

## Children, Youth and Women Sensitive Planning and Budgeting in Kenya: Murang'a County Brief, 2014/15-2017/18



County Government of Murang'a

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BRIEF

This brief provides an analysis on how the County Government of Murang'a plans and budgets for the needs of children, youth and women. The analysis focused on social sector (health, education, water and sanitation, social services, and nutrition) budgets for the period 2014/15-2017/18. The analysis was based on budget information collected from the Office of the Controller of Budget, county policy documents and face-to-face interviews with relevant county stakeholders. The key highlights from the analysis are summarized below:

- a) **An estimated 58 per cent of the Gross County Product (GCP)<sup>1</sup> of Murang'a, which was ranked 12<sup>th</sup> (2.3% contribution to GDP in 2017) of all the 47 counties in Kenya in terms of national GDP contribution, comes from agriculture.** However, agricultural productivity is rain-dependent and therefore vulnerable to weather shocks resulting in unpredictable economic growth trends. Moving forward, the county should put in place measures to mitigate weather shocks, while at the same time promoting manufacturing through agro-processing, and enhancing access to agriculture markets, including through collaboration with the private sector.
- b) **The county's own source revenue decreased from Ksh 0.5 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.45 billion in 2017/18.** Own source revenue as a share of total revenue also fell from 12 per cent in 2014/15 to 6 per cent in 2017/18. The county needs innovative strategies to grow own source revenue since its share is declining. The county should strengthen measures for tax collection and management to prevent leakage of revenue streams.
- c) **The budget for health increased from Ksh 0.9 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 3.1 billion in 2017/18 although maternal and child health outcomes declined during the period.** The number of women who had access to a skilled birth attendant during delivery decreased from 66.8 per cent in 2014 to 65.8 per cent in 2018. The share of fully immunized children in the county also decreased from 93.8 per cent in 2014 to 81.8 per cent in 2018. There is need for the county to plan and implement specific budget lines for children, youth and women in the health services to improve the health indicators.
- d) **The budget of Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) increased from Ksh 0.39 billion 2014/15 to Ksh 0.7 billion in 2017/18.** The gross ECDE enrolment rate in the county decreased from 72.4 per cent in 2014 to 66.4 per cent in 2018. This indicates that some children who have attained school going age were not in school, therefore the county needs to increase enrolment and retention rates through programmes such as the ECDE school feeding. Further, the county should ring-fence ECDE resources<sup>2</sup> so that they are not used for other purposes such as secondary and higher education bursaries.
- e) **The county allocation for water increased from Ksh 35 million in 2014/15 to Ksh 74 million in 2016/17 before a decline to Ksh 18 million.** These allocations were very low since at least 32 per cent of the population still has no access to improved water. Further, budget absorption was very low, averaging 17 per cent during the review period. The county needs to increase allocation for water and sanitation (WASH) and ensure that budgeted programmes are implemented.
- f) **The county allocation for child protection, youth and women as a share of total county budget allocation during the review period averaged Ksh 0.39 billion.** With increasing demand for protection programmes such cash transfers

there is need to align the county government protection programmes with those of the national government to avoid duplication of the activities while ensuring that the available resources are focused to the relevant beneficiaries.

- g) **The county allocated Ksh 32 million in 2014/15 and 170 million in 2017/18 to interventions which directly contribute to boosting child nutrition.** There was no allocation for 2015/16 and 2016/17. While the children indicators were better than the national averages, the women indicators were worse off. The county should ensure that direct nutrition interventions across several sectors such as agriculture, education and health are consistently budgeted for, with visible budget lines. Moreover, nutrition should be well articulated in the County Integrated Development Plans.
- h) **The budget execution rate for most social sector budgets, especially health, education and child protection, youth and women sectors were generally high.** For instance, budget execution rates for health and education averaged 94 per cent and 85 per cent, respectively, during the review period. Though the execution is commendable, this is however an indication of under planning or estimation of some of the social sector expenditures. There is need to enhance planning and budgeting to moderate the existence of executions of over 100 per cent in some sectors.
- 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 14 in 2014 to 860 cases in 2018, yet there is no specific budget line for this. The same also applies to gender-based violence which has increased in recent years.

## 1. COUNTY OVERVIEW

- a) **Murang'a** County occupies a land area of approximately 2,559 km<sup>2</sup> and is divided into 9 sub-counties and 35 wards. The county's population was 1,056,640 in 2019, representing 2.2 per cent of the national population. This constituted of 523,940 males, 532,669 females and 31 intersex persons.

**In 2015/16, the overall poverty rate of the county was 25.3 per cent with 36.3 per cent living in extreme poverty, which is slightly better than the overall national rate of 36.1 per cent and above 8.6 per cent, respectively.** Among children, one in every three were affected by monetary poverty or lack of financial means. Additionally, 23.8 per cent for youth and 22.6 per cent for women were also affected by monetary poverty. 27.3 per cent of children were living in multidimensional poverty; that is, deprived in multiple dimensions including nutrition, healthcare, education, housing and drinking water.

**Table 1: Murang'a county administrative, poverty and demographic profile**

| Administrative Profile  |          |                   |         |                 |         |                 | Latest Available |
|-------------------------|----------|-------------------|---------|-----------------|---------|-----------------|------------------|
| Area (km <sup>2</sup> ) |          |                   |         |                 |         |                 | 2,559            |
| Number of sub-counties  |          |                   |         |                 |         |                 | 9                |
| Number of wards         |          |                   |         |                 |         |                 | 35               |
| Overall poverty (%)     |          |                   |         |                 |         |                 | 25               |
| Extreme poverty (%)     |          |                   |         |                 |         |                 | 5.2              |
| Population (2019)       |          |                   |         |                 |         |                 | 1,056,640        |
| Group                   | Children | National Children | Youths  | National Youths | Wo/men  | National Wo/men |                  |
| Monetary Poor           |          |                   |         |                 |         |                 |                  |
| Male (%)                | 26.7     | 42.1              | 28.4    | 29.1            | 23.5    | 30.5            |                  |
| Female (%)              | 27.8     | 41.0              | 19.4    | 28.8            | 22.5    | 34.1            |                  |
| Total (%)               | 27.3     | 41.6              | 23.8    | 28.9            | 22.6    | 32.4            |                  |
| Population              | 440,258  | 20,742,290        | 278,549 | 13,443,268      | 249,484 | 7,847,350       |                  |
| Multidimensionally Poor |          |                   |         |                 |         |                 |                  |
| Male (%)                | 27.1     | 49.3              | 39.5    | 44.7            | 51.2    | 51.0            |                  |
| Female (%)              | 27.6     | 47.1              | 40.4    | 49.4            | 53.0    | 60.8            |                  |
| Total (%)               | 27.3     | 48.2              | 40.0    | 47.1            | 52.4    | 56.1            |                  |
| Population              | 440,258  | 20,742,290        | 278,549 | 13,443,268      | 249,484 | 7,847,350       |                  |

Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (Various)

The proportion of youth and women in multidimensional poverty were 40.0 per cent and 52.4 per cent, respectively. The overall high rates of poverty, especially among the younger populations, means that planning and budgeting processes should better consider human capital sectors so that the county can maximize the productive and innovative potential of its future workforce and initiate a fast and sustainable growth trajectory.

