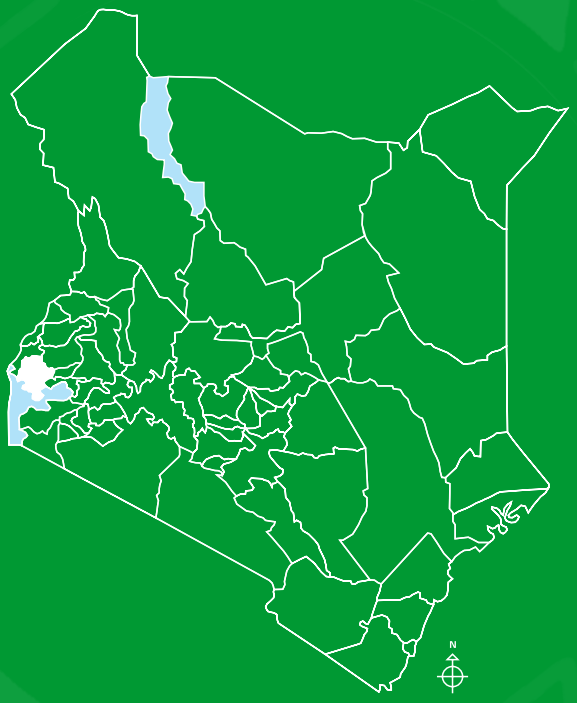


Siaya County

Budgets for Impact: Tackling Child Poverty for Social Progress

Preface

This Policy Brief assesses the performance of Siaya County's social sectors by analyzing key non-financial indicators and expenditure trends, identifying policy and budgetary gaps, and offering actionable recommendations to improve fiscal discipline and service delivery. It forms part of a broader series covering all 47 counties and focuses on allocations at programme and sub-programme level in the social sectors covering financial years (FY) 2019/20 to 2023/24. This work builds on the Phase I briefs, which covered FY 2014/15 to 2017/18.

The analysis highlights expenditure patterns influencing child welfare and poverty dynamics, integrating non-financial indicators across key sectors including health, nutrition, education, social protection, child protection and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). It draws on data from financial statements, budget reports and expenditure records from the Office of the Controller of Budget and the Office of the Auditor General. Additional information is sourced from County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) and national poverty reports.

Key highlights

Economic performance reflects gradual expansion driven by agriculture and a notable industrial base, though growth is constrained by climate vulnerability and limited value addition. Fiscal trends show a steadily growing revenue base that remains heavily dependent on national transfers, while own-source revenue and grants exhibit high year-to-year variability. Rigid expenditure patterns, characterized by a persistent focus on personnel costs, consistently drive the wage bill above recommended statutory thresholds. Consequently, development spending remains below statutory benchmarks, limiting the county's fiscal flexibility for growth-enhancing social sector investments.

Social and demographic conditions point to a growing population where poverty remains a significant concern, especially among children facing high levels of multidimensional deprivation. While overall poverty levels are comparable to national averages, deprivation among school-age children is particularly pronounced, reflecting persistent vulnerabilities in household livelihoods. The expanding young population continues to intensify pressure on education, health and social services, necessitating targeted human capital investments to prevent quality gaps. Multidimensional poverty affects over 75 per cent of children, highlighting overlapping challenges in nutrition, housing and access to clean water. Demographics indicate that nearly half the population is under 20, requiring sustained investment to meet rising demand for social services.

Health outcomes in Siaya County generally outperform national benchmarks, supported by improved budget execution and expanded maternal and child health coverage. The county has achieved high rates of immunization and skilled birth attendance, reflecting a solid foundation for primary health systems. However, public health gains are threatened by a high adult HIV burden and inconsistencies in completing vaccination schedules for childhood illnesses. Furthermore, health spending remains heavily skewed toward recurrent administration costs rather than frontline service delivery. However, the county must rebalance its budget to ensure that strong financial utilization translates into sustainable, high-quality preventive care.

Nutrition outcomes show mixed progress, with notable improvements in infant feeding practices offset by a sharp decline in maternal nutrition support. While exclusive breastfeeding rates have strengthened, the reduced coverage of essential maternal supplements signals potential service delivery gaps and supply chain constraints. Furthermore, the emergence of significant child stunting highlights a sustained burden of chronic undernutrition linked to limited dietary diversity and household poverty. Addressing these challenges requires a shift beyond caregiver behaviour toward strengthening the supply of essential nutrients for pregnant women.

Education participation is high across all levels, but learning quality is threatened by extreme teacher shortages and fluctuating financial support. While enrolment in pre-primary and secondary education has expanded, the pre-primary sector faces critically high learner–teacher ratios that far exceed national norms. Education financing has been characterized by sharp fluctuations in budget allocations and inconsistent absorption, which may hinder the long-term stability of learning environments. Rapidly increasing secondary enrolment is also placing immense pressure on existing school infrastructure and facilities. There is an urgent need to stabilize sector funding and prioritize foundational skills development.

Social assistance coverage is exceptionally strong for older persons, yet significant gaps persist for children and persons with disabilities. While the county exceeds national averages in reaching the elderly and providing orphan support, access to assistive devices for the disabled remains extremely low. These disparities, combined with incomplete disability registration, constrain the overall inclusiveness and effectiveness of the social protection system. Additionally, expenditure is heavily concentrated in administration, leaving direct community programmes and special initiatives underfunded.

Child protection risks are rising, characterized by high rates of neglect, physical abuse and teenage pregnancies that exceed national levels. Persistent vulnerabilities among adolescents underscore the urgent need for more predictable, community-based protection and reproductive health services. Although budget absorption in the social sector has improved, expenditure remains unevenly distributed, often favouring administration over direct child care. Many specialized protection and disability programmes received limited or

no funding over the review period, creating service gaps for vulnerable groups. Siaya County needs to enhance its data collection and reporting systems to better inform targeted interventions for at-risk children.

Access to basic WASH services shows gradual improvement, particularly in reducing open defecation, but remains limited by funding imbalances. While sanitation uptake has progressed, a significant portion of the population still lacks access to basic water and hand-washing facilities. Declining allocations for environmental protection and the continued underfunding of solid waste management pose ongoing risks to public health. Budget absorption remains strong, indicating a high capacity for implementation that could be leveraged for broader service expansion. However, modest sanitation coverage is contrasted by persistent gaps in hand-washing infrastructure.

Climate resilience is supported by strong institutional commitment and budget prioritization, yet environmental degradation remains a critical challenge. Although the county has established dedicated governance structures for climate action, forest cover remains critically low compared to national averages. Limited household access to clean energy further highlights the need to translate high-level institutional capacity into tangible household-level resilience. Scaling up external financing and ecosystem restoration remains essential to mitigate the effects of climate variability on the local economy. Overall, strong climate leadership is constrained by high household reliance on traditional, low-technology energy sources.

1. COUNTY OVERVIEW

Siaya County is moderately populated and geographically vast, with poverty levels that remain a concern despite being closer to national averages. The county covers approximately 3,535 km^2 and is administratively divided into six sub-counties and 30 wards. The population was projected at 1,059,458 in 2023, representing about 1.9 per cent of Kenya's total population.

Poverty in Siaya County remains significant and continues to affect children, youth and women, though to a lesser extent than in the most deprived counties nationally. In 2022, the overall poverty rate stood at about 38 per cent, while extreme poverty affected 7.1 per cent of the population, broadly comparable to the national averages of 36.1 per cent and 7.1 per cent, respectively. Monetary poverty affected 40.8 per cent of children and 37.8 per cent of youth, indicating persistent income-related vulnerabilities among key population groups.

Multidimensional poverty among children also remains notable, reflecting deprivations across several social sectors. An estimated 75.1 per cent of children were living in multidimensional poverty, experiencing overlapping challenges in nutrition, health care, education, housing and access to clean drinking water. Multidimensional poverty additionally affected 68.9 per cent of youth and 58.6 per cent of adults, highlighting widespread non-monetary constraints. While poverty levels in Siaya County are generally closer to national benchmarks than in highly marginalized counties, these conditions point to the continued need for targeted and coordinated social sector investments to strengthen human capital and improve outcomes for vulnerable groups (table 1).

Gender differences in poverty are relatively modest in monetary terms but widen noticeably in multidimensional deprivation, particularly among youth and adults. In 2022, monetary poverty among children was slightly higher for boys (41.0%) than girls (33.6%), while women experienced marginally higher poverty than men among youth aged 18–34 (31.7% versus 27.6%) and adults. Gender disparities are more pronounced in multidimensional poverty, where 70.0 per cent of female youth were multidimensionally poor compared to 62.0 per cent of male youth, and among adults 77.0 per cent of women faced multidimensional deprivation versus 69.0 per cent of men. This pattern points to deeper and overlapping non-income deprivations among women, underscoring the need for gender responsive, life course sensitive social sector interventions.

