

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



County Government of Wajir

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BRIEF

This brief provides an analysis on how the County Government of **Wajir** 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, social and child protection services, 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) **An estimated 58 per cent of the Gross County Product (GCP)¹ of Wajir is derived from agriculture (mainly livestock keeping) while services sub-sectors accounted for 37 per cent and industries accounted for 9 per cent of GCP as at 2017.** However, agricultural productivity is vulnerable to weather shocks resulting in unpredictable economic growth trends. Moving forward, the county needs to promote adoption of climate-smart farming techniques and agro pastoralism and promote diversification of the agriculture sector to include drought tolerant and adaptive crops. The county needs to invest in irrigation systems and enhance access to agriculture markets to enhance the productivity of the agriculture sector.
- b) **The county's own source revenue increased from Ksh 61 million in 2013/14 to Ksh 107.7 million in 2014/15 but persistently declined to Ksh 67.6 million in 2017/18.** Own source revenue as a share of the total revenue fell from 1.7 per cent in 2014/15 to 1.1 per cent in 2017/18. Overall, total county revenue increased from Ksh 5.7 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 9.8 billion in 2017/18 mainly because of transfers from the national government. To improve the share of its own source revenue, the county should strengthen measures for tax collection and management.
- c) **The budget for health increased from Ksh 1.26 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 1.95 billion in 2017/18, contributing to the improvement in maternal and child health outcomes over the review period.** The number of women who had access to skilled delivery increased from 28 per cent in 2014 to 48.7 per cent in 2018 while the proportion of immunized children increased from 49.8 per cent to 62 per cent. The county should prioritize investments that foster reduction of maternal and under-5 mortality rates which remain significantly higher than the national averages.
- d) **The budget for Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) increased from Ksh 304 million in 2014/15 to Ksh 819 million in 2017/18.** Partly because of increased spending on ECDE, gross ECDE enrolment rate increased from 12.3 per cent in 2014 to 37.1 per cent in 2018 while net enrolment rate (NER) increased from 5.1 per cent to 8.5 per cent during the same period. The county needs to increase ECDE budget allocation to address the shortage of staff and inadequacy of ECDE facilities. The county needs to adopt interventions addressing barriers limiting the enrolment of girls in ECDE centres.
- e) **The county allocation for water and sanitation increased from Ksh 1.12 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 1.72 billion in 2017/18.** However, more than 50 per cent and 90 per cent of the population lacks access to improved water and sanitation, respectively. Increasing WASH financing, national and county government adherence to disbursement schedules and strengthening procurement systems is pivotal in realizing increased access to water and sanitation services.
- f) **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 children, women and girls.

- g) The county budget for nutrition (direct nutrition interventions) in nominal terms increased from Ksh 1 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 281 billion in 2017/18.** The county needs to ensure that direct nutrition interventions, across several sectors such as agriculture, education and health are budgeted for, with visible budget lines. Moreover, nutrition should be well articulated in the County Integrated Development Plans. Such interventions would enable reduction of the 26 per cent proportion of stunted children in the county.
- h) The budget execution rate for most social sector budgets, especially health, water and sanitation, was low.** For instance, budget execution rates for water and sanitation declined from 98 per cent in 2014/15 to 34 per cent in 2017/18. The low budget execution rate was as a result of delays in disbursement by the National Treasury, and weak procurement and cash flow planning by the county. To improve budget utilization rates, there is need for the National Treasury to adhere to disbursement schedules by releasing resources on time. On its part, the county should strengthen procurement systems and improve cash flow forecasting.
- i) Due to limited disaggregation of data in expenditure reports, it was not possible to establish how much of the county government budget was spent on crucial social services such as child protection, youth development, disability and gender mainstreaming.** By having standalone budget lines on the above, the county is better placed to effectively deliver the above-mentioned services, especially to women and girls. On child protection, for example, the county had extremely few cases of child abuse report and no cases of FGM, most likely because the culture condones such practices and hence no reporting. There is no specific budget line for this and this may also be a factor. The same also applies to gender-based violence which has increased in recent years .

1. COUNTY OVERVIEW

Wajir is the third largest county in Kenya but with a relatively sparse population compared to other counties. The county occupies a land area of approximately 59,686 km² and is divided into 6 sub-counties and 30 wards. According to the 2019 census, the county's population was 781,263 (female 365,840, male 415,374 and intersex 49) representing 1.64 per cent of the national population.

In 2016, the overall poverty rate of the county was 63.0 per cent with 10.5 per cent of the population living in extreme poverty, which is higher than the overall national rates of 36.1 and 8.6 per cent, respectively. Among children, six in every 10 were affected by monetary poverty or lack of financial means². Additionally, 61.3 per cent of youth and 74 per cent of women were affected by monetary poverty. Moreover, 87.5 per cent of children were living in multidimensional poverty; that is, deprived in multiple dimensions including nutrition, healthcare, education, housing and drinking water.³ The proportion of youth and women in multidimensional poverty were 84.5 per cent and 95.8 per cent, respectively. The overall high rates of poverty among children, youth and women means that planning and budgeting processes should better consider human capital sectors, so that the county can maximize on the productive and innovative potential of its future workforce and initiate a fast and sustainable growth trajectory (Table 1).

