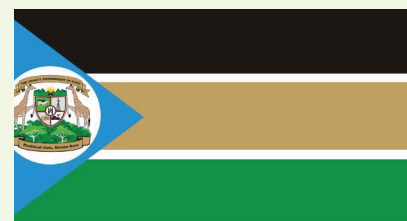


## Children, Youth and Women Sensitive Planning and Budgeting in Kenya: Laikipia County Brief, 2014/15-2017/18



County Government of Laikipia

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BRIEF

This brief provides an analysis of how the County Government of **Laikipia** plans and budgets for the needs of children, youth and women. The analysis focused on the 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 Controller of Budget, county policy documents as well as face-to-face interviews with relevant county stakeholders. The key highlights from the analysis are summarized below:

- a) **An estimated 46 per cent of the Gross County Product (GCP) of Laikipia, which ranked 37 (1 per cent contribution to GDP) of all the 47 counties in Kenya, came from the service sector.** However, agriculture accounted for 44 per cent of GCP while other industries including agro-based industries and mining and Manufacturing sub-sectors recorded 9 per cent and 1 per cent to the GCP prompting the need to diversify the economy. Moving forward, the county should continue creating an enabling business environment to attract more investments in the Service, Manufacturing, Industry and Agricultural sectors as well as investing in enhancing farmers' capacities in modern agricultural methods, extension services, agribusiness and research.
- b) **The county's own source revenue increased from Ksh 0.4 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.5 billion in 2016/17 before declining to 0.4 billion in 2017/18 while the equitable share transfer increased from Ksh 3 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 4.5 billion in 2017/18.** However, as a share of total revenue, the county's own source revenue declined from 12.5 per cent in 2015/16 to 7.7 percent in 2017/18. To improve the share of its own source revenue, the county should strengthen fiscal efforts to accelerate revenue mobilization from both local revenue and conditional grants.
- c) **Maternal and child health outcomes improved with most of the indicators surpassing the national averages.** For instance, the number of women who had access to skilled delivery increased from 45 per cent in 2016 to 79.8 per cent in 2018. This is largely because of the introduction of free maternity services in 2013. Moreover, the share of fully immunized children in the county improved from 52.6 per cent in 2016 to 77.5 per cent in 2018. The county is encouraged to continue investing in child and maternal health care for sustained positive health outcomes.
- d) **The budget for Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) marginally increased from Ksh 0.1 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.2 billion in 2017/18.** Partly because of increased spending on ECDE, the gross ECDE enrolment rate in the county went up from 59.2 per cent in 2014 to 89 per cent in 2018 against the national average of 78.4 per cent. In addition, net enrolment reduced from 59.2 per cent to 48.3 per cent in the same period. Looking forward, the challenge for the county is to ensure improved enrolment and equitable distribution and effective utilization of available resources. In addition, the county should ring-fence ECDE resources so that they are not used for other purposes such as secondary and higher education bursaries.
- e) **Total spending in water and sanitation improved from Ksh 0.1 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.2 billion in 2017/18.** Partly as a result, Non-revenue water improved by 3 per cent implying a slight reduction in water losses, but 36 per cent and 58 per cent of the population had no access to improved water and sanitation, respectively. The county needs to invest more in the sector's infrastructure in order to gain from the water utility revenue that will enhance water service delivery and in meeting operations and maintenance costs.
- f) **The county's child protection, youth and women budget allocation as a share of the total county budget allocation was only once (2014/15) during the review amounting to Ksh 0.04 billion.** This was an under-investment

given that this segment of the population is the most vulnerable and hence the need to prioritize the sector in the future allocations.

- g) The county spending on nutrition (direct nutrition interventions) was Ksh 7 million in 2014/15, increased to Ksh 14 million in 2015/16 and further improved to Ksh 22 million in 2016/17 before declining to Ksh 14 million in 2017/18.** In 2014, nearly a third of the children were stunted (27 per cent). The county should ensure that direct nutrition interventions, across several sectors such as agriculture, education and health are budgeted for, with visible budget lines. Moreover, nutrition should be well articulated in the County Integrated Development Plans.
- h) The budget execution rates for child protection, youth and women and education, were relatively low. For instance, the budget execution rate for child protection, youth and women was 40 per cent in 2014/15 while for education in 2017/18 was 53 per cent.** The low budget execution rate was partly because approved budgets were not released in time by the national treasury as well as weak procurement and cash flow planning by the county. 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 the number of reported cases of child neglect and abandonment from 6 in 2014 to 874 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

**Laikipia county** occupies a land area of approximately 9,462 km<sup>2</sup> and is divided into 3 sub-counties and 15 wards. The county's population was 518,560 in 2019, which represents 1.1 per cent of the national population. The total county population constituted of 259,440 males, 259,102 million females and 18 intersex persons.

**In 2015/16, the overall poverty rate of the county was 46 per cent with 15 per cent living in extreme poverty, which was higher than the overall national rates of 36.1 and 8.6 per cent, respectively.** Among children, five in every ten children were affected by monetary poverty or lack of financial means while 39.5 per cent of youth and 45.8 per cent of women were also affected. Additionally, 55.5 per cent of children were living in multidimensional poverty that is, being deprived in multiple dimensions including, nutrition, health care, education, housing and drinking water, while youth and women recorded 52.5 per cent and 68.1 per cent, respectively. Levels of monetary poverty remained higher than national

**Table 1: Laikipia county administrative, poverty and demographic profile (2015/16)**

Administrative Profile							Latest Available
Area (km <sup>2</sup> )							9,462
Number of sub-counties							3
Number of wards							15
Overall poverty (%)							46.0
Extreme poverty (%)							15.0
Population (2019)							518,560
Group	Children	National Children	Youths	National Youths	Wo/men	National Wo/men	
Monetary Poor							
Male (%)	49.6	42.1	40.8	29.1	38.2	30.5	
Female (%)	53.8	41.0	38.3	28.8	45.8	34.1	
Total (%)	51.6	41.6	39.5	28.9	41.3	32.4	
Population	218,501	20,742,290	146,039	13,443,268	96,551	7,847,350	
Multidimensionally Poor							
Male (%)	54.0	49.3	53.4	44.7	56.8	51.0	
Female (%)	57.2	47.1	51.8	49.4	68.1	60.8	
Total (%)	55.5	48.2	52.5	47.1	62.5	56.1	
Population	218,501	20,742,290	146,039	13,443,268	96,551	7,847,350	

Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2018)

averages for children, youth and women. The level of multidimensional poverty among women was above the national average and was highest in comparison to that of youth and children. The overall high rates of poverty, especially among women means that planning and budgeting processes should better consider human capital sectors so that the county can maximize on the productive and innovative potential of its future workforce and initiate a fast and sustainable growth trajectory (Table 1).

