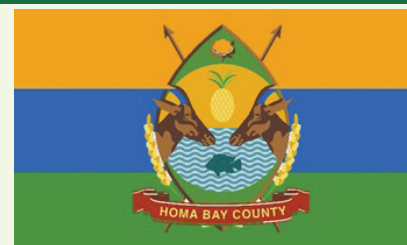


Children, Youth and Women Sensitive Planning and Budgeting in Kenya: Homa Bay County Brief, 2014/15-2017/18



County Government of Homa Bay

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BRIEF

This brief provides an analysis on how the County Government of **Homa Bay** 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 60 per cent of the Gross County Product (GCP)¹ of Homa Bay, which is the 23rd (1.52% contribution to GDP in 2017) of all the 47 counties in Kenya, comes from agriculture.** However, agricultural productivity is 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 157 million to Ksh 106 million between 2014/15 and 2017/18.** As a share of total revenue, the county's own source revenue also declined from 3.1 per cent in 2014/15 to 2.5 per cent in 2017/18. Overall, total county revenue increased from Ksh 5.1 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 7.1 billion in 2017/18, mainly because of transfers from the national government. 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.
- c). **The budget for health increased from Ksh 0.9 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 1.7 billion in 2017/18, which led to improvements in maternal and child health outcomes during the period.** The number of women who had access to a skilled birth attendant during delivery increased from 50.6 per cent in 2014 to 57.5 per cent in 2018. The share of fully immunized children in the county also increased from 67.2 per cent in 2014 to 72.7 per cent in 2018. Under 5 mortality rate was estimated at 170 deaths per 1000 live births in 2016, which is higher than the national average of 79 deaths per 1000 live births. To reverse this latter trend, the county should prioritize investments in reducing mortality rates.
- d). **The budget for Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) increased from Ksh 0.4 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.6 billion in 2017/18.** The gross ECDE enrolment rate in the county went up from 62.6 per cent in 2014 to 115.1 per cent in 2018. Looking forward, the challenge for the county is to ensure equitable distribution and effective utilization of available resources. Further, the county resources are prioritized for the core function of ECDE, and they are not used for other purposes such as secondary and higher education bursaries.
- e). **The county allocation for water and sanitation increased from Ksh 0.3 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.5 billion in 2017/18.** Despite the increase in allocation, access to improved water and sanitation remained low. The county needs to plan for access to specific interventions and increase absorption rates by ensuring that the 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 0.11 billion.** With increasing demand for protection programmes such as cash

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

- g). The county began financing in 2016/17 and allocated Ksh 78 million, which increased to Ksh 78 million in 2017/18 to interventions that directly contribute to boosting nutrition.** The children and women nutrition indicators were better than the national averages. The county should ensure that direct nutrition interventions, across several sectors such as agriculture, education and health are budgeted for, with visible budget lines.
- h). The budget execution rate for most social sector budgets, especially health and education were generally higher, recording over 80 per cent execution.** The budget execution rates for water and sanitation averaged less than 50 per cent during the review period. The low budget execution rate was partly because approved budgets were not released on time by the National Treasury. Procurement and cash flow planning by the county was 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, improve cash flow forecasting and encourage interdepartmental peer review.
- 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 10 in 2014 to 973 cases in 2018, yet there is no specific budget line for this.

1. COUNTY OVERVIEW

Homa Bay occupies a land area of approximately 4,267 km² and is divided into 8 sub-counties and 40 wards. The county's population was 1,131,950 equating to 2.38 per cent of the national population. This constituted 539,560 males, 592,367 females and 23 intersex persons.

In 2015/16, the overall poverty rate of the county was 34 per cent, which is slightly better than the overall national rates of 36.1 per cent with 5.9 per cent living in extreme poverty against a national average of 8.6 per cent. Among children, three in every ten were affected by monetary poverty or lack of financial means, which amounted to 30.9 per cent for youth and 34 per cent for women. Additionally, 66.7 per cent of children were living in multidimensional poverty; that is, deprived in several areas including nutrition, healthcare, education, housing and drinking water with youth and women recording 77.5 and 78.7 per cent, respectively. The overall high rates of poverty, especially among women and younger

Table 1: Homa Bay county administrative, poverty and demographic profile

Administrative Profile							Latest Available
Area (km ²)							4,267
Number of sub-counties							8
Number of wards							40
Overall poverty (%)							34%
Extreme poverty (%)							5.9%
Population (2019)							1,131,950
Group	Children	National Children	Youths	National Youths	Wo/men	National Wo/men	
Monetary Poor							
Male (%)	35.4	42.1	32.4	29.1	33.7	30.5	
Female (%)	34.4	41.0	29.7	28.8	32.8	34.1	
Total (%)	34.9	41.6	30.9	28.9	34.0	32.4	
Population	581,457	20,742,290	307,490	13,443,268	157,587	7,847,350	
Multidimensionally Poor							
Male (%)	69.3	49.3	72.0	44.7	74.1	51.0	
Female (%)	64.1	47.1	82.1	49.4	82.2	60.8	
Total (%)	66.7	48.2	77.5	47.1	78.7	56.1	
Population	581,457	20,742,290	307,490	13,443,268	157,587	7,847,350	

Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2018)

populations means that planning and budgeting should better consider gender in human capital sectors so that the county can maximize the productive and innovative potential of its future workforce. There is need to improve financing towards women and youth empowerment projects in the county, and create job opportunities and an enabling environment for sustainable growth trajectory to boost the county's economy.

