



No. 83/2024-2025

Public Affairs Index for Laikipia County

Cecilia Naeku, Paul Lutta, Fridah Njiru and Florence Muendo

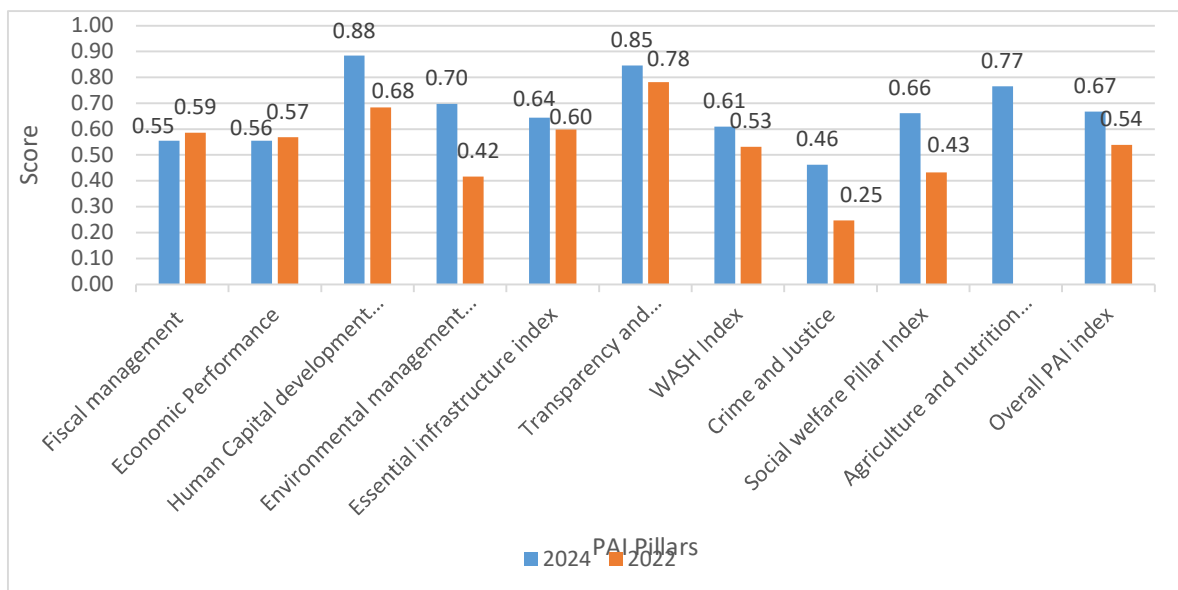
Overview about Public Affairs Index (PAI)

The KIPPRA Public Affairs Index (PAI) is a framework for monitoring achievements in the delivery of public services at the county level. The 2024 PAI was constructed using official data from KNBS and data collected across the counties in March-April 2024. The Index brings out emerging issues for policy actions, serving as a tool for monitoring progress in delivery of public service at county level.

Key Highlights

The score for overall PAI index for Laikipia County was 0.67. The County had high scores on Human Capital Development (0.88), Transparency and Accountability (0.85) and Environmental Management (0.70). However, social welfare (0.46), fiscal management (0.55) and Economic management (0.56) had the lowest scores as indicated in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Laikipia County Public Affairs Index pillar scores



Data Source: KIPPRA Public Affairs Index report

To improve public service delivery:

- *Improve social welfare by developing county-specific social protection cash transfer programmes to supplement the National Government programmes to increase reach to vulnerable population. There is also a need to increase health care budget towards the target of 15 per cent to improve health care service delivery and implement development projects that improve access to healthcare services.*
- *Enhance fiscal management by complying with PFM Regulations on personnel emoluments by increasing revenue collection to match the yearly increments in salaries and wages; and strengthen budget monitoring and evaluation framework to effectively monitor budget implementation and recommend timely corrective actions. Further, use technology to monitor revenue collections; use incentives such as recognition and rewards to reduce complacency in revenue collection; and strengthen Own-Source-Revenue (OSR) regulatory frameworks.*
- *Strengthen economic performance by building climate resilience in the agriculture sector and supporting agro-processing firms to grow the output from manufacturing.*

1. Introduction

The Public Affairs Index (PAI) is a framework for monitoring achievements in the delivery of public services at the county level. The PAI helps to identify gaps in public service delivery, bring out emerging issues for timely attention by stakeholders, and guide in prioritizing by pinpointing issues requiring policy actions. The work on the PAI demonstrates the role of KIPPRA as a think tank and research intermediary in strengthening frameworks and tools for coordinating key stakeholders in the research ecosystem in Kenya to dialogue, network and enhance research uptake to inform the implementation of the devolved system of Government. PAI also exemplifies the role of KIPPRA in promoting research take-up to support the devolved system of government in Kenya.