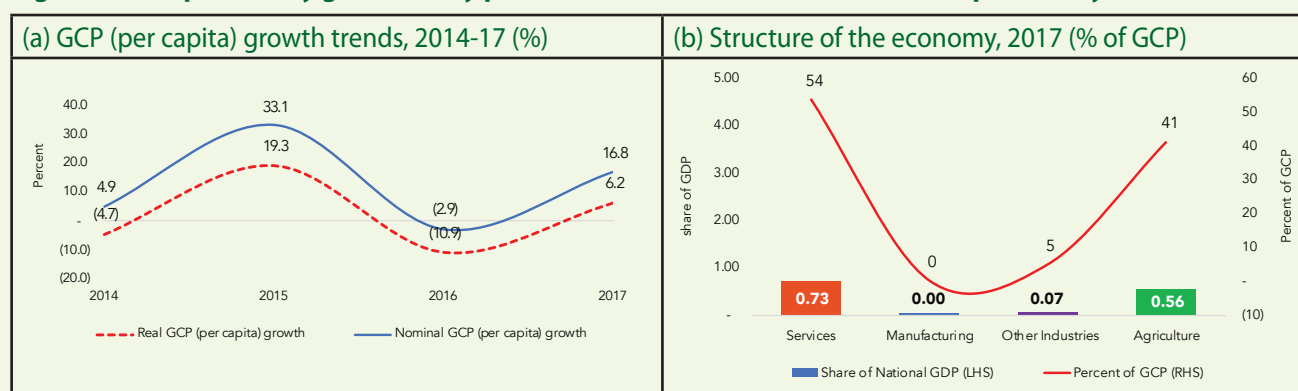
## 2. STATE OF COUNTY ECONOMY

### 2.1 Gross County Product Growth

**Laikipia county accounted for 1 per cent of the national GDP in 2017.** Its Gross County Product (GCP) per capita grew from 2.7 per cent in 2014 to 10.8 per cent in 2016 and later declined to -3.3 per cent in 2017. (Figure 1a). The most recent downturn was largely due to the prolonged electioneering period.

**The economy remained reliant on the service sector that accounted for 46 per cent of the GCP and 0.5 per cent of the national GDP.** This was closely followed by agriculture that accounted for 44 per cent of GCP and 0.5 per cent of national GDP. Other industries including agro based industries and mining and Manufacturing sub-sectors recorded 9 per cent and 1 per cent to the GCP. This calls for diversification of the economy to include more manufacturing and industries sectors as well as improving the performance of agriculture and the service sectors. In order to increase agricultural productivity and the participation of women and youth within the sector, the county should put in place mechanisms to reduce the cost of farming, enhance the marketing of agricultural produce and promote value chains. This can be done through developing infrastructure and enhancing farmer’s capacities in modern agricultural methods, extension services, agribusiness and research. The county should also seek to attract more investment in manufacturing and industry sectors, for a balanced economy through collaboration with the private sector.

**Figure 1: Laikipia County gross county product and economic structure of Laikipia County, 2014-17**

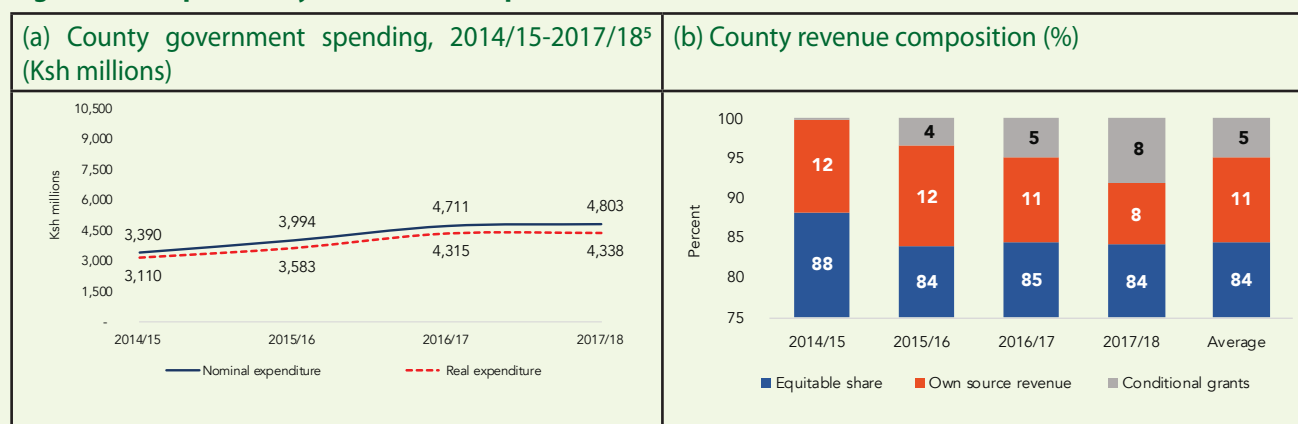


Source: KNBS (2019) Statistics

### 2.2 Overall Budget Performance

**The county government annual spending in real terms, grew from Ksh.3.1 billion to Ksh 4.3 billion between 2014/15 and 2016/17 and relatively remained the same in 2017/18 (Figure 2(a)).** This spending was heavily dependent on