Table 1: Wajir county administrative, poverty and demographic profile

Administrative Profile							Latest Available
Area (km ²)							59,686
Number of sub-counties							6
Number of wards							30
Overall poverty (%)							63.0
Extreme poverty (%)							10.5
Population (2019)							781,263
Group	Children	National Children	Youths	National Youths	Wo/men	National Wo/men	
Monetary Poor							
Male (%)	65.3	42.1	70.4	29.1	57.0	30.5	
Female (%)	58.2	41.0	53.7	28.8	74.0	34.1	
Total (%)	62.0	41.6	61.3	28.9	65.1	32.4	
Population	220,106	20,742,290	133,168	13,443,268	80,170	7,847,350	
Multidimensionally Poor							
Male (%)	87.4	49.3	77.8	44.7	92.4	51.0	
Female (%)	87.6	47.1	90.0	49.4	95.8	60.8	
Total (%)	87.5	48.2	84.5	47.1	94.5	56.1	
Population	220,106	20,742,290	133,168	13,443,268	80,170	7,847,350	

Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, (various)

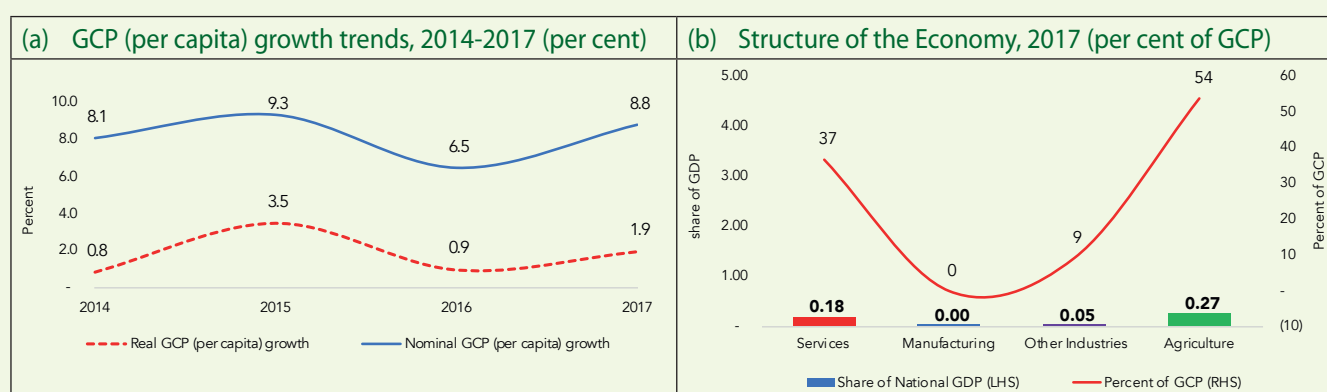
2. STATE OF COUNTY ECONOMY

2.1 Gross County Product Growth

Wajir county accounted for 0.5 per cent of the national GDP in 2017. Its Gross County Product (GCP) per capita growth rate fluctuated between a maximum of 3.5 per cent recorded in 2015 and a minimum of 0.8 per cent recorded in 2014 (Figure 1a). The downturn of the growth rate in 2016 was largely attributable to the prolonged drought followed by floods.

The economy remains heavily reliant on agriculture, which accounts for 54 per cent of GCP as at 2017 (Figure 1b). The services sub-sectors accounted for 37 per cent while industries accounted for 9 per cent of GCP. Moving forward, the county needs to promote adoption of climate-smart farming techniques and agro-pastoralism, invest in irrigation systems and enhance access to agriculture markets to enhance the productivity of the agriculture sector. To increase agricultural productivity and the participation of women and youth within the sector, the county should put in place mechanisms to address land access barriers, reduce the cost of farming, enhance the marketing of agricultural produce, and promote agricultural value chains.

Figure 1: Wajir County gross county product and economic structure, 2014-2017

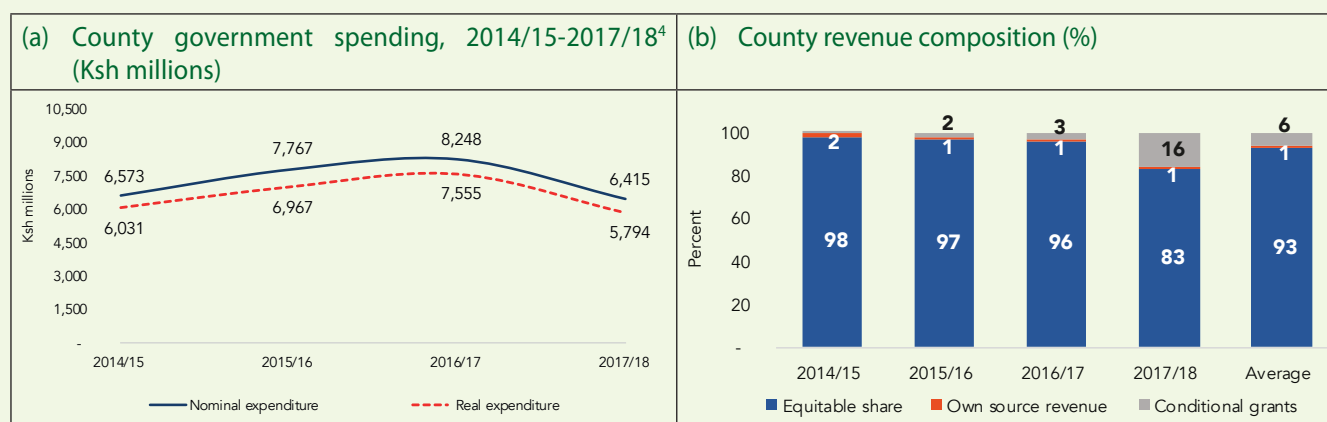


Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2019)

2.2 Overall Budget Performance

The county government annual spending in real terms increased from Ksh 6.03 billion to Ksh 7.56 billion between 2014/15 and 2016/17, before a moderate cut to Ksh 5.794 billion in 2017/18 (Figure 2a). This spending is largely financed by national government transfers accounting for 93.5 per cent while own source revenue contributes 1.1 per cent of the county revenue (Figure 2b). In nominal terms, own source revenue increased from Ksh 61 million in 2014/15 to Ksh 108 million in 2014/15, after which it declined persistently to a lowest of Ksh 68 million in 2017/18. The equitable share transfer increased from Ksh 5.30 billion to Ksh 8.14 billion during the same period. The burden of the drop in the county government spending predominantly affects social sector spending, which are recurrent in nature. There is need for enhanced fiscal efforts to accelerate revenue mobilization from both local revenue and conditional grants.