2. STATE OF COUNTY ECONOMY

2.1 Gross County Product Growth

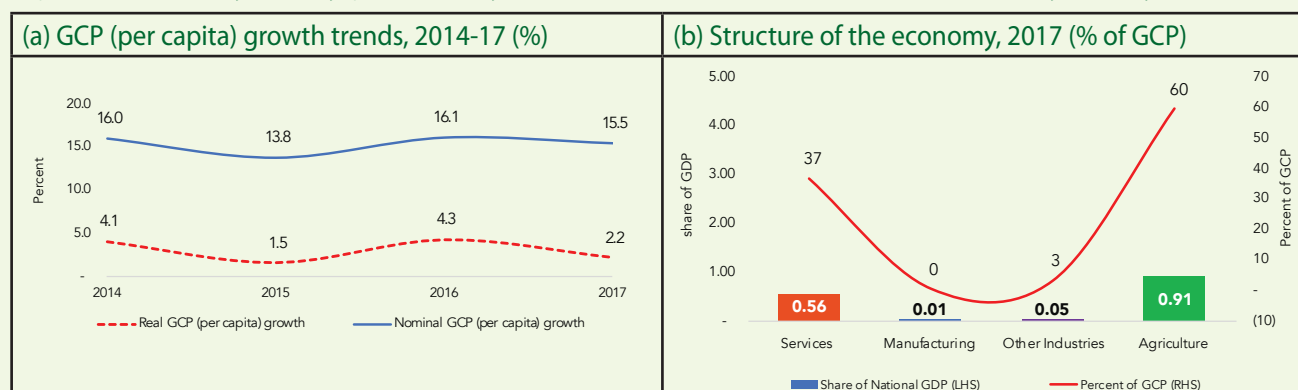
Homa Bay county accounted for 1.52 per cent of the national GDP) in 2017. The Gross County Product (GCP) per capita growth rate fluctuated between a maximum of 16.1 per cent in 2016 and a minimum 13.8 per cent in 2015 (Figure 1a). The most recent downturn was largely due to the prolonged electioneering period.

The economy remains heavily reliant on agriculture. Overall, agriculture activity accounts for 60 per cent of GCP (Figure 1b). Services accounted for 37 per cent and manufacturing 3 per cent of the GCP. The agriculture sub-sector, in particular, is an important driver of job creation for women and young workers. The county needs to increase agricultural productivity by putting in place mechanisms to reduce the cost of farming, enhance the marketing of agricultural produce and promote value addition and value chains. This is would in turn increase participation of women and youth within the sector. The county should also seek to attract more investments in manufacturing, and services, for a balanced economy.

2.2 Overall Budget Performance

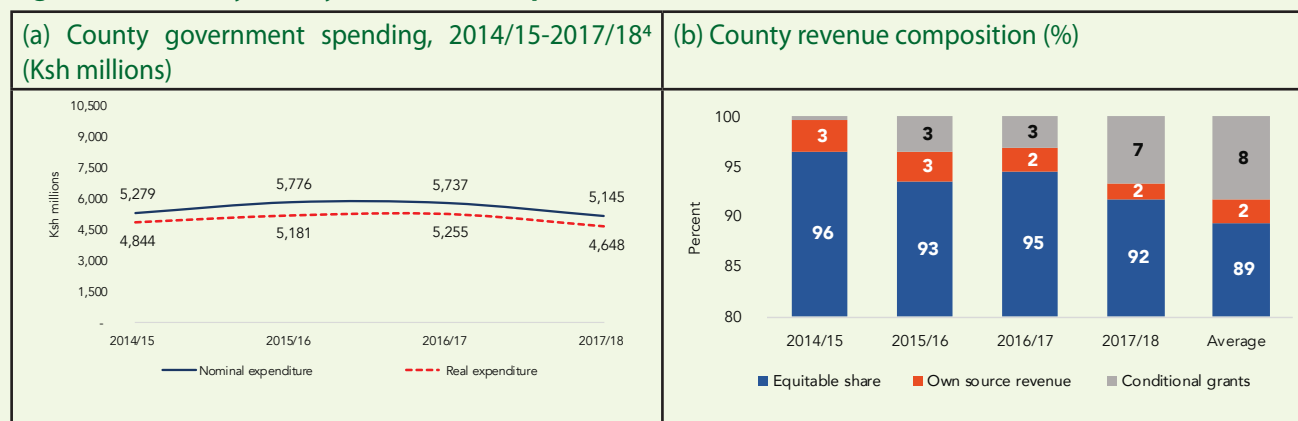
The county government annual spending grew from Ksh 5.2 billion to Ksh 5.7 billion between 2014/15 and 2015/16, before a moderate cut in 2016/17 and 2017/18 (Figure 2a). The county budget is largely financed by government transfers, which account for, on average, 94.1 per cent between 2014/15 and 2017/18. In nominal terms, own source revenue decreased from Ksh 157 million in 2014/15 to Ksh 106 million in 2017/18 while the equitable share transfer increased from Ksh 4.9 billion to Ksh 6.5 billion during the same period. Own source revenue as a share of total revenue fell from 3.1 per cent in 2014/15 to 2.5 per cent in 2017/18. The contribution of own source revenue and conditional grants was on average 6 per

Figure 1: Homa Bay County gross county product and economic structure of Homa Bay County, 2014-17



