child neglect, abandonment and child labour; and expand relevant social services to reach vulnerable girls as a protective measure against early pregnancies, and early and/or forced marriages. There is also need to align the county government child protection programmes with national government to avoid duplication.
- g) **The county's allocation to direct nutrition interventions seemed sporadic with expenditures of Ksh 89.9 million in 2015/16, Ksh 2.4 million in 2016/17 and Ksh 29 million in 2017/18.** The county proportion of stunted children of 22 per cent, wasted children of 2 per cent and underweight children of 9 per cent are lower than the national averages of 26 per cent, 4 per cent and 11 per cent, respectively. The proportion of overweight or obese women in the county stood at 18 per cent, which is lower than the national average of 29 per cent. There is need to consistently allocate resources towards nutrition-specific and sensitive programmes in the various sectors by establishing specific budget lines for nutrition support initiatives. Moreover, nutrition should be well articulated in the County Integrated Development Plans.
- h) **The budget execution rate for most social sector budgets, especially health, water and sanitation, was low.** For instance, budget execution rates for water and sanitation was estimated at an average of 69.8 per cent over the 4-year review period. The low budget execution rate was partly because approved budgets were not released on time by the National Treasury. Procurement systems and cash flow planning by the county were also weak. To improve budget utilization rates, there is need for the National Treasury to adhere to disbursement schedules by releasing resources on time. On its part, the county should strengthen procurement systems and improve cash flow forecasting.
- i) **Due to limited disaggregation of data in expenditure reports, it was not possible to establish how much of the county government budget was spent on crucial social services such as child protection, youth development, disability and gender mainstreaming.** By having standalone budget lines on the above, the county is better placed to effectively deliver the above-mentioned services, especially to women and girls. On child protection, for example, the county recorded an increase in number of reported cases of child neglect and abandonment from 26 cases in 2014 to 1,637 in 2018, yet there is no specific budget line for this. The same also applies to gender-based violence, which increased during the review period.

1. COUNTY OVERVIEW

Busia county occupies a land area of approximately 1,695 km² and is divided into 7 sub-counties and 35 wards. According to the 2019 national census, the county's total population was 893,681, constituting 467,401 females, 426,252 males and 28 intersex persons. Its population accounted for 1.9 per cent of the national population.

In 2016, the overall poverty rate in Busia county was 69.3 per cent with 26.8 per cent living in extreme poverty, against overall national rates of 36.1 per cent and 8.6 per cent, respectively. Among children, 7 in every 10 were affected by monetary poverty or lack of financial means,² which also affected 63.7 per cent of the youth and 69.9 per cent of the women. Additionally, 62.7 per cent of children were living in multidimensional poverty; that is, deprived in numerous dimensions including nutrition, healthcare, education, housing and sanitation.³ The proportion of the youth and women in multidimensional poverty was 74.1 per cent and 87.2 per cent respectively. Monetary poverty rates are highest among children while multidimensional poverty rates are highest among women, implying that women are bearing the highest burden of poverty in Busia County. Mitigating this phenomenon requires a planning and budgeting process that better considers the human capital sectors.

2. STATE OF COUNTY ECONOMY

2.1 Gross County Product Growth

Busia county accounted for 1 per cent of the national GDP in 2017. The real GCP per capital growth drastically declined from 4.9 per cent in 2015 to negative 33.2 per cent in 2016 but rebounded in 2017, recording a growth of 9.1 per cent. The low real GCP per capital growth of negative 33.2 per cent in 2016 was largely attributable to severe drought which adversely affected agricultural activities, the main source of revenue in the county.

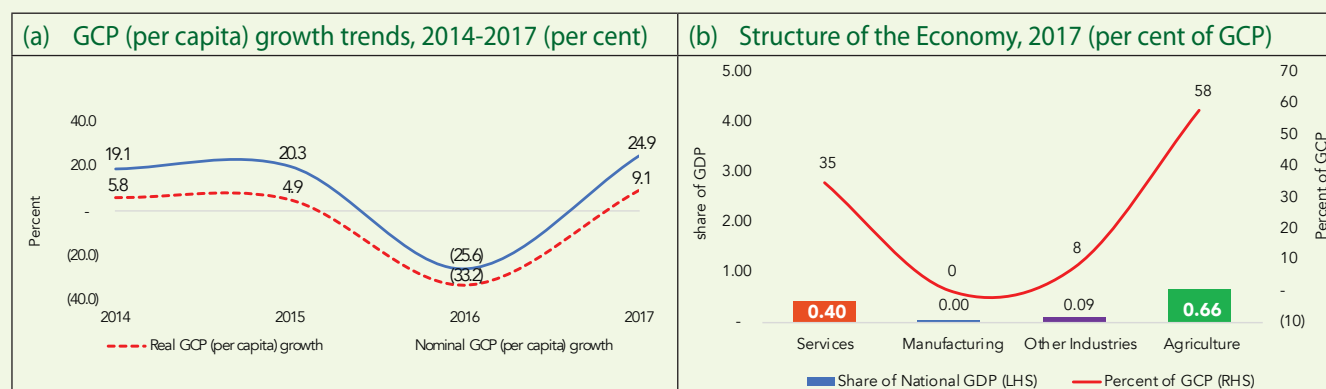
Table 1: Busia county administrative, poverty and demographic profile

Administrative Profile							Latest Available
Area (km ²)							1,695
Number of sub-counties							7
Number of wards							35
Overall poverty (%)							69
Extreme poverty (%)							26.8
Population (2019)							893,681
Group	Children	National Children	Youths	National Youths	Wo/men	National Wo/men	
Monetary Poor							
Male (%)	69.9	42.1	69.2	29.1	63.8	30.5	
Female (%)	75.7	41.0	59.1	28.8	69.9	34.1	
Total (%)	73.1	41.6	63.7	28.9	66.4	32.4	
Population	443,238	20,742,290	219,165	13,443,268	120,527	7,847,350	
Multidimensionally Poor							
Male (%)	62.6	49.3	75.9	44.7	78.2	51.0	
Female (%)	62.8	47.1	72.6	49.4	87.2	60.8	
Total (%)	62.7	48.2	74.1	47.1	83.2	56.1	
Population	443,238	20,742,290	219,165	13,443,268	120,527	7,847,350	

Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, (various)

The economy remains heavily reliant on agriculture and is devoid of a manufacturing sector. Overall, agriculture accounted for 58 per cent of the GCP (Figure 1b). The services industry accounted for 35 per cent while the contribution of manufacturing was negligible. Other industries, mainly agro-based processing, accounted for 8 per cent of the county GCP. The agriculture, manufacturing and services industry, in particular, are important drivers of job creation for women, youth and PWDs. The county needs to consider a mix of agriculture productivity enhancing measures such as modernization of production systems, reduction of cost of farming, improvement of infrastructure to link rural areas with markets and value chain promotion to boost the sector’s productivity. The county should also seek to attract more investment in manufacturing, and services, for a balanced economy.

Figure 1: Busia county gross county product and economic structure, 2014-2017

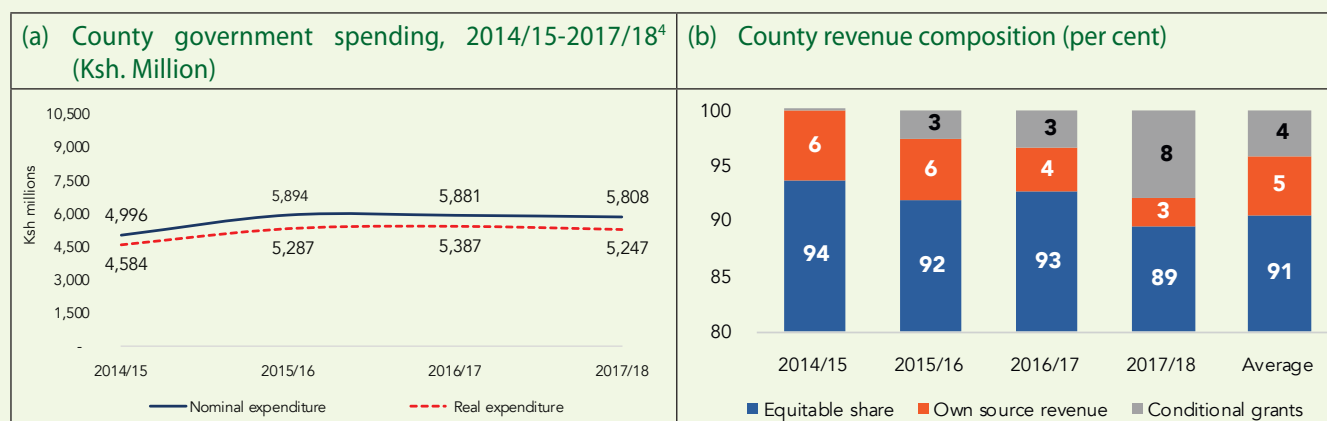


Source: KNBS statistics, 2019

2.2 Overall Budget Performance

The county government annual spending grew from Ksh 4.9 billion to Ksh 5.8 billion between 2014/15 and 2017/18 (Figure 2a). This spending is heavily dependent on national government transfers accounting for 91 per cent of all spending during the period under review. The county’s own source revenue share of the total revenue is comparatively lower, averaging 5 per cent of the county revenue composition over the period under review. In nominal terms, own source revenue reduced from Ksh 328 million in 2013/14 to Ksh 176 million in 2017/17. The burden of the drop in the county government spending predominantly affects social sector spendings, which are recurrent in nature. There is need for enhanced fiscal efforts to accelerate revenue mobilization from both local revenue and conditional grants.

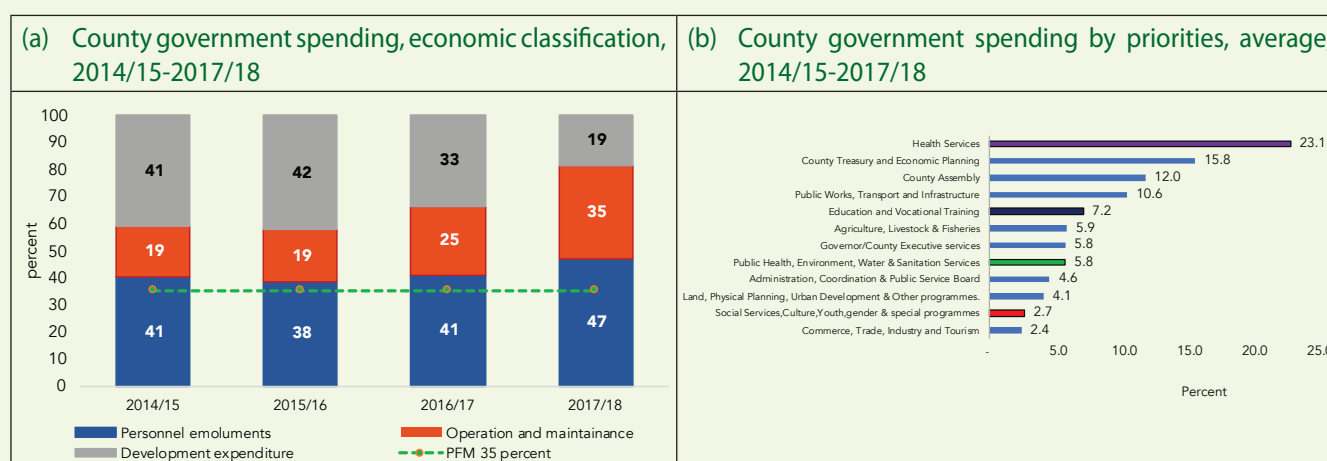
Figure 2: Busia county revenue and expenditure trends, 2014/15-2017/18



Source: Controller of Budget reports, 2014-2018

The development share of the actual spending drastically declined from 41 per cent in 2014/15 to 19 per cent in 2017/18. The county expenditure on wage and operation and maintenance dominates spending and constituted 42 per cent and 24 per cent of the total spending, respectively. This leaves only 34 per cent of the county income available for development, which compromises the county long-term objectives including infrastructure development (Figure 3a). This indicates that the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act, 2012 provision that caps development spending at a minimum of 30 per cent of total budget was violated in 2017/18 financial year. The PFM 2015 Regulations, which require that not more than 35 per cent of the county's total revenue should be allocated for payment of wages and salaries was also violated in actual spending between 2016/17 and 2017/18.

