

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



County Government of Elgeyo Marakwet

### 1. KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BRIEF

This brief provides an analysis on how the County Government of **Elgeyo Marakwet** budgets for the needs of children, youth and women. The analysis focused on social sector budgets and actual expenditures for the period 2014/15-2017/18. The brief specifically focuses on health, education, child protection, youth, women, nutrition, water and sanitation. The analysis was based on budget data and information collected through interviews with relevant county stakeholders. The key highlights from the analysis are summarized below:

- a) **About 80 per cent of the Elgeyo Marakwet's Gross County Product (GCP)<sup>1</sup>, which is ranked 18<sup>th</sup> (1.7% contribution to GDP) of all the 47 counties in Kenya, comes from agriculture.** Unfortunately, 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. There is need to enhance farmers' capacities in modern agricultural methods and provide support through extension services.
- b) **The county's own source revenue decreased from Ksh 128.9 million in 2014/15 to Ksh 105.5 million in 2017/18.** As a share of total revenue, the county's own source revenue declined from 4 per cent in 2014/15 to 3 per cent in 2017/18. Overall, the equitable share transfer increased from Ksh 2.8 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 3.6 billion in 2017/18. To improve the share of its own source revenue, the county needs to enhance capacity for own source revenue forecasting and analysis. In addition, the county should put in place mechanisms to mitigate losses associated with cash handling, poor internal controls, and audit mechanisms.
- c) **The county has recorded improvement in maternal and child health outcomes partly because of increased investment in the sector.** The number of women with access to skilled delivery increased from 28.8 per cent in 2014 to 57.0 per cent in 2018. The share of fully immunized children in the county increased from 38 per cent in 2014 to 61.9 per cent in 2018. Though improved, the indicators are below the national average and, therefore, there is need for the county to continue investing in the sector while ensuring efficient and effective use of the allocated resources.
- d) **The resources allocated to Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) increased from Ksh 0.34 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.55 billion in 2017/18.** Partly because of increased spending on ECDE, gross ECDE enrolment rate in the county went up from 89.1 per cent in 2014 to 97.6 per cent in 2018. Looking forward, the challenge for the county is to ensure equitable distribution and effective utilization of available resources. This may be done through prioritizing ECDE and vocational training in education and spending rather than using departmental share to give education bursaries to other levels whose share of budgetary allocation is growing at national level.
- e) **The county only committed Ksh 6 million in one fiscal year (2016/17) to interventions that directly contribute to boosting child nutrition, at a time when nearly a third (30%) of the children are stunted and above the national average of 26 per cent.** The county should ensure that direct nutrition interventions, across several sectors such as agriculture, education and health, are budgeted for and with visible budget lines. Moreover, nutrition should be well articulated in the County Integrated Development Plans.
- f) **Although the county budget on water and sanitation doubled from Ksh 0.2 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.4 billion in 2017/18, the execution rate was low.** The budget execution rate drastically declined from 75 per cent in 2014/15 to 62 per cent in 2017/18. This partly explains why the population with access to improved water and sanitation has

not improved. This situation has affected women and girls the most, resulting in them spending a lot of time fetching water instead of focusing on other socio-economic activities. The county should therefore investigate the low budget execution rate in the WASH sector.

- g) The budget execution rate for most social sector budgets, especially health, water and sanitation and ECDE was low. For instance, budget execution rates for early childhood development declined from 71 per cent in 2014/15 to 61 per cent in 2017/18.** The low budget execution rate was partly because approved budgets were not released in 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 and improve cash flow forecasting.
- h) 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 abuse from less than 20 cases in 2014 to 583 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

**Elgeyo Marakwet occupies a land area of approximately 3,030 km<sup>2</sup>** and is divided into 4 sub-counties and 20 wards. The county's population is 454,480, representing 0.96 per cent of the national population. The total county population is constituted of 227,317 males, 227,151 females, and 12 intersexes.

**In 2015/16, the overall poverty rate of the county was 43.4 per cent, with 12.2 per cent living in extreme poverty, against overall national rates of 36.1 per cent and 8.6 per cent, respectively.** Among children, almost one in two were affected by monetary poverty<sup>2</sup>. 31.6 per cent of youth and 53.7 per cent of women were affected by monetary poverty. Additionally, 35.6 per cent of children were living in multidimensional poverty,<sup>3</sup> while youth and women recorded 53.4 per cent and 61.5 per cent, respectively. Both monetary and multidimensional poverty levels are above national averages. The overall high rates of poverty, especially among 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.

**Table 1: Elgeyo Marakwet County administrative, poverty and demographic profile**

Administrative Profile							Latest Available
Area (km <sup>2</sup> )							3,030
Number of sub-counties							4
Number of wards							20
Overall poverty (%)							43.4
Extreme poverty (%)							12.2
Population (2019)							454,480
Group	Children	National Children	Youths	National Youths	Wo/men	National Wo/men	
Monetary Poor							
Male (%)	45.7	42.1	30.6	29.1	48.4	30.5	
Female (%)	47.5	41.0	32.7	28.8	53.7	34.1	
Total (%)	46.7	41.6	31.6	28.9	51.1	32.4	
Population	225,235	20,742,290	130,622	13,443,268	72,874	7,847,350	
Multidimensionally Poor							
Male (%)	37.9	49.3	50.1	44.7	57.8	51.0	
Female (%)	33.5	47.1	57.0	49.4	65.8	60.8	
Total (%)	35.6	48.2	53.4	47.1	61.5	56.1%	
Population	225,235	20,742,290	130,622	13,443,268	72,874	7,847,350	

Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (Various)

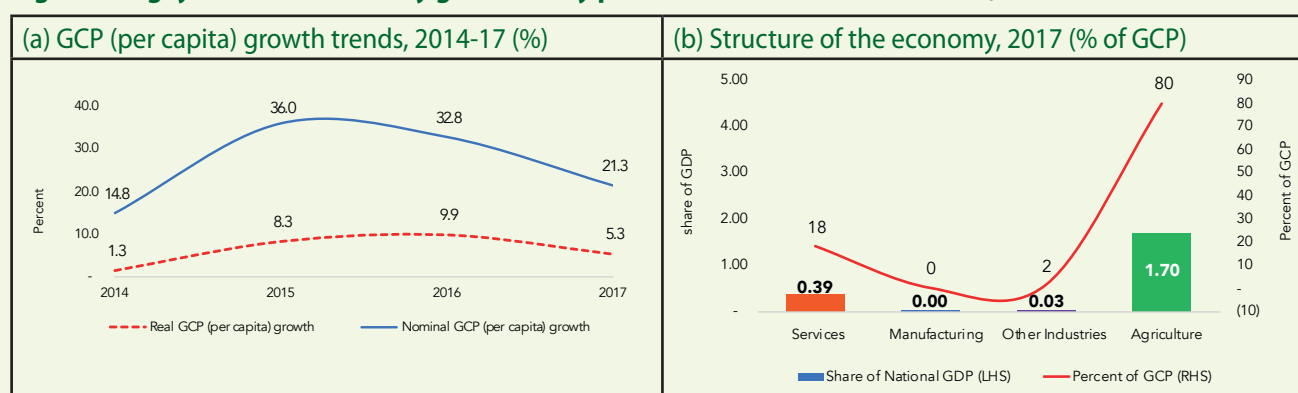
## 2. STATE OF COUNTY ECONOMY

### 2.1 Gross County Product Growth

**Elgeyo Marakwet County accounted for 1.7 per cent of the national GDP in 2017.** The county's real GCP per capita growth rate grew from 1.3 per cent in 2014 to 9.9 per cent in 2016 before dropping to 5.3 per cent in 2017 (Figure 1a). The most recent downturn was largely due to prolonged drought countrywide, and volatility in the business environment.

**The economy remains heavily reliant on agriculture, which accounts for 80.2 per cent of GCP and 1.5 per cent of the national GDP** (Figure 1b). Services account for 18.2 per cent and other industries 0.03 per cent of the GCP. There is need to increase efforts to enhance the performance of manufacturing and services sub-sectors as they are key drivers of job creation for youth and women. The county also needs to create a business environment that is conducive for investment by enacting predictable laws and regulations to attract and retain investments. In addition, 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 agricultural value chains. This can be done through developing appropriate infrastructure and enhancing farmers' capacities in modern agricultural methods. Extension services, agribusiness and research needs to be promoted.

**Figure 1: Elgeyo Marakwet County gross county product and economic structure, 2014/15-2017/18**

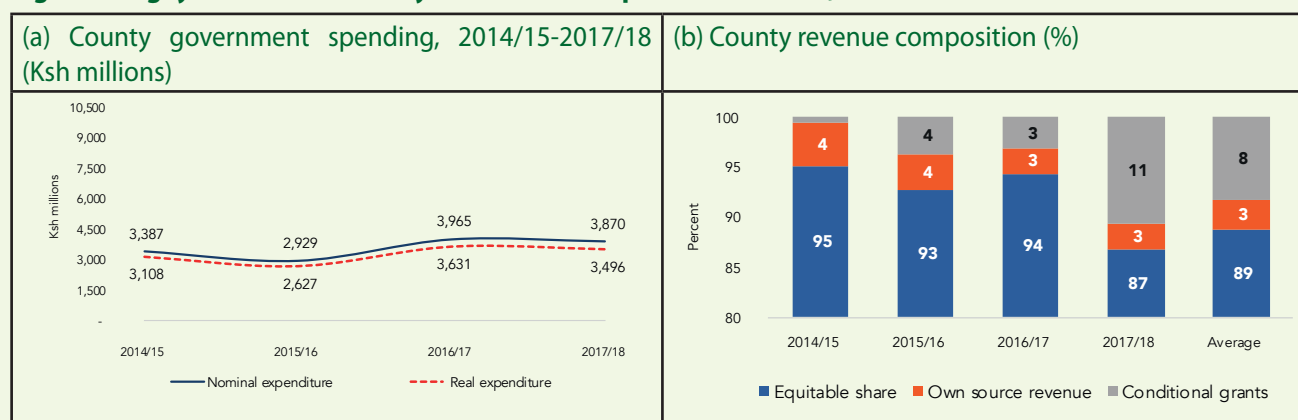


Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2019), Economic Survey

### 2.2 Overall Budget Performance

**The county government annual spending grew from Ksh 3.38 billion to Ksh 3.96 billion between 2014/15 and 2016/17, before a moderate cut to 3.5 billion 2017/18 (Figure 2(a)).** The effect of inflation accounts for, on average, Ksh 265 million in loss of purchasing power between 2013/14 and 2017/18. This spending is heavily dependent on national government transfers accounting for 89 per cent. The county own source revenue was 4 per cent in 2014/15 and 2015/16 before decreasing to 3 per cent over the remainder of the period. Conditional grants increased from 1 per cent in 2014/15 to 4 per cent in 2015/16 before decreasing to 3 per cent in 2016/17, then increasing to 11 per cent. There is need for enhanced fiscal efforts to accelerate revenue mobilization from both local revenue and conditional grants for channelling into social sector spending, which is mostly recurrent.