Source: KNBS (2019) Statistics

Figure 2: Homa Bay county revenue and expenditure trends, 2014-18



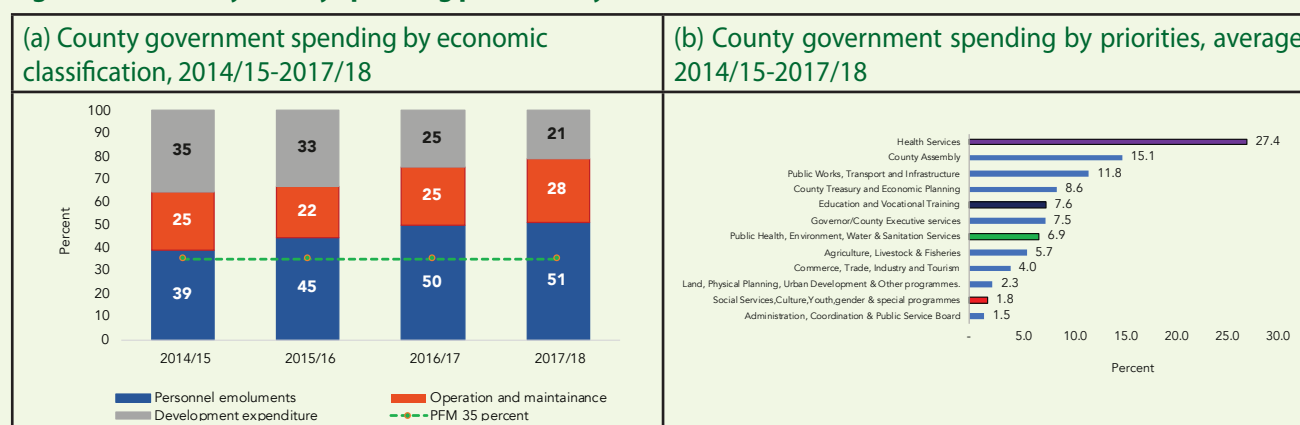
Source: Office of the Controller of Budget (Various) reports, 2014-2018

cent (Figure 2b). There is need for enhanced fiscal efforts to accelerate revenue mobilization from both local revenue and conditional grants. Further, the county needs innovative strategies to grow own source revenue and improve management to prevent leakages of revenue streams.

The share of actual development budget declined steadily during the review period from 35 per cent in 2014/15 to 21 per cent in 2017/18. The recurrent expenditure, constituting of wage and operation and maintenance dominate spending constituting 46 per cent and 25 per cent of the total spending, respectively in the review period. This leaves only 29 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 ceils development spending at a minimum of 30 per cent of total budget has been violated since 2016/17, 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 review period.

The county spent over 56.9 per cent of total expenditure during the period under review on sectors concerned with youth, women and children affairs. These sectors including: health, education, water and sanitation and child protection, youth and women and 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.

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



Source: Controller of Budget reports, 2014-2018

3. ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL SECTOR SPENDING

3.1 Health

3.1.1 Health sector priorities

During the period under review, the county outlined key programmes targeting children, youth and women. The sector's priorities included: improving access and quality of health services in existing facilities through upgrading, equipping and improving the human resource base. The county also planned to increase control and prevention of endemic diseases, including HIV/AIDs and increasing immunization coverage.

The number of women who had access to skilled delivery increased from 50.6 per cent in 2014 to 57.5 per cent in 2018 due to introduction of free maternity services in 2013. The proportion of children who were fully immunized also improved although they were still below the national average. The share of fully immunized children in the county increased from 67.2 per cent in 2014 to 72.7 per cent in 2018. Infant mortality and under 5 mortality rate is estimated at 170 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2016, which is higher than the national average of 79 deaths per 1,000 live births.

3.1.2 Health budget and expenditure

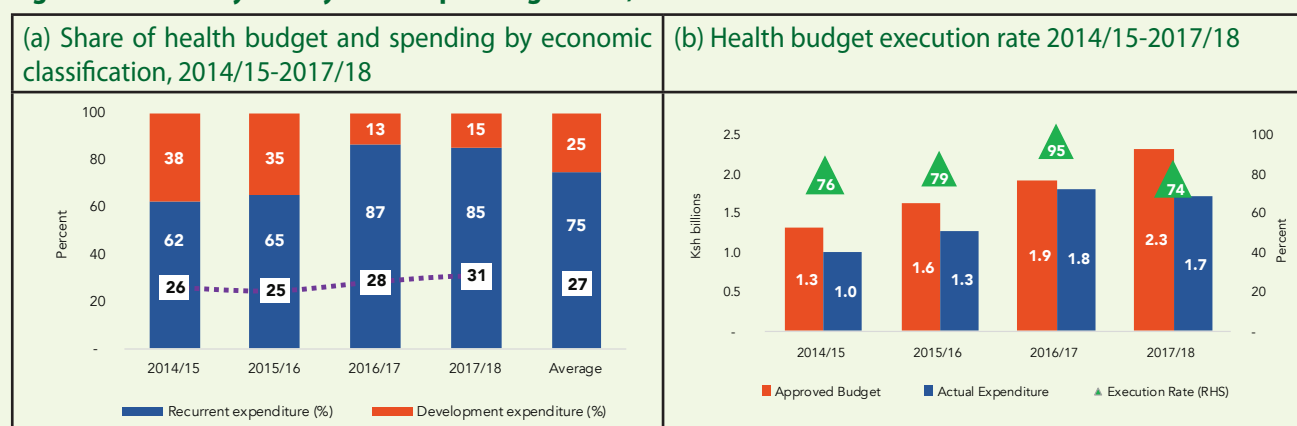
The share of health budget as a proportion of total county budget allocation increased from 26 per cent in 2014/15 to 31 per cent in 2017/18. Health actual expenditure expanded from Ksh 995 million in 2014/15 to Ksh 1.7 billion in 2017/18. Spending on health composed of 75 per cent recurrent and 25 per cent development (Figure 4a). The absorption rate increased from 76 per cent in 2014/15 to 95 per cent in 2016/17, before falling to 74 per cent in 2017/18. This is attributable to failure by the exchequer to release the full amount approved in the health budget.

