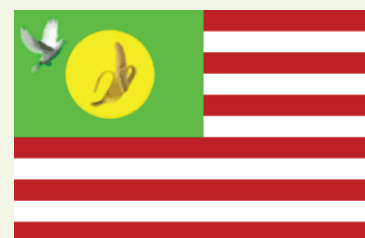


Children, Youth and Women Sensitive Planning and Budgeting in Kenya: Nyamira County Brief, 2014/15-2017/18



County Government of Nyamira

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BRIEF

This brief provides an analysis on how the County Government of **Nyamira** 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, focusing on health, education, social and child protection services, nutrition, water and sanitation. The analysis was based on budget data and information collected from county policy documents and through interviews with relevant county stakeholders. The key findings and recommendations from the analysis are summarized below:

- a). **Nyamira County accounted for 1.4 per cent of total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2017, ranking 28th among the 47 counties in terms of contribution to GDP.** Agriculture contributes the largest share of 55 per cent to the Gross County Product (GCP).¹ Thus, the county needs to continue supporting farmers specially to mitigate climate change shocks, reduce the cost of farming, enhance the marketing of produce and promote value addition. Investment in manufacturing and services sectors will diversify and balance economy.
- b). **The county's own source revenue declined from Ksh 104 million to Ksh 96 million between 2014/15 and 2017/18.** However, as a share of total revenue, own source revenue increased minimally from 2 per cent in 2014/15 to 3 per cent in 2017/18. The share of own source revenue in the total revenue was low due to increase in equitable share. The county needs innovative strategies to grow own source revenue. A county campaign or revenue collection and payment will enhance public awareness towards county sustainability. To improve the share of its own source revenue, the county should implement innovative strategies and accountable strategies for revenue payment and management.
- c). **The budget for health increased from Ksh 1.4 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 1.8 billion in 2017/18.** However, the number of women who had access to skilled birth attendant during delivery declined from 86 per cent in 2014 to 49.8 per cent in 2018 while fully immunized children in the county declined from 101.9 per cent in 2014 to 74.4 per cent in 2018. The county should continue strengthening efficiency in utilization of available resources and awareness on availability and importance of free maternity services in the county.
- d). **The budget for Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) increased from Ksh 6.1 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 9.9 billion in 2017/18.** Partly because of increased spending on ECDE, the gross ECDE enrolment rate in the county went up from 87.8 per cent in 2014 to 118.9 per cent in 2018. This indicates that the county needs to sustain the allocation for ECDE to guarantee quality education and retention.
- e). **The county recorded a decline in water and sanitation (WASH) budget execution allocation from Ksh 0.35 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.33 billion in 2017/18.** This was an under-investment given that about 13 per cent of the population have no access to sewerage, with 16 per cent of the population having no access to improved water sources. More investment will be required in new water infrastructure, especially for sewerage and enhanced water coverage. The budget execution rate decreased from 56 per cent in 2014/15 to 48 per cent in 2017/18. The county should increase investment and improve and execution of WASH budget for improved WASH-related indicators.
- f). **The county's allocation to child protection, youth and women increased from Ksh 0.1 billion to 0.14 billion during the review period.** Looking forward, the county needs to increase allocation to child protection given the high levels of child neglect, abandonment and child labour; and expand relevant social services to reach vulnerable girls as a protective measure against early pregnancies, FGM, early and/or forced marriages.

- g). **The county committed Ksh 20 million in 2015/16, which reduced to Ksh 9.5 and Ksh 7 million in 2016/17 and 2017/2018, respectively, for interventions that directly contribute to boosting child nutrition, at a time when nearly a quarter (25.5%) of the children were stunted.** The execution rate was 50 per cent across the period. The county should 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.
- h). **The budget execution rate for most social sector budgets, especially health, water and sanitation, was over 70 per cent.** There is need for inter-departmental peer review and learning to enhance budget utilization, and to enhance service delivery in the sectors with low absorption. 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 recorded an increase in the number of reported cases of child neglect and abandonment, yet there is no specific budget line for this or for gender-based violence, which increased during the review period.

1. COUNTY OVERVIEW

Nyamira County occupies a land area of approximately 899 km² and is divided into five (5) sub-counties and 20 wards. The county's population was projected at 605,576 in 2019, which is 1.3 per cent of the national population. This constituted of 290,907 males, 314,656 million females and 13 intersex persons.

In 2015/16, the overall poverty rate of the county was 33.0 per cent with 7.6 per cent living in extreme poverty, which is slightly better than the overall national rates of 36.1 and 8.6 per cent, respectively. Among children, one in three were affected by monetary poverty or lack of financial means.² Additionally, 31.4 per cent for youth and 29.8 per cent for women are monetary poor. Moreover, 65.7 per cent of children, and youth and women recording 70.0 and 78.0 percent, respectively, were living in multidimensional poverty,³ that is, they are deprived in several areas including nutrition, healthcare, education, housing and drinking water. The overall high rates of poverty, especially among younger populations, means that planning and budgeting processes should better consider human capital sectors so that the county can maximize the productive and innovative potential of its future workforce and initiate a fast and sustainable growth trajectory.

Table 1: Nyamira County administrative, poverty and demographic profile

Administrative Profile						Latest Available	
Area (km ²)						899	
Number of sub-counties						5	
Number of wards						20	
Overall poverty (%)						33.0	
Extreme poverty (%)						7.6	
Population (2019)						605,576	
Group	Children	National Children	Youths	National Youths	Wo/men	National Wo/men	
Monetary Poor							
Male (%)	35.3	42.1	29.6	29.1	34.4	30.5	
Female (%)	32.5	41.0	32.9	28.8	29.8	34.1	
Total (%)	33.9	41.6	31.4	28.9	32.4	32.4	
Population	332,668	20,742,290	198,708	13,443,268	119,739	7,847,350	
Multidimensionally Poor							
Male (%)	68.4	49.3	66.6	44.7	68.0	51.0	
Female (%)	63.0	47.1	73.0	49.4	78.0	60.8	
Total (%)	65.7	48.2	70.0	47.1	73.4	56.1	
Population	332,668	20,742,290	198,708	13,443,268	119,739	7,847,350	

Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2018), Economic Survey

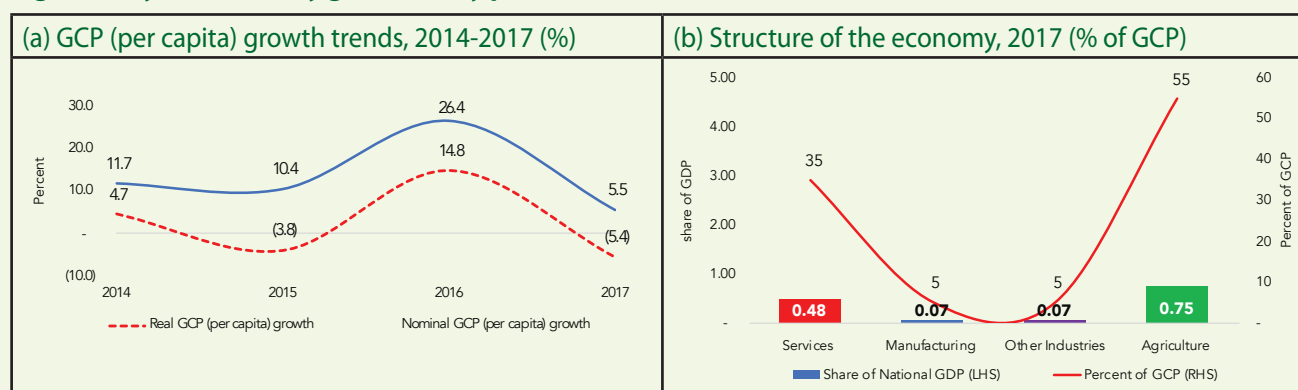
2. STATE OF COUNTY ECONOMY

2.1 Gross County Product Growth

Nyamira County accounts for 1.4 per cent of the national GDP, as of 2017, thus ranking 28th among the 47 counties countrywide. In real per capita terms, the economy grew by 4.7 per cent in 2014 before falling to negative 3.8 per cent in 2015, before bouncing back to reach a high of 14.8 per cent in 2016 and then falling yet again to negative 5.4 per cent in 2017 (Figure 1a). The most recent downturn was largely due to the prolonged electioneering period.

The economy remains reliant on agriculture, which accounts for 55 per cent of GCP and 0.75 per cent of national GDP (Figure 1b). The services sector contributes 35 per cent, while manufacturing and other industries contribute 5 per cent each, where other industries include mining, electricity, water and construction. The agriculture sector is an important driver of job creation for the participation of youth and women, but is vulnerable to climate change shocks. Therefore, there is need to put in place measures towards mitigating the effects of such shocks. The county needs to grow manufacturing and leverage on the agriculture sector through agro-processing. It can further ensure a balanced economy by growing the other industries/sectors to accommodate diverse skills and potentials. This can be done through developing infrastructure and enhancing farmers' capacities in modern agricultural methods. Extension services, agribusiness and research needs to be promoted. The county should also seek to attract more investments in manufacturing, and services, for a balanced economy. This can be done through collaboration with different sub-sectors, especially the private sector.

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

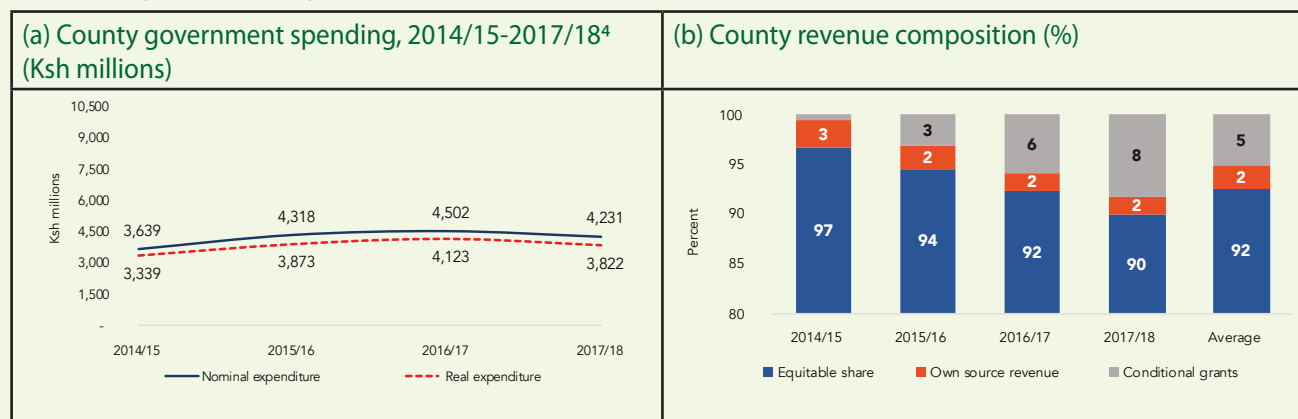


Source: KNBS (2019) Statistics

2.2 Overall Budget Performance

The county government annual spending grew from Ksh 3.6 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 4.5 billion in 2016/17 before a marginal drop to Ksh 4.2 billion in 2017/18 (Figure 2a). The burden of the drop in the county government spending predominantly affects social sector spendings, which are recurrent in nature. This spending is heavily dependent on national government transfers accounting for over 97 per cent. Own source revenue declined from Ksh 104 million to about Ksh 80 million in 2017/18, accounting for less than 3 per cent of total county revenue and expenditure. There is need for enhanced fiscal efforts to accelerate revenue mobilization from both local revenue and conditional grants to cover the decline in own source revenue to 1.8 per cent of total revenue in 2017/18, down from 2.8 per cent in 2014/15 (Figure 2b).