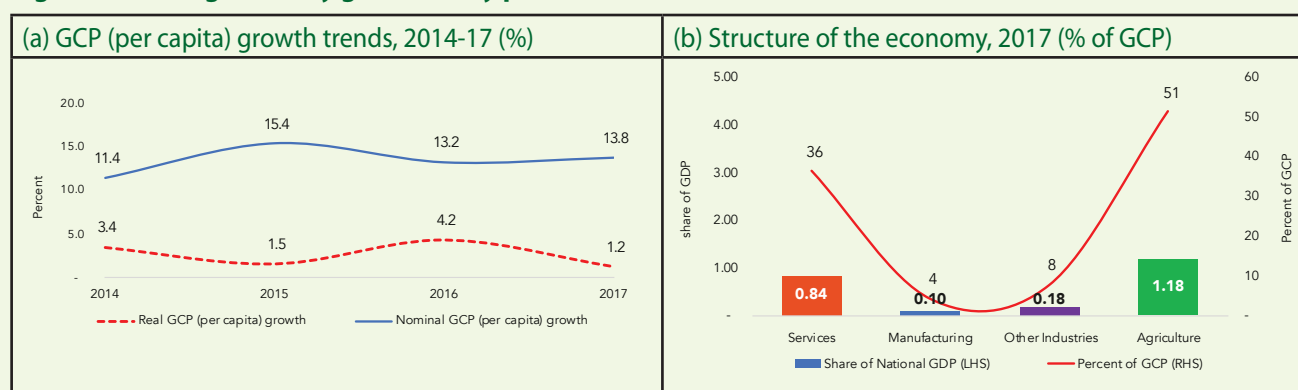
## 2. STATE OF COUNTY ECONOMY

### 2.1 Gross County Product Growth

**Murang'a County accounted for 2.3 per cent of the national GDP in 2017.** The county's Gross County Product (GCP) per capita growth rate fluctuated between a maximum of 4.2 per cent recorded in 2016 and a minimum of 1.2 per cent recorded in 2017 (Figure 1a). The most recent downturn was largely due to the prolonged electioneering period.

**The economy remained heavily reliant on agriculture, which accounted for nearly 51 per cent of GCP and 1.18 per cent of the national GDP in 2017 (Figure 1b).** Manufacturing accounted for 4 per cent, services 36 per cent while other industries including mining and quarrying, electricity supply, water supply and waste collection and construction account for 8 per cent. With production of mostly rain-fed agricultural products, the county needs to invest in agro-processing manufacturing and value addition to diversify the economy. Further, the county is endowed with a few tourist attractions including cultural heritage sites, wild animals and national parks. The tourism sector thus provides another potential area for investment in the county and growth of the county's service industry. This sector is an important driver of job creation for youth and women on the county.

**Figure 1: Murang'a County gross county product and economic structure, 2014-2017**

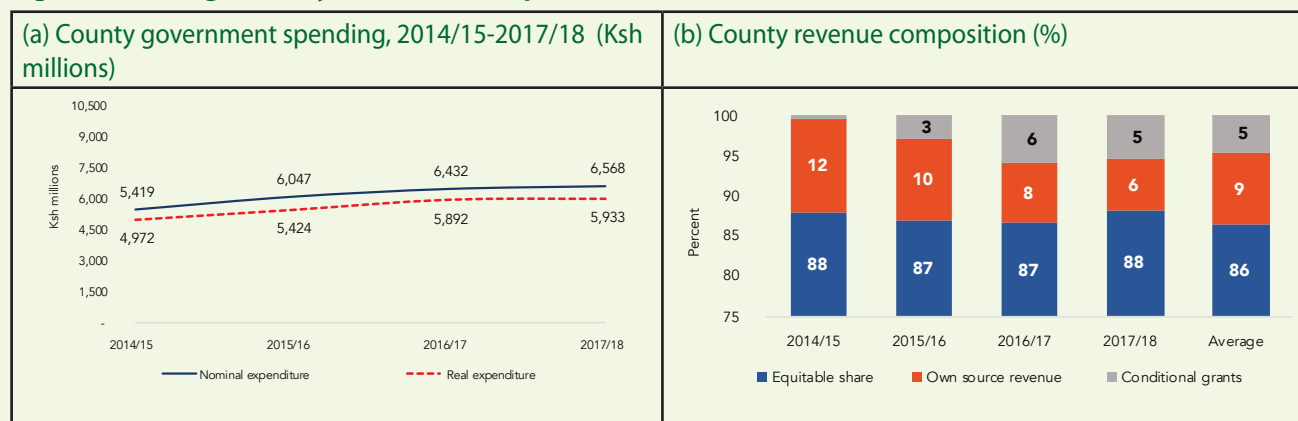


Source: KNBS (2019) statistics

### 2.2 Overall Budget Performance

**The county government annual spending in real terms grew from Ksh 5.42 billion to Ksh 6.57 billion between 2014/15 and 2017/18 (Figure 2a). This spending is heavily dependent on national government transfers, accounting for 87.4 per cent.** The burden of the drop in the county government spending predominantly affects social sector spending, which are recurrent in nature. In nominal terms, own source revenue increased from Ksh 562 million in 2014/15 to Ksh 617 million