Table 2: Homa Bay 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	-	-	-	-	170.0	79.0	-	-	-	-
MMR (death per 100,000 live births) 2016 Estimate	-	-	-	-	673.0	495.0	-	-	-	-
Skilled birth attendant coverage (%) (source: DHIS2)	50.6	53.5	59.6	56.9	61.4	59.3	49.3	53.0	57.5	64.9
Proportion of pregnant women who attended at least one ANC visit during pregnancy (%) (Source: DHIS2)	72.8	76.4	80.8	75.4	77.3	76.9	73.0	73.7	77.7	81.9
Proportion of pregnant women who attended at least four ANC visit during pregnancy (%) (Source: DHIS2)	33.1	35.9	38.8	39.7	39.9	39.8	30.9	32.6	42.8	48.7
Proportion of children under one year who are fully immunized (%) (Source: DHIS2)	67.2	70.2	78.9	75.7	75.5	72.4	58.3	65.9	72.7	77.0
DPT/Hep+HiB3 dropout rate (%) (Source: DHIS2)	7.1	6.8	8.8	7.2	9.3	6.6	12.0	10.1	2.4	4.0
Still Birth Rate (Source : DHIS2)	27.2	29.3	19.0	22.6	16.2	21.5	19.3	22.6	15.8	20.4

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

Figure 4: Homa Bay 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 focusing on preventive and promotive health strategies, prioritizing quality health infrastructure and human resources in all sub-counties. The county also aims to priorities investing in provision of quality health services by constructing, rehabilitating and proper equipping of facilities, improving supply chain management employment of more health service providers, and ensuring health insurance coverage. Health care seeking behaviour for women is often influenced by several factors, including lack of finances for treatment, followed by distance to the health facility and difficulties in getting permission to seek health care.

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 National Treasury in releasing funding to the sector and pending bills, which affect 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 plan period 2013-2017, the focus for county education sector was to enhance the quality and access to ECDE and youth polytechnics. The county planned to employ more ECDE and vocational training teachers, provide training

and implement a harmonized salary. Further, the county would promote tertiary education among the youth to equip them with skills for the job market.

Gross ECDE enrolment rate increased from 62.6 per cent in 2014 to 115.1 per cent in 2018, while net enrolment rate (NER) increased from 41.8 per cent to 67.4 per cent during the same period. This was generally higher than national averages of 94.4 per cent and 63.5 per cent, indicating that more children joined ECDE in the county following devolution of ECDE function to counties. There was equity in ECDE enrolment in Homa Bay county, and the same was reflected across primary and secondary school as shown in Table 3.

Gross enrolment rates decreased from 110 per cent to 107 per cent for primary and 62 per cent to 58.2 per cent for secondary during the review period. Net enrolment rate (NER) also decreased from 92.9 per cent to 79.5 per cent for primary school and 59 per cent to 29.7 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 girls for primary and boys for secondary as shown in Table 3.

In 2018, there were 20 accredited vocational centres in the county enrolling, 1,733 learners.

Table 3: Homa Bay county selected education sector performance indicators

Pre-primary School	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
Gross enrolment ratio (%)	62.6	73.6	115.1	94.4
Net enrolment ratio (%)	41.8	71.8	67.4	63.5
Male (%)	42.0	73.4	67.4	62.5
Female (%)	41.6	70.2	67.4	65.0
School size (Public) (Pupils) (Average)	82.0	75.0	95.0	85.0
Gender parity index (value)	1.0	1.0	-	-
Pupil-teacher ratio (No.) (Public)	29.0	31.0	28.0	31.0
Proportion of enrolment in private schools (%)	22.5	31.5	26.0	33.0
Primary School	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
Gross enrolment ratio (%)	110.0	104.0	107.0	107.2
Net enrolment ratio (%)	92.9	88.0	79.5	82.4
Male (%)	98.0	86.0	76.5	81.7
Female (%)	87.8	90.0	82.6	83.0
School size (Public) Average No. of pupils	296.0	338.0	323.0	375.0
Gender parity index (Value)	1.0	1.0	-	-
Pupil-teacher ratio (No.)	38.0	42.0	41.0	40.0
Proportion of enrolment in private schools (%)	11.0	16.0	13.0	16.0
Secondary School	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
Gross enrolment ratio (%)	62.0	58.7	58.2	66.2
Net enrolment ratio (%)	59.0	47.4	29.7	37.5
Male (%)	65.5	49.6	30.1	35.4
Female (%)	52.5	45.2	29.4	39.8
School size (Public)	-	-	286.8	392.0
Gender parity index (value)	0.7	0.9	-	-
Pupil-teacher ratio (No.) (TSC)	35.0	30.0	37.0	32.0
Pupil-teacher ratio (No.) (TSC and BOM)	19.9	20.2	20.0	20.0
Proportion of enrolment in private schools (%)	31.5	30.7	2.7	5.8