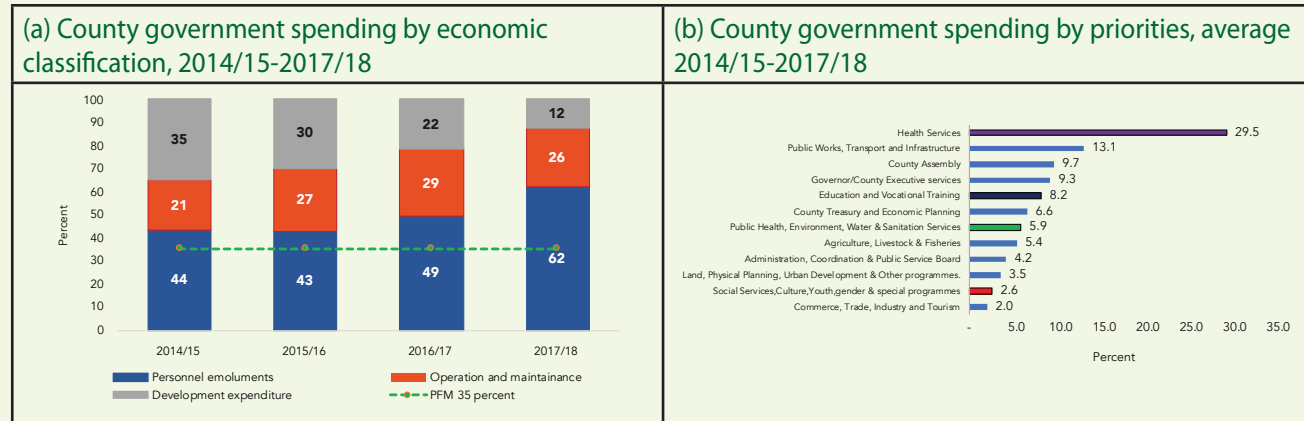
Figure 2: Nyamira County revenue and expenditure trends, 2014/15-2017/18



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

The development share of actual spending declined from 35 per cent in 2015/16 to 12 per cent in 2017/18. The county expenditure on wages, and operations and maintenance dominate spending, and constituting 62 per cent and 26 per cent of the total spending, respectively. The low allocation for development compromises the county long-term objectives, including infrastructure development (Figure 3a). The county needs to improve on compliance with the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act 2012 provision that ceils development spending at a minimum of 30 per cent of total budget, and Regulations 2015 which require a maximum 35 per cent on payment of wages and salaries.

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



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

The county spent over 51.6 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. Health services spending accounts for the largest share of the total spending at 29.5 per cent. Education sector (ECD and VTCs) spending was at 8.2 per cent while agriculture accounted for 5.4 per cent, water and sanitation 5.9 per cent and social services, culture youth and gender accounting for 2.6 per cent (Figure 3b). The impact of this expenditure on the various programmes and activities varies across sectors.

3. ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL SECTOR SPENDING

3.1 Health

3.1.1 Health sector priorities

Health is a key spending priority of the County Government of Nyamira, consuming about 29.5 per cent of the total budget in between the period 2014 and 2018. The County Integrated Development Plan 2013-2017 identified various programmes towards the sector vision of an efficient and quality health care system that is accessible, equitable and affordable for all. These included: reducing child mortality by improving child health; improving maternal health; adolescents health; health and nutrition, adult and elderly health; combating HIV/AIDS and Malaria; preventive health; reproductive health and immunization. These entailed establishing a sustainable health management information system; providing adequate, affordable, quality basic health, including supplies and equipment; improving the cost revenue sharing; improving performance of Community Health Workers (CHWs); providing/rehabilitating physical infrastructure in the hospitals; and ensuring competent and skilled staff and improved service delivery. The county planned: training of staff, supply of equipment and commodities, provision of adequate drugs/equipment, health education, establishing youth friendly centres, and community sensitization and counselling.

The proportion of women who had access to skilled delivery decreased from 86.0 per cent in 2014 to 49.8 per cent in 2018. The share of fully immunized children in the county declined from 101.9 per cent in 2014 to 74.4 per cent in 2018. Infant mortality and under 5 mortality rate was estimated at 75 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2016 which was below the national average of 79 deaths per 1,000 live births.

3.1.2 Health budget and expenditure

The share of health budget in the total county budget allocation was 30 per cent over the review period, comprising of 77 per cent recurrent and 23 per cent development (Figure 4a). Despite the expansion in county health budget allocation from Ksh 1.4 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 1.8 billion in 2017/18, the absorption declined during the review period

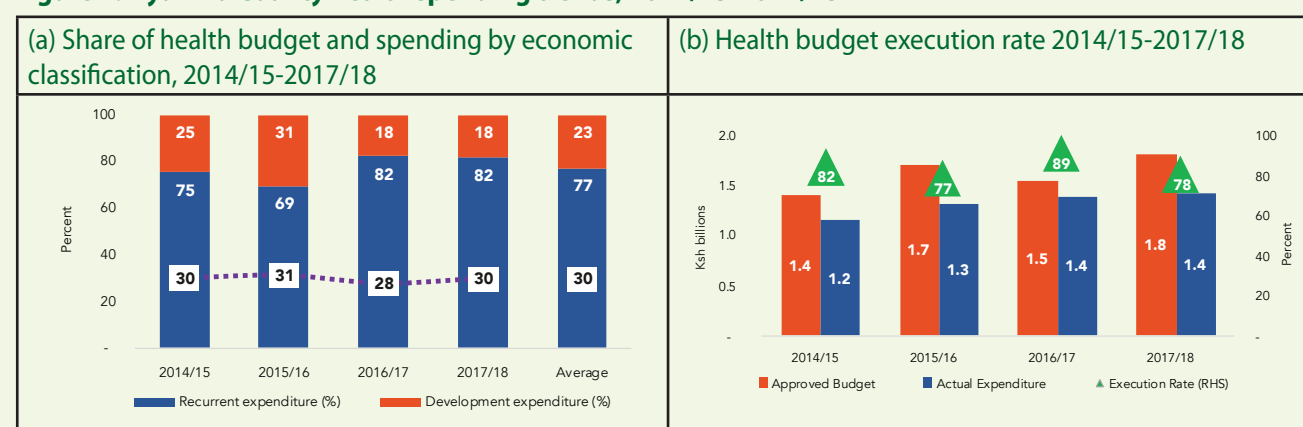
Table 2: Nyamira County selected health sector performance indicators