**Figure 2: Elgeyo Marakwet County revenue and expenditure trends, 2014/15-2017/18**

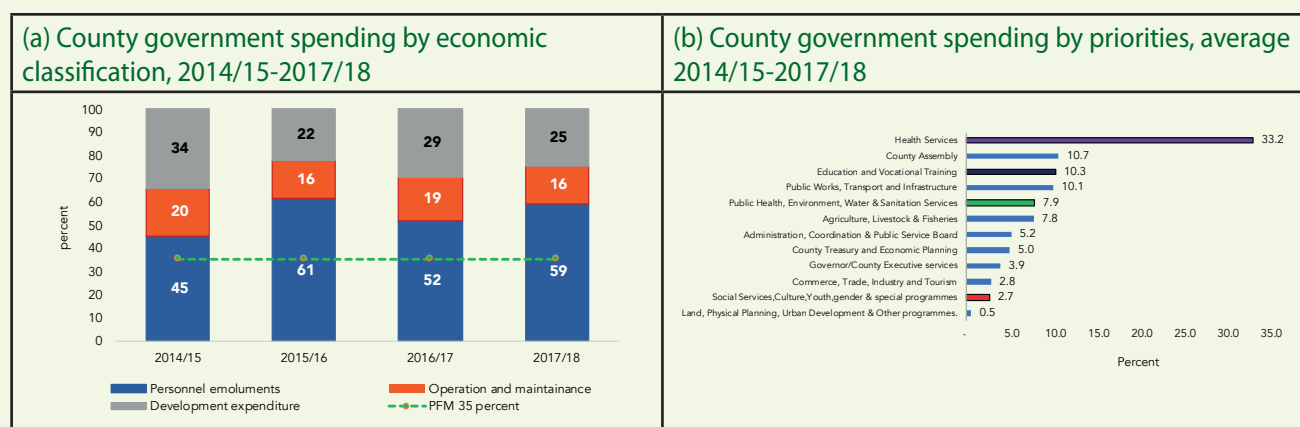


Source: Office of the Controller of Budget (Various) reports, 2014-2018

The development share of actual spending reduced from 34 per cent in 2014/15 to 22 per cent in 2015/16 before increasing to 29 per cent in 2016/17 and reducing to 25 per cent in 2017/18. The recurrent expenditure constituted of personnel emoluments, and operations and maintenance, which accounted for in excess of 65 per cent of the county government spending throughout the period. Wages alone account for above 45 per cent of government spending throughout the period (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. Also, the county has not complied with the Regulations 2015 that not more than 35 per cent of the county's total revenue should go to payment of wages and salaries (Figure 3a).

The county spent approximately 61.8 per cent of total expenditure in the period under review on health, education, agriculture, nutrition, social protection, youth, gender, water and sanitation. These sectors are more sensitive to the needs of children, youth and women. The effect of this expenditure on the various programmes and activities varies based on the key indicators.

**Figure 3: Elgeyo Marakwet County spending priorities by economic and administrative classification, 2014/15-2017/18**



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

### 3. ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL SECTOR SPENDING

#### 3.1 Health

During the period under review, the county outlined key priorities that targeted children, youth, and women. The sector's priorities included: elimination of communicable diseases; halting and reversing the rising burden of non-communicable conditions; minimizing the exposure of health risk factors and provision of health services; and improving the quality of health services in existing facilities by equipping and improving the human resource base.

**Table 2: Elgeyo Marakwet 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	-	-	-	-	49.0	79.0	-	-	-	-
MMR (death per 100,000 live births) 2016 Estimate	-	-	-	-	388.0	495.0	-	-	-	-
Skilled birth attendant coverage (%) (source: DHIS2)	28.8	53.5	61.9	56.9	58.8	59.3	42.0	53.0	57.0	64.9
Proportion of pregnant women who attended at least one ANC visit during pregnancy (%) (Source: DHIS2)	39.0	76.4	80.6	75.4	77.1	76.9	60.2	73.7	74.1	81.9
Proportion of pregnant women who attended at least four ANC visit during pregnancy (%) (Source: DHIS2)	13.3	35.9	28.4	39.7	28.4	39.8	17.5	32.6	28.1	48.7
Proportion of children under one year who are fully immunized (%) (Source: DHIS2)	38.0	70.2	83.1	75.7	74.8	72.4	55.5	65.9	61.9	77.0
DPT/Hep+HiB3 dropout rate (%) (Source: DHIS2)	5.7	6.8	9.4	7.2	7.4	6.6	12.5	10.1	5.6	4.0
Still Birth Rate (Source : DHIS2)	15.8	29.3	15.7	22.6	18.5	21.5	28.2	22.6	18.9	20.4