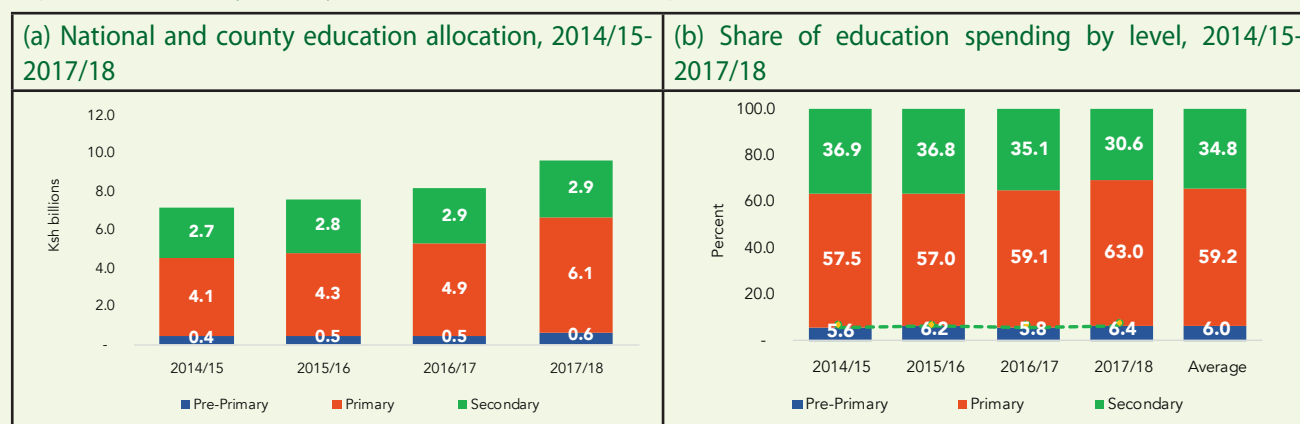
Source: Ministry of Education (Various), Education statistical booklets, 2013-2018

3.2.2 Basic education budget and expenditure

The share of ECDE spending in the county increased from Ksh 0.4 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.6 billion in 2017/18. The share of ECDE spending as a proportion of total education spending was, on average, 6.0 per cent during the period. Spending in primary and secondary education increased during the review period from Ksh 4.1 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 6.1 billion in 2017/18 in primary and Ksh 2.7 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 2.9 billion in 2017/18 for secondary level (Figure 5a).

The share of ECDE budget in the total county budget allocation averaged 10 per cent over the review period, comprising of 27 per cent development and 73 per cent recurrent (Figure 6a). The absorption rate declined from 89 per cent in 2015/16 to 82 per cent in 2017/18.

Figure 5: Homa Bay county overall education spending trends, 2014-18

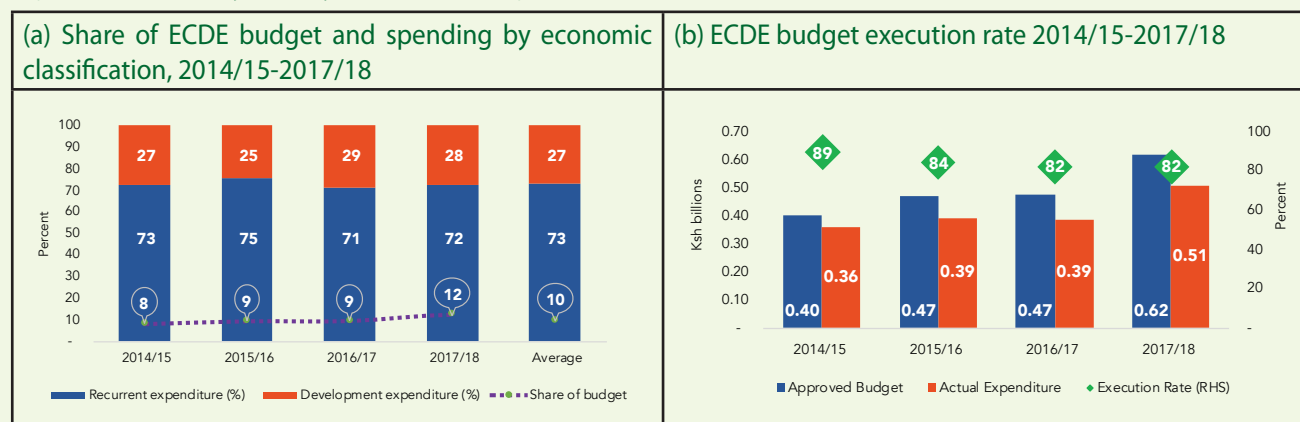


Source: National Treasury (Various), IFMIS

3.2.3 Education medium term expectations

The county government with support from stakeholders aims to continue to invest in ECDE through provide adequate quality physical facilities and learning or teaching materials through funding, constructing and fully equipping ECDE and vocational centres of excellence and polytechnic hostels. The county plans to establish more middle level (technical and tertiary) centres and employ trained, qualified and committed personnel in all the centres. Further, the county plans on introducing and sustaining ECDE and vocational feeding programmes to increase and maintain the school transition rates. To achieve these objectives, the county will require to address challenges of child marriages and child labour that have affected enrolment and transition rates in the county.