Selected Health Indicators	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	County	National	County	National	County	National	County	National	County	National
USMR (death per 1,000 live births) 2016 Estimate	-	-	-	-	75.0	79.0	-	-	-	-
MMR (death per 100,000 live births) 2016 Estimate	-	-	-	-	385.0	495.0	-	-	-	-
Skilled birth attendant coverage (%) (source: DHIS2)	86.0	53.5	72.1	56.9	74.2	59.3	48.3	53.0	49.8	64.9
Proportion of pregnant women who attended at least one ANC visit during pregnancy (%) (Source: DHIS2)	91.1	76.4	74.7	75.4	66.9	76.9	58.3	73.7	62.3	81.9
Proportion of pregnant women who attended at least four ANC visit during pregnancy (%) (Source: DHIS2)	49.6	35.9	47.2	39.7	48.1	39.8	33.6	32.6	38.8	48.7
Proportion of children under one year who are fully immunized (%) (Source: DHIS2)	101.9	70.2	92.3	75.7	91.8	72.4	67.5	65.9	74.4	77.0
DPT/Hep+HiB3 dropout rate (%) (Source: DHIS2)	3.3	6.8	4.9	7.2	3.2	6.6	3.7	10.1	1.2	4.0
Still Birth Rate (Source : DHIS2)	30.5	29.3	8.1	22.6	9.5	21.5	6.2	22.6	14.6	20.4

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

from Ksh 1.2 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 1.4 billion in 2017/18, translating to absorption rate of 82 per cent in 2014/15 to 78 per cent in 2017/18 with a high of 89 per cent in 2016/17. This is attributable to failure by the exchequer to release the full amount approved in the health budget.

Figure 4: Nyamira County health spending trends, 2014/15-2017/18



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

3.1.3 Health sector medium term expectations

The county plans to implement various initiatives aimed at increased equitable access to health services, improved efficiency, effectiveness, quality and responsiveness of county health services, providing a framework for coordination, partnerships, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the county health services, and encouraging innovative approaches for financing the health sector. These will entail: increasing health funding and resources, improving service delivery, supplying essential equipment and medicine, increasing staffing, creating community awareness on lifestyle diseases, outreach services for early detection and treatment, establishment of clinics in all sub-county hospitals, facilitating targeted HIV/AIDS testing services outreach and holding anti-stigma sensitization meetings, conduct immunization outreach services, improve breastfeeding practices and complementary feeding practices, improve community health systems, improve ANC attendance, increase intake of long acting and reversible contraceptives, increase skilled care delivery, improve maternal referrals and reduce teenage pregnancy. To realize these milestones, the county will need to address various challenges including: limited funds relative to health needs for the county, including those for children and mothers; long procurement processes; delays by the National Treasury in releasing funding to the sector; and pending bills affecting the overall sector absorption rate. The county seeks to address various challenges that delayed the delivery of CIDP 2013-2017, including: delayed completion of projects by contractors, inadequate resources, delay in procurement system, weak monitoring and evaluation systems, delay in procurement system, and delay of payments at the County Treasury.

3.2 Education and Vocational Training

3.2.1 Education sector priorities

The county governments are responsible for Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) and TVETs and Schedule IV of the Constitution of Kenya 2010. During the plan period 2013-2017, the county education sector focused on establishing, equipping and upgrading the existing ECDE and vocational training centres. The county developed one ECDE Act and policy guideline for the county polytechnics, recruited 1,286 ECDE teachers and 99 youth polytechnic instructors, procured 2 ECDE vehicles, constructed and equipped 47 ECDE classrooms, and equipped the county polytechnic workshops.

Gross ECDE enrolment rate increased from 87.8 per cent in 2014 to 118.9 per cent in 2018 while net enrolment rate (NER) increased from 85.1 per cent to 83.0 per cent during the same period. This was generally higher than national averages for both 2014 and 2018, indicating that more children joined ECDE than before with the implementation of devolution. Girls are more proportionately enrolled in ECDE than boys. An equal number of girls and boys are enrolled in ECDE in Nyamira County. There is equality in access to education between male and female school-going children as shown in Table 3.

Gross primary and secondary enrolment rates stood at 108.7 per cent and 83.5 per cent in 2018, up from 97.9 per cent and 67.0 per cent, respectively. Net enrolment rate (NER) increased from 84.4 per cent to 87.3 per cent for primary school but decreased from 55.0 per cent to 49.2 per cent for secondary school during the same period. There is inequality in access to primary education between male and female school-going children in favour of girls as shown in Table 3. More boys than girls enrolled in primary school while more girls than boys enrolled in secondary school. In 2018, there were 26 accredited vocational centres.