**Figure 2: Laikipia county revenue and expenditure trends, 2014-18**

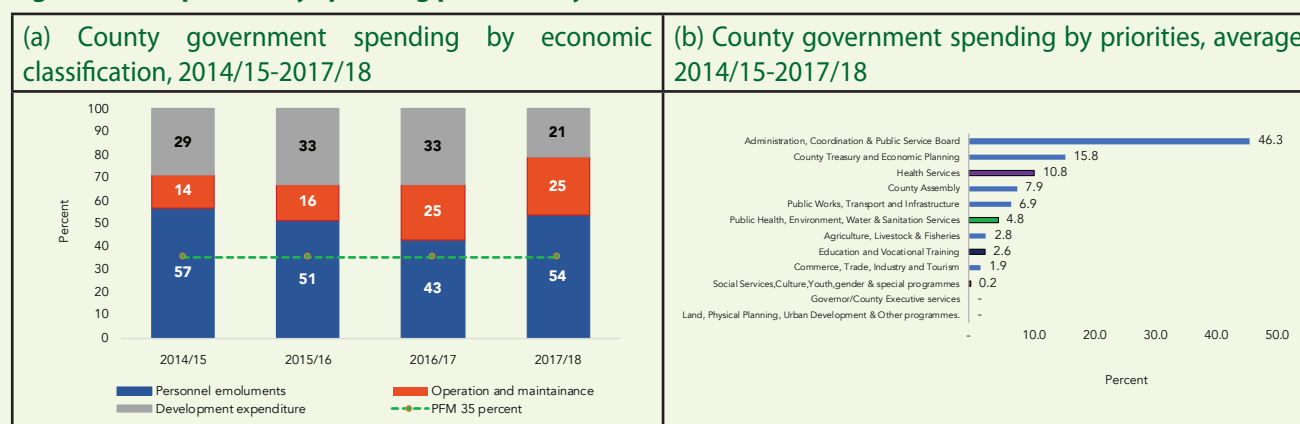


Source: Office of the Controller of Budget (Various) reports, 2014-2018

national government transfers accounting for 85.1 per cent between 2014/15 and 2017/18. In nominal terms, own source revenue increased from Ksh 0.4 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.5 billion in 2016/17 before declining to 0.4 billion in 2017/18 while the equitable share transfer increased from Ksh 3 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 4.5 billion in 2017/18. The burden of the drop in the county government spending predominantly affects social sectors spending which are recurrent in nature. The contribution of own source revenue and conditional grants was on average 14.9 per cent (Figure 2 (b)). There is need for enhanced fiscal efforts to accelerate revenue mobilization from both local revenue and conditional grants.

**The share of the actual development budget increased from 29 per cent in 2014/15 to 33 per cent in 2015/16 and remained the constant in 2016/17 before declining to 21 per cent in 2017/18.** The recurrent expenditure, constituting of personnel emoluments and operation and maintenance costs, accounted for about 71 per cent of county government spending throughout the period. Wages alone accounted for about 51 per cent of all the county government spending (Figure 3a). This reflects low compliance to the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act 2012 provision that ceils development spending at a minimum of 30 per cent of total budget and the 2015 regulation which requires that not more than 35 per cent of the county's total revenue should go to payment of wages and salaries is not met.

**Figure 3: Laikipia county spending priorities by economic and administrative classification, 2014-18**



Source: Controller of Budget reports, 2014-2018

**The county spent over 21.2 per cent of the total expenditure during the period under review on Health, Education, Agriculture, Nutrition, Social Protection, Youth, Gender, Water and Sanitation (Figure 3b).** These sectors are regarded as being more sensitive to the needs of children, youth and women. The effect 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 priorities

**During the period under review, the county outlined key priorities that targeted children, youth, women and persons with disability.** During this period, the sector's priorities included; reducing teenage pregnancies, mortality rates, HIV and STI infections; providing psycho-education to parents on parenting skills; providing efficient, affordable, and accessible health services; improve skilled deliveries; constructing and upgrading health facilities; establishing county ambulance services; preventing and managing non-communicable conditions; eliminating communicable conditions; establishment of a county medical school; training of the medical staff; ensuring timely, sufficient, and quality health products and supplies; increase health funding; efficient management of the health system; and effect evidence based health decision making.

**The number of women who had access to skilled birth attendant during delivery increased from 54.9 per cent in 2014 to 79.8 per cent in 2018 due to introduction of free maternity services in 2013.** The maternal mortality rate in the county in 2016 was recorded at 374 deaths per 100,000 live births against the national average of 495 deaths per 100,000 live births. Besides, the county recorded the highest rate of still births in 2014 at 62.8 per cent, the lowest rate recorded in 2017 at 19.3 per cent while the current rate is 23.3 per cent as of 2018. Like experienced in other counties, more pregnant women attended one ANC visit than four as recommended.

**The proportion of children who were fully immunized also improved during the review period and slightly remained above the national average.** The share of fully immunized children in the county improved from 61.9 per cent in 2014 to

**Table 2: Laikipia 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	-	-	-	-	53.0	79.0	-	-	-	-
MMR (death per 100,000 live births) 2016 Estimate	-	-	-	-	374.0	495.0	-	-	-	-
Skilled birth attendant coverage (%) (source: DHIS2)	54.9	53.5	65.1	56.9	45.0	59.3	65.7	53.0	79.8	64.9
Proportion of pregnant women who attended at least one ANC visit during pregnancy (%) (Source: DHIS2)	63.0	76.4	69.2	75.4	50.0	76.9	79.6	73.7	87.2	81.9
Proportion of pregnant women who attended at least four ANC visit during pregnancy (%) (Source: DHIS2)	35.3	35.9	37.0	39.7	26.4	39.8	43.6	32.6	56.8	48.7
Proportion of children under one year who are fully immunized (%) (Source: DHIS2)	61.9	70.2	81.9	75.7	52.6	72.4	79.0	65.9	77.5	77.0
DPT/Hep+HiB3 dropout rate (%) (Source: DHIS2)	5.8	6.8	4.8	7.2	3.9	6.6	8.2	10.1	4.5	4.0
Still Birth Rate (Source : DHIS2)	62.8	29.3	20.8	22.6	22.4	21.5	19.3	22.6	23.3	20.4