**Figure 2: Murang'a county revenue and expenditure trends, 2014/15-2017/18**

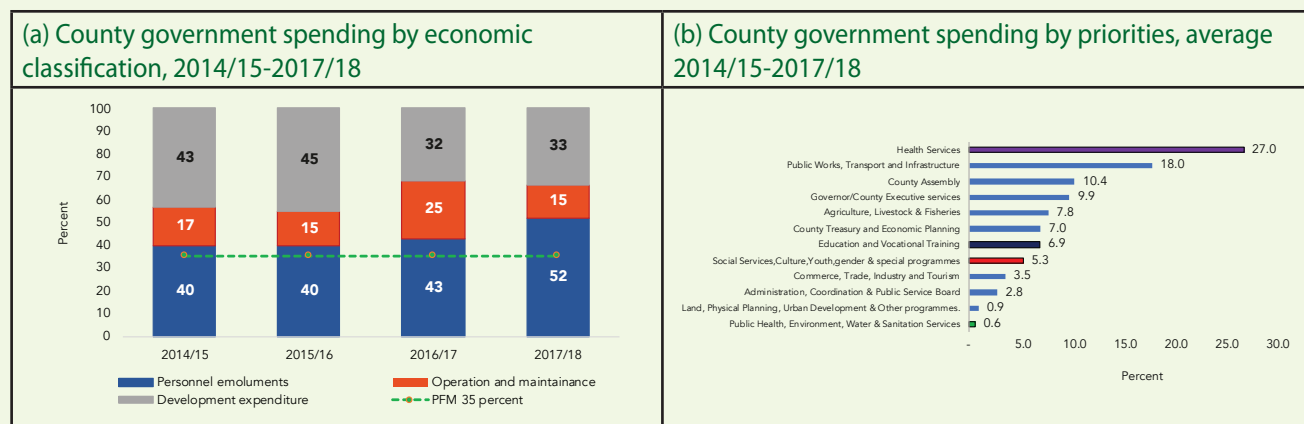


Source: Office of the Controller of Budget (Various) reports, 2014/15-2017/18

in 2015/16 before a drop to Ksh 453 million 2017/18 while the equitable share transfer increased from Ksh 4.2 billion to Ksh 6.1 billion during the same period. Own source revenue as a share of total revenue fell from 12 per cent in 2014/15 to 9 percent in 2017/18. The contribution of own source revenue and conditional grants was, on average, 12.6 per cent (Figure 2(b)). There is need for enhanced fiscal efforts to accelerate revenue mobilization from both local revenue and conditional grants. The declining values of both nominal and share of own source revenue may be an indication of leakages in the revenue streams. Automation and proper management of revenue collection would prevent revenue leakages. The county should apply innovate strategies to grow and diversify own source revenue.

The share of actual development budget increased from 43 per cent in 2014/15 to 45 per cent in 2015/16 then, declined to 33 per cent in 2017/18. The recurrent expenditure, constituting of personnel emoluments and operation and maintenance costs, accounted for about 62 per cent of county government spending throughout the period. Wages alone account for about 44 per cent of all county government spending (Figure 3a). This leaves 38 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 limits development spending at a minimum of 30 per cent of total budget was observed during the review period while the Regulations 2015, which require that not more than 35 per cent of the county's total revenue should go to payment of wages and salaries, were violated in actual spending over the period.

**Figure 3: Murang'a County spending priorities by economic and administrative classification, 2014/15-2017/18**



Source: Office of the Controller of Budget (Various) reports, 2014-2018

The county spent over 47 per cent of total expenditure during the period under review on health, education, agriculture, nutrition, social protection, youth, gender, water and sanitation. These sectors are regarded as being more sensitive to the needs of children, youth and women. The effects of this expenditure on the various programmes and activities vary across sectors.

### 3. ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL SECTOR SPENDING

#### 3.1 Health

##### 3.1.1 Health sector priorities

During the period under review, the county outlined key priorities that targeted children, youth and women. The sector's priorities included: development and implementation of a community health strategy, construction of new and upgrading of existing dispensaries, sensitization and provision of care to eliminate communicable diseases. For Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), the county planned to upgrade and equip the facilities with inclusive infrastructure to cater for their special needs.

The number of women who had access to a skilled birth attendant during delivery decreased from 66.8 per cent in 2014 to 65.8 per cent in 2018 despite the introduction of free maternity services in 2013. This, however, remained above the national averages of 53.5 per cent and 64.9 per cent in 2014 and 2018, respectively. The health status of children within the county also remained above the national average in some key indicators. The share of fully immunized children in the county recorded a decline from 93.8 per cent in 2014 to 81.1 per cent in 2018. Infant mortality and under 5 mortality rate were estimated at 50 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2016.

**Table 2: Murang'a county selected health sector performance indicators**

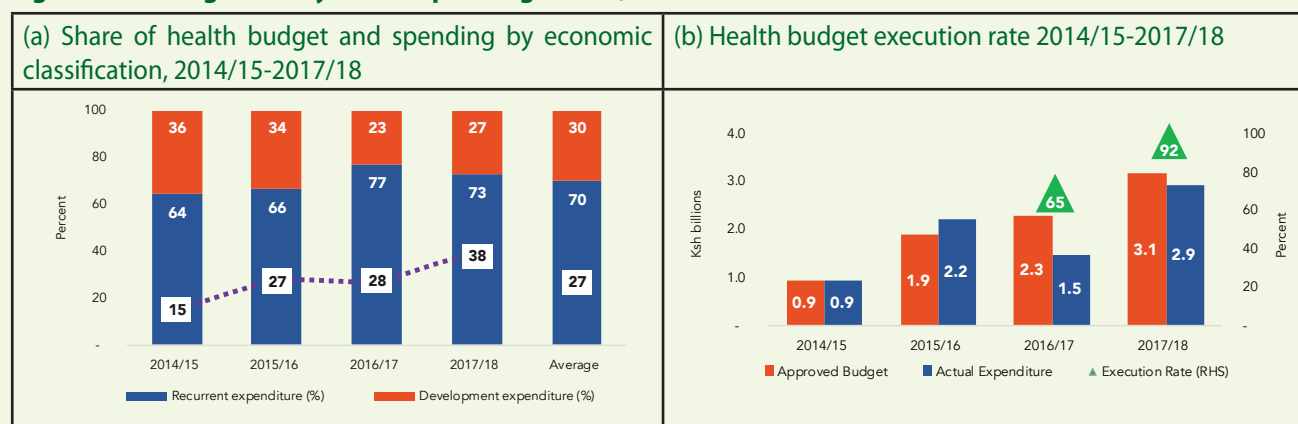
| Selected Health Indicators   | 2014   |          | 2015   |          | 2016   |          | 2017   |          | 2018   |          |
|--|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|
|  | County | National | County | National | County | National | County | National | County | National |
| U5MR (death per 1,000 live births) 2016 Estimate   | -      | -        | -      | -        | 50.0   | 79.0     | -      | -        | -      | -        |
| MMR (death per 100,000 live births) 2016 Estimate  | -      | -        | -      | -        | 329.0  | 495.0    | -      | -        | -      | -        |
| Skilled birth attendant coverage (%) (source: DHIS2)   | 66.8   | 53.5     | 44.5   | 56.9     | 45.5   | 59.3     | 49.0   | 53.0     | 65.8   | 64.9     |
| Proportion of pregnant women who attended at least one ANC visit during pregnancy (%) (Source: DHIS2)  | 92.2   | 76.4     | 55.4   | 75.4     | 56.7   | 76.9     | 56.9   | 73.7     | 78.4   | 81.9     |
| Proportion of pregnant women who attended at least four ANC visit during pregnancy (%) (Source: DHIS2) | 49.2   | 35.9     | 35.6   | 39.7     | 32.8   | 39.8     | 24.4   | 32.6     | 50.2   | 48.7     |
| Proportion of children under one year who are fully immunized (%) (Source: DHIS2)                      | 93.8   | 70.2     | 68.2   | 75.7     | 64.7   | 72.4     | 58.4   | 65.9     | 81.1   | 77.0     |
| DPT/Hep+HiB3 dropout rate (%) (Source: DHIS2)  | 5.0    | 6.8      | 3.9    | 7.2      | 4.8    | 6.6      | 7.2    | 10.1     | 5.1    | 4.0      |
| Still Birth Rate (Source : DHIS2)  | 20.3   | 29.3     | 16.1   | 22.6     | 18.5   | 21.5     | 14.6   | 22.6     | 18.6   | 20.4     |