Table 1: Siaya county administrative, poverty and demographic profile

Administrative profile	Latest Available					
Area (km2)	3,535					
Number of sub-counties	6					
Number of wards	30					
Overall poverty (%)	38					
Extreme poverty (%)	7.1					
Population (2023)	1,059,458					
Age Group	**0–17 years**		**18–34 years**		**35–59 years**	
	Siaya Children	National Children	Siaya Youths	National Youths	Siaya	National
Monetary poor (2022)						
Male	41.0%	42.1%	27.6%	29.1%	33.7%	30.5%
Female	33.6%	41.0%	31.7%	28.8%	33.3%	34.1%
Total	40.8%	42.4%	37.8%	28.7%	37.8%	32.4%
Multidimensionally poor (2022)						
Male	52.0%	49.3%	62.0%	44.7%	69.0%	51.0%
Female	49.0%	47.1%	70.0%	49.4%	77.0%	60.8%
Total	75.1%*	55.3%	68.9%	51.0%	58.6%	57.9%
Population (2023)	512,000	22,577,000	248,000	14,281,000	198,000	9,516,000

Data sources:
Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2020). *Comprehensive Poverty Report*
County Government of Siaya (2023). *County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2023–2027*
* Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2025). *Brighter Futures: Breaking Cycles of Poverty for Children in Kenya.*

2 STATE OF COUNTY ECONOMY

2.1 Gross County Product Growth

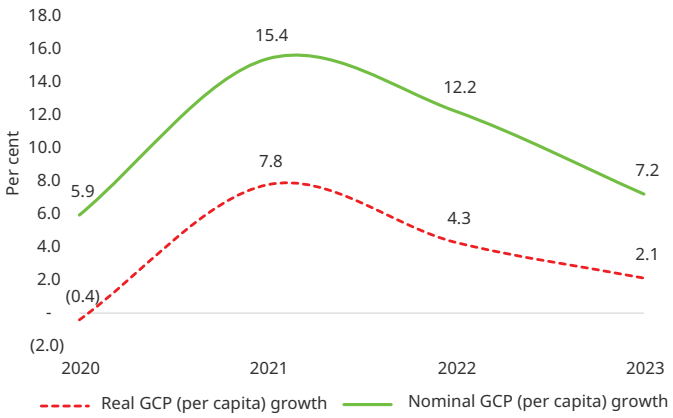
Siaya County accounts for a modest share of national output, with steady real per capita growth over the past four years. The county contributed about 1.1 per cent of national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2023. Real Gross County Product (GCP) per capita reached KSh 93,143 in 2023, growing at an average annual rate of 3.4 per cent between 2019 and 2023 (figure 1a).

Economic activity remains anchored in agriculture alongside a sizeable services and other industrial base, shaping both opportunities and constraints to diversification. In 2023, agriculture accounted for about 44 per cent of GCP, followed by services at 23 per cent and other industries including construction, electricity and water at 23 per cent; manufacturing contributed the remaining 10 per cent (Figure 1b). The prominence of agriculture reflects the county's reliance on smallholder crop and mixed farming, supported by favourable soils and proximity to Lake Victoria, while services and industry are linked to trade, public services and basic infrastructure.

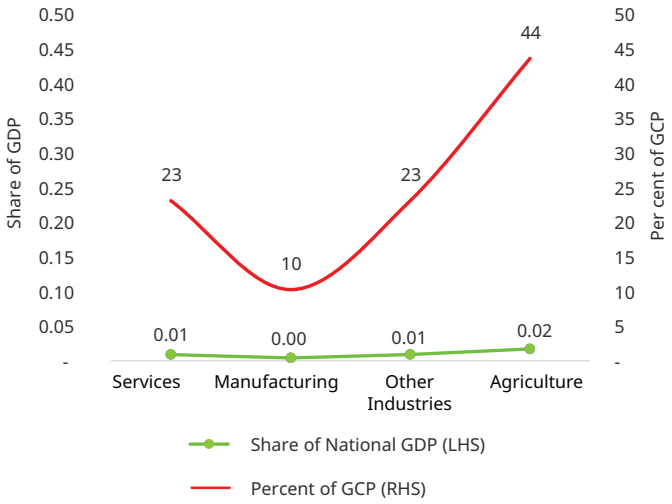
The concentration in primary production exposes the economy to climate variability and market shocks, with implications for incomes and social outcomes. Limited value addition and uneven diversification constrain employment creation and income stability, particularly for rural households dependent on rain-fed agriculture. Expanding productivity and value addition in crop, dairy and fisheries value chains, alongside investments in irrigation, transport, skills and complementary services, would support more resilient and inclusive growth while strengthening linkages to broader social sector outcomes.

Figure 1a and 1b: GCP per capita growth and structure of the economy, Siaya County

a) GCP (per capita) growth trends, 2019–2023 (per cent)



b) Structure of the economy, 2023 (per cent of GCP)



Data sources:
Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (Various). *Gross County Product Reports* (available at https://www.knbs.or.ke/gross-county-product/).

2.2 Overall Budget Performance

Fiscal performance in Siaya County has been characterized by moderate fluctuations in expenditure and a steadily growing revenue base, largely driven by national transfers, while conditional grants and own-source revenue continue to shape fiscal resilience. Between Financial Year (FY) 2019/20 and FY 2023/24, both expenditure and revenue exhibited variability, with an overall pattern of relative stability (figure 2a).

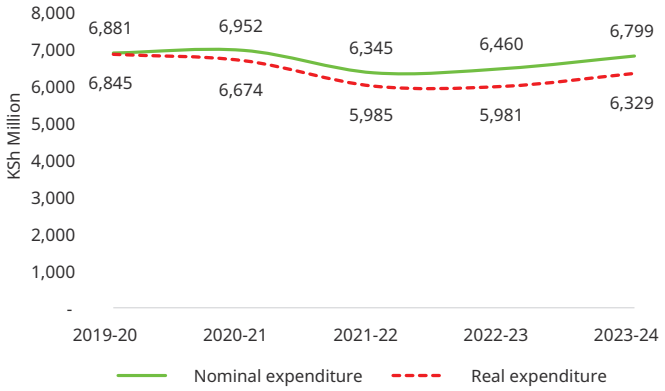
Expenditure performance remained broadly stable in real terms, reflecting controlled spending levels over the period. After adjusting for inflation, expenditure settled at approximately KSh 6.33 billion, indicating limited volatility in county spending and a cautious approach to managing fiscal pressures (figure 2a).

Revenue growth was steady and remained heavily concentrated in equitable share transfers. Total revenue showed moderate growth over the period, with the equitable share continuing to account for over 86 per cent of county financing. Own-source revenue demonstrated gradual improvement despite year-to-year fluctuations, signalling incremental progress in local revenue mobilization. Conditional grants remained volatile, experiencing periods of decline followed by partial recovery in subsequent years (figure 2b).

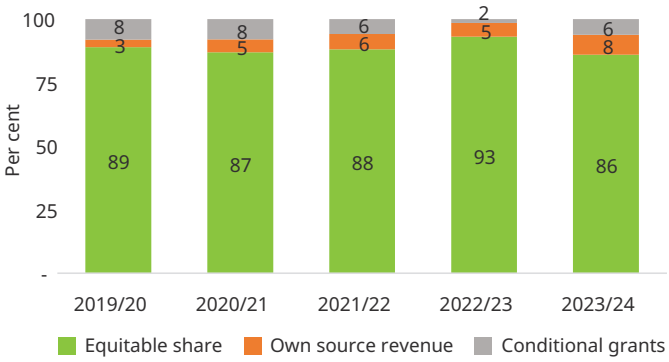
The revenue composition continues to influence fiscal flexibility and planning certainty. Sustained reliance on national transfers, alongside fluctuating conditional grants and evolving own-source revenue performance, underscores the importance of strengthening revenue diversification and stabilizing external financing to support predictable and efficient delivery of social services.

Figure 2: Siaya County revenue and Expenditure trends, 2019/20–2023/24

a) County government spending, 2019/20–2023/24 (KSh Million)



b) County revenue composition (%)



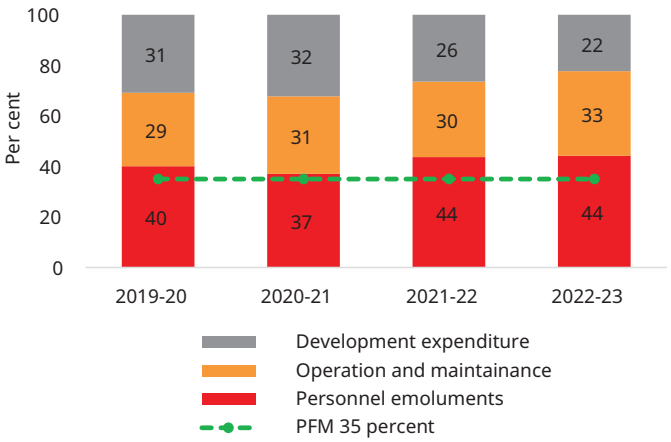
Data sources:
Office of the Controller of Budget (2019–2023). *Annual Reports*.

Budget composition in Siaya County reflects a continued bias toward recurrent expenditure, with development spending remaining below statutory benchmarks. The share of actual development expenditure declined to 22 per cent in FY 2022/23, signalling constrained investment in growth-enhancing projects. Recurrent expenditure driven largely by personnel emoluments and operations and maintenance accounted for over 40 per cent of total county spending throughout the review period. The wage bill alone consistently absorbed more than 40 per cent of total expenditure, exceeding the recommended fiscal threshold (figure 3a).

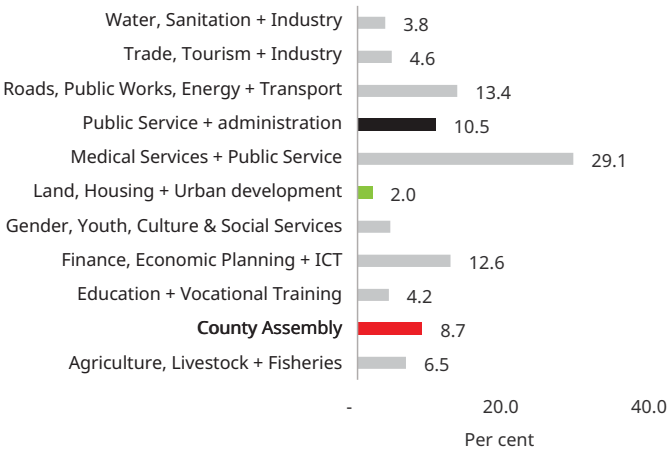
Consequently, statutory requirements on budget composition were not fully met. The Public Finance Management (PFM) Act, 2012, requirement that at least 30 per cent of the total budget be allocated to development expenditure was not achieved during the review period. In addition, the PFM Regulations, 2015, ceiling on the wage bill, set at 35 per cent of total county revenue, was consistently breached, as personnel emoluments remained above the threshold across the years.