Table 3: Nyamira county selected education sector performance indicators

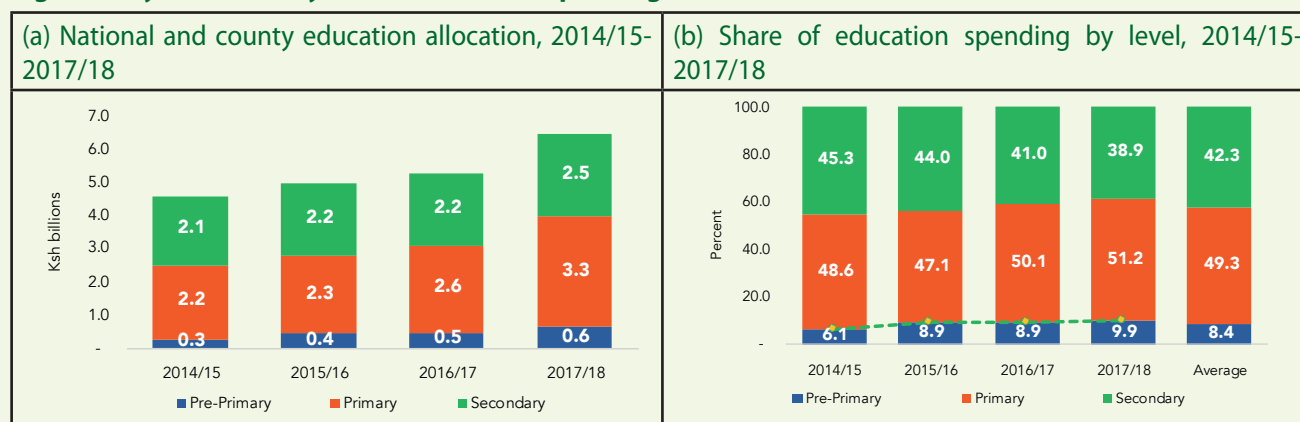
Pre-primary School	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
Gross enrolment ratio (%)	87.8	73.6	118.9	94.4
Net enrolment ratio (%)	85.1	71.8	83.0	63.5
Male (%)	81.5	73.4	80.6	62.5
Female (%)	88.7	70.2	84.9	65.0
School size (Public) (Pupils) (Average)	72.0	75.0	94.0	85.0
Gender parity index (value)	1.0	1.0	-	-
Pupil-teacher ratio (No.) (Public)	29.0	31.0	29.0	31.0
Proportion of enrolment in private schools (%)	26.6	31.5	27.0	33.0
Primary School	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
Gross enrolment ratio (%)	97.9	104.0	108.7	107.2
Net enrolment ratio (%)	84.4	88.0	87.0	82.4
Male (%)	93.0	86.0	86.7	81.7
Female (%)	75.8	90.0	87.3	83.0
School size (Public) Average No. of pupils	276.0	338.0	312.0	375.0
Gender parity index (Value)	1.0	1.0	-	-
Pupil-teacher ratio (No.)	35.0	42.0	31.0	40.0
Proportion of enrolment in private schools (%)	16.0	16.0	17.0	16.0
Secondary School	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
Gross enrolment ratio (%)	67.0	58.7	83.5	66.2
Net enrolment ratio (%)	55.0	47.4	49.2	37.5
Male (%)	69.8	49.6	51.0	35.4
Female (%)	40.2	45.2	47.3	39.8
School size (Public)	-	-	278.3	392.0
Gender parity index (value)	0.9	0.9	-	-
Pupil-teacher ratio (No.) (TSC)	31.0	30.0	27.0	32.0
Pupil-teacher ratio (No.) (TSC and BOM)	19.5	20.2	19.0	20.0
Proportion of enrolment in private schools (%)	18.5	30.7	1.2	5.8

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

3.2.2 ECDE budget and expenditure

The ECDE allocation in the county increased from Ksh 0.3 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.5 billion in 2016/17 before increasing to Ksh 0.6 billion in 2017/18. The county expanded the primary level budget from Ksh 2.2 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 3.3 billion in 2017/18 while the secondary school budget increased from Ksh 2.1 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 2.5 billion in 2017/18 (Figure 5a). ECDE allocation averaged 8.4 per cent of the total education spending in the county (Figure 5b).

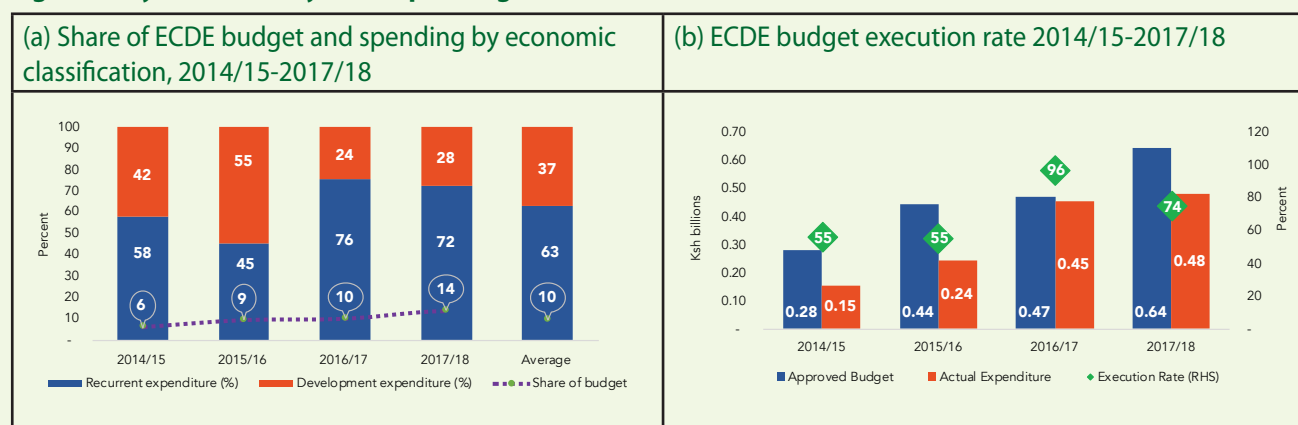
Figure 5: Nyamira County overall education spending trends, 2014/15-2017/18



Source: National Treasury (Various), IFMIS

The share of ECDE budget in the total county budget allocation increased from 6 per cent in 2014/15 to 14 per cent in 2017/18. Total spending on ECDE increased from Ksh 0.15 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.48 billion 2017/18 (Figure 6b). Spending comprised of on average 37 per cent development expenditure and 63 per cent recurrent expenditure during the period (Figure 6a). The absorption rates fluctuated between a maximum of 96 per cent in 2016/17 and a minimum of 55 per cent in 2014/15 and 2015/16.

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



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

3.2.3 Education medium term expectations

The county government with support from stakeholders aims to continue investing in the education sector through various programmes, including: development of ECDE classes, child care centres, and vocational education and training centres; capacity building of staff; establishment of incubation centres; county education support fund; improve infrastructure, sanitation and water supply facilities. This is expected to promote and coordinate quality education and training, and integration of science, technology and innovation in sustainable socio-economic development process of the county.