This policy brief provides detailed indicators for monitoring the performance of Laikipia County in the delivery of public service, across ten (10) pillars, namely: Fiscal Management, Economic Performance, Human Capital Development, Essential Infrastructure, Environmental Management, Transparency and Accountability, Crime and Justice, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Agriculture and Nutrition Security, and Social Welfare.

Table 1: Laikipia County key demographic statistics

County demographic statistics	County	National average
Total county population (%)	Male: 50.03	Male: 49.50
	Female: 49.97	Female: 50.50
	Youth: 26.22	Youth: 29.00
Under 5 mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	50	41
Fertility rate (children per woman)	3.4	3.4
Overall employment to population (%)	69.19	63.41
Youth employment to population (%)	31.11	30.58
Labour productivity ratios (%)	0.34	0.35
County share of national Gross Value Added (%)	0.9	-
Share of manufacturing to Gross County Product (%)	2.89	6.01

2. Fiscal Management Pillar

The Fiscal Management Index for the county is 0.55. The county had very low compliance with Public Finance Management (PFM) Regulations on personnel emoluments to total revenue ceiling, low resolution of development expenditure pending bills, low development budget execution, low ratio of OSR to equitable share, weak OSR regulatory framework and inadequate application of revenue management best practices.

Table 2: Comparison of PAI 2022 and 2024 scores for the fiscal management pillar indicators

Key indicators	2024	2022
Compliance with PFM regulations on development expenditure	0.70	0.49
Compliance with personnel emolument to total revenue ceiling	0.10	0.13
Resolution of recurrent expenditure pending bills	0.91	0.97
Resolution of development expenditure pending bills	0.46	0.39
Development budget execution	0.57	0.56
Recurrent budget execution	0.91	0.94
Ratio of OSR share to equitable share	0.17	0.14
Achievement of own source revenue targets	0.71	0.84
OSR regulatory framework	0.50	0.67
Revenue management	0.52	0.78
Fiscal management pillar index	0.55	0.59

Areas of Concern

- (i) Low compliance with PFM Regulations on personal emolument to total revenue ceiling of 35 per cent, which could constrain revenue allocations to development programmes.
- (ii) Low resolution of development expenditure pending bills that could weaken expansion of capacity for economic activities and affect public service delivery.
- (iii) Low development budget execution rate that could affect implementation of development projects in the county.
- (iv) Low ratio of Own-Source-Revenue (OSR) to equitable share that leads to high fiscal dependence on National Government equitable share.
- (v) Weak OSR regulatory framework and inadequate application of revenue management best practices.

Policy Recommendations

- (i) The County Public Service Board to comply with Salary and Remunerations Commission (SRC) guidelines by implementing an optimal staffing structure to reduce spending on emoluments.
- (ii) County Government to increase revenue collections to match the yearly increments in salaries and wages.
- (iii) The County Government Finance and Economic Planning Department to strengthen budget monitoring and evaluation framework to effectively monitor budget implementation and recommend timely corrective actions.
- (iv) County Government to give equal priority to development expenditure and implement budgets based on the given fiscal envelope and government's execution capacity.
- (v) County Government to automate revenue systems, update business registers, and establish systems to monitor revenue arrears.

- (vi) County Government could consider enhancing technology to monitor revenue collections and use incentives such as recognition and rewards to reduce complacency in revenue collection among staff.

3. Economic Performance Pillar

The score for Laikipia County on this pillar was 0.56. Most of the indicators improved despite the overall score decline except growth of the economy.

Table 3: Comparison of PAI 2022 and 2024 scores for the economic performance pillar indicators

Key indicators	2024	2022
Growth of the economy index	0.50	0.88
Economic diversity index	0.19	0.09
Labour participation rate	0.84	0.84
Enabling business environment	0.26	0.13
Financing growth	0.83	0.83
Income equality	0.70	0.63
Economic management pillar index	0.56	0.57

Areas of Concern

- (i) Declined growth of the economy
- (ii) Low level of economic diversity
- (iii) Weak business enabling environment to propel private sector

Policy Recommendations

- (i) County Government to improve worksite related infrastructure such as electricity, water and Internet connectivity to support the MSEs, which are the bedrock for economic transformation.
- (ii) County Government to support growth of manufacturing firms that use raw materials sourced in the county and encourage consumption and use of locally manufactured goods in promoting the Build Kenya, Buy Kenya initiative.
- (iii) County Government to collaborate with the National Government in setting up Special Economic Zones and Industrial Parks by providing adequate land.

4. Human Capital Development Pillar

The score for Laikipia County on this pillar was 0.88. Although the County had high scores, life expectancy at birth requires further interventions.