Figure 3: Siaya county spending priorities by economic and administrative classification, 2019/20–2022/23

a) County government spending, economic classification, 2019/20–2022/23



b) County government spending by priorities, average, 2019/20–2022/23



Data sources:
Office of the Controller of Budgets (2019-2023) *Annual Report.*

Spending in the social sectors accounted for 48 per cent of total expenditure (figure 3b). These sectors are regarded as being more sensitive to the needs of children, youth and women, and hence enhanced spending improves lives and livelihoods. Continuous strengthening and prioritizing investments in these social sectors is essential for improving human capital outcomes and fostering inclusive, long-term development.

2.3 Demographic and Poverty Profile of Siaya County

Siaya County has a steadily growing population with a strong concentration in young and working-age cohorts, shaping demand for social and economic services. The population shows consistent growth across most age groups, with females slightly outnumbering males throughout the period. Between 2020 and 2024, the total population increased from 1,002,932 to 1,078,299, reflecting sustained demographic expansion. Children and adolescents aged 0–19 grew from 517,302 to 531,835, while young adults aged 20–34 increased markedly from 276,746 to 307,695. The adult population aged 35–64 also expanded from 157,315 to 188,034, indicating a maturing labour force, while the population aged 65 and above remained relatively stable, with a slight decline from 51,569 to 50,735 (table 2).

The demographic profile suggests rising medium-term fiscal and planning pressures, particularly in education, health and employment-related services. Continued growth in the 0–19 age group will sustain demand for early childhood development, basic education and adolescent health services, while the expanding cohorts of young and middle-aged adults will increase needs for job creation, skills development and productive economic opportunities. At the same time, stable but persistent needs among the elderly will require ongoing attention to healthcare and social support systems. Without proportional expansion in service delivery capacity and labour market absorption, pressures on social infrastructure and public services are likely to intensify.

Table 2: Siaya County Projected Age Distribution, 2020–2024, Male and Female

Year	Gender	Age				Total
		0–19	20–34	35–64	65+	
2020	Male	260,190	143,549	78,850	25,542	**508,131**
	Female	257,112	133,197	78,465	26,027	**494,801**
	Total	**517,302**	**276,746**	**157,315**	**51,569**	**1,002,932**
2021	Male	261,058	147,567	83,214	25,142	**516,981**
	Female	259,876	136,916	81,780	26,219	**504,791**
	Total	**520,936**	**284,484**	**164,996**	**51,361**	**1,021,777**
2022	Male	261,925	151,587	87,581	24,740	**525,833**
	Female	262,644	140,633	85,094	26,411	**514,782**
	Total	**524,568**	**292,220**	**172,675**	**51,151**	**1,040,614**
2023	Male	262,794	155,605	91,945	24,341	**534,685**
	Female	265,408	144,353	88,410	26,604	**524,775**
	Total	**528,203**	**299,958**	**180,355**	**50,943**	**1,059,459**
2024	Male	263,663	159,624	96,310	23,939	**543,536**
	Female	268,174	148,071	91,724	26,796	**534,765**
	Total	**531,835**	**307,695**	**188,034**	**50,735**	**1,078,299**

Data sources:

Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2022). *Analytical Report on Population Projections, Volume XVI.*

Poverty remains a significant concern in Siaya County, with children, particularly those of school-going age, bearing a disproportionate share of deprivation, despite levels remaining slightly below national averages. By 2022, overall poverty stood at 38.3 per cent, marginally lower than the national rate of 39.8 per cent, following a sharp rise during the COVID-19 pandemic period. Child poverty (ages 0–17) reached 40.8 per cent in 2022, also below the national average of 42.4 per cent, but reflecting a sustained increase from pre-pandemic levels. While younger children (ages 0–5) experienced comparatively lower poverty rates, deprivation among school-aged children (ages 6–13) remained more pronounced, pointing to uneven recovery across age cohorts. These trends highlight persistent vulnerabilities linked to household livelihoods and schooling-related needs, with important implications for longer-term human capital development in the county (table 3).

Table 3: Poverty Headcount Trends in Siaya County (2019–2022) by Age Group, with National Comparison for 2022

Poverty headcount (%)	Overall	Children 0–5	Children 6–13	Children 14–17	Children 0–17
County, 2019	23.7	25.1	26.5	26.7	26.1
County, 2020	39.8	34.5	41.2	46.4	40.8
County, 2021	34.2	28.4	34.8	37.7	33.6
County, 2022	38.3	37.5	43.7	39.2	40.8
National, 2022	**39.8**	**36.4**	**44.4**	**47.4**	**42.4**

Data sources:
Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (Various). The Kenya Poverty Reports.

3. ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL SECTOR SPENDING

3.1 Health sector

3.1.1 Health sector performance

Health outcomes in Siaya County are generally strong and, in several areas, exceed national averages, reflecting sustained investment in maternal and child health services. Between 2020 and 2023, the county performed favourably against national benchmarks on most core indicators. Full immunization coverage for children under one year consistently surpassed national rates, reaching 93.1 per cent in 2023, compared to national levels below this mark. Skilled birth attendance remained high at 91.2 per cent, while early antenatal care (ANC) coverage stood at 66.5 per cent, also above prevailing national trends. Coverage for key antigens remained robust, with Measles and Rubella 1 vaccination at 97.7 per cent and DPT/Hep+HiB3 at 93.5 per cent.

Some maternal and child health indicators demonstrate notable strengths alongside areas of gradual progress. High routine immunization coverage indicates effective outreach and service delivery systems. However, Measles 2 coverage, while improving, remains moderate at 60.1 per cent, suggesting challenges in follow-up and completion of vaccination schedules. Treatment coverage for diarrhoea and pneumonia among children under 5 fluctuated over the period, pointing to intermittent gaps in access, care-seeking behaviour or service consistency. Adult HIV prevalence remains elevated at 9.8 per cent, well above the national average of 3.3 per cent, highlighting a persistent public health burden.

Overall health outcomes point to a solid maternal and child health foundation, but with remaining risks that require targeted attention. The high adult HIV burden and incomplete Measles 2 coverage pose ongoing threats to population health gains, while inconsistent treatment for childhood illnesses may affect child survival outcomes if not addressed. Strengthening HIV prevention and care, improving completion of immunization schedules and reinforcing community-based management of childhood illnesses will be critical to sustaining and consolidating progress (Table 4).

Table 4: Siaya County Selected Health Indicators 2020–2023

Indicators	2020	National	2021	National	2022	National	2023	National
Proportion of children aged under 1 year who are fully immunized (%)	89.9	83.1	92.4	82.7	95.1	81.7	93.1	78.9
ANC 4 coverage (%)	68.1	51.1	63.3	51.3	66.7	51.4	66.5	54.1
Deliveries conducted by skilled birth attendants (%)	93.7	77.6	93.1	79.2	96.6	77.1	91.2	75.5
Proportion of children aged under 1 year vaccinated against measles and rubella 1 (%)	91.3	84.6	93.3	84.2	96.8	85.2	97.7	84.1
Proportion of children aged under 2 years vaccinated against measles and rubella 2 (%)	46.5	49.8	47.9	57.0	52.7	57.3	60.1	62.0
Proportion of babies in Kangaroo Mother Care (%)	52.1	13.6	224.3	64.4	146.8	64.3	155.8	57.3
Proportion of children aged under 5 years with pneumonia and treated with amoxicillin DT (%)	82.0	32.0	79.8	48.5	58.7	54.0	64.0	60.5
Proportion of children aged under 5 years with diarrhoea and treated with oral rehydration salts and zinc copack (facility) (%)	41.8	28.1	39.8	41.3	32.2	49.5	43.1	59.1
HIV adult prevalence (%)	14.7	4.3	14.1	4.1	13.2	3.7	9.8	3.3
Children with HIV (No.)	5,154	78,465	5,950	82,917	3,946	67,869	5,107	71,433
Under-5 mortality (*/1000) (%)	40.0	42.8	38.0	41.9	63.0	41.1	-	39.9
Proportion of children aged under 1 year vaccinated against DPT/Hep+HiB3 (%)	91.5	86.0	91.4	87.8	94.5	85.3	93.5	84.5
Proportion of clients with 1st ANC contact at 12 or less weeks (%)	-	2.1	-	12.9	-	13.3	-	15.6
Proportion of still births that are fresh (%)	-	48.9	-	46.6	-	45.5	-	46.8

Data sources:
Kenya Health Information System (KHIS) (2023). Health Sector Data Repository.

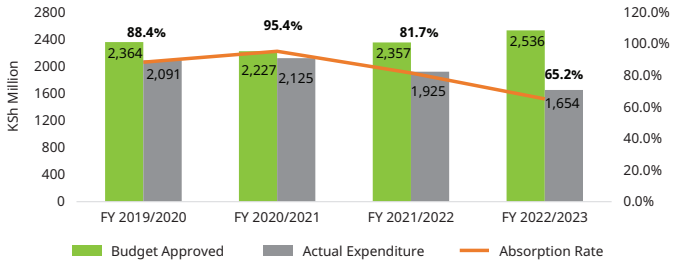
3.1.2 Health Sector Financial Analysis

Budget execution in Siaya County declined over the review period, pointing to concerns on financing health outcomes. Actual spending decreased from KSh 2.09 billion in FY 2019/20 to KSh 1.65 billion in FY 2022/23. The decline was similarly reflected in budget utilization, with the absorption rate declining from 88.4 per cent to 65.2 per cent over the same period, highlighting challenges in health spending (figure 4).