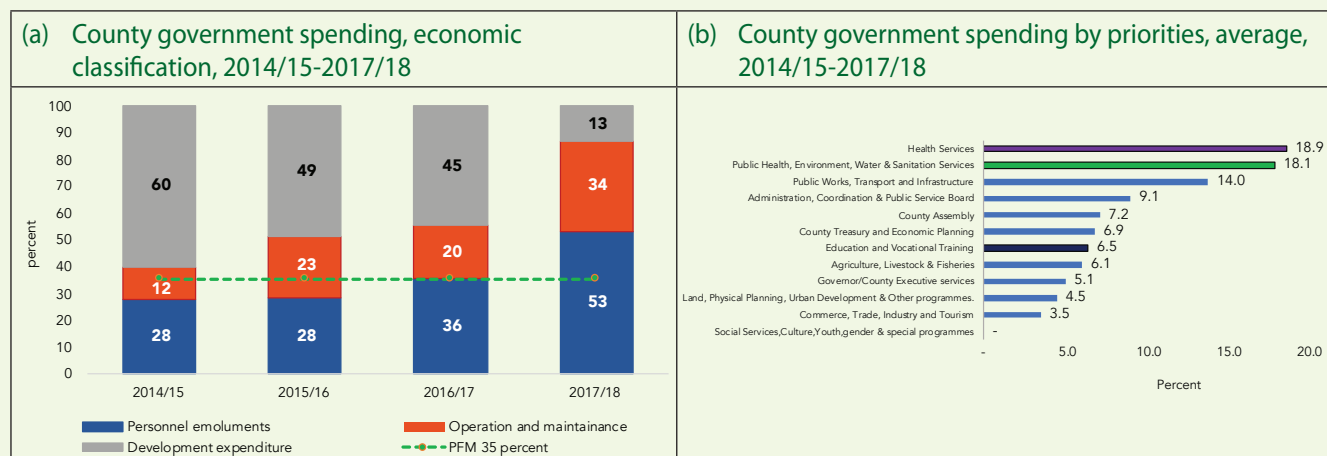
Figure 2: Wajir County revenue and expenditure trends, 2014/15-2017/18



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

The development share of the total budget steadily declined from 60 per cent in 2014/15 to 13 per cent in 2017/18. The county expenditure on wage and operation and maintenance dominates spending constituting 36 per cent and 22 per cent of the total spending, respectively. This leaves 42 per cent of the county income available for development, which compromises the county long-term objectives including infrastructure development (Figure 3a). This indicates that the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act, 2012 provision that caps development spending at a minimum of 30 per cent of total budget was violated in 2017/18 and Regulations 2015 which require that not more than 35 per cent of the county's total revenue should go to payment of wages and salaries was not met in actual spending in 2016/17 and 2017/18.

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



Source: Office of the Controller of Budget (Various) reports, 2014/15-2017/18

The county spent over 49.6 per cent of total expenditure during the period under review on health, education, agriculture, nutrition, social protection, youth, gender, water and sanitation. These sectors are regarded as being more sensitive to the needs of children, youth and women. The effect of this expenditure on the various programmes and activities vary across sectors.

3. ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL SECTOR SPENDING

3.1 Health

3.1.1 Health sector priorities

During the period under review, the county outlined key priorities that targeted children, youth, women and persons with disability. The county invested in increasing the human resource capacity, reducing the doctor/population ratio, maternal health, emergency rescue and evacuation services, reducing infant mortality and reducing malnutrition. Other cross cutting priorities include upgrading infrastructure; enhancing county health governance structures; revitalizing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Health Management Information System; implementing the environmental health programme; elimination of communicable diseases; and halting and reversing the burden of non-communicable conditions, which have been rising.

The number of women who had access to skilled delivery increased from 28.0 per cent in 2014 to 43.7 per cent in 2018 due to introduction of free maternity services in 2013. The share of fully immunized children in the county increased from 49.8 per cent in 2014 to 62.0 per cent in 2018. Under 5 mortality rate was estimated at 158 deaths per 1000 live births in 2016, which is double the than the national average of 79 deaths per 1000 live births.