Figure 3: Busia county spending priorities by economic and administrative classification, 2014/15-2017/18



Source: Office of the Controller of Budget (Various) reports, 2014/15-2017/18

The county spent over 44.7 per cent of total expenditure in the period on health, education, agriculture, nutrition, child protection, youth, gender, water and sanitation. These sectors are regarded as being more sensitive to the needs of children, youth and women. The impact of this expenditure on the various programmes and activities varies across sectors.

3. ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL SECTOR SPENDING

3.1 Health

Health is a key spending priority of the county government, consuming about 23 per cent of the total budget over the period under review. During this period, the sector's priorities included: elimination of communicable diseases; halting and reversing the burden of non-communicable conditions that was rising; minimizing the exposure of health risk factors and provision of health services; improving the quality of health services in existing facilities through equipping and improvement of human resource base.

The number of women who had access to skilled birth attendant during delivery was 62.4 per cent against a national average of 64.9 per cent in 2018. The proportion of pregnant women who attended at least one ante-natal clinic (ANC) visit during pregnancy declined from 84.1 per cent in 2014 to 82 per cent in 2018. This is despite the county investment in improving the health infrastructure and services. There is need to create awareness on availability and importance of

ante-natal care, maternity services and promote exploration of other non-financial constraints to access of maternal health services.

The performance of health indicators for children in the county remained below the national averages over the review period. The child mortality remained higher relative to the national rates, with under-5 mortality rate of 149 per 1,000 live births against national average of 79 per 1,000 live births in 2016. The share of fully immunized children in the county declined from 83 per cent in 2014 to 73 per cent in 2018, remaining lower than the national average of 77 per cent in 2018.

Table 2: Busia county selected health sector performance indicators

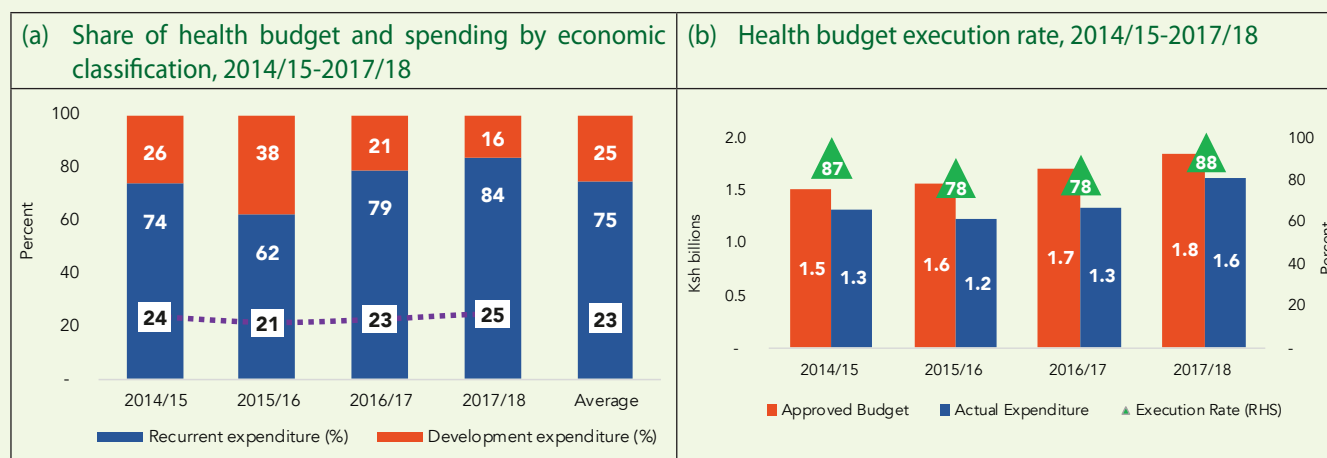
Selected Health Indicators	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	County	National	County	National	County	National	County	National	County	National
U5MR (death per 1,000 live births) 2016 Estimate	-	-	-	-	149.0	79.0	-	-	-	-
MMR (death per 100,000 live births) 2016 Estimate	-	-	-	-	307.0	495.0	-	-	-	-
Skilled birth attendant coverage (%) (source: DHIS2)	53.3	53.5	53.4	56.9	55.0	59.3	42.9	53.0	62.4	64.9
Proportion of pregnant women who attended at least one ANC visit during pregnancy (%) (Source: DHIS2)	84.1	76.4	79.3	75.4	78.8	76.9	73.0	73.7	82.0	81.9
Proportion of pregnant women who attended at least four ANC visit during pregnancy (%) (Source: DHIS2)	41.7	35.9	41.9	39.7	42.2	39.8	28.9	32.6	54.0	48.7
Proportion of children under one year who are fully immunized (%) (Source: DHIS2)	83.0	70.2	82.2	75.7	73.9	72.4	56.2	65.9	73.0	77.0
DPT/Hep+HiB3 dropout rate (%) (Source: DHIS2)	4.8	6.8	6.5	7.2	4.4	6.6	10.4	10.1	(1.5)	4.0
Still Birth Rate (%) (Source: DHIS2)	24.4	29.3	38.3	22.6	22.8	21.5	25.4	22.6	23.5	20.4

Source: DHIS 2014,2018

3.1.1 Health budget and expenditure

Health services spending accounts for the largest share of the total spending, averaging 23 per cent over the review period and comprising of 75 per cent recurrent and 25 per cent development (Figure 4a). The share of health budget in the total county budget allocation increased from 26 per cent in 2014/15 to 28 per cent in 2017/18. The budget absorption rate declined during the review period between 2014/15 and 2016/17. This is attributable to failure by the exchequer to release the full amount approved in the health budget.