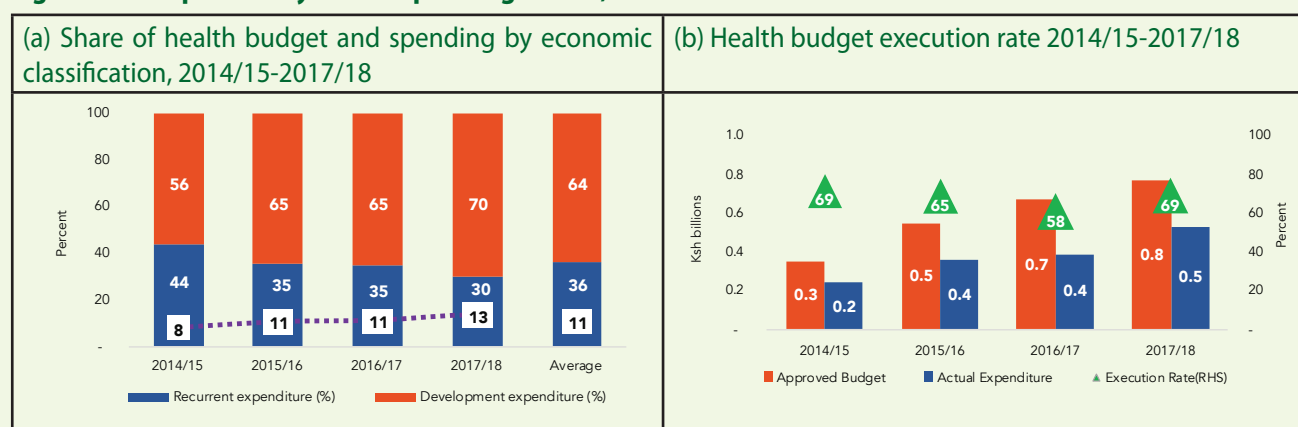
Source: Ministry of Health (2018), Demographic Health Information System (DHIS)

77.5 per cent in 2018. Under 5 mortality rates were estimated at 53 deaths per 1000 live births in 2016 below the national average of 79 deaths per 1000 live births (Table 2).

### 3.1.2 Health budget and expenditure

The share of health budget as a proportion of total county budget allocation increased from 8 per cent in 2014/15 to 13 per cent in 2017/18. Health actual expenditure expanded from about Ksh 0.2 billion to Ksh 0.5 billion. Spending comprised of on average 36 per cent recurrent expenditure and 64 per cent development expenditure (Figure 4(a)). The absorption rates declined from 69 per cent to 58 per cent between 2014/15 and 2016/17 before increasing to 69 per cent in 2017/18. This is attributable to the county exchequers failure to release the full amount approved in the health budget.

**Figure 4: Laikipia county health spending trends, 2014-18**



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

### 3.1.3 Health 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.

To realize these new milestones, the county will need to address various challenges including: limited funds relative to health needs for the County, including those for children and mothers; long procurement processes; delays by the treasury in releasing funding to the sector and pending bills affecting the overall sector absorption rate.

## 3.2 Education & Vocational Training

### 3.2.1 Education Sector Priorities

The county governments are responsible for early childhood development and 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 period 2013-2017, the county education sector focus was to enhance the quality and access to; Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE); youth polytechnics; and the bursary award programme for secondary, TVETs and Tertiary education.

**Gross ECDE enrolment rate increased from 59.2 per cent in 2014 to 89 per cent in 2018 while net enrolment rate (NER) decreased from 59.2 per cent to 48.3 per cent during the same period.** This was generally lower than national NER (77.2%) in 2018, indicating that parents should be encouraged to take their children (those who have attained the ages between 2 and above) to schools. Moreover, the challenge of the county having inadequate ECDE staffing and infrastructure explains the low performance. More girls were enrolled in ECDE than boys in Laikipia county as of 2018 (Table 3).

**Gross primary and secondary enrolment rates were 94.2 per cent and 69.3 per cent in 2018, respectively. Net enrolment rate (NER) increased from 69 per cent to 75.9 per cent for primary school and decreased from 61.5 per cent to 42.6 per cent for secondary school during the same period.** There was inequality in access to primary education between male and female school-going children in favour of boys as shown in table 3. Moreover, more girls than boys enrolled in secondary school in 2018. In 2017, there were 13 accredited vocational centres in the county enrolling 617 learners.