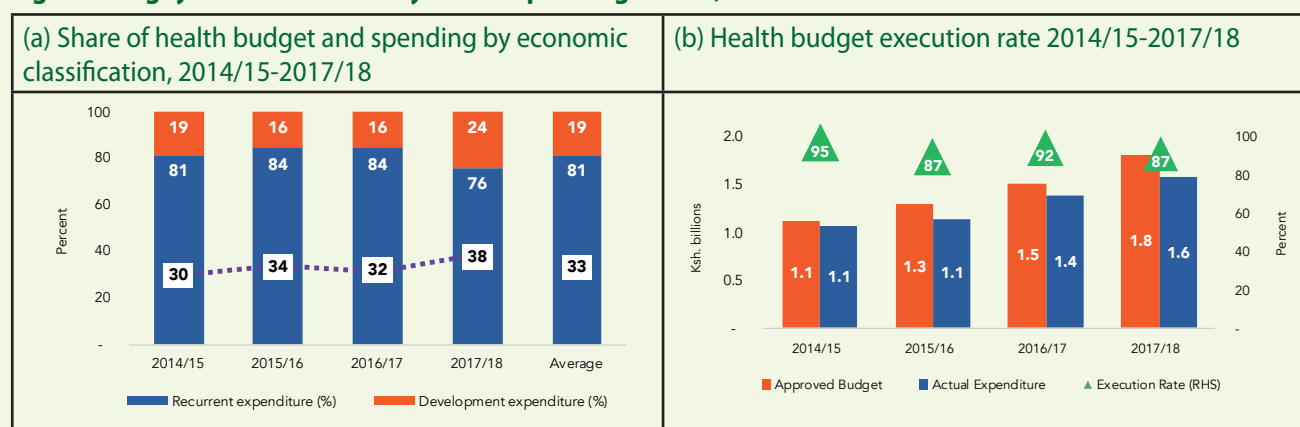
Source: Ministry of Health (2018), Demographic Health Information System (DHIS)

The number of women with access to skilled delivery increased from 28.8 per cent in 2014 to 57.0 per cent in 2018 due to introduction of free maternity services in 2013. However, this is still below the national average of 64.9 in 2018, indicating comparatively poor access to maternity services in the county. There is, however, need for continued sensitization on availability of and importance of maternity services. The share of fully immunized children in the county increased from 38.0 per cent in 2014 to 61.9 per cent in 2018. Infant mortality and under-5 mortality rate is estimated at 49 deaths per 1000 live births in 2016, lower than the national average of 79 deaths per 1000 live births.

### 3.1.1 Health budget and expenditure

The share of health budget in the total county budget allocation increased from 30 per cent in 2014/15 to 34 per cent in 2015/16 before decreasing to 32 per cent in 2016/17 and then increasing to 38 per cent in 2017/18. The budget allocation increased steadily from Ksh 1.1 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 1.8 billion in 2017/18. Actual health expenditure during the period increased from Ksh 1.1 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 1.6 billion in 2017/18. Spending comprised of 81 per cent recurrent and 19 per cent development (Figure 4a). Absorption rates decreased from 95 per cent in 2014/15 to 87 per cent in 2015/16 before increasing to 92 per cent in 2016/17 and then decreasing to 87 per cent in 2017/18. The low absorption rates were attributable to failure by the exchequer to release the full amount approved in the health budget.

**Figure 4: Elgeyo Marakwet county health spending trends, 2014/15-2017/18**



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

### 3.1.2 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 investments in reproductive health information, especially for the youth, and undertake awareness campaigns on the importance of health practices such as family planning. It also aims to continue investing in provision of quality health services by employing more health services providers, and constructing and equipping more health facilities. The county aims at reducing out of pocket expenditure by promoting National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) uptake.

To realize the above 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; lengthy procurement processes; National Treasury delays in releasing funding to the sector; and pending bills affecting the overall sector absorption rate.

## 3.2 Education and Vocational Training

### 3.2.1 Education sector priorities

The county government prioritizes investment in Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE) and TVET, which are devolved functions as per Schedule IV of the Constitution of Kenya 2010. During the plan period 2013-2017, the focus of the county education sector was to enhance quality and access to ECDE, youth polytechnics and the bursary award programme for secondary, TVET and tertiary education.

Gross ECDE enrolment rate increased from 89.1 per cent in 2014 to 97.6 per cent in 2018 while net enrolment rate (NER) decreased from 86.3 per cent to 71.5 per cent during the period. The decline in net enrolment rate implies that children of school going age in the county had not started school during the review period. The gender disaggregated enrolment rates indicate relatively higher girl's enrolment in ECDE, primary and secondary school level by 2018.

**Table 3: Elgeyo Marakwet County selected education sector performance indicators**

Pre-primary School	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
Gross enrolment ratio (%)	89.1	73.6	97.6	94.4
Net enrolment ratio (%)	86.3	71.8	71.5	63.5
Male (%)	87.9	73.4	67.3	62.5
Female (%)	84.7	70.2	65.8	65.0
School size (Public) (Pupils) (Average)	73.0	75.0	84.0	85.0
Gender parity index (value)	1.0	1.0	-	-
Pupil-teacher ratio (No.) (Public)	26.8	31.0	25.0	31.0
Proportion of enrolment in private schools (%)	13.3	31.5	13.0	33.0
Primary School	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
Gross enrolment ratio (%)	117.0	104.0	122.6	107.2
Net enrolment ratio (%)	95.0	88.0	88.0	82.4
Male (%)	96.0	86.0	85.6	81.7
Female (%)	94.0	90.0	89.8	83.0
School size (Public) Average No. of pupils	289.0	338.0	288.0	375.0
Gender parity index (Value)	1.0	1.0	-	-
Pupil-teacher ratio (No.)	31.0	42.0	31.0	40.0
Proportion of enrolment in private schools (%)	9.0	16.0	8.0	16.0
Secondary School	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
Gross enrolment ratio (%)	72.5	58.7	65.6	66.2
Net enrolment ratio (%)	61.5	47.4	27.2	37.5
Male (%)	58.9	49.6	23.2	35.4
Female (%)	64.1	45.2	31.3	39.8
School size (Public)	-	-	296.8	392.0
Gender parity index (value)	1.1	0.9	-	-
Pupil-teacher ratio (No.) (TSC)	27.0	30.0	29.0	32.0
Pupil-teacher ratio (No.) (TSC and BOM)	19.2	20.2	19.0	20.0
Proportion of enrolment in private schools (%)	20.4	30.7	0.6	5.8