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



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

3.3 Water and Sanitation

3.3.1 Water and sanitation priorities

The Homa Bay County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP 2013-2017) outlined investment in the expansion and modernization of water and sanitation infrastructure as the main sector priority. The county planned to electrify and rehabilitate water supplies and construct dams/pans to improve supply. Additionally, the sector would prioritize recycling and composting programmes, designating collection and transportation systems, proper handling of hazardous waste and capacity building on environmental and proper sanitation in rural and informal settlements in the county urban setups.

Access to improved water and sanitation was recorded at 34 per cent and 25 per cent of the population against the national averages of 72.6 per cent and 59 per cent, respectively. The population within the service area of water utility (company) decreased from 93 per cent to 15 per cent between 2014 and 2018. Proportion of population covered or served by the utility improved from 12 per cent in 2014 to 31 per cent in 2018. The sector experienced increase in non-revenue water from 34 per cent in 2014 to 67 per cent in 2018. High non-revenue water denies the water utility revenue to enhance water service delivery and in meeting operations and maintenance costs.

Table 4: Homa Bay county selected WASH sector performance indicators

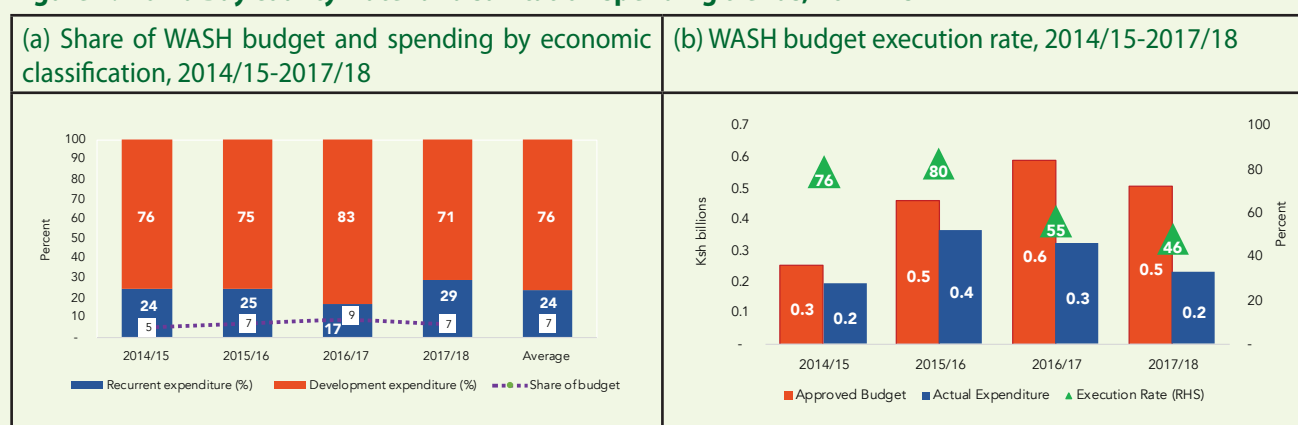
Indicators	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
County population within service areas of WSPs (%)	93	*	15	*
Water coverage by utilities (%)	12	53	31	*
Non-revenue water (NRW) (%)	34	42	67	*
Sanitation coverage within utility area (%)	56	69	-	*
Sewerage coverage (%)	-	*	4	*
Access to improved water (%)	34	*	34	*
Access to improved sanitation (%)	25	*	25	59
No toilet facility – Potential open defecation county-wide (%)	18	*	18	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 7 per cent of total county budget between 2014/15 and 2017/18. Total spending on the sector increased from Ksh 0.3 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.6 billion in 2016/7 followed by a decrease to Ksh 0.5 billion 2017/18. Spending consisted of 76 per cent development and 24 per cent recurrent spending (Figure 7a). The approved budget doubled from Ksh 0.25 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.59 billion in 2016/17 before a moderate cut in 2017/18. The absorption rate declined from 80 per cent in 2015/16 to 46 per cent in 2017/18, respectively. This is also attributed to failure by the exchequer to release the entire approved budget amount and also capacity constraints.

Figure 7: Homa Bay county water and sanitation spending trends, 2014-18



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

3.3.3 WASH medium term expectations

While the county has several river sources and water catchment areas, in many urban centres, ground water is being used at a faster rate than can be replenished. The county aims to increase access to water and proper sanitation through rehabilitation of both the old and new intakes, and installation of new pumps to increase water production. The county is also prioritizing reducing leaks and rehabilitating the treatment works at the reservoirs, which will help to reduce unaccounted-for-water. Additional projects include laying of many kilometres of PVC pipeline, installation of tipping bins and waste transfer stations, construction of VIP latrines in selected schools and public areas and a number of water kiosks in low income settlements.

Floods still account for many deaths and up to a fifth of the population still live in river basins where the use of water exceeds minimum recharge levels. The county needs to strengthen the resilience of watersheds and complement investments in physical infrastructure and institutional and regulatory arrangements for water access, use and disaster preparedness. Clean water source close to home means women and girls no longer have to spend hours a day fetching water, and instead can focus on family, school and earning a decent income.

3.4 Child Protection and Women

3.4.1 Child protection and women county priorities

The County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2013-2017 highlighted the key priorities in the sector. The key focus areas in planned period included: strengthening the cash transfer programmes, establishing child help desks and

rescue centres, strengthening community policing to strengthen probation and after-care programmes, among others. Further, the county would carry out awareness creation on protection of children and other vulnerable groups and formally engage village elders in community-based programmes. On the youth, the county planned to promote and develop sports management and facilities to improve youth development through sports.