Table 4: Comparison of PAI 2022 and 2024 scores for the human capital pillar indicators

Key indicators	2024	2022
Skilled births attendance	0.93	0.59
Percentage of non-stunted children	1.00	0.85
Children vaccination coverage	0.84	0.79
Reduction of teenage pregnancies scores	0.91	-

Adult literacy	0.93	0.78
School enrollment	0.80	0.76
Life expectancy at birth	0.79	0.54
Human capital pillar index	0.88	0.68

Areas of Concern

- (i) More interventions are required to increase life expectancy at birth.

Policy Recommendation

- (i) County Government to prioritize preventative health care services and broadening access to quality health education and services.

5. Essential Infrastructure Pillars

The score for Laikipia County is 0.64. Household electricity connectivity and urban planning regulatory frameworks requires further improvements.

Table 5: Comparison of PAI 2022 and 2024 scores for the essential infrastructure pillar indicators

Key indicators	2024	2022
Access to work	0.58	0.58
Transport affordability	0.72	0.72
Rural access index	0.73	-
Housing quality	0.73	0.50
School's ICT connectivity	0.88	0.88
Internet use	0.54	0.29
Mobile money subscription	0.79	0.79
Access to electricity	0.42	0.42
Urban planning regulatory framework index	0.29	-
Urban planning best practices index	0.76	-
Essential infrastructure pillar index	0.64	0.60

Areas of Concern

- (i) Significant percentage of households with no electricity connectivity.
- (ii) Weak urban planning regulatory framework.

Policy Recommendations

- (i) Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation to work closely with the county government to fast-track electricity connectivity through the rural electrification programme.
- (ii) County Government to strengthen urban planning by finalizing and implementing Laikipia County Spatial Plan.

6. Environmental Management Pillar

The score for Laikipia County on this pillar is 0.70. The county improved in forest management, climate change management and solid waste management regulatory frameworks. However, clean energy use and application of solid waste management best practices requires further improvements.

Table 6: Comparison of PAI 2022 and 2024 scores for the environmental management pillar indicators

Key indicators	2024	2022
Clean energy use	0.22	0.23
Forest management regulatory and institutional frameworks	1.00	0.20
Forest management best practices	1.00	1.00
Climate change regulatory and institutional framework	0.73	0.29
Climate change best practices index	1.00	0.73
Solid waste management regulatory and institutional frameworks	0.60	0.25
Solid waste management best practices	0.33	0.41
Environmental management pillar index	0.70	0.42

Areas of Concern

- (i) Low clean energy use by households.
- (ii) Inadequate application of solid waste best practices.

Policy Recommendations

- (i) County Government to promote and encourage use of clean energy by household including use of local cooking technologies such as improved jikos, biogas, briquettes, smokeless jikos and supplementing with reduction of cost for accessing LPG and electricity.
- (ii) County Government to embrace Public Private Partnership (PPP) to improve solid waste management practices.

7. Transparency and Accountability Pillar

Laikipia County has a score of 0.85. Control of corruption and public participation regulatory and institutional frameworks improved. However, public participation best practices declined slightly.

Table 7: Comparison of PAI 2022 and 2024 scores for the transparency and accountability pillar indicators

Key indicators	2024	2022
Control of corruption	0.74	0.73
Public participation best practices	0.94	1.00
Public participation regulatory and institutional frameworks	0.86	0.67
Transparency and accountability pillar index	0.85	0.78

Areas of Concern

- (i) Despite the improvement, control of corruption requires further interventions.

Policy Recommendations

- (i) County Government to establish internal audit units and internal control mechanisms at the county executive and county assembly levels to detect and prevent loss of public funds.
- (ii) EACC and law courts to continue with efforts towards eliminating corruption at the counties through investigation and speedy conclusion of corruption cases.

8. Crime and Justice Pillar

Laikipia County has a score of 0.46. The county requires targeted interventions to reduce the high gender-based violence (GBV) and other offences.

Table 8: Comparison of PAI 2022 and 2024 scores for the crime and justice pillar indicators

Key indicators	2024	2022
Non-prevalence of GBV Crime	0.20	0.20
Reduction in experience of GBV	0.89	----
Non-prevalence of other offences	0.30	0.30
Crime and order pillar index	0.46	0.25

Areas of Concern

- (i) High GBV crime rates per 100,000 population.
- (ii) High other offences rates per 100,000 population.

Policy Recommendations

- (i) County Government to establish a coordination framework for seamless implementation of National and County Government security initiatives.
- (ii) County Government to increase access to quality and comprehensive support services to GBV victims and survivors.
- (iii) County Government to strengthen the capacity of institutions and service providers handling GBV across the health and the criminal justice system.
- (iv) County Government to protect vulnerable persons by implementing a witness protection programme for GBV victims and survivors.
- (v) County Government to eliminate harmful cultural practices such as early child marriages, forced marriages, among other are practices that contribute to GBV.

9. Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Pillar

Laikipia County has a score of 0.61 on this pillar. Both access to improved water and improved sanitation increased.

Table 9: Comparison of PAI 2022 and 2024 scores for the WASH pillar indicators

Key indicators	2024	2022
Access to improved sanitation	0.48	0.42
Access to improved water index	0.74	0.64
WASH pillar index	0.61	0.53

Areas of Concern

- (i) Significant percentage of households with limited access improved sanitation, which could affect the control of communicable diseases and health outcomes.

Policy Recommendations

- (i) County Government to support County Water and Sewerage Service Companies to implement pro-poor tariffs to increase access to WASH services.
- (ii) County Government to scale up implementation of physical plans by investing in sanitation infrastructure to adequately enhance access to sanitation services by the unserved and underserved populations.
- (iii) County Government to establish a coordination framework to enhance collaboration among players in WASH sector at both the County and National level, including development partners.

10. Social Welfare Pillar

Laikipia County has a score of 0.66. The county improved in budget execution for health sector, Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) and social welfare and female literacy. However, more interventions are required to reduce multidimensional poverty, increase health budget allocation and female labour participation.

Table 10: Comparison of PAI 2022 and 2024 scores for the social welfare pillar indicators

Key indicators	2024	2022
Non-food poverty index	0.73	0.71
Non-multidimensional poverty index	0.41	0.38
Health budget execution	0.84	0.59
Attainment of Abuja Declaration	0.57	0.61
Pre-devolution health budget target	0.24	0.26
ECDE budget execution	0.89	0.02
Social welfare budget execution	0.78	0.09
Female labour participation	0.57	0.57
Female literacy	0.92	0.72
Social welfare pillar index	0.66	0.43

Areas of Concern

- (i) Significant percentage of households experiencing multidimensional poverty.
- (ii) Low health budget allocation that is below the Abuja Declaration target of 15 per cent.

- (iii) Low female labour participation rates.

Policy Recommendations

- (i) County Government to consider developing county-specific social protection cash transfer programmes to supplement the National Government programmes to increase reach to vulnerable population.
- (ii) County Government to increase health care budget towards the target of 15 per cent to improve health care service delivery and implement development projects that improve access to healthcare services.
- (iii) County Government to consider partnering with private sector and development partners to initiate programmes that build skills in self-employment and employability among the youths, with a particular focus on females to increase their labour participation.

11. Agriculture and Nutrition Security Pillar

Laikipia County has a score of 0.77 for this pillar. Most of the indicators had higher scores, except non-prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population and attainment of Maputo Protocol on Agriculture budget expenditure.

Table 11: 2024 scores for the agriculture and nutrition security pillar indicator

Key indicators	2024
Sustainable agriculture policy framework	1.00
Sustainable agriculture best practices	0.88
Non-prevalence of low birth weight among new-borns	0.82
Proportion of population who have consumed target foods	0.99
Non-prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population	0.54
Attainment of Maputo Protocol on Agriculture budget expenditure	0.36
Agriculture and nutrition security pillar index	0.77

Areas of Concern

- (i) High prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population.
- (ii) Low agriculture sector budgeting that is below the Maputo Protocol target of 10 per cent.

Policy Recommendations

- (i) County Government to review and develop a policy framework targeted to strengthen sustainable agriculture.
- (ii) County Government to promote programmes that directly and indirectly reduce food insecurity, such as kitchen garden initiatives, nutrition programmes and other empowerment programmes.
- (iii) County Government to establish and implement a school feeding programme that would target food and nutrition insecurity among ECDE pupils.

- (iv) The County to increase the budget for the agricultural sector as per the Maputo protocol to promote agricultural productivity and increase food and nutrition security.

Acknowledgements

The Policy Brief was prepared by Cecilia Naeku, Paul Lutta, Fridah Njiru and Florence Muendo (KIPPRA) and was based on the Public Affairs Index Report (2024). The authors acknowledge the special contributions and guidance provided by Dr Rose Ngugi (Executive Director, KIPPRA) throughout the entire process of preparing the county brief.

About KIPPRA Policy Briefs

KIPPRA Policy Briefs are aimed at a wide dissemination of the Institute's policy research findings. The findings are expected to stimulate discussion and also build capacity in the public policy making process in Kenya.

KIPPRA acknowledges generous support from the Government of Kenya, and development partners who have continued to support the Institute's activities over the years.

For More Information Contact:

Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis
Bishops Road, Bishops Garden Towers
P.O. Box 56445-00200, Nairobi
Tel: 2719933/4, Cell: 0736712724, 0724256078
Email: admin@kippra.or.ke
Website: <http://www.kippra.org>
Twitter: @kippra.kenya