Source: Ministry of Health (2018), Demographic Health Information System (DHIS)

### 3.1.2 Health budget and expenditure

The share of health budget as a proportion of total county budget allocation increased from 15 per cent in 2014/15 to 38 per cent in 2017/18. Health actual expenditure expanded from about Ksh. 931 million in 2014/15 to Ksh. 2.9 billion in 2017/18. Spending on health comprised of, on average, 70 per cent recurrent expenditure and 30 per cent development expenditure (Figure 4a). The absorption rates decreased from 102 per cent in 2014/15 to 92 per cent in 2017/18. This is attributable to delays in exchequers releases and procurement of services.

**Figure 4: Murang'a county health spending trends, 2014-18**



Source: Office of the Controller of Budget (Various) reports, 2014-2018. NB: RHS = Right-Hand Side

### 3.1.3 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 the sub-counties. Key priority areas for the county will be focused on strengthening preventive, curative and promotive health services to promote, elimination of communicable diseases, manage non-communicable diseases and minimize exposure to health risks. The county will also continue to provide modern and inclusive health infrastructure by improving physical infrastructure and human capacities. Further, access will be improved both in terms of distance and health coverage to cater especially for children and women to access health services.

To realize these new milestones, the county will need to address various challenges including expansion of the health budget despite the decline in key health indicators. The county needs to plan and implement targeted programmes in implementation of the county health strategy and budget. There needs to be specific health budget lines on children, youth and women.

## 3.2 Education and Vocational Training

### 3.2.1 Education sector priorities

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 establishing, equipping and upgrading the existing ECDE and youth polytechnics while the national government supported the primary, special needs, secondary and tertiary education. The county also planned to carry out sensitization and promotion of vocational training

Gross ECDE enrolment rate decreased from 72.4 per cent in 2014 to 66.4 per cent in 2018 while net enrolment rate (NER) decreased from 61.5 per cent to 58.2 per cent during the same period. These rates were also generally lower than national averages of 94.4 per cent and 63.5 per cent, indicating that a few children who have attained the school-going age did not join ECDE. More boys were enrolled in ECDE than girls in Murang'a county in 2018. There is inequality in access to education between male and female school-going children in favour of boys in primary and favour of girls in secondary school in 2018 as shown in Table 3.

Gross primary and secondary enrolment rates stood at 112.5 per cent and 76.4 per cent in 2018, respectively. Net enrolment rate (NER) for primary decreased from 93.9 per cent to 93.4 per cent and for secondary school from 87.2 per cent to 53.4 per cent during the same period. There was inequality in access to primary education between male and female school-going children in favour of girls as shown in Table 3. More boys than girls enrolled in primary school while more girls than boys enrolled in secondary school.

In 2018, there were 65 accredited youth polytechnics in the county, enrolling 7,570 learners.