Specifically, on child protection, the county recorded an increase in the number of reported cases of child neglect and abandonment from 10 cases in 2014 to 973 reported cases in 2018. Similarly, child trafficking, abduction and kidnapping increased from 2 reported cases in 2014 to 31 reported cases in 2018. Reported child labour cases increased from 2 cases in 2014 to 8 cases in 2018. Child physical and emotional abuse also increased during the period (Table 5).

Table 5: Homa Bay county selected social protection performance indicators (No. of reported cases)

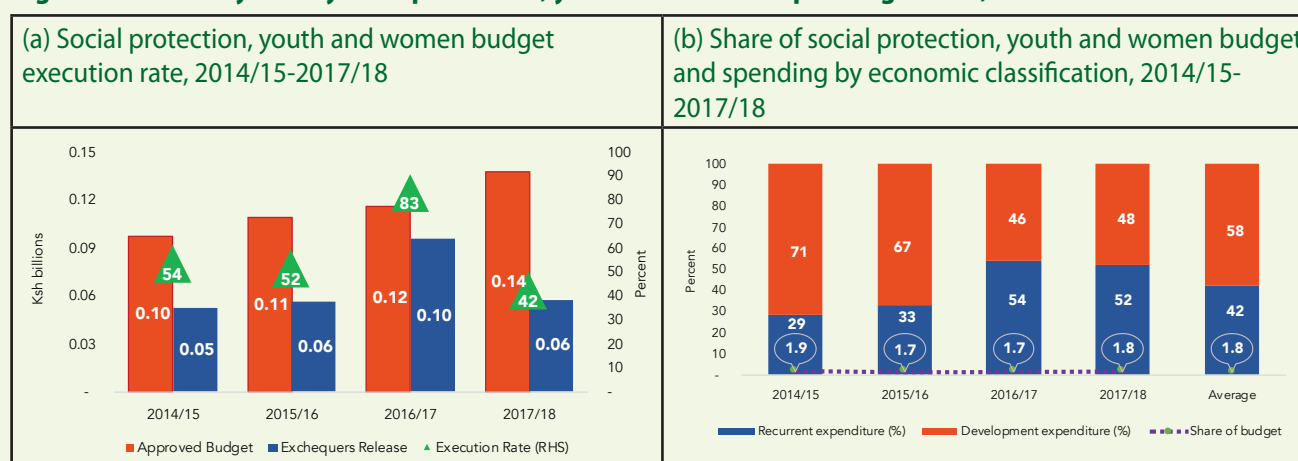
Indicators	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
Child Neglect and Abandonment	10	767	973	73245
Child Sexual Abuse	18	636	1	172
Child Trafficking, Abduction and Kidnapping	2	32	31	1022
Child Labour	2	168	8	378
Child Emotional Abuse	1	58	13	853
Child Physical Abuse	12	583	84	2031
Female Genital Mutilation	-	9	-	40

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

3.4.2 Budget and expenditure on child protection and women

The share of total county budget allocation during the review period averaged 1.8 per cent. Spending on child protection, youth and women averaged Ksh 0.11 billion, constituting 42 per cent recurrent and 58 per cent development during the review period. Absorption rate increased from 54 per cent in 2014/15 to 83 per cent in 2016/17, before declining to 42 per cent in 2017/18.

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



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

3.4.3 Social protection medium term expectations

Between the plan period 2018 and 2022, the county aims to provide care, support and build capacities of individuals, vulnerable groups and communities for equity and self-reliance. The county strategies included facilitate the youth and women to access government opportunities and participation in development processes. The county will construct correctional homes, establish rescue and rehabilitation centres and child protection units within the police stations. The county is increasing funding for cash transfer and bursary programmes, with increasing demand for child protection, youth and women programs. However, county government social protection programmes need to be aligned with those of the national government to avoid duplication of activities while ensuring that the available resources are focused to the vulnerable groups. Additionally, the county should ensure increased funding towards gender-based violence and child marriage prevention, response and monitoring.

3.5 Nutrition

3.5.1 Nutrition priorities

The CIDP 2013 to 2017 outlined key areas of focus in the nutrition sector. Promotion of nutrition education through breast feeding, school feeding programmes, and improving crop varieties to improve nutritional status of households to eliminate malnutrition cases was the focus for the county.

For children, county nutrition indicators were generally higher than national averages in some key indicators, according to 2014 data. Stunting stood at 18.7 per cent of the population while wasting and underweight children stood at 2.3 per cent and 5.4 per cent, respectively (Table 6). 99.5 per cent proportion of households consumed adequately iodized salt in the county while 79.2 per cent of children aged 6 to 59 received Vitamin A supplementation which is higher than the national average of 71.4 per cent.

The proportion of overweight or obese women in the county stood at 18.8 per cent, lower than the national average of 28.9 per cent. The average Body Mass Index (BMI) ⁵ of women in the county was 22.6.