3.1.2 Health Budget and Expenditure

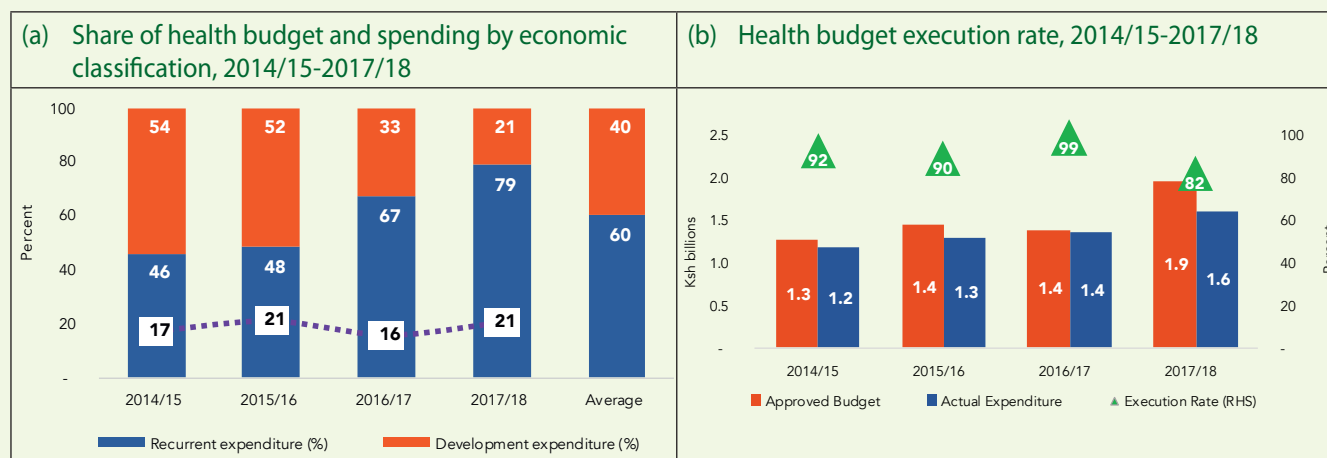
The share of health budget as a proportion of total county budget allocation increased from 17 per cent in 2014/15 to 21 per cent in 2017/18. Health actual expenditure expanded from about Ksh 1.2 billion to Ksh 1.6 billion comprising of 60 per cent recurrent and 40 per cent development (Figure 4a). The absorption rate declined from 92 per cent in 2014/15 to 82 per cent in 2017/18 and recorded a highest absorption rate or 99 per cent in 2016/17. The decline is attributable to failure by the exchequer to release the full amount approved in the health budget.

Table 2: Wajir 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	-	-	-	-	158.0	79.0	-	-	-	-
MMR (death per 100,000 live births) 2016 Estimate	-	-	-	-	1,683.0	495.0	-	-	-	-
Skilled birth attendant coverage (%) (source: DHIS2)	28.0	53.5	37.0	56.9	44.7	59.3	41.6	53.0	43.7	64.9
Proportion of pregnant women who attended at least one ANC visit during pregnancy (%) (Source: DHIS2)	36.9	76.4	50.7	75.4	54.7	76.9	49.2	73.7	64.1	81.9
Proportion of pregnant women who attended at least four ANC visit during pregnancy (%) (Source: DHIS2)	11.9	35.9	18.8	39.7	25.2	39.8	25.0	32.6	33.1	48.7
Proportion of children under one year who are fully immunized (%) (Source: DHIS2)	49.8	70.2	59.8	75.7	54.7	72.4	48.9	65.9	62.0	77.0
DPT/Hep+HiB3 dropout rate (%) (Source: DHIS2)	12.3	6.8	10.8	7.2	13.4	6.6	15.3	10.1	11.2	4.0
Still Birth Rate (%) (Source: DHIS2)	16.6	29.3	14.0	22.6	20.2	21.5	23.3	22.6	20.9	20.4

Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2014), KDHS 2014,2018

Figure 4: Wajir county health spending trends, 2014/15-2017/18



Source: Office of the Controller of Budget (Various) reports, 2014/15-2017/18

3.1.3 Health sector medium term expectations

The county aims to continue investing in health, especially in child and maternal health by prioritizing quality health infrastructure and human resources in all sub-counties. The county also aims to prioritize investing in reproductive health information especially for the youth and undertake awareness campaigns on the importance of healthy practices. It also aims to continue to invest in provision of quality health services by employment of more health service providers, construction of more health facilities and equipping them.

The county will need to address various challenges during the next medium term. These include: limited access to medical and psychosocial support for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV); limited access to sexual and reproductive health services; long procurement processes; delays by the treasury in releasing funding to the sector; pending bills affecting the overall sector absorption rate; and low immunization rates attributable to lack of cold chains for vaccines in rural facilities.

3.2 Education and Vocational Training

3.2.1 Education sector priorities

The county governments are responsible for Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE) and youth polytechnics which are part of Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) as per Schedule IV of the Constitution of Kenya 2010. During the plan period 2013-2017, the county education sector focused on enhancing

the quality and access to ECDE, youth polytechnics and the bursary award programme for secondary, TVETs and tertiary education.

Gross ECDE enrolment rate increased from 12.3 per cent in 2014 to 37.1 per cent in 2018 while net enrolment rate (NER) increased from 5.1 per cent to 8.5 per cent during the same period. This was generally significantly lower than national averages of 78.4 per cent for gross enrolment rates and 77.2 per cent net enrolment rate in 2018, respectively, indicating that a substantial population of children of school going age are out of school. More boys are enrolled in ECDE than girls in Wajir County with a gender parity index of 0.4 below the national index of 1.0.

Gross primary and secondary enrolment rates stood at 75.8 per cent and 42.8 per cent in 2018, respectively, which were below the national averages of 107.2 per cent gross primary school enrolment rates and 66.2 per cent gross secondary enrolment rates. Net enrolment rate (NER) increased from 34.6 per cent in 2014 to 53.1 per cent in 2018 for primary school and from 7.2 per cent to 20.3 per cent for secondary school during the same period. While the county realized a gender parity index of 1 for primary school enrolment, there is a pronounced gender parity in secondary school. There is inequality in access to primary education between male and female school-going children in favour of boys as shown in Table 3.

Overall, the pupil teacher ratio improved for pre-primary and primary school level but declined for secondary school level. The pupil teacher ratio remained above the national average for the primary and secondary school level, but below the national average for ECDE level. In 2018, ECDE pupil teacher ratio was 1:29 (national, 1:31), primary pupil teacher ratio was 1:56 (national 1:40) and secondary pupil teacher ratio was 1:29 (national, 1:32). The improved ration is an indicator of improved quality of education at the county.

The county has 8 vocational training centres with 29 tutors and 197 enrolled learners (128 female and 69 male learners). The VTC have a 10:1 learner to equipment ration and recorded a 90 per cent completion rate.