**Table 3: Murang'a county selected education sector performance indicators**

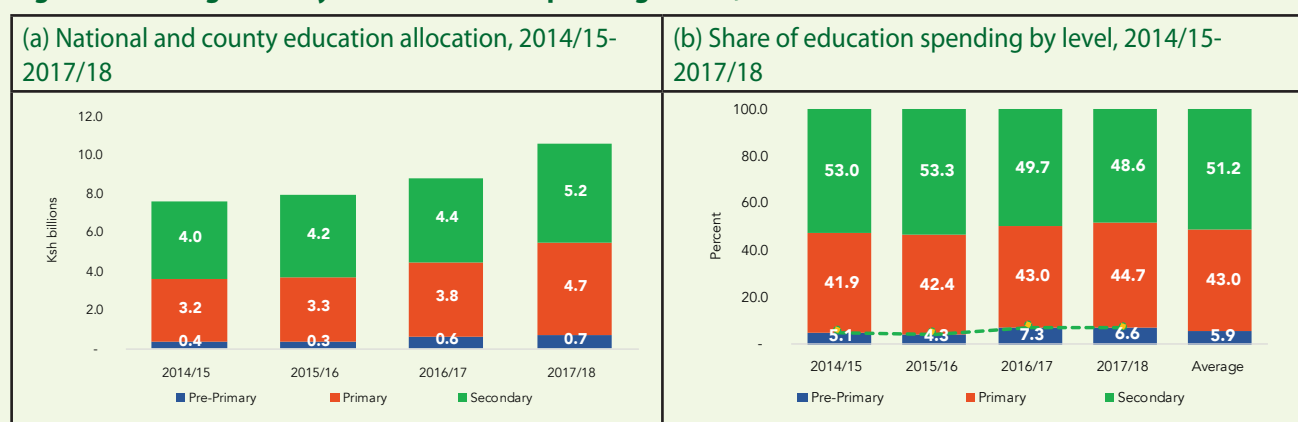
| Pre-primary School                             | 2014-County | 2014-National | 2018-County | 2018-National |
|--|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| Gross enrolment ratio (%)                      | 72.4        | 73.6          | 66.4        | 94.4          |
| Net enrolment ratio (%)                        | 61.5        | 71.8          | 58.2        | 63.5          |
| Male (%)                                       | 51.7        | 73.4          | 64.4        | 62.5          |
| Female (%)                                     | 48.3        | 70.2          | 51.9        | 65.0          |
| School size (Public) (Pupils) (Average)        | 39.0        | 75.0          | 55.0        | 85.0          |
| Gender parity index (value)                    | 0.9         | 1.0           | -           | -             |
| Pupil-teacher ratio (No.) (Public)             | 28.0        | 31.0          | 23.0        | 31.0          |
| Proportion of enrolment in private schools (%) | 38.8        | 31.5          | 35.0        | 33.0          |
| Primary School                                 | 2014-County | 2014-National | 2018-County | 2018-National |
| Gross enrolment ratio (%)                      | 97.8        | 104.0         | 112.5       | 107.2         |
| Net enrolment ratio (%)                        | 93.9        | 88.0          | 93.4        | 82.4          |
| Male (%)                                       | 51.1        | 86.0          | 94.0        | 81.7          |
| Female (%)                                     | 48.9        | 90.0          | 92.8        | 83.0          |
| School size (Public) Average No. of pupils     | 339.0       | 338.0         | 365.0       | 375.0         |
| Gender parity index (Value)                    | 1.0         | 1.0           | -           | -             |
| Pupil-teacher ratio (No.)                      | 34.0        | 42.0          | 32.0        | 40.0          |
| Proportion of enrolment in private schools (%) | 13.0        | 16.0          | 13.0        | 16.0          |
| Secondary School                               | 2014-County | 2014-National | 2018-County | 2018-National |
| Gross enrolment ratio (%)                      | 128.8       | 58.7          | 76.4        | 66.2          |
| Net enrolment ratio (%)                        | 87.2        | 47.4          | 53.4        | 37.5          |
| Male (%)                                       | 86.1        | 49.6          | 52.1        | 35.4          |
| Female (%)                                     | 88.3        | 45.2          | 54.8        | 39.8          |
| School size (Public)                           | 323.0       | -             | 372.9       | 392.0         |
| Gender parity index (value)                    | 1.1         | 0.9           | -           | -             |
| Pupil-teacher ratio (No.) (TSC)                | 26.0        | 30.0          | 26.0        | 32.0          |
| Pupil-teacher ratio (No.) (TSC and BOM)        | 20.9        | 20.2          | 21.0        | 20.0          |
| Proportion of enrolment in private schools (%) | 18.3        | 30.7          | 3.4         | 5.8           |

Source: Ministry of Education (Various), Education statistical booklets, 2014-2018

### 3.2.2 Education budget and expenditure

The ECDE allocation in the county increased from Ksh 388 million in 2014/15 to Ksh 702 million in 2017/18. The share of ECDE allocation as a proportion of total basic education allocation was, on average, 5.9 per cent during the period. Allocation on primary education increased from 3.2 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 4.7 billion in 2017/18 while secondary allocation increased from Ksh 4 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 5.2 billion in 2017/18 (Figure 5a).

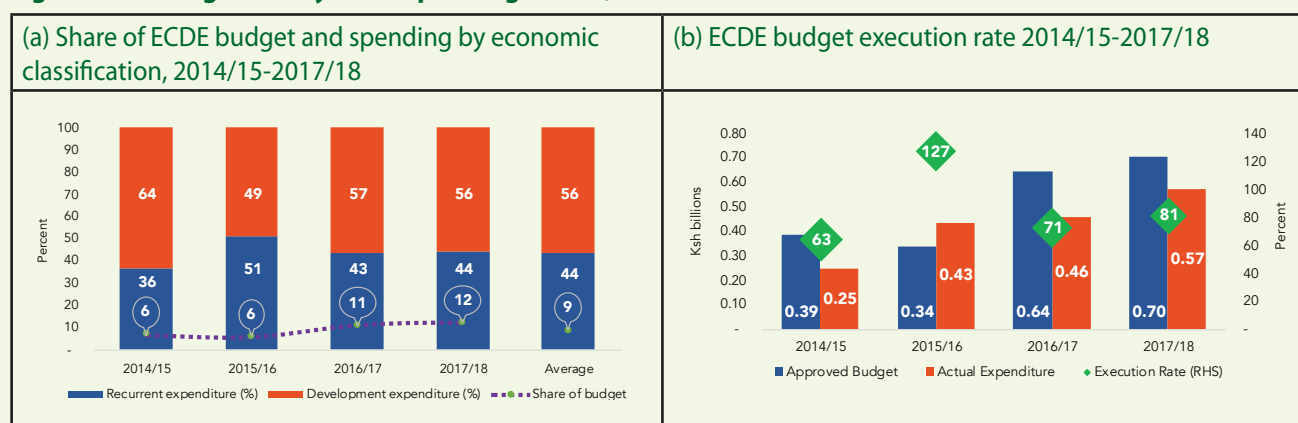
**Figure 5: Murang'a county basic education spending trends, 2014/15-2017/18**



Source: National Treasury (Various), IFMIS

The share of ECDE budget in the total county budget allocation increased from 6 per cent in 2014/15 to 12 per cent in 2017/18. Total spending on ECDE increased from Ksh 0.25 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.52 billion in 2017/18 (Figure 6(b)). Spending comprised of on average 56 per cent development expenditure and 44 per cent recurrent expenditure during the period (Figure 6(a)). The absorption rates fluctuated between a maximum of 127 per cent in 2015/16 and a minimum of 63 per cent in 2014/15.

**Figure 6: Murang'a county ECDE spending trends, 2014-18**



Source: Office of the Controller of Budget (Various) reports, 2014-2018. NB: RHS= Right-Hand Side

### 3.2.3 Education medium term expectations

The county government with support from stakeholders aims to continue investing in ECDE through infrastructural and human capacity development of both vocational and technical training institutions. Drug and substance abuse have been identified by the county as one of the major vices among the youths (CIDP 2018-2022), and this will need to be addressed to increase transition rates from primary to secondary school. The county is also introducing ECDE school feeding programmes to increase enrolment and retention rates. The county core function of ECDE should be given priority rather than using departmental share to give education bursaries for other levels whose share of budgetary allocation is growing at national level.