Siaya County's health sub-sector spending is overwhelmingly concentrated in health administration and support services, which absorbed approximately 88.4 per cent of actual expenditures, while curative and preventive services received minimal shares of 7.1 per cent and 4.5 per cent respectively. Data gaps in the sub-sector financing undermine proper planning and budgeting, affecting service delivery. This extreme fiscal imbalance and missing data severely limits the county's capacity to effectively budget for essential frontline healthcare needs.

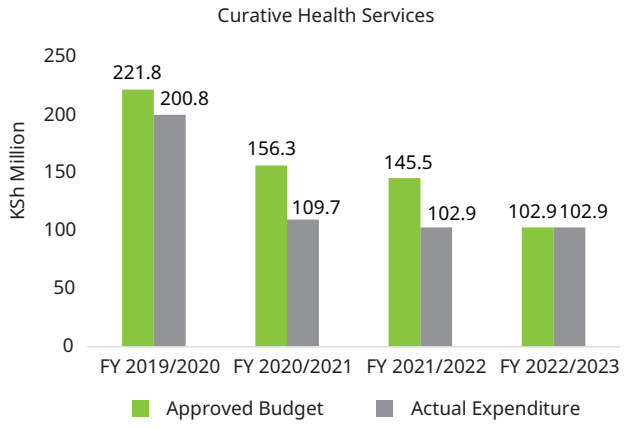
The persistent misalignment between resource allocation and service delivery needs highlights the urgent requirement to rebalance the health budget toward programmes that directly address the county's public health priorities. Ensuring more resources reach frontline services is vital for maintaining high performance in maternal care while mitigating risks associated with the high 9.8 per cent adult HIV prevalence and the moderate 60.1 per cent completion rate for the Measles 2 vaccination.

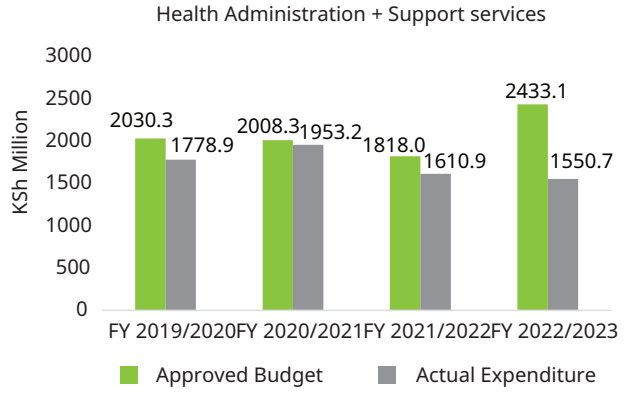
Figure 4: Health Budget Trends and Absorption Rate, 2019/20–2022/23

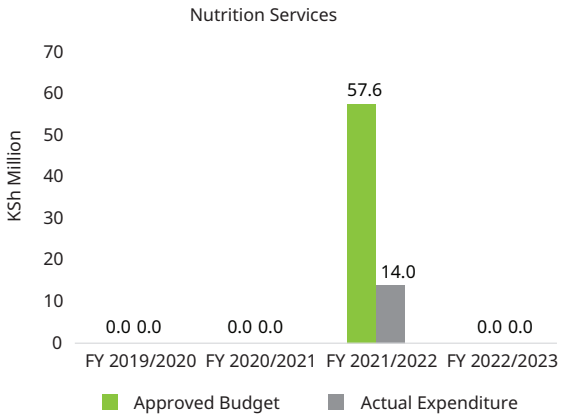


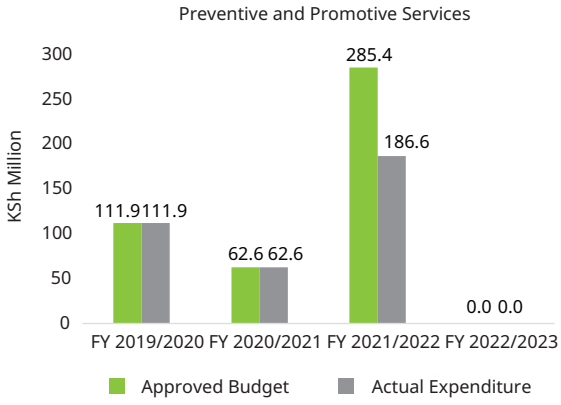
Data sources:
Office of the Controller of Budget (2019–2023). Annual Reports.

Figure 5: Approved Budget and Actual Expenditures across health sub-sectors









Data sources:
Office of the Controller of Budget (2019–2023). Annual Reports.

3.2 Nutrition

Maternal and infant nutrition indicators in Siaya County show mixed performance, with notable gains in exclusive breastfeeding but weakening coverage of key maternal supplements. Exclusive breastfeeding rates for infants under six months improved from 80.9 per cent in 2020 to 86.6 per cent in 2022, supporting early child immunity and optimal infant feeding practices. In contrast, the proportion of pregnant women receiving iron and folate supplementation declined sharply from 82.2 per cent in 2020 to 46.7 per cent in 2022, pointing to challenges in supply availability and access to essential maternal nutrition services.

Child nutrition outcomes reflect both stability and persistent concerns. The prevalence of underweight children under 5 remained largely unchanged, easing slightly from 1.4 per cent in 2020 to 1.3 per cent in 2022, suggesting relatively consistent management of acute undernutrition. However, stunting emerged as a significant concern, newly recorded at 19.2 per cent in 2022, indicating a sustained burden of chronic undernutrition. Wasting remained low at 1.7 per cent,

while overweight prevalence stood at 2.6 per cent, reflecting an evolving nutrition profile shaped by food insecurity alongside increased access to energy-dense, low-nutrient foods (Table 5).

The contrast between improving infant feeding practices and declining maternal supplementation, alongside persistent child stunting, suggests constraints beyond caregiver behaviour alone. Reduced coverage of iron and folate supplementation may be undermining maternal nutritional status, with downstream effects on child growth. These patterns point to the combined influence of poverty, limited dietary diversity and health system supply constraints, underscoring the need for strengthened maternal supplement supply and broader nutrition-sensitive interventions to improve child nutrition outcomes.

Table 5: Siaya County Selected Nutrition Indicators 2020–2022

Indicators (%)	2020	2021	2022
Proportion of pregnant women attending ANC who received combined iron and folate supplements	82.2	72.1	46.7
Proportion of infants under 6 months old and exclusively breastfed	80.9	81.6	86.6
Proportion of children aged under 5 who are underweight	1.4	1.6	1.3
Proportion of children aged under 5 who are stunted	-	-	19.2
Proportion of children aged under 5 who are wasting	-	-	1.7
Proportion of children aged under 5 who are overweight	-	-	2.6

Data sources:

Kenya Health Information System (2020-2022).

Note: Data on nutrition-related financing is not available; hence, financial performance of this sector was not analyzed separately.

3.3 Education sector

3.3.1 Education sector Performance

Kenya's education system comprises basic education (pre-primary, primary, and secondary) and tertiary education (Technical and Vocational Education and Training [TVET] and university). County governments are responsible for pre-primary education and youth polytechnics, in line with Schedule IV of the Constitution. Basic education is undergoing curriculum reforms aimed at improving access, quality and equity.

Access to pre-primary education in Siaya County has seen mixed progress, with improved learner distribution but persistent challenges in overall enrolment and teacher capacity. The Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) declined from 190.7 per cent in 2019 to 117.6 per cent in 2023, reflecting a reduction in over-age and under-age enrolment, while the Net Enrolment Rate (NER) remained low at 73.2 per cent, indicating that many age-appropriate children are still not enrolled. The number of pre-primary institutions remained largely stable, and average school size reduced from 87 learners in 2019 to 56 in 2023, suggesting better distribution across centers. Learner–teacher ratios in public pre-primary schools rose sharply to 73:1, far exceeding the national benchmark of 25:1, highlighting critical teacher shortages, whereas private centres maintained a ratio of 23:1. Gender parity improved, with the GPI increasing from 0.91 to 1.50, indicating higher enrolment of girls relative to boys. These trends point to the need for rapid recruitment of pre-primary teachers, targeted initiatives to support male enrolment and strengthened community-level outreach to boost participation among age-appropriate children (table 6).

Primary education in Siaya County reflects strong overall participation, with improvements in school size and manageable learner–teacher ratios, though age-appropriate enrolment data remain limited. The GER ranged from 115.0 per cent to 131.1 per cent over the five-year period, settling at 113.9 per cent in 2023, suggesting broad participation, including late entrants or repeaters. The number of public primary schools increased from 851 to 882, resulting in a reduction in average school size from 388 to 256 learners, indicating improved learning conditions. The learner–teacher ratio was 41:1 in 2023, slightly above the recommended standard. Gender parity was maintained, with the GPI at 0.98, reflecting nearly equal enrolment between boys and girls. These outcomes suggest that while overall participation is high, continued focus on teacher deployment and data tracking for age-appropriate enrolment is necessary to sustain learning quality (table 6).