Figure 4: Busia county health spending trends, 2014/15-2017/18



Source: Office of the Controller of Budget (Various) reports, 2014/15-2017/18

3.1.2 Health sector medium term expectations

The county aims to continue investing in health, especially in child and maternal health by prioritizing quality health infrastructure and human resources in all sub-counties. The county also aims to prioritize investing in reproductive health information especially for the youth and undertake awareness campaigns on the importance of healthy practices.

It also aims to continue investing in provision of quality health services by employment of more health service providers, construction of more health facilities and equipping them. The county will need to address various challenges during the next medium term. These include: limited access to medical and psychosocial support for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV); limited access to sexual and reproductive health services; long procurement processes; inadequate funds for purchasing antiretroviral drugs (ARVS); Increased new cases of HIV/AIDS in the county especially amongst the youth; and delays by the National Treasury in releasing funding to the sector; and pending bills affecting the overall sector absorption rate.

3.2 Education and Vocational Training

3.2.1 Education sector priorities

The county governments are responsible for Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) and youth polytechnics, which are part of Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVETs) as per Schedule IV of the Constitution of Kenya 2010. During the review period 2014-2018, the county education sector focused on supporting ECDE and youth polytechnics while the national government supported the primary, special needs, secondary and tertiary education levels.

Gross ECDE enrolment rate increased from 79.6 per cent in 2014 to 114.8 per cent in 2018 but net enrolment rate (NER) decreased from 76.6 per cent to 60.5 per cent during the same period. The gross enrolment was generally above the national average of 73.6 in 2014 and 94.4 per cent in 2018 while NER was below the national average of 71.8 per cent in 2014 and 63.5 per cent in 2018, indicating that the county needs to mobilize more children who have attained the school going age to join ECDE. More boys are enrolled in ECDE than girls in Busia county.

Gross primary and secondary enrolment rates stood at 116.7 per cent and 53.7 per cent in 2018, respectively. Net enrolment rate (NER) decreased from 96.4 per cent to 80.3 per cent for primary school and from 39.9 per cent to 22.9 per cent for secondary school during the same period. There is inequality in access to primary education between male and female school-going children in favour of boys as shown in Table 3. More boys than girls enrolled in primary and secondary school. In 2018, there were 25 accredited vocational centres in the county, enrolling 1,799 learners.

Table 3: Busia county selected education sector performance indicators

Pre-primary School	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
Gross enrolment ratio (%)	79.6	73.6	114.8	94.4
Net enrolment ratio (%)	76.6	71.8	60.5	63.5
Male (%)	76.7	73.4	61.9	62.5
Female (%)	76.5	70.2	59.6	65.0
School size (Public) (Pupils) (Average)	94.0	75.0	115.0	85.0
Gender parity index (value)	1.0	1.0	-	-
Pupil-teacher ratio (No.) (Public)	47.2	31.0	40.0	31.0
Proportion of enrolment in private schools (%)	19.0	31.5	25.0	33.0
Primary School	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
Gross enrolment ratio (%)	121.0	104.0	116.7	107.2
Net enrolment ratio (%)	96.4	88.0	80.3	82.4
Male (%)	96.0	86.0	83.0	81.7
Female (%)	96.8	90.0	78.1	83.0
School size (Public) Average No. of pupils	463.0	338.0	520.0	375.0
Gender parity index (Value)	1.0	1.0	-	-
Pupil-teacher ratio (No.)	51.0	42.0	48.0	40.0
Proportion of enrolment in private schools (%)	7.0	16.0	7.0	16.0
Secondary School	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
Gross enrolment ratio (%)	49.1	58.7	53.7	66.2
Net enrolment ratio (%)	39.9	47.4	22.9	37.5
Male (%)	43.9	49.6	23.9	35.4
Female (%)	35.9	45.2	21.9	39.8
School size (Public)	-	-	358.6	392.0
Gender parity index (value)	0.8	0.9	-	-
Pupil-teacher ratio (No.) (TSC)	35.0	30.0	36.0	32.0
Pupil-teacher ratio (No.) (TSC and BOM)	19.5	20.2	21.0	20.0
Proportion of enrolment in private schools (%)	22.5	30.7	1.1	5.8

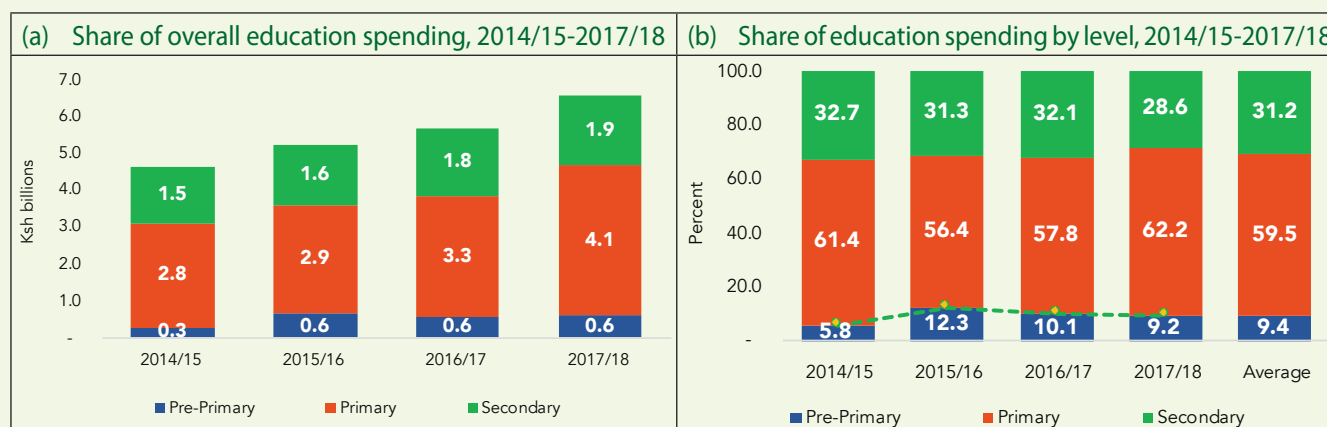
Source: Education statistical booklets, 2014-2018

Overall, the pupil teacher ratio improved for pre-primary and primary school level but declined for secondary school level. The pupil teacher ratio remained below the national average across the three levels of school. By 2018, ECDE pupil teacher ratio was 1:40 (national, 1:31), primary pupil teacher ratio was 1:48 (national 1:40) and secondary pupil teacher ratio was 1:36 (national, 1:32). The improved ration is an indicator of improved quality of education at the county.