**Table 3: Laikipia county selected education sector performance indicators**

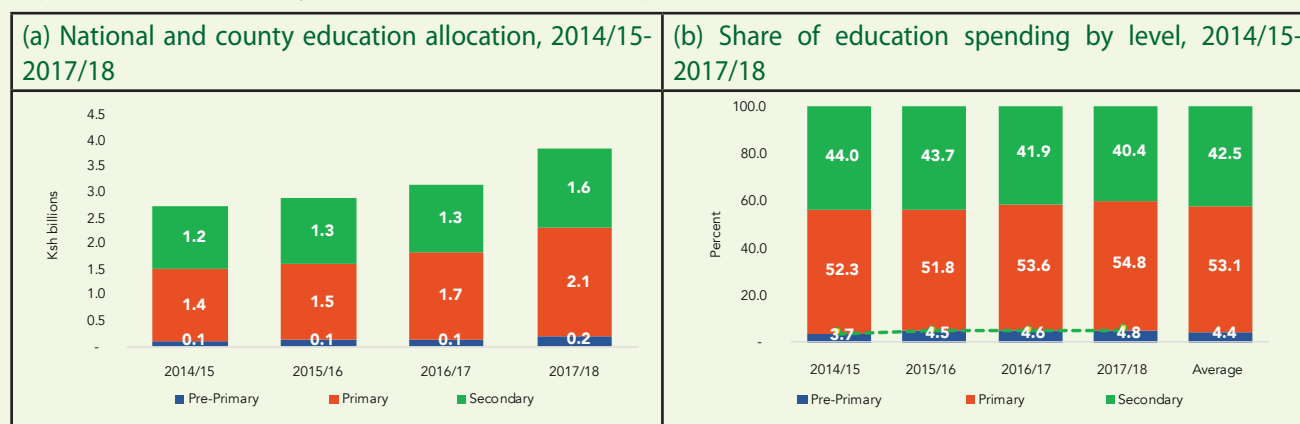
Pre-primary School	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
Gross enrolment ratio (%)	59.2	73.6	89.0	94.4
Net enrolment ratio (%)	59.2	71.8	48.3	63.5
Male (%)	51.7	73.4	45.2	62.5
Female (%)	48.3	70.2	51.4	65.0
School size (Public) (Pupils) (Average)	62.0	75.0	69.0	85.0
Gender parity index (value)	0.9	1.0	-	-
Pupil-teacher ratio (No.) (Public)	26.0	31.0	29.0	31.0
Proportion of enrolment in private schools (%)	29.1	31.5	30.0	33.0
Primary School	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
Gross enrolment ratio (%)	94.5	104.0	94.2	107.2
Net enrolment ratio (%)	69.0	88.0	75.9	82.4
Male (%)	50.8	86.0	79.3	81.7
Female (%)	49.2	90.0	72.4	83.0
School size (Public) Average No. of pupils	261.0	338.0	294.0	375.0
Gender parity index (Value)	1.0	1.0	-	-
Pupil-teacher ratio (No.)	38.0	42.0	33.0	40.0
Proportion of enrolment in private schools (%)	17.0	16.0	15.0	16.0
Secondary School	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
Gross enrolment ratio (%)	62.0	58.7	69.3	66.2
Net enrolment ratio (%)	61.5	47.4	42.6	37.5
Male (%)	61.1	49.6	39.6	35.4
Female (%)	61.9	45.2	45.5	39.8
School size (Public)	267.0	-	324.2	392.0
Gender parity index (value)	0.9	0.9	-	-
Pupil-teacher ratio (No.) (TSC)	27.0	30.0	26.0	32.0
Pupil-teacher ratio (No.) (TSC and BOM)	20.3	20.2	20.0	20.0
Proportion of enrolment in private schools (%)	22.7	30.7	7.1	5.8

Source: Ministry of Education (Various), Education statistical booklets, 2013-2018

### 3.2.2 Basic Education budget and expenditure

The share of ECDE spending in the county remained constant at 0.1 billion from 2014/15 to 2016/17 slightly improving to 0.2 billion in 2017/18. The share of ECDE spending as a proportion of total education spending was on average 4.4 per cent during the period. Spending on primary and secondary education increased from 1.4 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 2.1 billion in 2017/18 and Ksh 1.2 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 1.6 billion in 2017/18 respectively (Figure 5a).

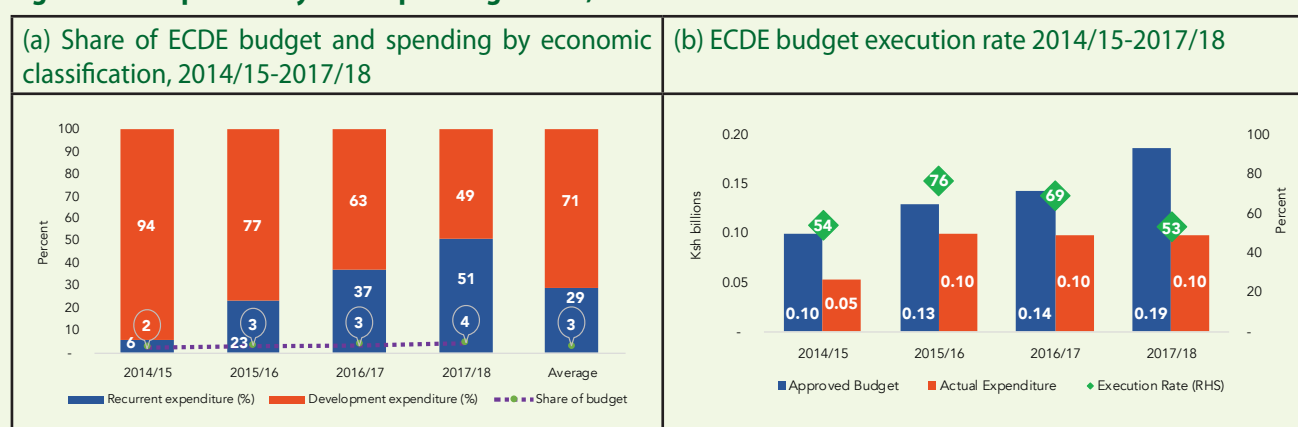
**Figure 5: Laikipia county overall education spending trends, 2014-18**



Source: National Treasury (Various), IFMIS

The share of ECDE budget in the total County budget allocation averaged 2.6 per cent over the review period, comprising of 71 per cent development and 29 per cent recurrent (Figure 6(a)). The absorption rate declined from an average 76 per cent in 2015/16 to 53 per cent in 2017/18.

**Figure 6: Laikipia county ECDE spending trends, 2014-18**



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

### 3.2.3 Education medium term expectations

The county government with support from stakeholders aims to continue to invest in early childhood development through the establishment of 75 model ECDE centres; increase enrolment and transition in ECDE; employment of ECDE teachers; provision of sanitation facilities and an enhanced school feeding programme. At secondary and vocational education level the county aims to increase; access, retention, transition and completion rates through the provision of scholarships to orphans and bursaries to the neediest in special schools.