Participation in secondary education has expanded rapidly in Siaya County, placing pressure on school infrastructure even as learner–teacher ratios improved and gender balance remained relatively stable. The GER increased from 87.9 per cent in 2019 to 129.5 per cent in 2023, reflecting both high overall participation and continued over-age enrolment. The number of public secondary schools remained

unchanged, while average school size rose from 378 to 537 learners, highlighting growing pressure on facilities. Private secondary school enrolment also expanded substantially, with average school size increasing from 54 to 269 learners, indicating increased reliance on private provision. Learner–teacher ratios in public schools improved from 38:1 to 32:1, remaining within acceptable limits. Gender parity was maintained, with the GPI reaching 1.05 in 2023, slightly favouring girls. These trends underscore the need for expanded secondary infrastructure and sustained efforts to maintain equitable access for both boys and girls amid growing demand (table 6).

Table 6: Siaya County Selected Education Indicators 2019–2023

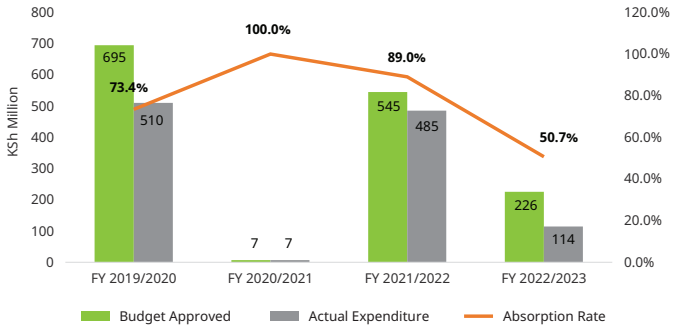
		Disaggregation	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Preprimary School Level	GER pre-primary (%)	Male	196.8	109.0	118.8	93.5	93.8
	GER pre-primary (%)	Female	184.4	110.8	122.4	138.7	141.0
	GER pre-primary (%)	Total	190.7	109.9	120.6	116.3	117.6
	NER Pre-primary	Total					73.2
	Average School Size Pre-primary	Total	87	51	60	58	56
	Learner Teacher Ratio Pre-primary (Public)	Total	46	61	34	33	73
	Learner Teacher Pre-primary (Private)	Total	32	36	19	26	23
	GPI at Pre-primary Education	Total	0.91	0.99	1.03	1.48	1.50
	Number of Institutions Pre-primary	Total	1,152	1,152	1,092	1,092	1,153
Primary School Level	GER at Primary School Level (%)	Male	114.7	112.7	134.5	134.4	115.2
	GER at Primary School Level (%)	Female	115.3	111.1	125.4	127.8	112.6
	GER at Primary School Level (%)	Total	115.0	111.9	129.9	131.1	113.9
	Average School Size (Public Primary)	Total	388	380	288	287	256
	Average School Size (Private Primary)	Total	81	93	92	175	-
	Learner Teacher Ratio (Public Primary)	Total	42	42	42	44	41
	GPI at Primary School Level	Total	0.99	0.99	0.93	0.95	0.98
	Number of Primary Schools	Total	851	862	840	766	882
Secondary School Level	GER Secondary School (%)	Female	87.7	100.2	113.4	117.3	126.4
	GER Secondary School (%)	Male	88	99.6	118.1	123.3	132.6
	GER Secondary School (%)	Total	87.9	99.9	115.7	120.3	129.5
	Average School Size (Public Secondary)	Total	378	440	473	496	537
	Average School Size (Private Secondary)	Total	54	231	97	135	269
	Learner Teacher Ratio (Public Secondary)	Total	38	36	40	39	32
	GPI Secondary School Level	Total	1.02	0.97	1.00	1.03	1.05
	Number of Secondary Schools	Total	246	243	244	244	244

Data sources:
Ministry of Education (2023).

3.3.2 Education sector financial data analysis

Education sector financing in Siaya County shows fluctuating budget execution over the period. In FY 2019/20, the approved budget was KSh 695 million, with actual expenditure of KSh 510 million, yielding an absorption rate of 73.4 per cent. However, the sector financing declined sharply to KSh 7 million, in terms of both approved and actual spending in FY2020/21. In FY 2021/22, the actual spending increased to KSh 485 million before falling to KSh 114 million in FY 2022/23, with an absorption rate of 50.7 per cent, reflecting underutilization of allocated resources (figure 6).

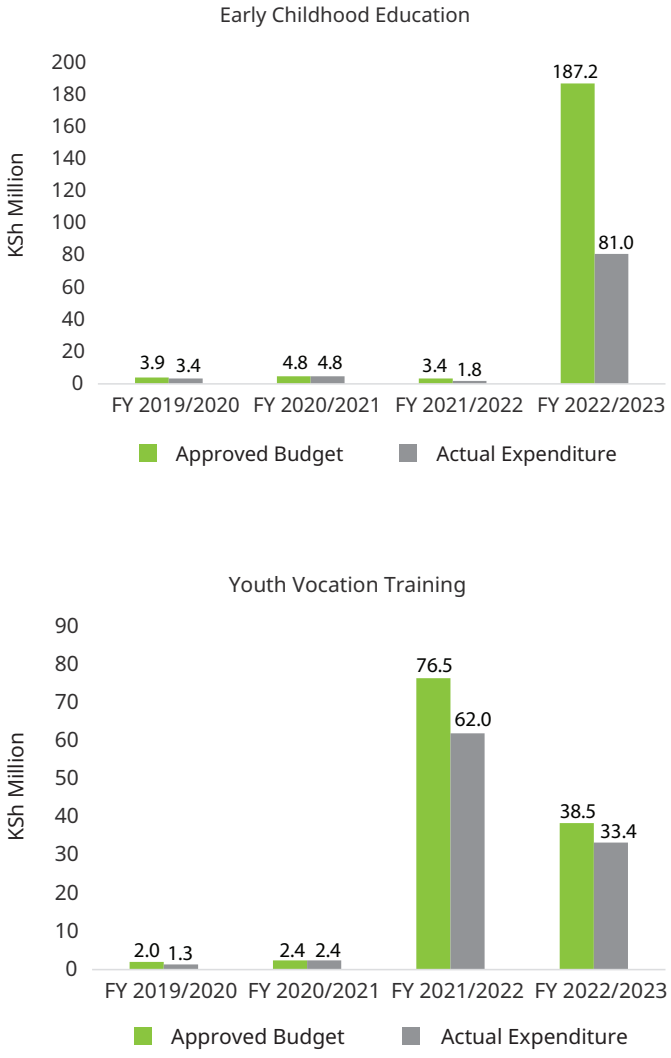
Figure 6: Education Sector, Budget Trends and Absorption Rate, 2019/20–2022/23

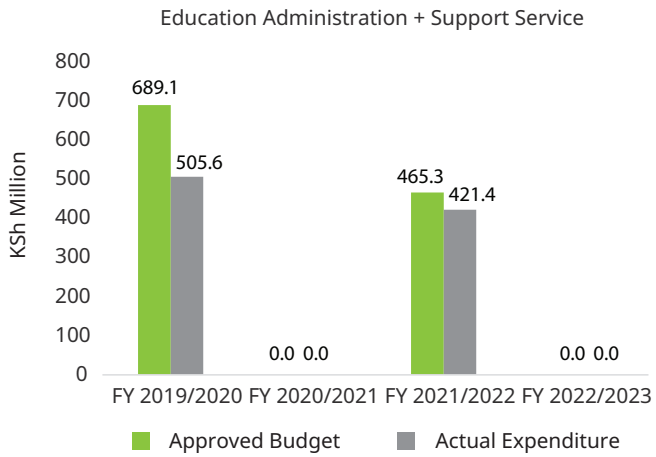


Data sources:
Office of the Controller of Budget (2019–2023). Annual Reports.

Siaya County's education sub-sector spending is heavily dominated by administration and support services, which absorbed approximately 46.5 per cent of actual expenditures, while Early Childhood Education (ECE) and youth vocational training received smaller shares of 34.6 per cent and 18.9 per cent, respectively (figure 7). This significant concentration of resources in administrative functions rather than frontline services underscores an urgent need to rebalance the budget toward foundational learning and polytechnics to address the critical 73:1 learner-teacher ratio in pre-primary centres and better equip youth with employable skills.

Figure 7: Approved Budget and Actual Expenditures across education sub-sectors





Data sources:
Office of the Controller of Budget (2019–2023). Annual Reports.

3.4 Social Protection

3.4.1 Social Protection Performance

Siaya County performs relatively well in elderly-targeted programmes and shows moderate coverage for orphaned children, but gaps remain in disability services and access to assistive devices. Coverage of older persons under social assistance programmes stood at 45.6 per cent, nearly double the national average of 23.8 per cent. Social support for orphaned children reached 7.2 per cent, above the national average of 4.1 per cent, indicating relatively good targeting of child-focused social protection. Coverage under the Inua Jamii programme was slightly above national levels at 23.0 per cent compared to 20.0 per cent. Assistance to persons with severe disabilities was slightly higher than the national average at 1.8 per cent versus 1.7 per cent (table 7).

In contrast, gaps persist in other areas. Access to assistive devices among persons with disabilities was extremely low at 0.1 per cent, below the national average of 0.9 per cent. Registration of persons with disabilities remains incomplete, with only 1,327 of an estimated 35,439 individuals recorded, limiting access to services and benefits (table 7). Overall, Siaya County demonstrates strong performance in support for older persons and moderate coverage for orphaned children and poverty-targeted programmes. However, very low assistive device provision, incomplete disability registration and uneven coverage across other vulnerable groups continue to constrain the inclusiveness of the social protection system (table 7).