3.2.2 Basic education budget and expenditure

The share of ECDE spending in the county increased from Ksh 300 million in 2014/15 to Ksh 600 million in 2017/18. The share of ECDE spending as a proportion of total education spending was on average 9.4 per cent during the review period. Spending on primary and secondary education increased from Ksh 2.8 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 4.1 billion in 2017/18 and Ksh 1.5 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 1.9 billion in 2017/18, respectively (Figure 5a).

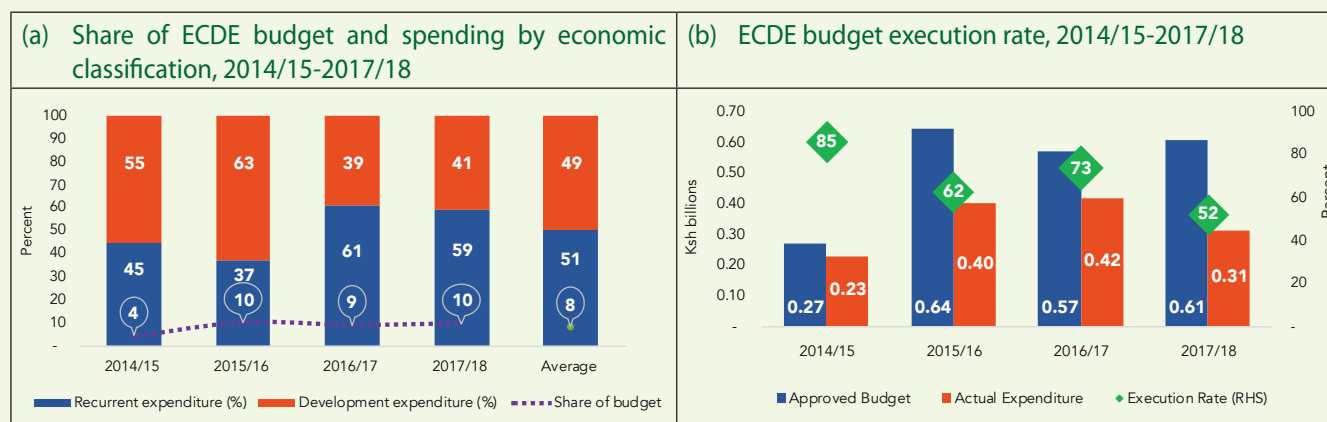
Figure 5: Busia county overall education spending trends, 2014/15-2017/18



Source: National treasury (Various), IFMIS

The share of ECDE budget in the total county budget allocation averaged 8 per cent over the review period, comprising of 49 per cent development and 51 per cent recurrent (Figure 6a). The absorption rate averaged 68 per cent during the period under review. On average, the execution rate of the education spending was 68 per cent with the highest rate of 85 per cent in 2014/15 and the lowest of 52 per cent and in 2017/18.

Figure 6: Busia county ECDE spending trends, 2014/15-2017/18



Source: Controller of Budget reports, 2014-2018

3.2.3 Education sector medium term expectations

Financial constraints, shortage of staff, and inadequate working tools and equipment remain a major challenge for both ECDE centres and vocation training institutions. The county government with support from stakeholders aims to continue investing in ECDE through infrastructural development, employment of teachers, resource mobilization, and provision of bursaries for poor and needy children. For vocation training institutions, the county seeks to establish a county policy on vocational training, revitalize and modernize public centres, and increase the number of vocational training institutions participating in co-curricular activities. The county further seeks to increase capitation funds for vocational and technical centres.

3.3 Water and Sanitation

The County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2013 to 2017 outlined key priorities for both the water and sanitation sub-sectors. For the water sub-sector, the county sought to increase coverage of water supply and drainage services in the county. For the sanitation sub-sector, the county targeted: increasing the provision of solid waste management services; maintenance of a hygienic living environment; enhancing aesthetic qualities of the county; improving construction and maintenance of sanitation facilities; controlling air, land and water pollution; and improving rain water management.

Access to improved water was estimated at 75 per cent of the population and remained at this rate throughout the review period. The population within the service area of water utility (company) decreased from 15 per cent to 12 per cent between 2014 and 2018. The proportion of population covered or served by the utility declined from 72 per cent in 2014 to 32 per cent in 2018. The sector experiences the problem of non-revenue water⁵ at about 53 per cent as at 2018; deterioration from 45 per cent in 2014. High non-revenue water denies the water utility revenue to enhance water service delivery and in meeting operations and maintenance costs.

Table 4: Busia county selected WASH sector performance indicators

Indicators	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
County population within service areas of WSPs (%)	15	*	12	*
Water coverage by utilities (%)	72	53	32	*
Non-revenue water (NRW) (%)	45	42	53	*
Sanitation coverage within utility area (%)	76	69	-	*
Sewerage coverage (%)	5	*	2	*
Access to improved water (%)	75	*	75	*
Access to improved sanitation (%)	62	*	62	59
No toilet facility – Potential open defecation county-wide (%)	4	*	1	8