3.3 Water and Sanitation

3.3.1 Water and sanitation priorities

The 2013-2017 Nyamira County Integrated Development Plan focused on investments in the expansion of water and sanitation services through various initiatives, including: To supply portable water to communities and upgrading the distribution systems; laying of supply, delivery and distribution lines; rehabilitation of fittings, construction of water

tanks, distribution of tanks; buying and installation of water pumps/booster pumps; upgrading distribution lines; drilling boreholes; construction of sewerage system; construction of public toilets; and construction of sanitary landfills.

Access to improved water and sanitation (WASH) services was estimated at 84 per cent and 40 per cent of the population against the national average of 72.6 per cent and 59.0 per cent, respectively. The population within the service area of water utility (company) decreased from 82 per cent to 25 per cent between 2014 and 2018. The proportion of population covered or served by the utility reduced from 45 per cent in 2014 to 39 per cent in 2018. The sector experiences the problem of non-revenue water⁵ at about 57 per cent as at 2018, an increase from 47 per cent in 2014. High non-revenue water denies the water utility revenue to enhance water service delivery and in meeting operations and maintenance costs.

Table 4: Nyamira County selected WASH sector performance indicators

Indicators	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
County population within service areas of WSPs (%)	82	*	25	*
Water coverage by utilities (%)	45	53	39	*
Non-revenue water (NRW) (%)	47	42	57	*
Sanitation coverage within utility area (%)	84	69	*	*
Sewerage coverage (%)	*	*	13	*
Access to improved water (%)	84	*	84	*
Access to improved sanitation (%)	40	*	40	59
No toilet facility – Potential open defecation county-wide (%)	0	*	0	8

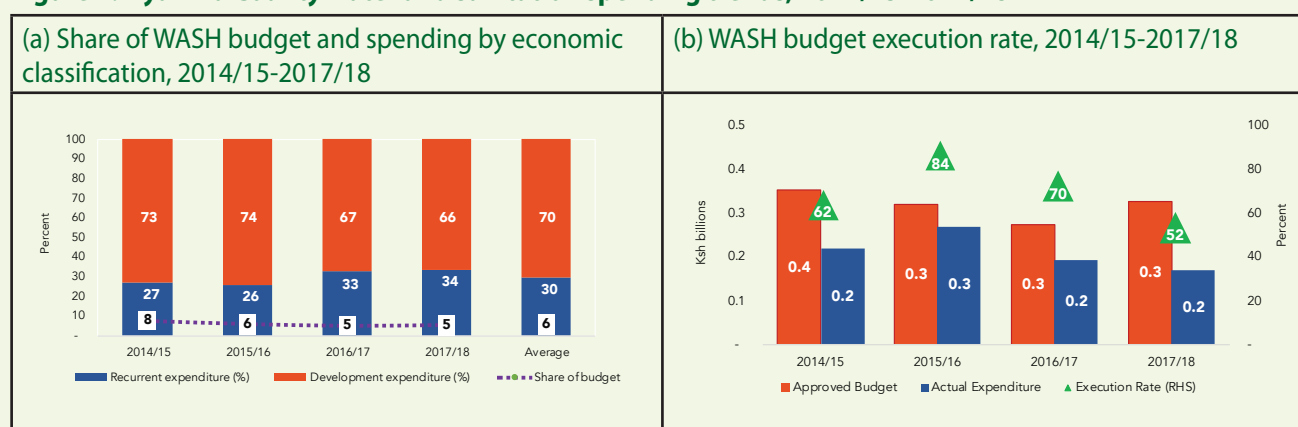
Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2014), KDHS 2014; County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2018. NB:

* Data not available

3.3.2 Water and sanitation budget and expenditure

Water and sanitation budget ranged between Ksh 0.27 billion and Ksh 0.35 billion between 2014/15 and 2017/18, which translates to an average 6 per cent of the total county budget. This comprised of 70 per cent development and 30 per cent recurrent spending (Figure 7a). While the approved budget remained relatively the same being at Ksh 0.35 billion in 2014/15 and Ksh 0.33 billion in 2017/18, the absorption decreased from Ksh 0.22 billion to Ksh 0.17 billion, which translated to declining absorption rate from 62 per cent in 2014/15 to 52 per cent in 2017/18, respectively. This is also attributed to failure by the exchequer to release the entire approved budget amount, and also capacity constraints including human and machinery.

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



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

3.3.3 Water and sanitation medium term expectations

In the plan period 2018-2022, the county aims to improve access to water and sanitation services through various initiatives including laying distribution pipelines, drilling boreholes, supplying water tanks, establishing water kiosks, protection of springs, and installation of solar water pumps. For sanitation, the county plans to provide public toilet services in all the trading centres and EDCE centres, construction of sewerage systems and solid waste management sites and sanitary landfills.

3.4 Child Protection, Youth and Women

Through the County Integrated Development Plan (2013-2017) the county highlighted various social development plans. These included: Child protection by strengthening of households living with Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVCs); Youth empowerment and campaign against drug and alcohol abuse; Women empowerment and campaign against gender-based violence and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM); and Equip the women and youth with entrepreneurial and leadership skills. In addition, the county planned for cash transfer for OVCs, Older Persons Cash Transfer, Cash Transfer for Persons with Severe Disability; updating data base on women groups, youth groups and orphans and vulnerable children; capacity building of stakeholders; marking of national children days and campaigns on child rights; and sports and arts development.

The availability and disaggregation of data to support policy analysis on social protection, services and empowerment dimensions especially for youth, women and persons with disability is a major challenge for the county. This calls for concerted efforts to build capacity on data. However, some sources have data on children, which easily enable analysis of child protection (Table 5)

Specifically, on child protection, the county recorded a high number of reported cases of child neglect and abandonment, rising from 6 cases in 2014 to 1,434 cases in 2018. Child trafficking, abduction and kidnapping increased from 1 in 2014 to 15 in 2018. However, cases of child sexual abuse and child labour declined or were not reported. However, cases of child emotional and physical abuse increased to 13 and 28, respectively.

The county did not report any case of FGM. The low/non reporting of the female genital mutilation (FGM) to government institutions can be attributed to either the intensive campaigns and initiatives to protect the girl child, or fear by the population to report such cases, and deep-rooted culture that approves and protects such practices.