## 3.3 Water and Sanitation

### 3.3.1 Water and sanitation priorities

The County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2013-2017 outlined key priorities for both the water and sanitation sub-sectors. For the water sub-sector, the county aimed to; increase water availability and access by 20 per cent ; reduce incidences of waterborne diseases by 60 per cent; increase access to safe/improved sanitation by 40 per cent; increase water supply for household/domestic consumption; prevent water contamination and pollution; and to reduce the distance to the nearest water point from 11.1 km to 1 km.

Access to improved water was estimated at 64 per cent against the national average of 72.6 per cent while access to improved sanitation was estimated at 42 per cent against the national average of 59 per cent. The population within the service area of water service providers decreased from 51 per cent to 30 per cent between 2014 and 2018. The proportion of population covered or served by the utility improved from 69 per cent in 2014 to 85 per cent in 2018. The sector experienced the problem of non-revenue water at about 36 per cent as at 2018; an improvement from 39 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: Laikipia county selected WASH sector performance indicators**

Indicators	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
County population within service areas of WSPs (%)	51	*	30	*
Water coverage by utilities (%)	69	53	85	*
Non-revenue water (NRW) (%)	39	42	36	*
Sanitation coverage within utility area (%)	93	69	-	*
Sewerage coverage (%)	32	*	36	*
Access to improved water (%)	64	*	64	*
Access to improved sanitation (%)	42	*	42	59
No toilet facility – Potential open defecation county-wide (%)	15	*	15	8

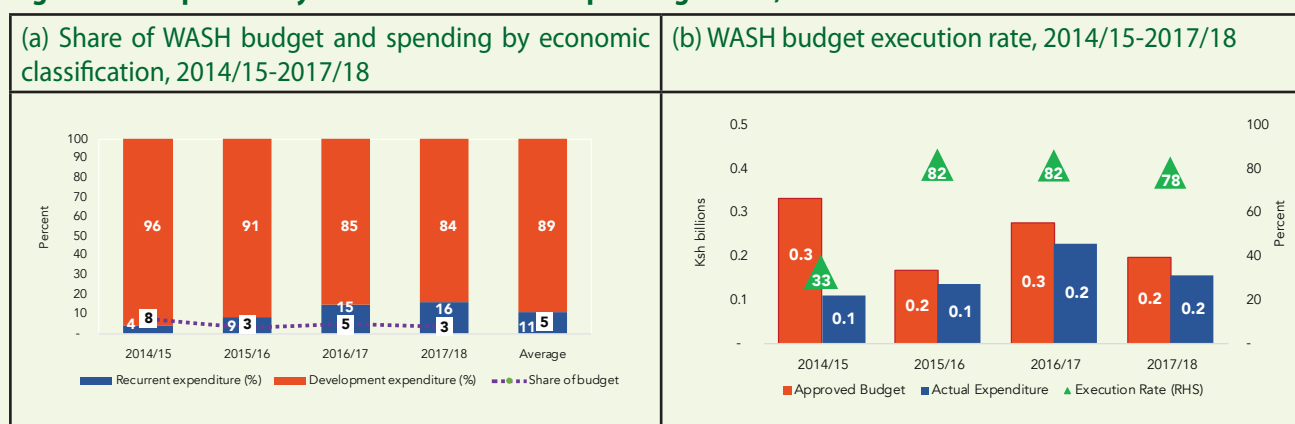
Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2014), KDHS 2014; County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2018

### 3.3.2 Water and sanitation budget and expenditure

**On average, water and sanitation was allocated 5 per cent of the total county budget between 2014-15 and 2017/18.**

Total spending on water and sanitation increased from Ksh 0.1 billion in both 2014/15 and 2015/16 to Ksh 0.2 billion in 2016/17 and 2017/18. Spending comprised of on average 89 per cent development and 11 per cent recurrent spending (Figure 7(a)). The approved budget declined from Ksh.0.3 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh.0.2 billion in 2015/16, increased in 2016/17 to Ksh. 0.3 billion and a later declined in 2017/18 to Ksh. 0.2 billion. Besides, the absorption rate significantly improved between 2014/15 and 2015/16 to 82 per cent from 33 per cent before declining consistently to 78 per cent in 2017/18. This is attributed to the county exchequer failure to release the entire approved budget amount and capacity constraints.

**Figure 7: Laikipia county water and sanitation spending trends, 2014-18**



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

### 3.3.3 Water and sanitation medium term expectations

In the plan period of 2018-2022 the county aims to; improve water and sanitation in Peri-urban and rural settlements; reduce the average distance to water points from 5 km to 3 km; increase piped water access from 30 per cent to 40 per cent; and improve water conservation, protection, and governance. Specifically, in improving ECDE centers water access systems, the county aims at; providing 5000 liters water tanks, constructing tank stands, guttering, and piping. Furthermore, the county plans to construct and rehabilitate public ablution blocks county wide.

## 3.4 Child Protection, Youth and Women

### 3.4.1 Child protection, youth and women priorities

**The County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2013-2017 highlighted key priorities for the sector.** Fundamentally, the county planned to carry out evidence-based research to document cultural practices in the county and transforming culture into an enterprise venture through cultural tourism and promotion of cultural home craft industries. Specifically, the county planned to; construct 3 office blocks and a cultural center; hold 3 cultural festivals with a culminating one at the county level; sensitized the community to form and register groups and self-help projects; formulate law regulating formation, registration and management of social groups, projects and organizations; train groups on saving and credit activities; train project committees on proposal writing and financial management; disburse money (Ksh.2000/=) to households with persons with severe disability; provide sunscreen lotions; provide grants to ongoing community projects; construct rescue centers; provide rehabilitation center for drug and substance of abuse victims; prosecution of irresponsible parents; provide legal assistance to every child going through juvenile justice system; establish child protection units; run



specific programmes and initiatives that promote sport and recreation activities PWDs inclusive; provide guidelines to enable youths benefit from 30 per cent county government procurement opportunities; establish business incubators; provide adequate and timely funding by YEDF; and provide internships.