Table 3: Wajir county selected education sector performance indicators

Pre-primary School	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
Gross enrolment ratio (%)	12.3	73.6	37.1	94.4
Net enrolment ratio (%)	5.1	71.8	8.5	63.5
Male (%)	5.2	73.4	10.5	62.5
Female (%)	5.0	70.2	4.9	65.0
School size (Public) (Pupils) (Average)	76.0	75.0	86.0	85.0
Gender parity index (value)	0.8	1.0	-	-
Pupil-teacher ratio (No.) (Public)	54.0	31.0	29.0	31.0
Proportion of enrolment in private schools (%)	15.2	31.5	13.0	33.0
Primary School	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
Gross enrolment ratio (%)	51.0	104.0	75.8	107.2
Net enrolment ratio (%)	34.6	88.0	53.1	82.4
Male (%)	35.9	86.0	53.0	81.7
Female (%)	32.9	90.0	53.2	83.0
School size (Public) Average No. of pupils	287.0	338.0	303.0	375.0
Gender parity index (Value)	0.7	1.0	-	-
Pupil-teacher ratio (No.)	66.0	42.0	56.0	40.0
Proportion of enrolment in private schools (%)	11.0	16.0	8.0	16.0
Secondary School	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
Gross enrolment ratio (%)	8.3	58.7	42.8	66.2
Net enrolment ratio (%)	7.2	47.4	20.3	37.5
Male (%)	7.5	49.6	16.9	35.4
Female (%)	6.8	45.2	25.3	39.8
School size (Public)	-	-	331.7	392.0
Gender parity index (value)	0.4	0.9	-	-
Pupil-teacher ratio (No.) (TSC)	22.0	30.0	29.0	32.0
Pupil-teacher ratio (No.) (TSC and BOM)	20.3	20.2	22.0	20.0
Proportion of enrolment in private schools (%)	22.2	30.7	6.6	5.8

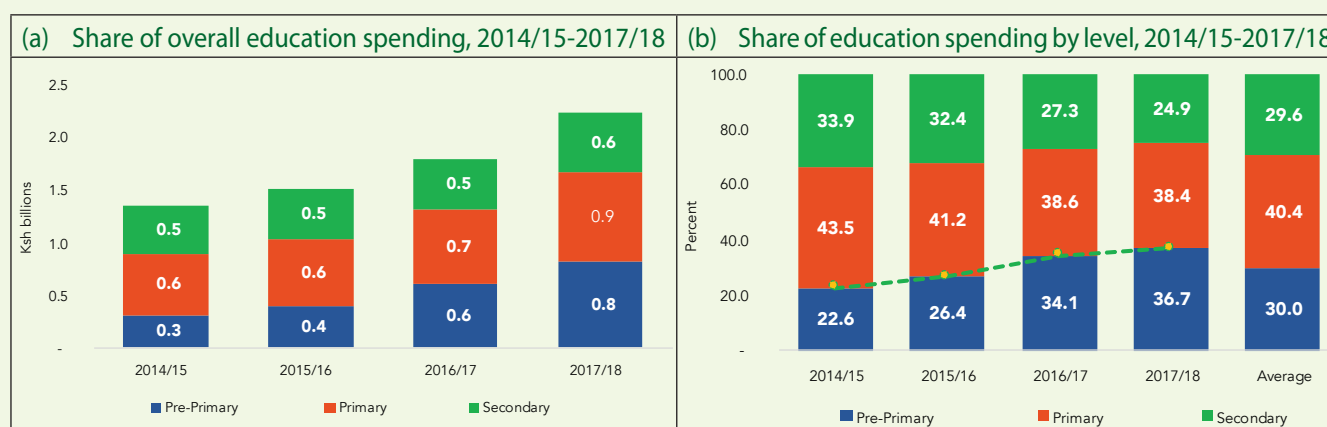
Source: Education statistical booklets, 2014-2018

3.2.2 Education and vocational training budget and expenditure

The share of ECDE spending in the county increased from Ksh 304 million in 2014/15 to Ksh 819 million in 2017/18. The share of ECDE spending as a proportion of total education spending was on average 30 per cent during the period.

Spending on primary and secondary education increased from Ksh 600 million in 2014/15 to Ksh 8 million in 2017/18 and Ksh 500 million in 2014/15 to Ksh 600 million in 2017/18, respectively (Figure 5a).

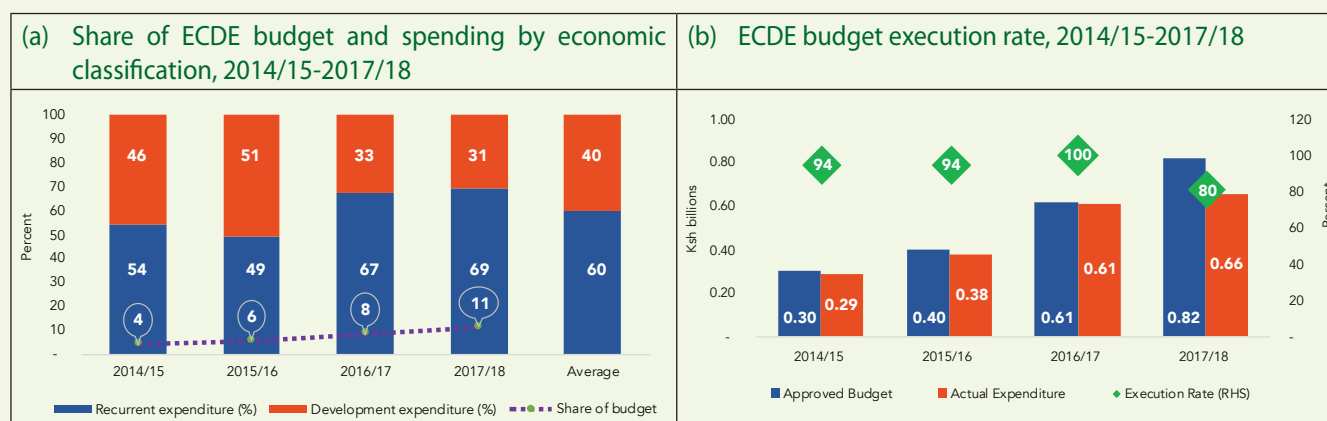
Figure 5: Wajir County overall education spending trends, 2014/15-2017/18