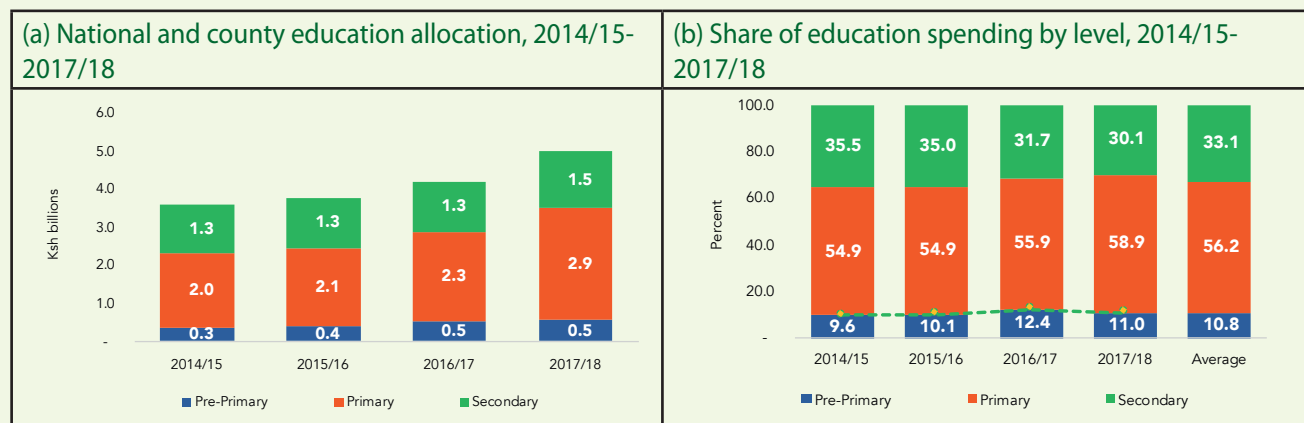
Source: Ministry of Education (Various), Education statistical booklets, 2014-2018

**Gross primary and secondary school enrolment rates stood at 122.6 per cent and 65.6 per cent in 2018, respectively.** Net enrolment rate (NER) decreased from 95 per cent to 88 per cent for primary school and from 61.5 per cent to 53.2 per cent for secondary school during the period. The proportion of girls of school going age enrolled at both levels was higher than the proportion of boys of school going age enrolled.

### 3.2.2 Education and vocational training budget and expenditure

The ECDE budget allocation increased from Ksh 0.3 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.5 billion in 2017/18. Allocations to primary school education increased from Ksh 2.0 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 2.9 billion in 2017/18 while spending on secondary school increased from Ksh 1.3 billion to Ksh 1.5 billion in the period (Figure 5a). Spending on ECDE as a share of total spending on basic education increased from 9.6 per cent in 2014/15 to 12.4 per cent in 2016/17 before decreasing to 11.0 per cent in 2017/18 (Figure 5b).

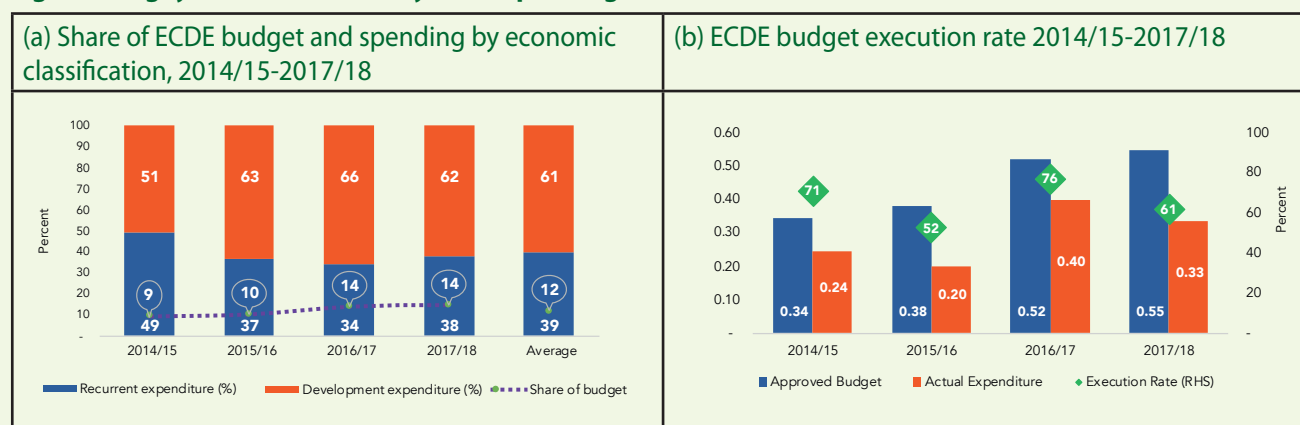
**Figure 5: Elgeyo Marakwet County overall education spending trends, 2014-18**



Source: National Treasury (Various), IFMIS

The share of ECDE budget in the total county budget allocation increased from 9 per cent in 2014/15 to 14 per cent in 2017/18. Total spending on ECDE decreased from Ksh 0.24 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.20 billion in 2015/16 before increasing to Ksh 0.40 billion in 2016/17, then decreasing again to Ksh 0.33 billion (Figure 6(b)). Spending comprised of, on average, 61 per cent development expenditure and 39 per cent recurrent expenditure during the period (Figure 6a). The absorption rates decreased from 71 per cent in 2014/15 to 52 per cent in 2015/16 before increasing to 76 per cent in 2016/17, then decreasing to 61 per cent in 2017/18.