**Specifically, on child protection, the County recorded an increase in the number of reported cases of child neglect and abandonment from 6 cases in 2014 to 874 cases in 2018.** Similarly, the child labour and child physical abuse increased from 2 to 6 cases and 4 to 26 cases respectively between 2014 and 2018 (Table 5).

**The county reported only two cases of female genital mutilation (FGM).** The low/non reporting of 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: Laikipia county selected child protection performance indicators**

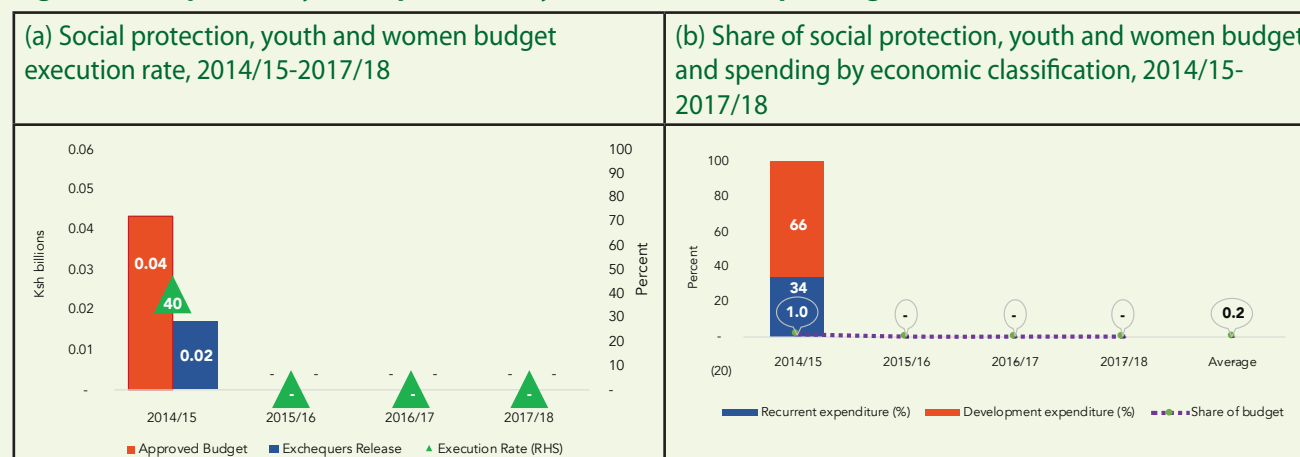
Indicators	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
Child Neglect and Abandonment	6	767	874	73245
Child Sexual Abuse	5	636	-	172
Child Trafficking, Abduction and Kidnapping	-	32	3	1022
Child Labour	2	168	6	378
Child Emotional Abuse	-	58	13	853
Child Physical Abuse	4	583	26	2031
Female Genital Mutilation	-	9	2	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 budget allocation as a share of the total county budget allocation during the review period averaged 0.2 per cent.** The county only allocated Ksh 0.04 billion in 2014/15 with no other monies allocated to social protection, youth and women post FY 2014/15. The absorption rate was 40 per cent in FY 2014/15 (Figure 8(a)). 34 per cent was allocated to recurrent expenditure leaving 66 per cent to development expenditure (Figure 8(b)).

**Figure 8: Laikipia county social protection, youth and women spending trends, 2014-18**



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

### 3.4.3 Child protection, youth and women medium term expectations

Between the plan period 2018 and 2022 the county aims to; empower the youth in agricultural activities, the county seeks to implement the Kenya Youth Agribusiness Strategy (KYAS), gender and social inclusion in the sector; upgrade 8 VTCs to offer market driven skills to the youth; rescue and support of vulnerable persons (PWDs, orphans, street children, and economically disadvantaged women); increase number of PWDs, women, orphans and elderly under social protection intervention; and to improve access to social and cultural facilities by developing 5 more social halls.

### 3.5 Nutrition

#### 3.5.1 Nutrition Priorities

The CIDP 2013 to 2017 focused on the nutrition of the under five children. The county sought to improve nutritional status of children under five from a **Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM)** of 12.8 per cent to less than 10 per cent and underweight from 29 per cent to less than 20 per cent in Laikipia county.

**For children, county nutrition indicators were generally worse than national averages according to 2014 data.** Stunting affected 27 per cent of the population while wasting and underweight children were 4 per cent and 21 per cent respectively. The levels were higher than the National average of 26 percent, 4 per cent and 11 per cent, respectively (Table 6). Furthermore, the proportion of households consuming adequately iodized salt in the County was slightly higher than the national figure attaining the target proportion of 100 per cent. Vitamin A supplementation among children aged 6 to 59 months was 90 per cent which was better than the national average of 71 per cent in 2014.

**The proportion of overweight or obese women in the county was 34 per cent, which was worse than the national average of 29 per cent.** The average Body Mass Index (BMI) of women in the county was 24 being 1 per cent higher than the national average.