Source: National Treasury (Various), IFMIS

The share of ECDE budget in the total county budget allocation averaged 7 per cent over the review period, comprising of, on average, 40 per cent development and 60 per cent recurrent expenditure (Figure 6a). The absorption rate increased from 94 per cent in 2015/16 to 100 per cent in 2016/17 before declining to 80 per cent in 2017/18.

Figure 6: Wajir County ECDE spending trends, 2014/15-2017/18



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

3.2.3 Education sector medium term expectations

Financial constraints, shortage of staff, and inadequate working tools and equipment remain a major challenge for both ECDE centres and vocation training institutions. The county government with support from stakeholders aims to continue to invest in early childhood development through infrastructural development, employment of ECDE teachers, resource mobilization, and provision of bursaries for poor and needy children. For vocation training institutions, the county seeks to increase capitation funds for vocational and technical centres, revitalize existing vocational centres, increase the number of trainers and enhance their capacity, increase enrolment in vocational training, and expand the technical and vocational curriculum to suit the prevailing market needs.

3.3 Water and Sanitation

3.3.1 Water and sanitation priorities

The County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2013-2017 outlined key priorities for both the water and sanitation sub-sectors. The priorities include increased strategic access to adequate water for both domestic and industrial use, integrating technology in water resource management, improved sanitation system and enhanced preparedness to water-related disaster management. Additionally, the sector prioritized 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 was estimated at 45 per cent of the population against the national average of 72.6 per cent. More than 50 per cent and 90 per cent of the population lacks access to improved water and sanitation, respectively.

The county population within service areas of WSPs was at 2 per cent of the population. While the proportion with potential of open defecation declined from 77 per cent in 2014 to 51 per cent in 2018, the county has a significantly high population without a toilet facility, constraining the county's target of reducing the burden of communicable diseases.

Table 4: Wajir county selected WASH sector performance indicators

Indicators	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
County population within service areas of WSPs (%)	n.d.	*	2	*
Water coverage by utilities (%)	n.d.	53	n.d.	*
Non-revenue water (NRW) (%)	n.d.	42	n.d.	*
Sanitation coverage within utility area (%)	n.d.	69	-	*
Sewerage coverage (%)	-	*	n.d.	*
Access to improved water (%)	45	*	45	*
Access to improved sanitation (%)	6	*	6	59
No toilet facility – Potential open defecation county-wide (%)	77	*	51	8

Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2014), KDHS 2014; CIDP 2018

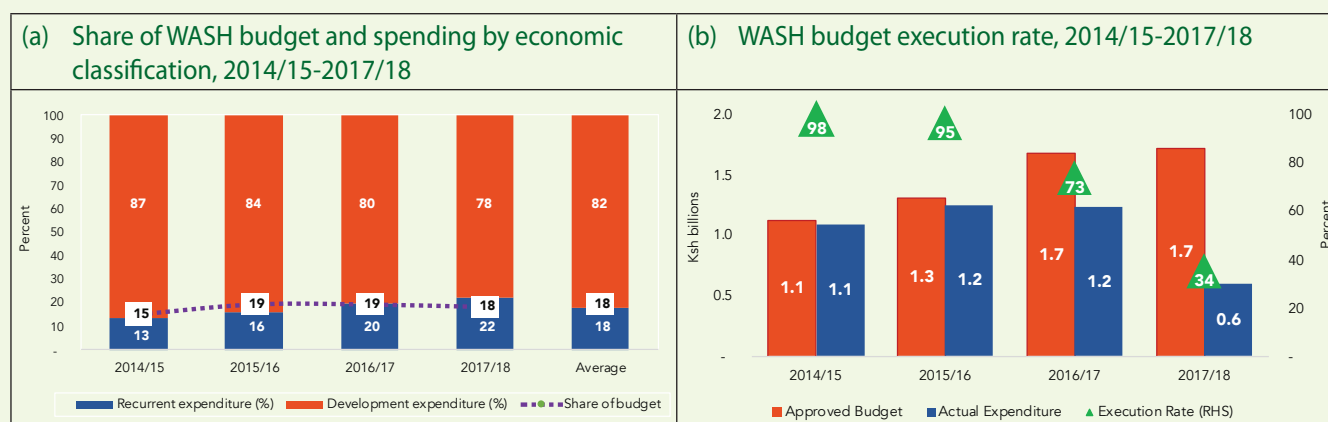
*Data not available

3.3.2 Water and sanitation budget and expenditure

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

Total spending on water and sanitation increased from Ksh 1.12 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 1.72 billion in 2017/18, consisting on average 18 per cent recurrent and 82 per cent development. However, the absorption rate declined from 98 per cent in 2014/15 to 34 per cent in 2017/18. This was attributed to failure by the exchequer to release the entire approved budget amount on time.