Table 7: Social Protection Indicators, 2022

Indicator	County	National
Proportion of older persons receiving social assistance (%)	45.6	23.8
Inua Jamii coverage (%)	23.0	20.0
Proportion of orphaned children 18 years or younger receiving social assistance (%)	7.2	4.1
Proportion of population in ASAL receiving food aid (%)	0.0	5.7
Proportion of persons with severe disability receiving social assistance (%)	1.8	1.7
Proportion of pupils benefiting from school feeding programme (%)	5.7	9.0
Proportion of persons with disability who received assistive devices (2024) (%)	0.1	0.9
Number of persons with a disability	35,439	916,612
Number of registered persons with a disability	1,327	72,307

Data sources:
State Department for Social Protection, 2024.

3.4.2 Child Protection

Child protection risks are rising in Siaya County, with neglect and teenage pregnancy above national averages. Reported cases of child neglect decreased from 4,269 in 2020 to 3,188 in 2023, reflecting persistent vulnerabilities despite some improvements. Abandonment cases remained relatively stable, reaching 197 in 2023, while emotional abuse continued to be reported consistently over the years. Abductions and parental child abduction were notable, with 47 and 147 cases respectively in 2023. Physical abuse levels remained high, increasing from 168 in 2022 to 202 in 2023. Cases of sexual exploitation and child trafficking were minimal but continue to indicate ongoing risks. The teenage pregnancy rate stood at 20.9 per cent in 2022, above the national average of 14.9 per cent, highlighting concerns for adolescent well-being.

The trends suggest growing vulnerabilities among children, particularly adolescents. Persistent neglect, rising physical abuse and elevated teenage pregnancies underscore continuing risks to child welfare. Data indicate that strengthening prevention, enhancing family and community support, and expanding adolescent-focused interventions remain critical priorities for child protection in the county (Table 8).

Table 8: Child Protection Indicators, 2019–2023

Indicator (number of cases unless otherwise mentioned)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Abandoned children	229	146	160	192	197
Abductions	92	53	21	56	47
Emotional abuse	88	88	93	77	79
Neglect	3,467	4,269	3,588	2,447	3,188
Parental child abduction	156	181	168	143	147
Physical abuse/ violence	244	282	208	168	202
Sexual exploitation and abuse	3	4	3		2
Trafficked children	3	1	4	2	
Teenage pregnancy rate (%)				20.9	

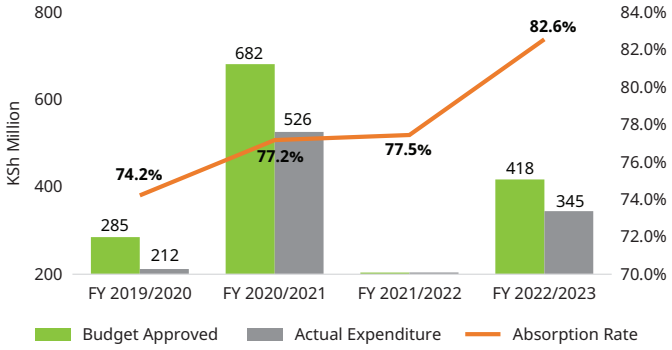
Data sources:
State Department for Social Protection, 2024.

3.4.3 Social and Child Protection Financial Analysis

Siaya County shows relatively strong overall budget absorption in the social protection sector, but critical areas remain underfunded or unevenly supported. Average absorption across four years stood at 77.9 per cent, improving to 82.6 per cent in FY 2022/23, indicating increasing efficiency in utilizing allocated funds (figure 8). However, analysis by sub-sector reveals imbalances in resource distribution. General Administration and Support Services dominated allocations in FY 2020/21, with KSh 519.3 million spent, representing 99 per cent of the year's expenditure. This

administrative-heavy focus limits resources available for direct community programmes. Youth and Sports Services received steady allocations totaling KSh 494.3 million over the four years, but actual expenditure declined from KSh 210.7 million in FY 2019/20 to KSh 46.2 million in FY 2022/23, suggesting reduced prioritization or implementation challenges that may constrain youth empowerment initiatives (figure 9).

Figure 8: Social Protection Budget Trends and Absorption Rate, 2019/20–2022/23

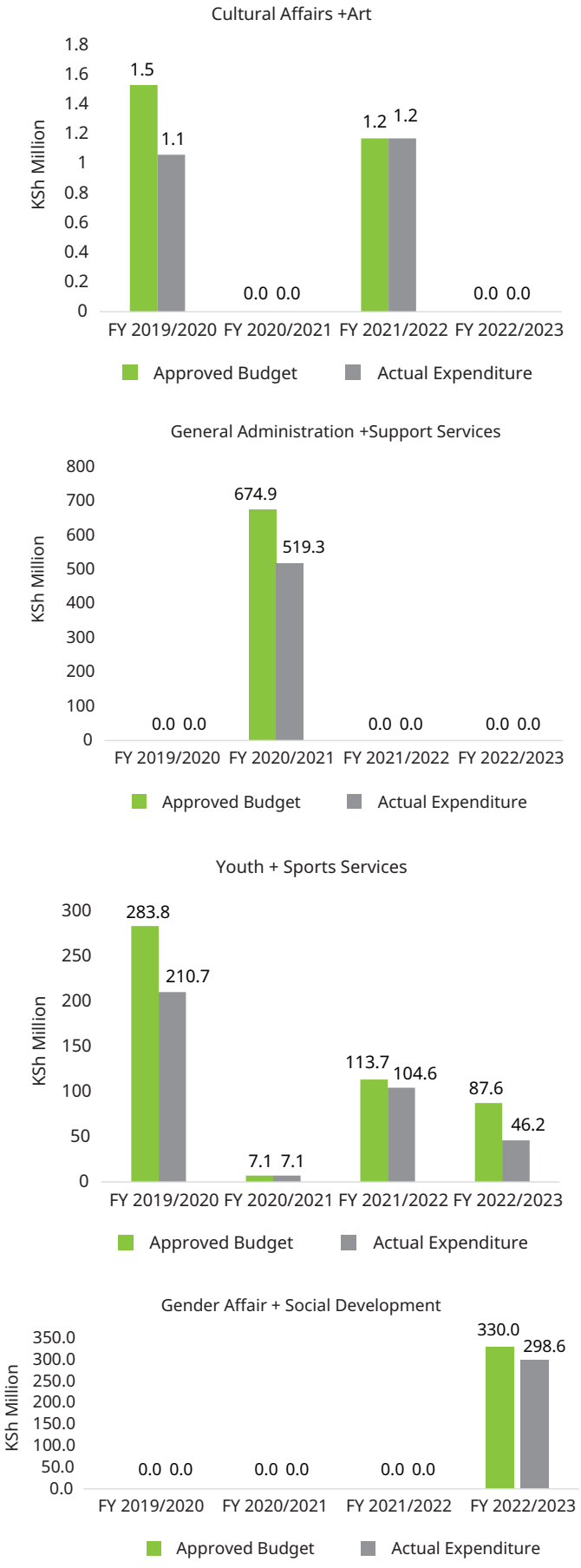


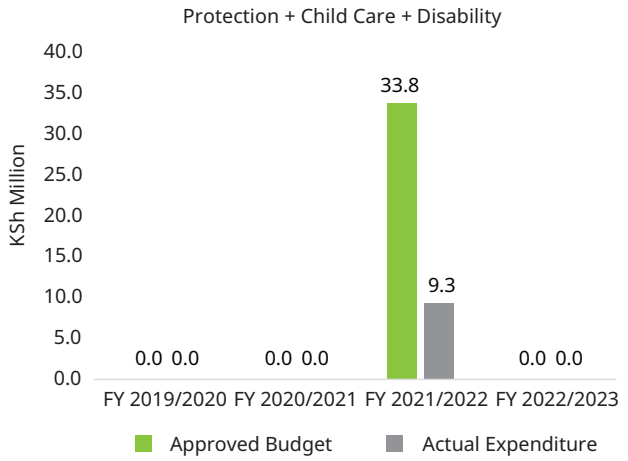
Data sources:
Office of the Controller of Budget (2019–2023). Annual Reports.

Available data shows that Gender Affairs and Social Development was only funded in FY 2022/23, with KSh 330 million approved and KSh 298.6 million absorbed (90.5 per cent), reflecting commendable efficiency. Nevertheless, the absence of prior-year funding indicates delayed attention to gender and social development needs, potentially creating service gaps for women, the elderly and marginalized groups. Protection, Child Care and Disability received minimal support, with KSh 9.3 million spent out of KSh 33.8 million approved in FY 2021/22, highlighting limited prioritization of vulnerable populations. Cultural Affairs and Special Programmes received little to no funding across the four years, indicating weak investment in identity, heritage and community resilience initiatives (figure 9).

While Siaya County demonstrates capacity in fiscal execution, the skewed allocation favoring administration over direct service delivery, combined with inconsistent support for youth, gender and vulnerable groups, may hinder comprehensive, inclusive social protection outcomes. A strategic shift toward predictable, equitable and multi-year programming for key populations is needed to translate budget execution into meaningful impact.

Figure 9: Approved Budget and Actual Expenditures across Social and Child Protection sub-sectors





Data sources:
Office of the Controller of Budget (2019–2023). *Annual Reports*.

3.5 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

3.5.1 WASH sector performance

Access to basic WASH services in Siaya County remains uneven, with notable progress in reducing open defecation but persistent gaps in sanitation, hand-washing and water service coverage. Only 20.7 per cent of the population has access to basic hand-washing facilities. Basic water services reach 48.5 per cent of residents, below the national average of 67.9 per cent. Sanitation coverage is limited to 35 per cent, compared with 40.9 per cent nationally. Open defecation affects only 6.2 per cent of the population, slightly below the national average of 7.2 per cent (table 9). These figures reflect mixed WASH performance, highlighting areas of improvement alongside ongoing public health risks.