Table 5: Nyamira County selected child protection performance indicators

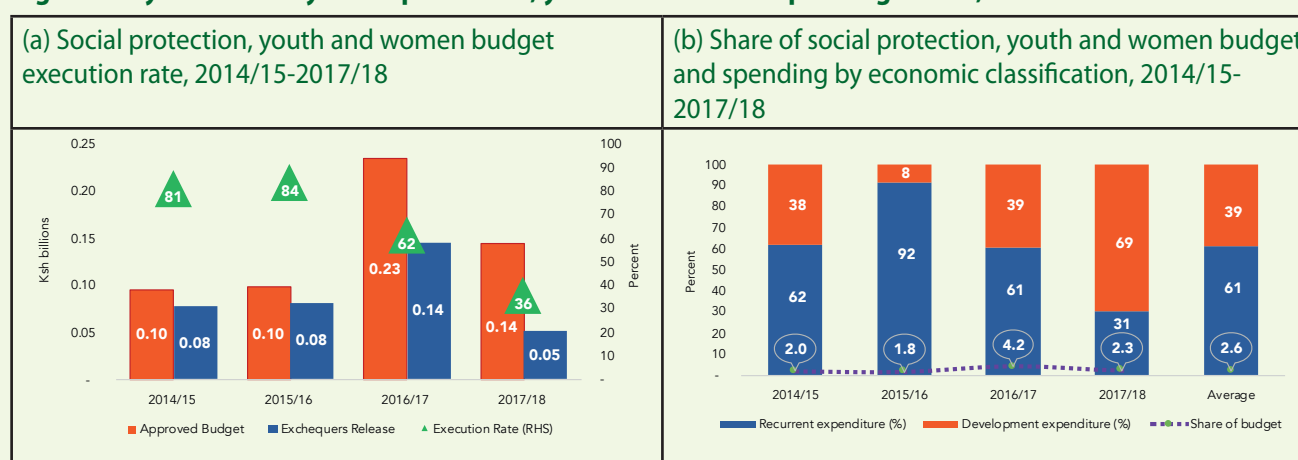
Indicators	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
Child Neglect and Abandonment	6	767	1,434	73,245
Child Sexual Abuse	8	636	-	172
Child Trafficking, Abduction and Kidnapping	1	32	15	1,022
Child Labour	1	168	-	378
Child Emotional Abuse	-	58	13	853
Child Physical Abuse	3	583	28	2,031
Female Genital Mutilation	-	9	-	40

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

3.4.1 Child protection, services and empowerment budget and expenditure

The county's allocation to child protection, youth and women grew from Ksh 0.1 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.23 billion in 2016/17 before dropping to Ksh 0.14 in 2017/18, representing 2.6 per cent of the overall county budget during the review period. Absorption rate reduced from 81 per cent in 2014/15 to 36 per cent in 2017/18 (Figure 8a). The share of recurrent spending gradually increased from 62 per cent to 92 per cent between 2014/15 and 2015/16 before dropping to 31 per cent in 2017/2018. The average recurrent expenditure was 61 per cent during the review period (Figure 8b).

Figure 8: Nyamira county social protection, youth and women spending trends, 2014-18



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

3.4.2 Child protection, youth and women medium term expectations

Between the plan period 2018 and 2022, the county aims to: promote development of sports through development of stadium and talent academy; ensure social protection through enhanced registration and cash transfers for the elderly, people with severe disabilities, orphaned, PWDs, youth and vulnerable children are receiving cash transfer; public awareness sensitization on child rights and gender issues; and offer bursaries to OVCs.

3.5 Nutrition

3.5.1 Nutrition priorities

Promotion of nutrition education and improvement of nutritional status of households to eliminate malnutrition cases was the focus for the county, according to the County Integrated Development Plan for the period 2013-2017. The county aimed at reducing malnutrition by 5 per cent, planned to undertake health education on nutrition, provide supplements and promote breastfeeding.

The county nutrition indicators remained relatively worse than the national average over the period 2014-2018. Stunting stood at 25.5 per cent of the population while wasting and underweight in 2018 were at 4.1 per cent and 9.6 per cent respectively. The levels were comparable to the national average (Table 6).

Table 6: Selected nutrition performance indicators (No. of reported cases)

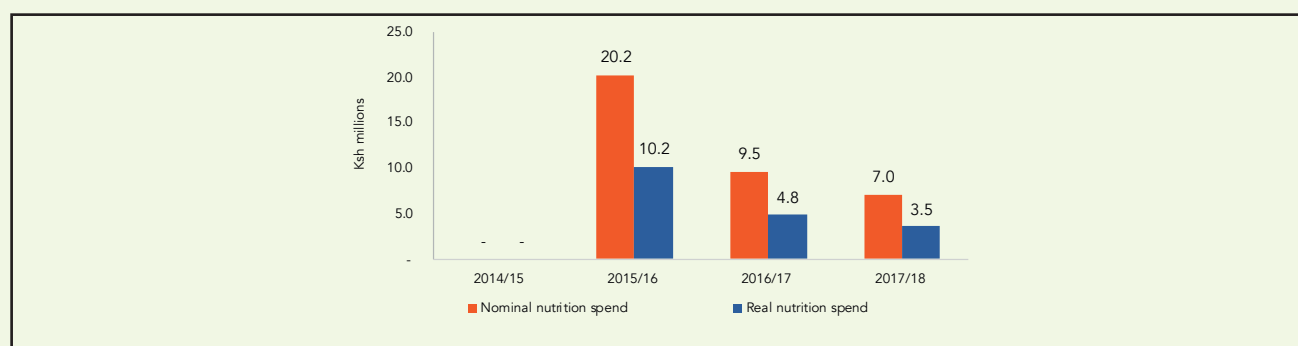
Indicators	2014-County	2014-National
Stunted children (%)	25.5	26.0
Wasted children (%)	4.1	4.0
Underweight children (%)	9.6	11.0
Vitamin A supplements coverage	26.2	24.0
Proportion of children aged 6 to 59 months- Received Vitamin A supplement	75.4	71.4
Proportion of children consuming adequately iodized salt.	100.0	99.1
Proportion of households consuming adequately iodized salt.	100.0	99.2
" Household salt iodization (50 – 80 mg/Kg KIO3) (% samples) "	47.0	57.0
Number of Women (BMI)	23.8	23.2
Overweight or obesity among women aged 15 to 49 years.	27.8	28.9

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

3.5.2 Nutrition budget and expenditure

Considering 100 per cent nutrition sensitive (direct nutrition interventions) spending, the county has been financing nutrition post-2014/15 but stopped in 2016/17. The county allocated Ksh 144 million for nutrition spending in 2014/15 and Ksh 31 million in 2015/16. There was no clear budgetary allocation for nutrition between the period 2016/17 and 2017/18.