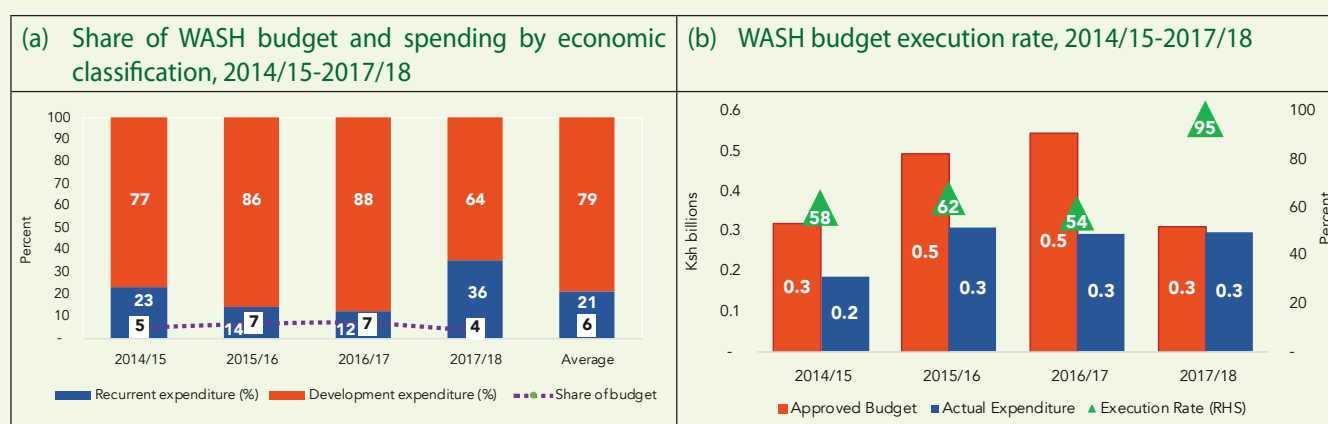
Source: KDHS 2014, CIDP 2018

*Data not available

3.3.1 Water and sanitation budget and expenditure

The total budget allocation to the sector as a share of total county budget allocation during the review period was on average 5.8 per cent. Total spending on the sector increased from Ksh 0.32 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.54 billion in 2016/17 before declining to Ksh 0.31 billion in 2017/18. This comprised of 79 per cent development and 21 per cent recurrent spending (Figure 7a). The approved budget increased from Ksh 0.32 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.54 billion in 2016/17, before a reduction in 2017/18 to Ksh 0.31 billion. The absorption rate declined from 62 per cent in 2015/16 to 54 per cent in 2016/17, before increasing in 2017/18 to 95 per cent. The drop in absorption rate in 2016/17 was ascribed to failure by the exchequer to release the entire approved budget amount, and also capacity constraints.

Figure 7: Busia county water and sanitation spending trends, 2014/15-2017/18



Source: Office of the Controller of Budget (Various) reports, 2014/15-2017/18

3.3.2 Water and sanitation sector medium term expectations

In the plan period of 2018-2022, the county aims to continue with the provision of clean water and solid waste management, and increasing access to decent sanitation. With a declining percentage of population under sewer coverage, few technical staff in the water sector, high breakage of water pumps compounded by a declining share of recurrent spending in WASH, more focus need to be given to operations and maintenance for the county to realize the outlined millstones.

3.4 Child Protection, Youth, Gender and Culture

The County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2018 to 2022 highlighted key priorities for the sector. For women, the county sought to increase the number of women engaging in income generating activities by availing non-collateral loans and providing employment opportunities for youth and women. The county also targeted to build the capacity of youth development officers and construct additional youth empowerment centres in all the sub-counties.

Specifically, on child protection, the county recorded a large increase in the number of reported cases of child neglect and abandonment rising from 26 cases in 2014 to 1,637 cases in 2018. Similarly, reported cases of child trafficking, abduction and kidnapping increased from 3 in 2014 to 43 in 2018 while reported cases of child physical abuse increased from 11 to 62 cases in the review period. However, reported cases of child sexual abuse and child labour declined significantly.

The county reported only one case of FGM. The low/non-reporting of female genital mutilation (FGM) to government institutions can be attributed to several factors, including the fact that most communities in the county do not have the practice. In addition, it could be the result of intensive campaigns and initiatives to protect the girl child, or fear by the population to report such cases, and culture that approves such practices.

Table 5: Busia county selected child protection performance indicators (No. of reported cases)

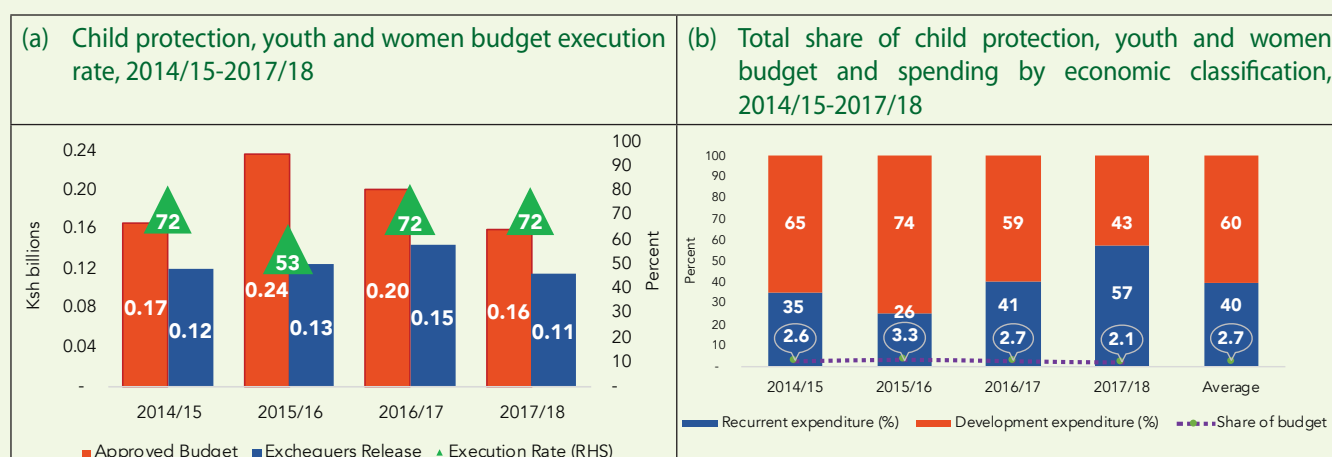
Indicators	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
Child Neglect and Abandonment	26	767	1,637	73,245
Child Sexual Abuse	10	636	1	172
Child Trafficking, Abduction and Kidnapping	3	32	43	1022
Child Labour	7	168	6	378
Child Emotional Abuse	1	58	13	853
Child Physical Abuse	11	583	62	2031
Female Genital Mutilation	-	9	-	40