**Figure 6: Elgeyo Marakwet County ECDE spending trends, 2014/15-2017/18**



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

### 3.2.3 ECDE medium term expectations

The county government with support from stakeholders aims to continue investing in early childhood development through infrastructural development, employment of ECDE teachers, provision of sanitation facilities and enhanced school feeding programme. To achieve these objectives, the county will require to partner with the national government and private sector to enhance ECDE and vocation training through infrastructural development, and equipping of both ECDE and vocational training centres.

The county aims to improve the quality of vocational training to synchronize with the market skills by modernizing the technical and training institutions facilities.

### 3.3 Water and Sanitation

The 2013-2017 Elgeyo Marakwet County Integrated Development Plan outlined investment in the expansion of water and sanitation infrastructure as the main sector priority. Additionally, the sector would prioritize creation of awareness on importance of hand washing facilities and management of human waste disposal in rural and informal settlements in the county urban setups.

Access to improved water and sanitation remained constant at 44 per cent and 73 per cent, respectively. The population within the service area of water service providers decreased from 12 per cent to 11 per cent between 2014 and 2018. The proportion of the population covered or served by the utility improved from 19 per cent in 2014 to 38 per cent in 2018. The sector experiences the problem of non-revenue water at about 32 per cent as at 2018. High non-revenue water denies the water utility revenue to enhance water service delivery and in meeting operations and maintenance costs.

**Table 4: Elgeyo Marakwet County selected WASH sector performance indicators**

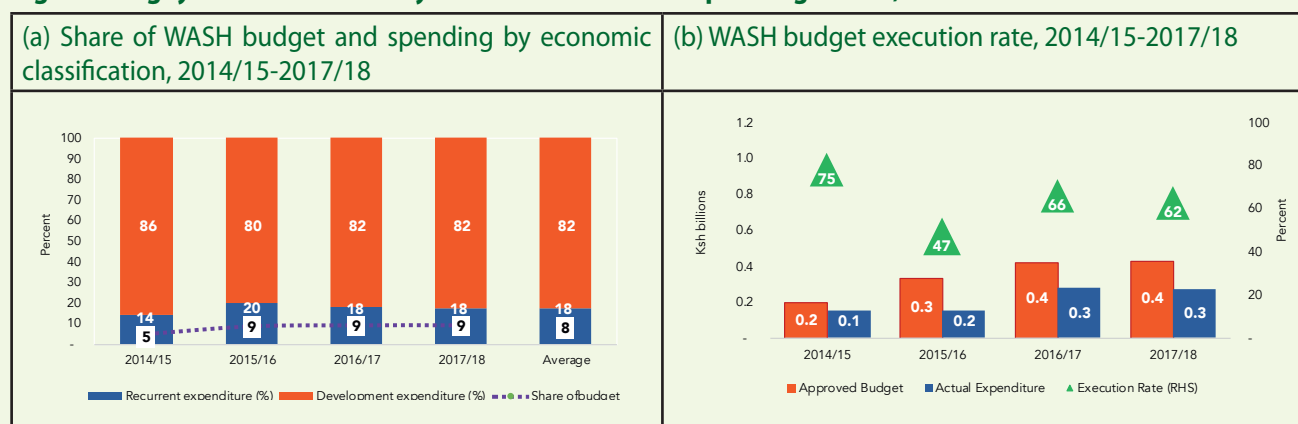
Indicators	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
County population within service areas of WSPs (%)	64	*	51	*
Water coverage by utilities (%)	56	53	83	*
Non-revenue water (NRW) (%)	52	42	40	*
Sanitation coverage within utility area (%)	74	69	-	*
Sewerage coverage (%)	28	*	23	*
Access to improved water (%)	72	*	72	*
Access to improved sanitation (%)	62	*	62	59
No toilet facility – Potential open defecation county-wide (%)	10	*	1	8

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

### 3.3.1 Water and sanitation budget and expenditure

The total budget allocation to the sector as a share of total county budget allocation during the review period increased from 5 per cent in 2014/15 to 9 per cent in 2017/18. The total budget allocation increased from Ksh 0.2 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.4 billion in 2017/18. Total spending on the sector increased from Ksh 0.1 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.3 billion in 2017/18. The share of development expenditure during the period was, on average, 82 per cent of total spending while recurrent expenditure accounted for 18 per cent. The absorption rate decreased from 75 per cent in 2014/15 to 47 per cent in 2015/16, then increased to 66 per cent in 2016/17 before decreasing to 62 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: Elgeyo Marakwet County water and sanitation spending trends, 2014/15-2017/18**



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

### 3.3.2 Water and sanitation medium term expectations

The county's strategic plan for the period 2018-2022 seeks to improve access to clean water, decent sanitation and improved solid waste management. However, the increasing percentage of non-revenue waters, few technical staff in the water sector, high breakage of water pumps compounded by a declining share of recurrent spending and cut in WASH budget constrains the county's strategic plan. Therefore, there is need for increased focus on operations and maintenance for the county to realize the outlined millstones.

### 3.4 Child Protection, Youth and Women

The integrated development plan for the county highlighted coordinating and development of communities through social welfare; empowerment of women and youth through training; management of sports activities; promotion and regulation of responsible gaming; promotion of cultural development activities; and coordination of gender mainstreaming as key areas of focus for social services, youth, gender and culture.