Figure 7: Wajir County water and sanitation spending trends, 2014/15-2017/18



Source: Office of the Controller of Budget (Various) reports, 2014/15-2017/18

3.3.3 Water and sanitation sector medium term expectations

Low access rates to improved water and sanitation remains a major challenge for the sector. The county grapples with limited modern equipment for hydrogeological survey and inadequate sewer infrastructure. In the plan period of 2018-2022, the county aims to increase sewer connectivity, de-fluoridate water and enforce water quality standards. The county also intends to construct and rehabilitate new and existing water projects. In addition, partnerships with the private sector will be strengthened.

3.4 Child Protection, Youth, Gender, and Culture

3.4.1 County priorities

The County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2013-2017 highlighted key priorities for the development of children, young people, people with disabilities and women. The county sought to increase the number of women engaging in income generating activities by providing startup capital and providing employment opportunities for youth and women. The county also targeted to build the capacity of youth development officers and construct additional youth empowerment centres in all sub-counties.

Specifically, on social child protection, the county recorded 1 case of child sexual abuse in 2014 and 13 cases of child emotional abuse in 2018. The county did not report any case of female genital mutilation (FGM). The low/non-reporting of FGM to government institutions can be attributed to either the intensive campaigns and initiatives to protect the girl child, or fear by the population to report such cases, and culture that approved such practices.

Table 5: Wajir County selected child protection performance indicators (No. of reported cases)

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

Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2014), KDHS 2014; CIDP 2018

3.4.2 Social Protection Budget and Expenditure

The county did not have a direct budget line for child protection, youth and women over the period under review.

3.4.3 Child protection, youth and women medium term expectation

Between the plan period 2018 and 2022, the county aims to provide care, support and build capacities of individuals, vulnerable groups and communities including youth, women and PWDs 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 programmes to avoid duplication of the activities while ensuring that the available resources are focused to the relevant beneficiaries.

3.5 Nutrition

3.5.1 Nutrition priorities

The CIDP 2013-2017 outlined key areas of focus in the nutrition sector. The county sought to undertake promotion of nutrition education and improve nutritional status of households to eliminate malnutrition cases.

The county nutrition indicators were relatively low according to 2014 data. Stunting stood at 26.4 per cent of the population with wasting and underweight children standing at 14.2 per cent and 21.1 per cent, respectively (Table 6). Vitamin A supplementation among children aged 6 to 59 months was 58.5 per cent in 2014 compared to the national average of 71.4 per cent. Moreover, Vitamin A supplement coverage was recorded at 31.3 per cent against the national coverage of 24 per cent in the same year..

The proportion of overweight or obese women in the county stood at 25.0 per cent, lower than the national average of 28.9 per cent. The average Body Mass Index (BMI)⁵ of women in the county was 22.2.

Table 6: Selected nutrition performance indicators

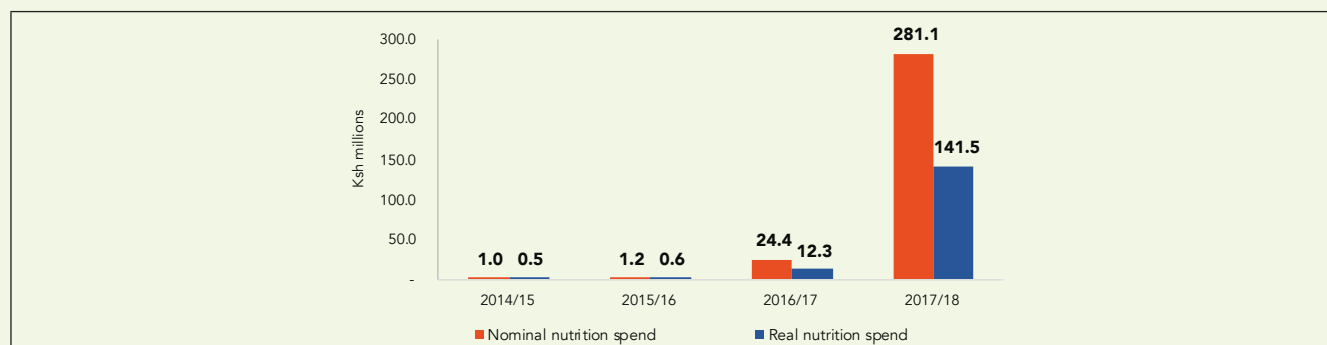
Indicators	2014-County	2014-National
Stunted children (%)	26.4	26.0
Wasted children (%)	14.2	4.0
Underweight children (%)	21.1	11.0
Vitamin A supplements coverage	31.3	24.0
Proportion of children aged 6 to 59 months- Received Vitamin A supplement	58.5	71.4
Proportion of children consuming adequately iodized salt	98.7	99.1
Proportion of households consuming adequately iodized salt	99.3	99.2
Household salt iodization (50–80 mg/Kg KIO ₃) (% samples)	96.0	57.0
Number of Women (BMI)	22.2	23.2
Overweight or obesity among women aged 15 to 49 years.	25.0	28.9

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

3.5.2 Nutrition budget and expenditure

The county spending on nutrition (direct nutrition interventions) in nominal terms increased from Ksh 1 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 281 billion in 2017/18.

Figure 8: County government (100%) nutrition sensitive spending trends, 2014/15-2017/18



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

3.5.3 Nutrition medium term expectations

In the period 2018-2022, the county plans to promote nutrition education and strengthen Community Units to offer broad based services to eliminate malnutrition cases. To realize the objective, the county will need to increase the share of nutrition sensitive spending and adopt multi-sectoral collaboration to boost food security, which contributes to improvement of nutrition indicators.