Source: KDHS 2014, CIDP 2018

3.4.1 Child protection, youth and women budget and expenditure

The county's allocation to child protection, youth and women increased from Ksh 0.17 billion in 2014/15 to a highest of Ksh 0.24 billion in 2015/16 after which it persistently declined to Ksh 0.16 billion in 2017/18. The expenditure represented 2.7 per cent of the overall county budget. The share of recurrent spending dropped from 35 per cent in 2014/15 to 26 per cent in 2015/16, and then increased to 57 per cent in 2017/18, averaging 40 per cent during the review period (Figure 8b). The absorption rate remained constant in three financial years at 72 per cent but declined in 2015/16 to 53 per cent due to capacity constraints and failure by the county exchequer to release the entire approved budget amount (Figure 8a).

Figure 8: Busia county child protection, youth and women spending trends, 2014/15-2017/18



Source: Office of the Controller of Budget (Various) reports, 2014/15-2017/18

3.4.2 Child protection, youth and women medium term expectations

Between the plan period 2018 and 2022, the county aims to construct additional youth empowerment centres, promote entrepreneurial culture and innovation amongst the youth, and undertake regulation of the gaming industry. For women, the county intends to continue initiatives for gender mainstreaming, undertake initiatives targeted at reduction of gender-based violence. The county will also continue to advocate for inclusion of persons with disability and undertake data collection to develop a PWDs database. Street children will continue to be rehabilitated and reintegrated into homes.

3.5 Nutrition

3.5.1 Nutrition priorities

The CIDP 2018 to 2022 outlined key areas of focus in the nutrition sector. The county sought to undertake promotion of nutrition education and improve nutritional status of households to eliminate malnutrition cases.

For children, county nutrition indicators remained relatively low according to the year 2014 data. Stunting worsened in 2018 to 26.5 from 22 per cent of the population, with wasting standing at 2.2 per cent and underweight children deteriorating to 31 per cent in 2018 from 9 per cent in 2014. The levels were higher than the national average (Table 6).

The proportion of overweight or obese women in the county stood at 18 per cent, which is lower than the national average of 29 per cent. The average Body Mass Index (BMI)⁶ of women in the county was 22.

Table 6: Selected nutrition performance indicators

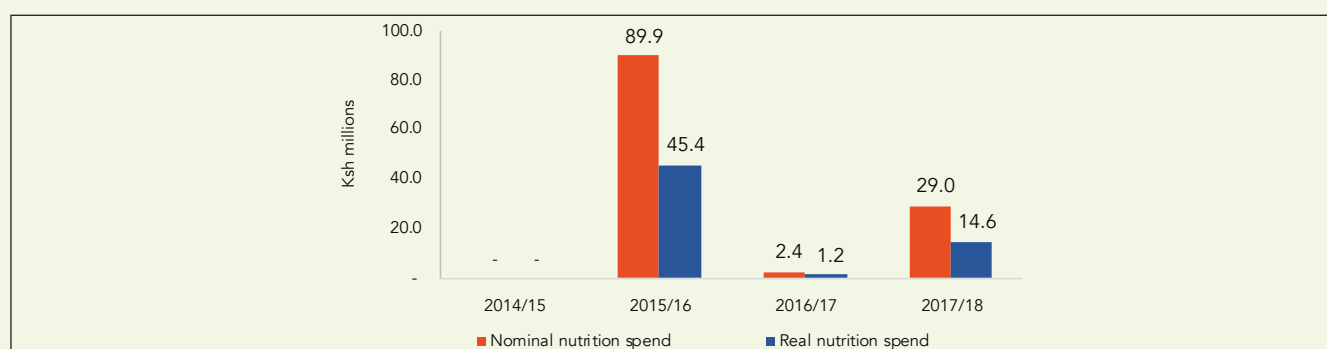
Indicators	2014-County	2014-National
Stunted children (%)	22.0	26.0
Wasted children (%)	2.2	4.0
Underweight children (%)	9.0	11.0
Vitamin A supplements coverage	46.4	24.0
Proportion of children aged 6 to 59 months- Received Vitamin A supplement	82.6	71.4
Proportion of children consuming adequately iodized salt	100.0	99.1
Proportion of households consuming adequately iodized salt	99.8	99.2
Household salt iodization (50–80 mg/Kg KIO ₃) (% samples)	55.0	57.0
Number of Women (BMI)	22.2	23.2
Overweight or obesity among women aged 15 to 49 years.	18.3	28.9

Source: KDHS 2014

3.5.2 Nutrition budget and expenditure

The county spending on nutrition (direct nutrition interventions) in nominal terms was Ksh 89 million in 2015/16 and Ksh 29 million in 2017/18. The absorption rate was nearly 50 per cent across the review period.

Figure 9: County government (100 per cent) nutrition sensitive spending trends, 2014/15-2017/18



Source: National Treasury IFMIS 204-2018

3.5.3 Nutrition medium term expectations

In the period 2018-2022, the county plans to promote nutrition education and strengthen community units to offer broad-based services to eliminate malnutrition cases. To realize the objective, the county will be required to increase the share of nutrition sensitive spending, which has been inconsistent.

3.6 Other Initiatives for Special Interest Groups

Box 1: Key Highlights on Children, Youth, Women and PWDs Initiatives

a) AGPO

During the period under review, the county reported compliance to the 30 percent allocation of Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) reserved for women, youth and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). A total of 285 youth, 185 women and 20 PWDs were issued with AGPO certificates.

b) Children

The county has drafted a policy for children play centres, which is currently awaiting County Executive Committee approval. To address the problem of street childrens affecting Bungoma town, the county is establishing a drop-in centre for street children.

b) Youth

The county has established the Directorate of Youth with the overall mandate of nurturing youth talents through sports and arts. The Directorate will mark the international youth week annually as a forum to interact with youth and collect information to help improve service delivery.

c) Women

The county aims to refurbish and establish women empowerment and gender-based violence (GBV) rescue centres. The process to develop a gender policy and strategic plan has been initiated. Development of a database on women to facilitate empowerment through credit and savings activities has also been initiated.

Prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV) is also highlighted as a major activity for the county. In line with this, development of GBV technical working groups and training of duty bearers on GBV justice system has been started by the county. Additionally, a GBV referral tool has also been developed.

d) PWDs

The county has achieved a milestone in actualizing the county PWD fund. The county has profiled 78 PWD companies; built capacity for 550 PWD groups and distributed mobility and assistive devices for PWDs with physical, hearing and visual impairments.

A summary of implications for policy and responsible actors is presented in Table 7 below.

Table 7: Recommendations and responsible actors

Sector	Finding	Recommendation	Responsibility
Gross County Product	An estimated 58 per cent of the Gross County Product (GCP) of Busia comes from agriculture while services produce the bulk of the remainder.	Moving forward, the county needs to continue supporting services and farmers to enhance the marketing of their produce and promote value addition. It also needs to attract more investments in manufacturing (which is absent), and services to have a more balanced economy.	County Treasury and Planning/ County Executive/Department of Agriculture
Revenue	The county's own source revenue decreased, and the equitable share transfer increased during the review period.	To improve the share of its own source revenue, the county should implement innovative strategies and accountable strategies for revenue payment and management.	County Treasury and Planning/ Directorate of Revenue
Health	The budget for health increased from Ksh 1.5 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 1.8 billion in 2017/18, but there was no clear-cut improvement in maternal and child health outcomes over the review period.	The county should continue strengthening efficiency in utilization of available resources and awareness on availability and importance of free maternity services. There is need to promote exploration of other non-financial constraints to access of child and maternal health services.	County Treasury and Planning / County Department of Health
Education	The budget for Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) increased from Ksh 0.3 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.6 billion in 2017/18.	Looking forward, the county should ensure adequate provision of financial resources, teaching staff and provide adequate teaching and learning materials and equipment for ECDE sector.	County Treasury and Planning / County Department of Education
WASH	The budget for WASH was lower in 2017/18 (Ksh 0.313 billion) than it was in 2014/15 (Ksh 0.319 billion) despite increases between these points.	There is need for the county to put in place initiatives to reverse these trends, including the reduction of non-revenue water to minimize losses and hence channel funds towards improvement of water supply. The county should improve execution of WASH budget for improved WASH related indicators.	County Treasury and Planning / County Department of Water and Sanitation/ BUWASCO
Child Protection, Youth and Women	The county's allocation and actual spending to child protection, youth and women declined in 2017/18 relative to their respective 2014/15 levels.	Looking forward, the county needs to increase allocation to child protection given the high levels of child neglect, abandonment and child labour; and expand relevant social services to reach vulnerable girls as a protective measure against early pregnancies, and early and/or forced marriages. There is also need to align the county government child protection programmes with national government to avoid duplication.	County Treasury and Planning/ County Department of Culture and Social Services

Nutrition	The county's allocation to direct nutrition interventions seemed sporadic with expenditures of Ksh 89.9 million in 2015/16, Ksh 2.4 million in 2016/17 and Ksh 29 million in 2017/18.	There is need to consistently allocate resources towards nutrition specific and sensitive programmes in the various sectors by establishing specific budget lines for nutrition support initiatives. Moreover, nutrition should be well articulated in the County Integrated Development Plans.	County Treasury and Planning/ County Department of Health and all other sectors, namely: education, agriculture, child protection and WASH.
Budget Execution	The budget execution rate for most social sector budgets, especially health, water and sanitation, was low. For instance, budget execution rates for water and sanitation was estimated at an average of 69.8 per cent over the 4-year review period.	To improve budget utilization rates, there is need for the National Treasury to adhere to disbursement schedules by releasing resources on time. On its part, the county should strengthen procurement systems and improve cash flow forecasting.	County Treasury and Planning; All Departments; National Treasury
Disaggregated Data	Due to limited disaggregation of data in expenditure reports, it was not possible to establish how much of the county government budget was spent on crucial social services such as child protection, youth development, disability and gender mainstreaming.	By having standalone budget lines on the listed sectors, the county is better placed to effectively deliver the above-mentioned services, especially to women and girls.	County Planning, Statistics and M&E Unit; and Social/Gender Departments

(Endnotes)

- 1 Gross county product is conceptually equivalent to the county share of GDP. Gross domestic product is a measure of newly created value through production by resident economic agents (in this case individuals, households, businesses, establishments, and enterprises resident in Kenya).
- 2 Monetary poverty measures the lack of financial means of households to provide its members with basic goods and services deemed necessary for their survival and development. Extreme poverty refers to an income below the food poverty line. Households whose adult equivalent food consumption expenditure per person per month fell below Ksh 1,954 in rural areas and Ksh 2,551 in urban areas were deemed to be food poor. Similarly, households whose overall consumption expenditure fell below Ksh 3,252 in rural areas and Ksh 5,995 in urban areas, per person per month were considered to be overall poor.
- 3 Multidimensional poverty, unlike monetary poverty, captures different deprivations experienced by an individual. In measuring child poverty in Kenya, these dimensions included: health care, nutrition/adequate food, drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, education, knowledge of health and nutrition, housing and standard of living, and access to information. In the analysis, dimensions are measured as binary variables with "1" denoting deprived and "0" non-deprived.
- 4 Base year 2013
- 5 Non-revenue water (NRW) is water that has been produced and is "lost" before it reaches the customer. Losses can be real losses (through leaks, sometimes also referred to as physical losses) or apparent losses (for example through theft or metering inaccuracies).
- 6 Body Mass Index (BMI) is a value derived from the mass (weight) and height of a person. It is expressed in units of Kg/M². Broadly, a person is categorized as underweight if BMI is below 18.5 Kg/M²; normal weight: between 18.5 Kg/M² and 25 Kg/M²; and overweight: 25 Kg/M² to 30 Kg/M² and obese: over 30 Kg/M².

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