### 3.3 Water and Sanitation

#### 3.3.1 Water and sanitation priorities

The County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2013-2017 outlined key sector priorities for both water and sanitation. Murang'a county has several water sources and catchment areas, thus the sector focused on conservation of water catchment areas, increasing access to households through infrastructure development and construction and expansion of water supply systems. For sanitation, the county would focus on developing and improving existing waste management systems. Additionally, the sector would prioritize creation of awareness on the importance of water treatment, proper waste management and discharge.

Access to improved water and sanitation was recorded at 68 per cent and 69 per cent respectively. The population within the service area of water utility (company) increased from 68 per cent to 86 per cent between 2014 and 2018. The proportion of population covered or served by the utility improved from 51 per cent in 2014 to 52 per cent in 2018. The sector experiences the problem of non-revenue water at about 52 per cent as at 2018; an improvement from 59 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: Murang'a county selected WASH sector performance indicators**

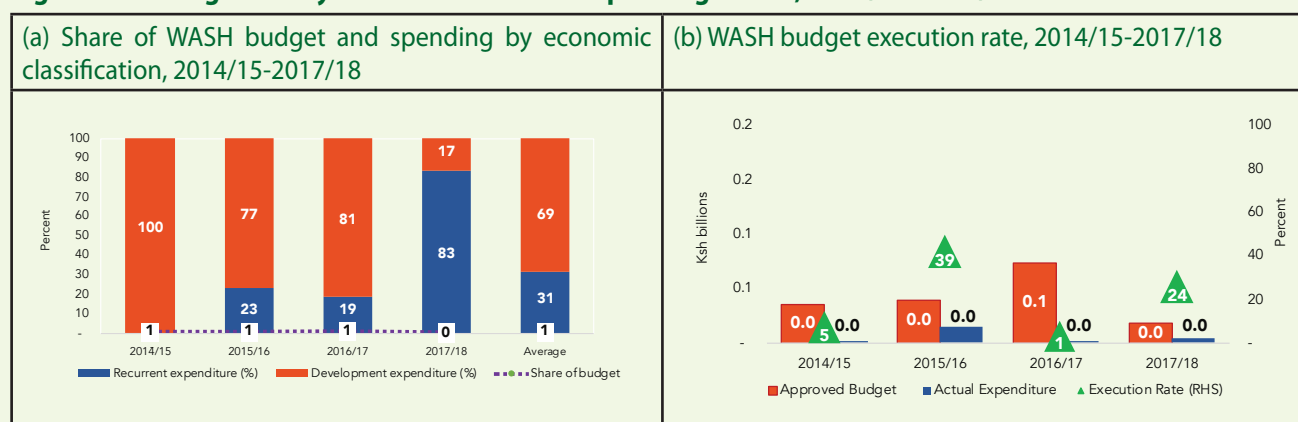
| Indicators   | 2014-County | 2014-National | 2018-County | 2018-National |
|--|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| County population within service areas of WSPs (%)             | 68          | *             | 86          | *             |
| Water coverage by utilities (%)                                | 51          | 53            | 52          | *             |
| Non-revenue water (NRW) (%)                                    | 59          | 42            | 52          | *             |
| Sanitation coverage within utility area (%)                    | 74          | 69            | -           | *             |
| Sewerage coverage (%)  | 45          | *             | 5           | *             |
| Access to improved water (%)                                   | 68          | *             | 68          | *             |
| Access to improved sanitation (%)                              | 66          | *             | 66          | 59            |
| No toilet facility – Potential open defecation county-wide (%) | 0           | *             | 1           | 8             |

Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2014), KDHS 2014; County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2013-2017

#### 3.3.2 Water and sanitation budget and expenditure

On average, water and sanitation was allocated 1 per cent of total county budget between 2014/15 and 2017/18. Total spending on water and sanitation increased from Ksh 34 million in 2014/15 to Ksh 70 million 2016/17 before declining to Ksh 18 million in 2017/18. Spending consisted of 69 per cent development and 31 per cent recurrent spending (Figure 7a). In addition, the absorption rate increased from 5 per cent in 2014/15 to 39 per cent in 2015/16 before decreasing to 24 per cent in 2017/18. This is also attributed to failure by the exchequer to release the entire approved budget amount, and also due to capacity constraints.

**Figure 7: Murang'a county water and sanitation spending trends, 2014/15-2017/18**



Source: Office of the Controller of Budget (Various) reports, 2014-2018. NB: RHS=Right Hand Side

#### 3.3.3 Water and sanitation medium term expectations

In the plan period 2018-2022, the county aims to continue increasing availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation, and expanding provision of sewerage and sanitation to the urban population. The water sector in the



county experiences a number of challenges, including few technical staff, high breakage of water pumps compounded by a declining share of development spending, and low absorption rates in WASH. More focus needs to be given to operations and maintenance for the county to realize the outlined millstones. Other interventions will include ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation; increasing the proportion of population accessing safe water and improved sewerage; and increasing the strategic water storage.

### 3.4 Child Protection, Youth and Women

#### 3.4.1 County priorities

**The County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2018-2022 focused on disbursement of social funds and support of the vulnerable children and the elderly.** It also highlighted the need to enhance social welfare; empowerment of the youth through training; management of sports activities; enhancing; promotion and regulation of responsible gaming; promotion of cultural development activities and coordination of gender mainstreaming as key areas of focus for the social services, youth, gender and culture.

**Specifically, on social child protection, the county recorded a high number of reported cases of child neglect and abandonment rising from 14 cases in 2014 to 860 cases in 2018.** Similarly, the reported cases for child trafficking, abduction and kidnapping increased from 2 in 2014 to 4 in 2018, child emotional abuse increased from 1 reported case to 13 reported cases and child physical abuse increased from 9 cases to 20 cases between 2014 and 2018.