3.6 Other Initiatives for the Special Interest Groups

Box 1: Key Highlights on Children, Youth, Women and PWDs Initiatives

a) AGPO

During the period under review, the county reported compliance to the 30 per cent allocation Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) reserved for women, youth and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

b) Children

The county constructed a child protection centre and supplied OVCs with food stuffs. To boost basic education, the county: constructed 267 ECDE centres; 96 latrines; employed 607 ECD teachers; provided food for ECD pupils; bought 3,730 desks; distributed CBC curriculum materials to all ECD centres; and offered free pre-primary education.

b) Youth

The county offered vocational/sports training to the youth and upgraded some sports fields. The county operates a revolving fund that supports youths in entrepreneurship.

c) Women

The county supplied: sanitary towels; uniforms; and undergarments to all adolescents in primary and secondary schools. The county also held advocacy initiatives on sexual and gender-based violence and provided a toll-free line for reporting such violence.

d) PWDs

About 5,873 PWDs access cash transfer in Wajir County. The county bought crutches and wheelchairs for PWDs, organized two desert wheelchair races, and celebrates the World Disability Day.

A summary of implications for policy and responsible actors is presented in Table 7 below.

Table 7: Recommendations and responsible actors

Sector	Finding	Recommendation	Responsibility
Gross County Product	An estimated 58 per cent of the Gross County Product (GCP) of Wajir is derived from agriculture, mainly livestock keeping.	The county needs to promote adoption of climate-smart farming techniques and agro-pastoralism and promote diversification of agricultural activities to involve drought tolerant and adaptive crops. The county needs to invest in irrigation systems and enhance access to agriculture markets to enhance the productivity of the agriculture sector.	County Treasury and Planning/ County Executive/Department of Agriculture
Revenue	The county's own source revenue increased from Ksh 61 million in 2013/14 to Ksh 107.7 million in 2014/15, but persistently declined to Ksh 67.6 million in 2017/18.	To improve the share of its own source revenue, the county should strengthen measures for tax collection and management.	County Treasury and Planning/ Directorate of Revenue
Expenditures	The budget execution rate for most social sector budgets, especially health, water and sanitation, and social services was low in addition to persistent fluctuations.	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.	All sectors/County Treasury and Planning/ County Executive
Health	The budget for health increased from Ksh 1.26 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 1.95 billion in 2017/18, contributing to improvement in maternal and child health outcomes over the review period.	The county should prioritize investments that foster reduction of maternal and under-5 mortality rates, which remain significantly higher than the national averages.	County Treasury and Planning/ County Department of Health
Education	The budget for Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) increased from Ksh 304 million in 2014/15 to Ksh 819 million in 2017/18. However, the county has a low gender parity in ECDE enrolments.	The county needs to increase ECDE budget allocation to address the shortage of staff and inadequacy of ECDE facilities. The county needs to adopt interventions addressing barriers limiting the enrolment of girls in ECDE centres.	County Treasury and Planning/ County Department of Education
WASH	The county allocation for water and sanitation increased from Ksh 1.12 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 1.72 billion in 2017/18. More than 50 per cent and 90 per cent of the population lacks access to improved water and sanitation, respectively, while the county recorded declining budget absorption rates.	To improve budget utilization rates, there is need for the National Treasury to adhere to disbursement schedules by releasing resources on time. On its part, the county should strengthen procurement systems and improve cash flow forecasting.	County Treasury and Planning/ County Department of Water and Sanitation/WAWAWASCO
Child Protection, Youth and Women	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 crucial social services such as child protection, youth development, disability and gender mainstreaming, the county is better placed to effectively deliver the above-mentioned services, especially to women and girls.	County Treasury and Planning
Nutrition	The county budget for nutrition (direct nutrition interventions) in nominal terms increased from Ksh 1 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 281 billion in 2017/18.	The county needs to ensure that direct nutrition interventions, across several sectors such as agriculture, education and health are budgeted for, with visible budget lines. Moreover, nutrition should be well articulated in the County Integrated Development Plans. Such interventions would enable reduction of the 26 per cent proportion of stunted children in the county.	County Treasury and Planning/ County Department of Health and all other sectors, namely: Education, Agriculture, Social Protection and WASH
Budget Execution	The budget execution rate for most social sector budgets, especially health, water and sanitation, was low. For instance, budget execution rates for water and sanitation declined from 98 per cent in 2014/15 to 34 per cent in 2017/18.	To improve budget utilization rates, there is need for the National Treasury to adhere to disbursement schedules by releasing resources on time. On its part, the county should strengthen procurement systems and improve cash flow forecasting.	County Treasury and Planning, All County departments; National Treasury
Disaggregated Data	Due to limited disaggregation of data in expenditure reports, it was not possible to establish how much of the county government budget was spent on crucial social services such as child protection, youth development, disability and gender mainstreaming.	By having standalone budget lines on the 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 had extremely few cases of child abuse report and no cases of FGM, most likely because the culture condones such practices and hence no reporting. There is no specific budget line for this, which may also be a factor. 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)

- ¹ *Gross county product* is conceptually equivalent to the county share of GDP. Gross domestic product is a measure of newly created value through production by resident economic agents (in this case individuals, households, businesses, establishments, and enterprises resident in Kenya).
- ² *Monetary 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 per cent of the national median value.
- ³ *Multidimensional poverty*, unlike monetary poverty, captures different deprivations experienced by an individual. In measuring child poverty in Kenya, these dimensions included: health care, nutrition/adequate food, drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, education, knowledge of health and nutrition, housing and standard of living, and access to information. In the analysis, dimensions are measured as binary variables with "1" denoting deprived and "0" non-deprived.
- ⁴ Base year 2013.
- ⁵ *Body Mass Index (BMI)* is a value derived from the mass (weight) and height of a person. It is expressed in units of Kg/M². Broadly, a person is categorized as underweight if BMI is below 18.5 Kg/M²; normal weight: between 18.5 Kg/M² and 25 Kg/M²; and overweight: 25 Kg/M² to 30 Kg/M² and obese: over 30 Kg/M²

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