Table 9: Siaya County Selected WASH Indicators 2022

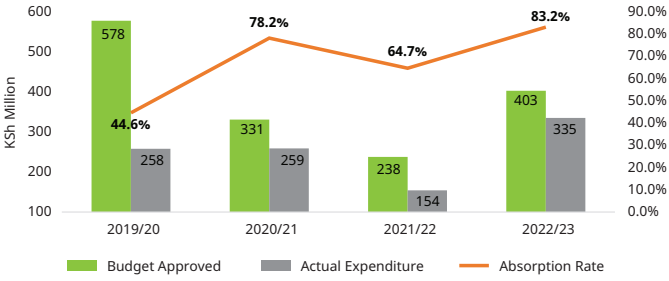
Indicators (%)	County	National
Population with access to basic sanitation services	35	40.9
Population practicing open defecation	6.2	7.2
Population with access to basic water services	48.5	67.9
Population with a basic handwashing facility	20.7	51.3

Data sources:
Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2023). Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS) 2022.

3.5.2 WASH Financial Analysis

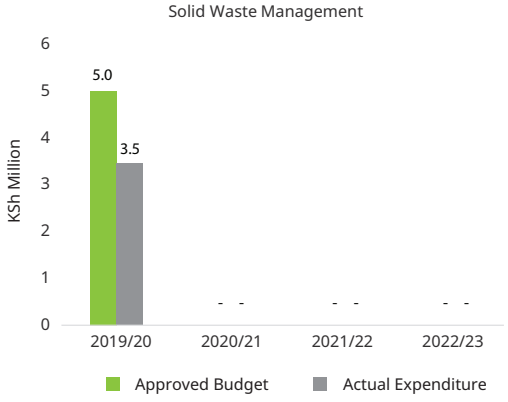
WASH budget allocations and absorption in Siaya County fluctuated over time, though imbalances in resource distribution raise concerns for sustainability of key services. The WASH approved budget declined from KSh 578 million in FY 2019/20 to KSh 403 million in FY 2022/23, indicating non-prioritization of WASH outcomes. However, actual spending rose from KSh 258 million to KSh 335 million over the same period (figure 10). Though the Water and Sanitation Management approved budget declined from KSh 532.2 million to KSh 403.0 million, actual expenditures increased from KSh 219.3 million to KSh 355.3 million during the review period, indicating steady sectoral progress. In contrast, Environmental Protection and Natural Resources experienced sharp reductions and Solid Waste Management was consistently underfunded, receiving no budget allocation over multiple fiscal years after an initial allocation of KSh 5.0 million in FY 2019/20, highlighting persistent gaps in service support (figure 11). Significant data gaps for the sub sector financing limit proper planning and budgeting, undermining service delivery.

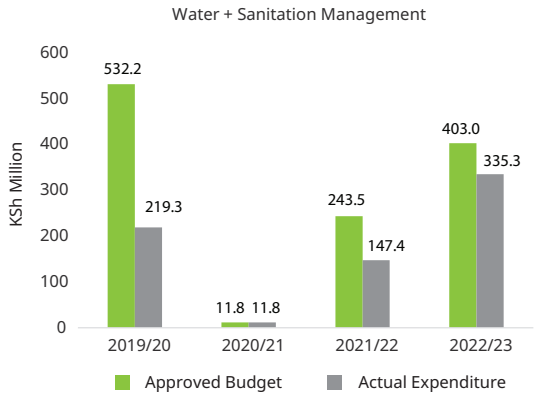
Figure 10: WASH Budget Trends and Absorption Rate, 2019/20–2022/23

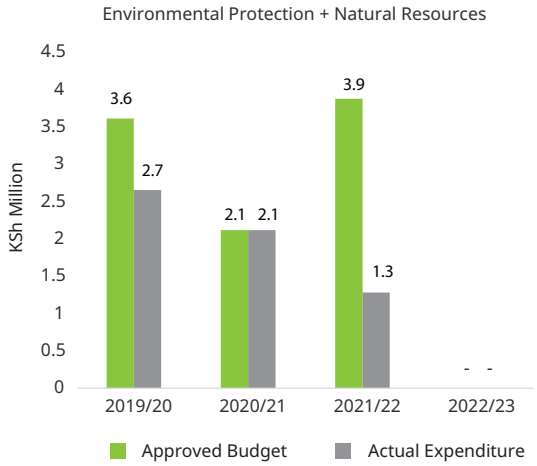


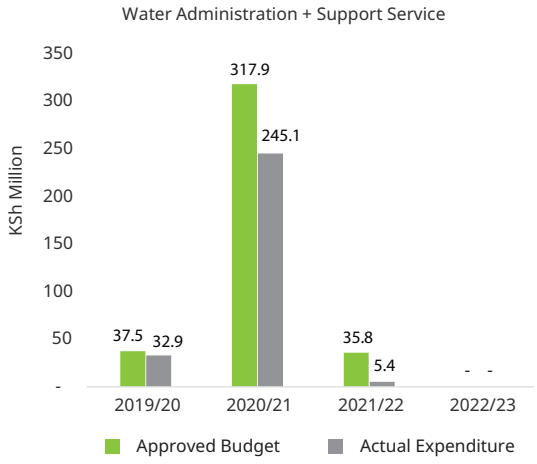
Data sources:
Office of the Controller of Budget (2019–2023). *Annual Reports.*

Figure 11: Approved Budget and Actual Expenditures across WASH sub-sectors









Data sources:
Office of the Controller of Budget (2019–2023). *Annual Reports*.

3.6 Climate Change

Siaya County shows strong institutional commitment to climate action, yet low forest cover and limited household energy access constrain climate resilience. The county allocated 2.26 per cent of its budget to climate change, above the national average of 1.28 per cent, reflecting a relatively strong domestic prioritization of climate action. A dedicated climate department was established in 2024, providing governance structures for planning and coordination.

External climate financing through Financing Locally-Led Climate Action (FLOCCA) totalled KSh 133.1 million, slightly below the national average of KSh 162.1 million (table 10).

Despite these institutional arrangements, forest cover remains critically low at 0.4 per cent, well below the national average of 8.83 per cent, indicating severe environmental degradation. Household access to clean fuels and technologies stands at 5.9–6.0 per cent, compared with 21.2–24 per cent nationally, while housing adequacy is 54 per cent, slightly below the national average of 57 per cent. These indicators suggest that, despite above-average domestic budget allocation and an emerging institutional framework, Siaya faces significant climate vulnerabilities, particularly in forest restoration, household energy access and environmental sustainability.

Table 10: Selected Climate Change Indicators 2021–2025

Indicator	County	National average
Forest cover (%)	0.4	8.83
Primary reliance on clean fuels and technologies for cooking, space heating and lighting (%)	5.9	21.2
Proportion of the population accessing adequate housing (%)	54	57
Budget allocation to climate change (%)	2.26	1.28
Primary reliance on clean fuels and technology (%)	6.0	24
FLOCCA budget (cumulative disbursements as of FY 2024/25, KSh. Million)	133.1	162.0
The county has a department (or unit) dedicated to climate change issues (1=Yes) 2024	Yes	NA

Data sources:
Kenya Demographic and Health Survey 2022
NDMA short-and long-rain assessments report
Report of the Auditor-General on financing Locally-Led Climate Action Programme, 2024
KIPPRA County Climate Change Preparedness Survey, 2024.

BOX 1: Proven Successes: Key Interventions Implemented in Siaya County; Advancing Maternal and Child Health through Expanded Immunization and Strengthened Fiscal Management in the County

Siaya County has made notable progress in enhancing maternal and child health outcomes, demonstrating steady improvements and targeted interventions despite persistent health system challenges. Between 2020 and 2023, the county recorded a substantial rise in child immunization coverage, with full immunization for children under 1 year reaching 93.1 per cent in 2023, surpassing the national average of 78.9 per cent. Measles-Rubella 1 and DPT/Hep+HiB3 vaccination rates also achieved near-universal coverage at 97.7 per cent and 93.5 per cent, respectively. These outcomes reflect Siaya's strategic focus on community mobilization, strengthened vaccine supply chains and robust outreach services.

Maternal health outcomes have similarly improved. Skilled birth attendance rose to 91.2 per cent in 2023, well above the national average of 75.5 per cent, supported by expanded access to adequately equipped health facilities, active community health volunteers and county-led awareness campaigns promoting safe deliveries. Early antenatal care (ANC 4) coverage reached 66.5 per cent, highlighting sustained efforts to ensure timely maternal interventions and continuity of care during pregnancy.

Progress has also been observed in HIV control. Prevalence declined from 14.7 per cent in 2020 to 9.8 per cent in 2023, reflecting effective prevention programmes, expanded community-based testing and consistent antiretroviral therapy (ART) coverage. These interventions have strengthened the county's capacity to manage communicable diseases and improve community health outcomes.

Siaya's achievements have been reinforced by improvements in fiscal management. Health budget absorption increased from 62.1 per cent in FY 2019/20 to 94.4 per cent in FY 2022/23, demonstrating enhanced financial planning, efficient procurement systems and better alignment of resources with service delivery priorities.

Key lessons for other counties include: prioritizing community-led immunization and maternal health programmes to increase coverage; ensuring a reliable vaccine supply chain to sustain child health gains; and reinforcing fiscal discipline to support effective and sustainable healthcare delivery. Siaya's experience illustrates how targeted investment, strategic planning and sound governance can translate into measurable and lasting health improvements for mothers and children.