**The county had no records of cases of FGM.** The low/non-reporting of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) to government institutions can be attributed to either the 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: Murang'a county selected child protection, youth and women performance indicators (No. of reported cases)**

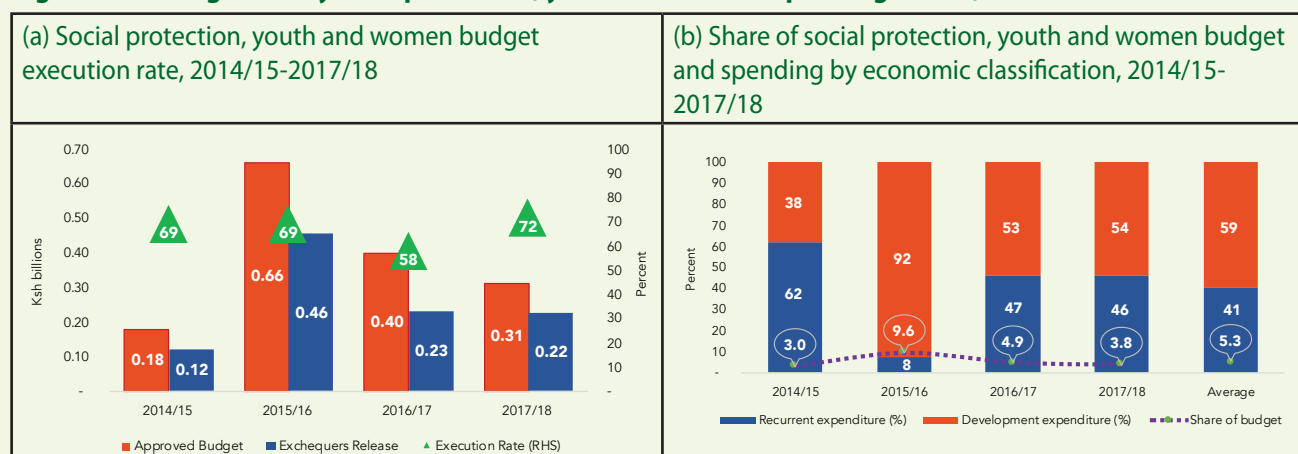
| Indicators                                  | 2014-County | 2014-National | 2018-County | 2018-National |
|---|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| Child Neglect and Abandonment               | 14          | 767           | 860         | 73245         |
| Child Sexual Abuse                          | 7           | 636           | -           | 172           |
| Child Trafficking, Abduction and Kidnapping | 2           | 32            | 4           | 1022          |
| Child Labour                                | 1           | 168           | -           | 378           |
| Child Emotional Abuse                       | 1           | 58            | 13          | 853           |
| Child Physical Abuse                        | 9           | 583           | 20          | 2031          |
| Female Genital Mutilation                   | -           | 9             | -           | 40            |

Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2014), KDHS 2014; County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2018

#### 3.4.2 Child protection, youth and women budget and expenditure

**The sector's allocation as a share of total county budget allocation during the review period averaged Ksh. 0.39 billion.** Spending on the sector was, on average, Ksh 0.39 billion and constituted 41 per cent recurrent and 59 per cent development. The share of recurrent expenditure was highest in 2014/15, representing 62 per cent of total expenditure and lowest in 2015/16 accounting for 8 per cent before increasing to 54 per cent in 2017/18, averaging 41 per cent of total expenditure during the review period (Figure 8b).

**Figure 8: Murang'a county child protection, youth and women spending trends, 2014-18**



Source: Office of the Controller of Budget (Various) reports, 2014-2018

### 3.4.3 Medium term expectations

Between the plan period 2018 and 2022, the county key priority areas include promotion of youth and empowerment for equity and self-reliance. With increasing demand for social protection in programmes such as cash transfer, there is need to align the county government social protection programmes with the national government to avoid duplication of the activities while ensuring that the available resources are focused to the relevant beneficiaries.

## 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 diversify agricultural production, and to reduce incidences of malnourished children. The county also introduced feeding programmes for marginalized communities to enhance retention and promote school health and nutrition.

**For children, county nutrition indicators were generally better than national averages, according to 2014 data.** Stunting stood at 19.3 per cent of the population while wasting and underweight children stood at 1.4 per cent and 5.6 per cent, respectively (Table 6). The proportion of households consuming adequately iodized salt in the county stood at 100 per cent of the population. Further, Vitamin A supplementation among children aged 6 to 59 months was low when compared to the target proportion of 80 per cent, and far below the national coverages of 24 per cent in 2014.

**The proportion of overweight or obese women in the county stood at 47.3 per cent, higher than the national average of 28.9 per cent.** The average Body Mass Index (BMI) of women in the county was 25.1.

**Table 6: Selected nutrition performance indicators**

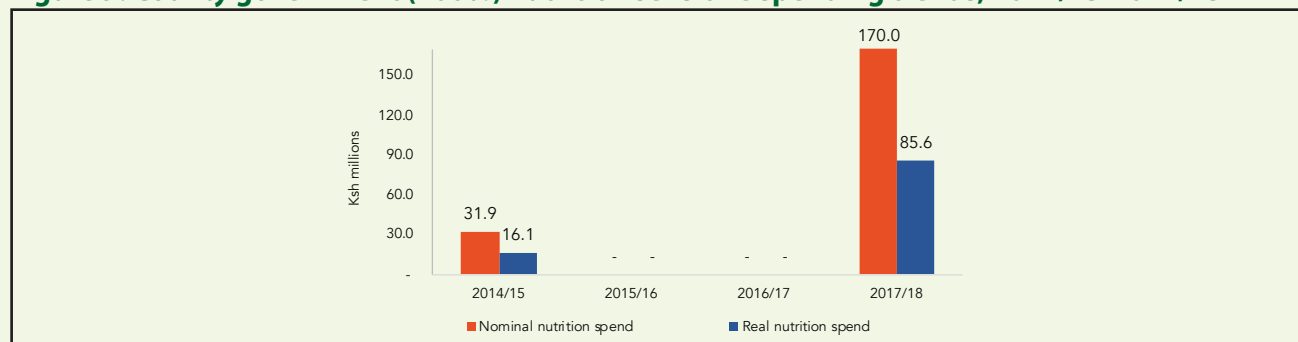
| Indicators  | 2014-County | 2014-National |
|---|-------------|---------------|
| Stunted children (%)  | 19.3        | 26.0          |
| Wasted children (%)   | 1.4         | 4.0           |
| Underweight children (%)  | 5.6         | 11.0          |
| Vitamin A supplements coverage  | 32.8        | 24.0          |
| Proportion of children aged 6 to 59 months- Received Vitamin A supplement | 76.4        | 71.4          |
| Proportion of children consuming adequately iodized salt.                 | 100.0       | 99.1          |
| Proportion of households consuming adequately iodized salt.               | 100.0       | 99.2          |
| " Household salt iodization (50 – 80 mg/Kg KIO3) (% samples) "            | 39.0        | 57.0          |
| Number of Women (BMI)   | 25.1        | 23.2          |
| Overweight or obesity among women aged 15 to 49 years.                    | 47.3        | 28.9          |

Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2014), KDHS 2014

### 3.5.2 Nutrition budget and expenditure

**The county spending on nutrition (direct nutrition interventions) in nominal terms** was Ksh 32 million in 2014/15 and increased to Ksh 170 million in 2017/18. There was no clear budgetary allocation for nutrition between the period 2015/16 and 2016/17.