**Table 6: Selected nutrition performance indicators**

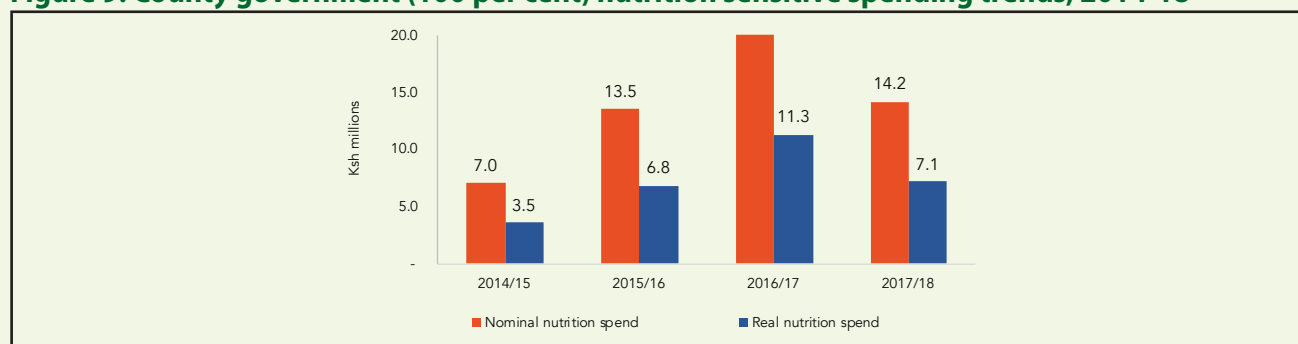
Indicators	2014-County	2014-National
Stunted children (%)	26.9	26.0
Wasted children (%)	4.4	4.0
Underweight children (%)	21.3	11.0
Vitamin A supplements coverage	14.8	24.0
Proportion of children aged 6 to 59 months- Received Vitamin A supplement	90.1	71.4
Proportion of children consuming adequately iodized salt.	98.9	99.1
Proportion of households consuming adequately iodized salt.	99.8	99.2
" Household salt iodization (50 – 80 mg/Kg KIO3) (% samples) "	53.0	57.0
Number of Women (BMI)	24.0	23.2
Overweight or obesity among women aged 15 to 49 years.	34.4	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 7 million in 2014/15, increased to Ksh 14 million in 2015/16 and further improved to Ksh 22 million in 2016/17 before declining to Ksh 14 million in 2017/18.

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



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

#### 3.5.3 Nutrition medium term expectations

In the period 2018-2022 the County plans to; improve nutrition by transforming agriculture, livestock and fisheries into commercially oriented enterprises that ensures' sustainable households' food and nutrition security; strengthen nutrition staffing in the health department and CHVs; and improve maternal and child nutrition.

### 3.6 Other Initiatives for the Special Interest Groups

#### Box 1: Key highlights on children, youth, women and PWDs' initiatives

##### a) AGPO

The county reported compliance to the 30 percent allocation of Access to Government and Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) reserved for women, youth and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

##### b) Children

The county enhanced care for 80 rescued children at the rescue centers; increased the number of public upgraded and operational ECDE centers to 400; increased ECDE enrollment; provided resources necessary for ECDE; improved water access and sanitation in 50 ECDE centers; and employed 760 ECDE teachers.

##### c) Youth

The county established 5 talent centers; held 10 sporting events; increased access to quality sporting facilities and utilities by upgrading 2 stadia; increased the number of operational VTCs to 8; 627 trainees enrolled in VTCs; and provided bursaries and scholarships to 7844 beneficiaries.

##### d) Women

The county increased the number of women under the social protection programme and constructed 4 social halls.

##### e) PWDs

The county provided cash transfers to PWDs.

## 4. RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY

4.1 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 46 per cent of the Gross County Product (GCP) of Laikipia, which ranked 37 (1 per cent contribution to GDP) of all the 47 counties in Kenya, came from the service sector.	Moving forward, the county should continue creating an enabling business environment to attract more investments in the Service, Manufacturing, Industry and Agricultural sectors as well as investing in enhancing farmers' capacities in modern agricultural methods, extension services, agribusiness and research.	County Treasury and Planning/ County Executive/Department of Trade, Industry and Tourism and Agriculture
Revenue	The county's own source revenue increased from Ksh 0.4 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.5 billion in 2016/17 before declining to 0.4 billion in 2017/18 while the equitable share transfer increased from Ksh 3 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 4.5 billion in 2017/18.	To improve the share of its own source revenue, the county should strengthen fiscal efforts to accelerate revenue mobilization from both local revenue and conditional grants.	County Treasury and Planning/ Directorate of Revenue
Expenditures	The budget execution rates for child protection, youth and women and education, were relatively low. For instance, the budget execution rate for child protection, youth and women was 40 per cent in 2014/15 while for education in 2017/18 was 53 per cent.	To improve budget utilization rates, there is need for national treasury to adhere to the disbursement schedules by releasing resources on time. On its part, the county should strengthen procurement systems and improve cash flow forecasting.	All sectors/County Treasury and Planning/ County Executive
Health	Maternal and child health outcomes improved with most of the indicators surpassing the national averages.	The county is encouraged to continue investing in child and maternal health care for sustained positive health outcomes.	County Treasury and Planning / County Department of Health
Education	The budget for Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) marginally increased from Ksh 0.1 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.2 billion in 2017/18.	Looking forward, the challenge for the county is to ensure improved enrolment and equitable distribution and effective utilization of available resources. In addition, 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
WASH	Total spending in water and sanitation improved from Ksh 0.1 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.2 billion in 2017/18.	The county needs to invest more in the sector's infrastructure in order to gain from the water utility revenue that will enhance water service delivery and in meeting operations and maintenance costs.	County Treasury and Planning / County Department of Water and Sanitation/LAWASCO

Child Protection, Youth and Women	The county's child protection, youth and women budget allocation as a share of the total county budget allocation was only once (2014/15) during the review amounting to Ksh 0.04 billion.  There is significant duplication of social services, youth, gender and culture services between the two levels of government. High cases of child neglect and abandonment was reported between 2014 and 2018.	Prioritize the sector in the future allocations.  Align the county government social services programs with national government programmes to avoid duplication of the activities while ensuring that the available resources are focused to the relevant beneficiaries.	County Treasury and Planning / County Department of culture and social services
Nutrition	The county spending on nutrition (direct nutrition interventions) was Ksh 7 million in 2014/15, increased to Ksh 14 million in 2015/16 and further improved to Ksh 22 million in 2016/17 before declining to Ksh 14 million in 2017/18.	The county should ensure that direct nutrition interventions, across several sectors such as agriculture, education and health are budgeted for, with visible budget lines. 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, Social Protection and WASH
Budget Execution	The budget execution rates for child protection, youth and women and education, were relatively low. For instance, the budget execution rate for child protection, youth and women was 40 per cent in 2014/15 while for education in 2017/18 was 53 per cent.	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 County 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. 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 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.
- 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.
- 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)

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