Specifically, on child protection, the county recorded a high number of reported cases of child neglect and abandonment, rising from 1 case in 2014 to 2,248 cases in 2018. However, the county recorded four (4) cases of child sexual abuse in 2014 (there were no records for 2018). Thirteen (13) cases of child emotional abuse were recorded in 2018.

The county reported only one case of FGM in 2014. 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: Elgeyo Marakwet County selected child protection performance indicators (No. of cases reported)**

Indicators	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
Child Neglect and Abandonment	1	767	2,248	73245
Child Sexual Abuse	4	636	-	172
Child Trafficking, Abduction and Kidnapping	-	32	-	1022
Child Labour	-	168	-	378
Child Emotional Abuse	-	58	13	853
Child Physical Abuse	3	583	-	2031
Female Genital Mutilation	1	9	-	40

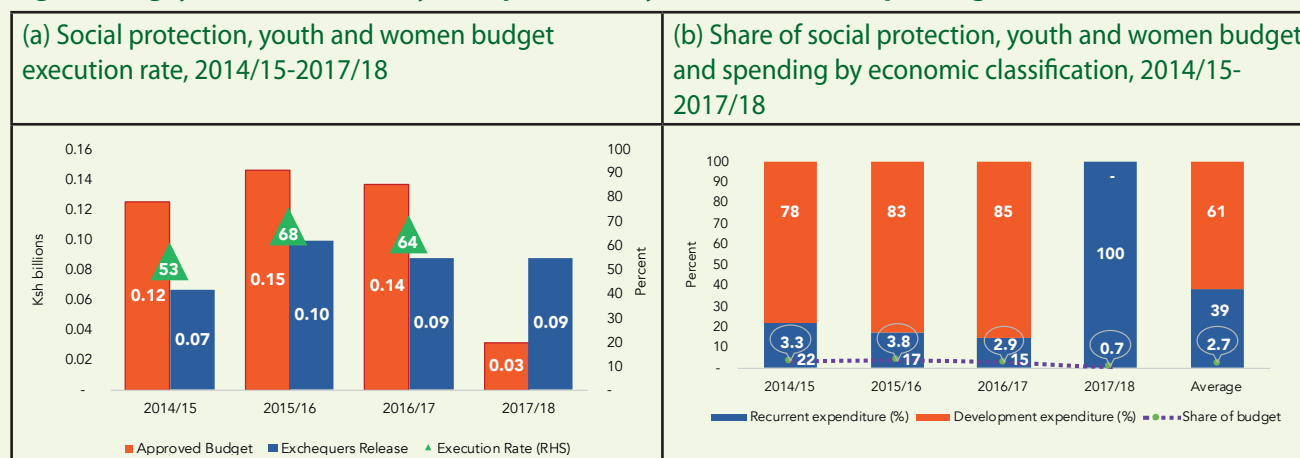
Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2014), KDHS 2014; County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2018



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

The sector's budget allocation as a share of total county budget allocation during the review period decreased from 3.3 per cent in 2014/15 to 0.7 per cent in 2017/18. The annual budgetary allocation fluctuated between a maximum of Ksh 0.15 billion in 2015/16 and 2017/18 and a minimum of Ksh 0.12 billion in 2014/15. The share of recurrent expenditure was, on average, 39 per cent of total spending during the period while the share of development expenditure was 61 per cent. Absorption rates increased from 53 per cent in 2014/15 to 68 per cent in 2015/16 before decreasing to 58 per cent in 2017/18 (Figure 8a).

**Figure 8: Elgeyo Marakwet County child protection, youth and women spending trends, 2014/15-2017/18**



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

### 3.4.2 Child protection, youth and women 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. With increasing demand for social protection in programmes such as cash transfers, there is need to align the county government social protection programmes with the national government ones to avoid duplication of activities while ensuring that available resources are focused on the vulnerable groups including women, youth, children, PWDs and the elderly. Additionally, the county should ensure increased funding towards prevention of gender-based violence, response and monitoring.

### 3.5 Nutrition

**Promotion of nutrition education and improvement of nutritional status of households to eliminate malnutrition cases** was the focus for the county, according to the County Integrated Development Plan 2013-2017.

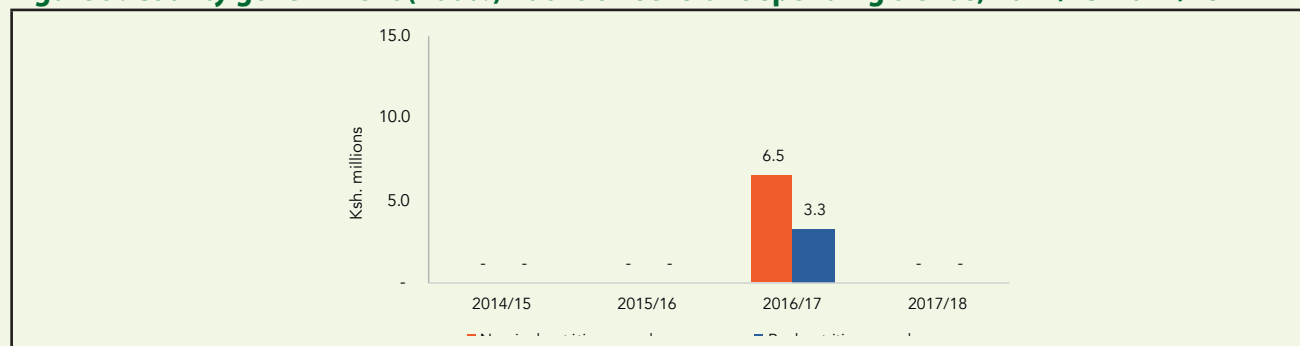
**The county nutrition indicators were relatively low in 2014.** The proportion of stunted children stood at approximately 30 per cent of the population, with the proportion of wasted and underweight children standing at approximately 4 per cent and 13 per cent, respectively. The levels were higher than the national average (Table 6). The proportion of overweight or obese women in the county stood at 23 per cent, higher than the national average of 29 per cent. The average (BMI) of women in the county was 23.