Figure 9: Nyamira 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 the Community Units to offer broad-based services to eliminate malnutrition cases. To realize the objective, the county will be required to increase the share of nutrition-sensitive spending, which has been inconsistent. The county plans to improve breastfeeding practices, improve complementary feeding practices, enhance nutrition awareness, improve maternal nutrition, and train health and community workers on nutrition.

3.6 Other Initiatives for Special Interest Groups

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

a) AGPO

The county continued to implement the 30 per cent allocation of Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) reserved for women, youth and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

a) Children

The county undertakes development of ECDE, offers bursaries for needy children, promotes breastfeeding, promotes immunization, provides food supplements, promotes public awareness on child rights, supports families with OVCs, provides cash transfers for OVCs, and has established a children's desk.

b) Youth

The county promotes sports and arts, has developed talent academy, developed youth friendly health centres, promotes development youth groups, promotes development of youth polytechnics for vocational training, and supports youth enterprises.

c) Women

The county trains women on entrepreneurship, promotes maternal health, promotes talent among women in sports and arts, provides soft loans to women groups, and undertakes public awareness on gender-based issues.

d) PWDs

The county provides cash transfers to the elderly and persons with severe disabilities, plans to establish a vocational rehabilitation centre for PWDs, and has created a revolving funds for lending to youth, women and PWD groups.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY

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

Table 7: Recommendations and responsible actors

Sector	Finding	Recommendation	Responsibility
Gross County Product	Nyamira County accounted for 1.4 per cent of total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2017, ranking 28 th among the 47 counties in terms of contribution to GDP. Agriculture contributes the largest share of 55 per cent to the Gross County Product.	The county needs to continue supporting farmers, specially to mitigate climate change shocks, reduce the cost of farming, enhance the marketing of their produce and promote value addition. Investment in manufacturing and services sectors will diversify and balance the economy.	County Treasury and Planning/ County Executive/Department of Agriculture
Revenue	The county's own source revenue declined from Ksh 104 to Ksh 96 million between 2014/15 and 2017/18.	The county needs innovative strategies to grow own source revenue. A county campaign or revenue collection and payment will enhance public awareness towards county sustainability. To improve the share of its own source revenue, the county should implement innovative strategies and accountable strategies for revenue payment and management.	County Treasury and Planning/ Directorate of Revenue
Expenditures	The budget execution rate for health and education was above 70 per cent and higher than water, social protection and nutrition.	There is need for inter-departmental peer review and learning to enhance budget utilization, to enhance service delivery in the sectors with low absorption.	All sectors/County Treasury and Planning/ County Executive
Health	The budget for health increased from Ksh 1.4 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 1.8 billion in 2017/18 but the health indicators declined in children fully immunized, and for access to a skilled birth attendant during delivery.	The county should continue strengthening efficiency in utilization of available resources and awareness on availability and importance of free maternity services in the county.	County Treasury and Planning/County Department of Health
Education	The budget for Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) increased from Ksh 6.1 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 9.9 billion in 2017/18.	This indicates that the county needs to sustain the allocation for ECDE to guarantee quality education and retention.	County Treasury and Planning/County Department of Education
WASH	The county recorded a decline in water and sanitation budget execution allocation from Ksh 0.35 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.33 billion in 2017/18.	More investment will be required in new water infrastructure, especially for sewerage and enhanced water coverage. The budget execution rate decreased from 56 per cent in 2014/15 to 48 per cent in 2017/18. The county should increase investment in WASH and improve budget execution for improved WASH related indicators.	County Treasury and Planning/County Department of Water and Sanitation/ Water Service Providers
Social Protection	County's allocation to child protection, youth and women grew from Ksh 0.1 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.23 billion in 2016/17 before dropping to Ksh 0.14 in 2017/18, representing 2.6 per cent of the overall county budget during the review period	Looking forward, the county needs to increase allocation to child protection given the high levels of child neglect, abandonment and child labour; and expand relevant social services to reach vulnerable girls as a protective measure against early pregnancies, FGM, early and/or forced marriages.	County Treasury and Planning/County Department of Culture and Social Services

Sector	Finding	Recommendation	Responsibility
Nutrition	The county allocated Ksh 20 million for nutrition spending in 2015/16 but reduced to Ksh 9.5 and Ksh 7 million in 2016/17 and 2017/2018. The execution rate was about 50 per cent for all years.	The county should 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.	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 over 70 per cent.	There is need for inter-departmental peer review and learning to enhance budget utilization, and to enhance service delivery in the sectors with low absorption. 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 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 listed sectors, the county would be better placed to effectively deliver the above-mentioned services, especially to women and girls. On child protection, for example, the county recorded an increase in the number of reported cases of child neglect and abandonment, yet there is no specific budget line for this or for gender-based violence, which increased during the review period.	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 equalised disposable income (after social transfers) is below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold, which is set at 60% of the national median value.
- 3 Multidimensional poverty captures different deprivations experienced by poor people in their daily lives, such as lack of access to basic education, health or WASH services, inadequate nutritional intake, experiencing physical or emotional violence or abuse, etc.
- 4 Base year 2013
- 5 Non-revenue water (NRW) is water that has been produced and is "lost" before it reaches the customer. Losses can be real losses (through leaks, sometimes also referred to as physical losses) or apparent losses (for example through theft or metering inaccuracies)

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