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



Source: National Treasury (Various), IFMIS 2014-2018

### 3.5.3 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 have clear nutrition programmes and budget lines, and 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 progress towards compliance to the 30 per cent Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) reserved for women, youth and Persons With Disabilities (PWDs).

##### b) Children

The county is developing a Family Life Training centre to handle children rescue cases. Eight (8) children offices have been established in each sub-county. The county has also established the Murang'a Juvenile Centre.

##### c) Youth

The county in nurturing youth talents through sports and arts. It has also rehabilitated 58 stadiums and playing grounds and purchased various sports equipment.

##### d) Women

The county aims to reduce discrimination based on gender, and promote equality and empowerment by establishing sound policies and enforceable legislation. The county had begun disaggregating of data by gender on persons trained on business skills and hopes to implement this in other programmes.

##### e) PWDs

Cash Transfer for Persons with Severe Disabilities (CT-PWSDs) has 807 beneficiaries. The county is promoting sports and talent development for persons with disabilities by facilitating and increasing capacity for 500 PWDs.

## 4. RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY

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

**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 Murang'a County, which was ranked 12 <sup>th</sup> (2.3% contribution to GDP in 2017) of all the 47 counties in Kenya in terms of national GDP contribution comes from agriculture. | Moving forward, the county should put measures in place to mitigate weather shocks, while at the same time promoting manufacturing through agro-processing, and enhancing access to agriculture markets, including through collaboration with private sector   | County Treasury and Planning/ County Executive/Department of Agriculture |
| Revenue              | The county's own source revenue decreased from Ksh 0.5 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.45 billion in 2017/18. Own source revenue as a share of the total revenue also fell from 12 per cent in 2014/15 to 6 per cent in 2017/18.                      | The county needs innovative strategies to grow own source revenue since its share is declining. The county should strengthen measures for tax collection and management to prevent leakages of revenue streams.  | County Treasury and Planning/ Directorate of Revenue                     |
| Expenditures         | The budget execution rate for most social sector budgets, especially health, education and social sector were generally high.   | Ensure that the resources are effectively allocated and efficiently used to improved service delivery to the citizens.   | All sectors/County Treasury and Planning/ County Executive               |
| Health               | The budget for health increased from Ksh 0.9 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 3.1 billion in 2017/18 although maternal and child health outcomes declined during the period.   | There is need to for the county to plan and implement specific budget lines for children, youth and women in the health services to improve the health indicators.   | County Treasury and Planning/ County Department of Health                |
| Education            | The budget of Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) increased from Ksh 0.39 billion 2014/15 to Ksh 0.7 billion in 2017/18. The gross ECDE enrolment rate in the county decreased from 72.4 per cent in 2014 to 66.4 per cent in 2018.      | This indicates that some children who have attained school going age were not in school, therefore the county needs increase enrolment and retention rates through programs such as the ECDE school feeding. Further, the county should ring-fence ECDE resources so that they are not used for other purposes such as secondary and higher education bursaries. | County Treasury and Planning/ County Department of Education             |

| Sector                            | Finding  | Recommendation  | Responsibility  |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|
| WASH                              | The county allocation for water increased from Ksh 35 million in 2014/15 to Ksh 74 million in 2016/17 before a decline to Ksh 18 million.  | The county needs to increase allocation for WASH and ensure that budgeted programmes are implemented.   | County Treasury and Planning/<br>County Department of Water and Sanitation                              |
| Child Protection, Youth and Women | The county allocation for child protection, youth and women as a share of total county budget allocation during the review period averaged Ksh 0.39 billion.   | With increasing demand for protection programmes such as cash transfers there is need to align the county government protection programs with national government to avoid duplication of the activities while ensuring that the available resources are focused to the relevant beneficiaries. | County Treasury and Planning/<br>County Department of Culture and Social Services                       |
| Nutrition                         | The county allocated Ksh 32 million in 2014/15 and Ksh 170 million in 2017/18 to interventions that directly contribute to boosting child nutrition.   | The county should ensure that direct nutrition interventions, across several sectors such as agriculture, education and health are consistently budgeted for, with visible budget lines. Moreover, nutrition should be well articulated in the County Integrated Development Plans.             | County Treasury and Planning/<br>County Department of Health and all other sectors, including education |
| Budget Execution                  | The budget execution rate for most social sector budgets, especially health, education and child protection, youth and women sectors were generally high.  | There is need to enhance planning and budgeting to moderate the existence of executions of over 100 per cent in across some sectors.  | County Treasury and Planning,<br>All County departments;<br>National Treasury                           |
| Disaggregated rate                | 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. | Standalone budget lines on the listed sectors so that the county is better placed to effectively deliver the referred services, especially to women and girls.  | County Planning, Statistics and M&E Unit, and Social/Gender Departments                                 |

#### (Endnotes)

- 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).
- See, for example, UNICEF (2017) Early Moments Matter, New York: UNICEF.
- Monetary poor people are considered at risk of monetary poverty when their equivalised disposable income (after social transfers) is below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold, which is set at 60% of the national median value.
- Multidimensional poverty captures different deprivations experienced by poor people in their daily lives, such as lack of access to basic education, health or WASH services, inadequate nutritional intake, experiencing physical or emotional violence or abuse, etc.
- Base year 2013
- 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)
- Body Mass Index (BMI) is a value derived from the mass (weight) and height of a person. It is expressed in units of Kg/M<sup>2</sup>. Broadly, a person is categorized as underweight if BMI is below 18.5 Kg/M<sup>2</sup>; normal weight: between 18.5 Kg/M<sup>2</sup> and 25 Kg/M<sup>2</sup>; and overweight: 25 Kg/M<sup>2</sup> to 30 Kg/M<sup>2</sup> and obese: over 30 Kg/M<sup>2</sup>.

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