Table 11: Implementation Strategy on Key Issues

Sector	Issue	Recommendation (s)	Action (Responsibility)
Health	➔ Suboptimal Measles–Rubella 2 (MR2) coverage at 60.1 per cent, exposing children to immunity gaps and outbreak risks. ➔ Fluctuating treatment coverage for diarrhoea and pneumonia, suggesting weaknesses in community-level case management and continuity of care. ➔ Persistently high adult HIV prevalence at 9.8 per cent, significantly exceeding the national average, posing a continued public health burden. ➔ Risk of slippage if fiscal planning and execution systems are not sustained.	➔ Strengthen defaulter tracing and follow-up systems to improve completion of the immunization schedule, particularly MR2. ➔ Expand community-based integrated management of childhood illnesses (iCCM) to stabilize and improve diarrhoea and pneumonia treatment coverage. ➔ Intensify combination HIV prevention strategies, including testing, linkage to care, PrEP uptake and behavioural interventions in high-burden populations. ➔ Enhance coordination between the County Treasury and Department of Health to ensure predictable fund flows.	➔ County Government of Siaya ➔ Ministry of Health ➔ UNICEF (technical assistance) ➔ County HIV/AIDS and STI Control Unit ➔ NASCOP ➔ County Treasury ➔ County Department of Health
Nutrition	➔ Stunting newly recorded at 19.2 per cent (2022), indicating undernutrition burden linked to poverty and limited dietary diversity. ➔ Wasting (1.7 per cent) and overweight (2.6 per cent) reflect double-burden malnutrition. ➔ Iron and folate supplementation for pregnant women declined sharply from 82.2 per cent (2020) to 46.7 per cent (2022), suggesting stock-outs. ➔ Underweight rates stagnant (1.3 per cent–1.6 per cent).	➔ Expand community nutrition outreach, scale up supplementary feeding and promote kitchen gardening and nutrition-sensitive agriculture. ➔ Implement integrated management of acute malnutrition (IMAM) and strengthen growth monitoring and promotion (GMP). ➔ Ensure consistent iron and folate supplement supply and strengthen stock monitoring systems. ➔ Promote balanced diets and healthy feeding practices to address both undernutrition and overweight.	➔ County Government of Siaya ➔ Ministry of Health

Sector	Issue	Recommendation (s)	Action (Responsibility)
Education	**Pre-primary** ➔ GER declined from 190.7 per cent (2019) to 117.6 per cent (2023), indicating reduction in over-age and under-age enrolment but still low NER at 73.2 per cent. ➔ Average school size reduced from 87 to 56 learners, reflecting better distribution. ➔ Acute teacher shortage, with learner–teacher ratio rising to 73:1, far above the 25:1 norm; private centres maintained 23:1. ➔ Significant gender imbalance, with GPI increasing from 0.91 to 1.50, favouring girls. ➔ Budget absorption highly variable: 73.4 per cent (FY 2019/20) to 50.7 per cent (FY 2022/23), showing underutilization in later years. **Primary** ➔ GER fluctuated from 115.0 per cent to 131.1 per cent before settling at 113.9 per cent (2023); NER unavailable, limiting assessment of age-appropriate participation. ➔ Number of public primary schools increased slightly from 851 to 882, while average school size declined from 388 to 256 learners, indicating improved learning conditions. ➔ High learner–teacher ratio of 41:1 remains a concern. ➔ Gender parity nearly maintained, with GPI at 0.98. ➔ Budget absorption inconsistent across years, affecting resource availability.	**Pre-primary** ➔ Rapid recruitment of pre-primary teachers to reduce extreme ratios. ➔ Implement programmes to support boys' enrolment and close gender gaps. ➔ Strengthen community-level outreach to improve age-appropriate participation. ➔ Align budget execution to planned activities to enhance efficiency. **Primary** ➔ Maintain school expansion and improve teacher recruitment to reduce ratios. ➔ Enhance data collection on NER to guide targeted interventions. ➔ Strengthen gender-inclusive strategies and ensure equitable resource distribution. ➔ Improve planning and execution of budgets to support staffing and learning materials.	➔ County Government of Siaya ➔ National Government ➔ Ministry of Education

Sector	Issue	Recommendation (s)	Action (Responsibility)
	Secondary ➔ GER rose from 87.9 per cent (2019) to 129.5 per cent (2023), indicating increased participation including over-age learners. ➔ Public school average size increased from 378 to 537 learners, while private school size expanded from 54 to 269, showing growing demand. ➔ Learner–teacher ratio improved from 38:1 to 32:1, within acceptable standards. ➔ GPI at 1.05, showing gender balance with slight female advantage. ➔ Budget absorption fluctuated widely: 100 per cent in FY 2020/21 but only 50.7 per cent in FY 2022/23, affecting planned interventions.	**Secondary** ➔ Expand secondary school infrastructure to meet rising demand. ➔ Sustain teacher deployment to maintain manageable class sizes. ➔ Continue gender-sensitive programming to ensure equitable access. ➔ Stabilize financial planning and absorption to support expansion and quality improvement initiatives.	
Social protection	➔ Strong elderly support but uneven coverage across other groups. ➔ Low access to assistive devices (0.1 per cent vs. 0.9 per cent nationally). ➔ Very low disability registration (1,327 of 35,439). ➔ Weak school feeding and food aid coverage. ➔ Financial imbalance: excessive spending on administration (up to 99 per cent of expenditure in FY 2020/21). ➔ Declining expenditure on Youth and Sports Services despite consistent allocations. ➔ Very limited funding for Protection, Child Care & Disability; delayed funding for Gender Affairs.	➔ Improve disability registration outreach and expand assistive device provision. ➔ Strengthen school feeding and food aid targeting to reach vulnerable households. ➔ Rebalance budget allocations by reducing administrative-heavy spending. ➔ Increase and stabilize funding for disability, child care, gender, and special programmes. ➔ Strengthen implementation capacity to fully utilize Youth & Sports budgets for youth development.	➔ County Dept. of Social Services ➔ State Dept. for Social Protection ➔ NCPWD ➔ CBOs & NGOs ➔ Development partners (UNICEF, WFP, UN Women) ➔ Youth-focused organizations

Sector	Issue	Recommendation (s)	Action (Responsibility)
Child protection	➔ High cases of child neglect, emotional abuse, physical abuse and abandonment. ➔ Persistent parental and non-parental child abduction (147 and 47 cases in 2023). ➔ Teenage pregnancy at 20.9 per cent (above national average). ➔ Rising physical abuse cases (202 in 2023). ➔ Minimal but recurring cases of sexual exploitation and trafficking. ➔ Increased institutionalisation (35 children in CCIs in 2023). ➔ Weak funding for Protection, Child Care & Disability; gender and child programmes only recently funded.	➔ Strengthen community child protection systems and case reporting mechanisms. ➔ Scale up adolescent reproductive health services to reduce teen pregnancies. ➔ Expand parenting support, family-based care and early intervention programmes to reduce CCI admissions. ➔ Increase predictable funding for child protection, rescue services and psychosocial support. ➔ Enhance school and community-based awareness on child abuse prevention.	➔ County Children's Department ➔ NCCS & AACs ➔ Ministry of Health (Adolescent Health Unit) ➔ NGOs (Save the Children, Plan International, World Vision) ➔ Faith-based organizations ➔ Community structures & local leaders
Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)	➔ Low water service access (48.5 per cent) and below national average. ➔ Limited sanitation coverage (35 per cent) and low hand-washing facility access (20.7 per cent). ➔ Neglected solid waste management and declining environmental protection funding.	➔ Expand water supply infrastructure and improve equitable access. ➔ Strengthen sanitation programmes and hand-washing promotion campaigns. ➔ Allocate resources for solid waste management and ensure consistent funding for environmental protection.	➔ Siaya County Department of Health ➔ County Water and Sanitation Directorate ➔ Community Health Volunteers / NGOs ➔ COB

Sector	Issue	Recommendation (s)	Action (Responsibility)
Cross cutting (poverty and county economy)	➔ Siaya's overall poverty rate (38 per cent) exceeds the national average (36.1 per cent), while its extreme poverty rate (7.1 per cent) is comparable to the national rate (7.1 per cent), indicating moderate income challenges compounded by HIV/AIDS burden and limited economic diversification. ➔ High HIV/AIDS prevalence, dependency on subsistence agriculture and fishing, limited industrialization and high out-migration constrain economic growth and poverty reduction. ➔ Child poverty, HIV/AIDS impacts on families, and limited access to quality services threaten human capital development.	➔ Expand poverty reduction programmes targeting rural farming and fishing communities most affected by income volatility. ➔ Strengthen social protection for HIV/AIDS-affected households and vulnerable groups. ➔ Massively scale up HIV/AIDS treatment, prevention and economic support programmes to reduce disease burden. ➔ Promote agricultural diversification including rice, horticulture and livestock value chains. ➔ Support fishing communities with sustainable fisheries management, value addition and market access. ➔ Expand youth employment through skills training and entrepreneurship in agro-processing, trade and services. ➔ Leverage diaspora networks for investment and skills transfer. ➔ Develop industrial parks to create local employment opportunities. ➔ Strengthen child-focused interventions; school feeding, healthcare, nutrition and ECD programmes. ➔ Expand support services for AIDS orphans and vulnerable children. ➔ Integrate child poverty reduction and HIV/AIDS mitigation in health, education and social protection planning.	➔ County Government of Siaya ➔ Ministry of Health ➔ Ministry of Education ➔ Ministry of Labour and Social Protection ➔ National Treasury and Economic Planning ➔ Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure ➔ Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development ➔ Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife ➔ Ministry of Health ➔ Ministry of Education

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