**Table 6: Selected nutrition performance indicators**

Indicators	2014-County	2014-National
Stunted children (%)	29.9	26.0
Wasted children (%)	4.3	4.0
Underweight children (%)	12.6	11.0
Vitamin A supplements coverage	11.3	24.0
Proportion of children aged 6 to 59 months - Received Vitamin A supplement	80.7	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 KIO <sub>3</sub> ) (% samples) "	65.0	57.0
Number of women (BMI)	22.5	23.2
Overweight or obesity among women aged 15 to 49 years	22.9	28.9

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

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



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

### 3.5.1 Nutrition budget and expenditure

The county spending on nutrition, in real terms (considering direct nutrition interventions) was Ksh 3 million in 2016/17. There was no clear spending on nutrition for the period 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2017/18. This could be attributed to lack of proper nutrition plans in the county.

### 3.5.2 Nutrition medium term expectations

In the period 2018-2022, the county plans to promote nutrition education and strengthen Community Units to offer broad-based services to eliminate malnutrition. To realize the objective, the county requires to increase the share of nutrition-sensitive spending, which has been inconsistent. Continued support and partnerships to enhance uptake of the *Linda Mama* programme, which provides antenatal, skilled delivery/neonatal and post-natal care, is critical.

### 3.6 Other Initiatives for the Special Interest Groups

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

**a) AGPO**

The county promotes the implementation of Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) programme.

**b) Children**

The county has established children's assemblies in wards and provides support to children's homes in the form of supply of food, toiletries and personal effects. The ENRICH (Enhancing Nutrition Services to Improve Maternal and Child Health) project is being implemented in collaboration with World Vision, AMPATH, AMREF, Nutrition International and Canada Egerton.

**c) Youth**

The county runs several youth skills development programmes, including promoting enrolment of youth to Vocational Training Centres (VTCs), technical vocational education training (TVET), and polytechnics. The county has a revolving fund for youth entrepreneurs. It also undertakes sports promotion by organizing sports tournaments. The county has established and equipped ICT and youth empowerment centres.

**d) Women**

The county organizes anti-FGM campaigns and undertakes rehabilitation of illicit brewers. It also supports women's income generating activities through funding.

**e) PWDs**

The county has initiated a medical scheme to cover vulnerable PWDs and supports their income generating activities through funding.

## 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	About 80 per cent of the Elgeyo Marakwet's Gross County Product (GCP), which is ranked 18 <sup>th</sup> (1.7% contribution to GDP) of all the 47 counties in Kenya, comes from agriculture.	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. There is also need to enhance farmers' capacities in modern agricultural methods and support through extension services.	County Treasury and Planning/ County Executive/Department of Agriculture
Revenue	The county's own source revenue decreased from Ksh 128.9 million in 2014/15 to Ksh 105.5 million in 2017/18.	Enhance capacity for own source revenue forecasting and analysis. In addition, the county should put in place mechanisms to mitigate losses associated with cash handling and poor internal controls and audit mechanisms.	County Treasury and Planning/ Directorate of Revenue
Expenditures	The budget execution rate for most social sector budgets, especially health, water and sanitation and ECDE was low. For instance, budget execution rates for early childhood development declined from 71 per cent in 2014/15 to 61 per cent in 2017/18.	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.	All sectors/County Treasury and Planning/ County Executive
Health	The county has recorded improvement in maternal and child health outcomes partly because of increased investment in the sector.	County to continue investing in the sector while ensuring efficient and effective use of the allocated resources.	County Treasury and Planning/ County Department of Health
WASH	Although the county budget on water and sanitation doubled from Ksh 0.2 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.4 billion in 2017/18, the execution rate was low.	The county should therefore investigate the low budget execution rate in the WASH sector.	County Treasury and Planning/ County Department of Environment Water and Sanitation; Water Service Providers
Nutrition	The county only committed Ksh 6 million in one fiscal year (2016/17) to interventions which directly contribute to boosting child nutrition, at a time when nearly a third (30%) of the children are stunted and above the national average of 26%.	Ensure that direct nutrition interventions, across several sectors such 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
Education	The resources allocated to Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) increased from Ksh 0.34 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.55 billion in 2017/18.	Prioritize ECDE and vocational training in education spending rather than using departmental share to give education bursaries to other levels whose share of budgetary allocation is growing at national level.	County Treasury and Planning/ County Department of Education
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.	Have standalone budget lines on combined programme to effectively deliver the above-mentioned services, especially to women and girls. The same also applies to gender-based violence, which has increased in recent years.	County Planning, Statistics and M&E Unit, and Social/Gender Departments

### (Endnotes)

- <sup>1</sup> *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).
- <sup>2</sup> *Monetary poor* people are considered at risk of monetary poverty when their equalized disposable income (after social transfers) is below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold, which is set at 60% of the national median value.
- <sup>3</sup> *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.
- <sup>4</sup> Base year 2013.
- <sup>5</sup> *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).
- <sup>6</sup> *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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