Table 6: Selected nutrition performance indicators

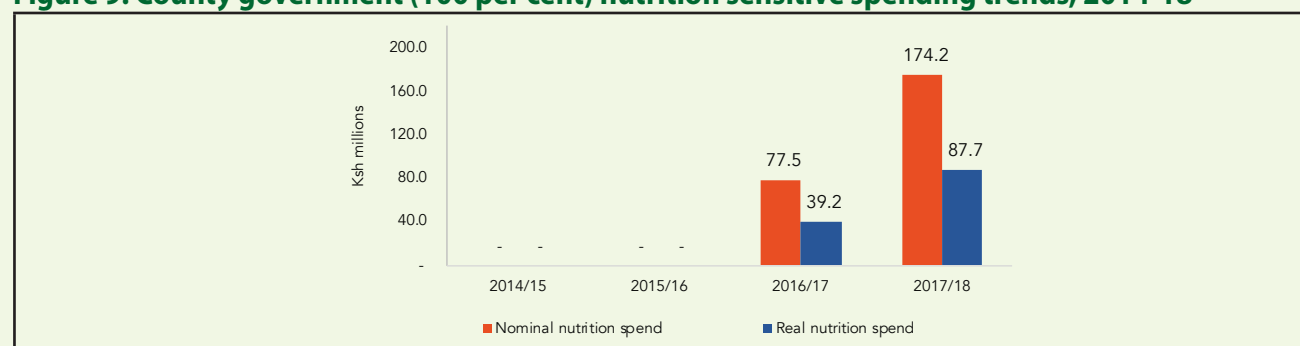
Indicators	2014-County	2014-National
Stunted children (%)	18.7	26.0
Wasted children (%)	2.3	4.0
Underweight children (%)	5.4	11.0
Vitamin A supplements coverage	57.4	24.0
Proportion of children aged 6 to 59 months- Received Vitamin A supplement	79.2	71.4
Proportion of children consuming adequately iodized salt.	99.7	99.1
Proportion of households consuming adequately iodized salt.	99.5	99.2
" Household salt iodization (50 – 80 mg/Kg KIO ₃) (% samples) "	68.0	57.0
Number of Women (BMI)	22.6	23.2
Overweight or obesity among women aged 15 to 49 years.	18.8	28.9

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

3.5.2 Nutrition budget and expenditure

The county has not been financing nutrition prior 2016/17. The county allocated Ksh 78 million for nutrition spending in 2016/17 and Ksh 174 million in 2017/18. The absorption rate in the two financial years was nearly 50 per cent.

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 promote nutrition education and strengthen the community units to offer broad-based services to eliminate malnutrition cases. The key programme include modernizing agriculture, expanding the school feeding programmes, and improving food varieties. To realize the objective, the county will be required to increase the share of nutrition sensitive spending, which has been inconsistent. Partnerships to enhance uptake of the Linda Mama programme, which provides antenatal, skilled delivery/neonatal and post-natal care, should be considered.

3.6 Other Initiatives for the Special Interest Groups

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

a) AGPO

The county has implemented the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) Programme.

b) Children

The county has 6 children offices to cater for child reporting cases.

c) Youth

The county established Makongeni Health Center as a safe haven for adolescent youth. The county is also establishing Ndihiwa Appropriate Building Technology Centre A(BTC) where youth and women will be trained on new modern skills in appropriate building technology.

d) Women

The county implemented the Economic Stimulus Program (ESP) that trained and gave equipment donations, including salon equipment, to small scale traders, thus contributing to improving economic status for women.

Prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV) is also highlighted as a major activity for the county. In line with this, gender officers have been recruited to champion and address GBV issues.

e) PWDs

The county purchased some assistive devices for PWDs, and championed and equipped PWDs to participate in paralympic sport activities across the sub-counties.

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	The county economy remains heavily reliant on agriculture, which contributes about 60 per cent to Gross County Product.	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.	County Treasury and Planning/ County Executive/Department of Agriculture
Revenue	The share of own source revenue declined from 3.1 per cent in 2014/15 to 2.5 percent in 2017/18.	The county should strengthen measures for tax collection and management to prevent leakages of revenue streams.	County Treasury and Planning/ Directorate of Revenue
Health	The budget for health increased from Ksh 0.9 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 1.7 billion in 2017/18, which led to improvements in maternal and child health but infant mortality rates declined.	To reverse this latter trend, the county should prioritize investments in reducing mortality rates.	County Treasury and Planning/ County Department of Health
Education	The budget for Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) increased from Ksh 0.4 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.6 billion in 2017/18.	The county is to ensure equitable distribution and effective utilization of available resources. Further, the county resources should be prioritized for the core function of ECDE and not used for other purposes such as secondary and higher education bursaries.	County Treasury and Planning/ County Department of Education
WASH	The county allocation for water and sanitation increased from Ksh 0.3 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.5 billion in 2017/18. Despite the increase in allocation, access to improved water and sanitation remained low.	The county needs to plan specific interventions and increase absorption rates by ensuring that the budgeted programmes are implemented.	County Treasury and Planning/ County Department of Water and Sanitation/Water Utilities
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 0.11 billion.	Align the county government protection programmes with national government ones to avoid duplication of 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 allocated Ksh 78 million in 2016/17 and Ksh 78 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.	County Treasury and Planning/ County Department of Health and all other sectors: namely education, agriculture, social protection and WASH.

Budget Execution	The budget execution rate for most social sector budgets, especially health and education were generally higher, recording over 80 per cent execution. The budget execution rates for water and sanitation, however, averaged less than 50 per cent during the review period. The low budget execution rate was partly because approved budgets were not released on time by the National Treasury, and procurement and cash flow planning by the county was 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, improve cash flow forecasting and encourage interdepartmental peer review.	County Treasury, Planning and 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 child protection, youth and women, 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 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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