

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



County Government of Nakuru

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BRIEF

This brief provides an analysis of how the County Government of Nakuru plans and budgets for the needs of children, youth and women. The analysis focused on social sector (health, education, water and sanitation, social services, and nutrition) budgets for the period 2014/15-2017/18. The analysis was based on budget information collected from the Controller of Budget, county policy documents, and face-to-face 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 Nakuru, which is the second largest (6.9% contribution to GDP) of all the 47 counties in Kenya, comes from agriculture.** However, agricultural productivity is vulnerable to weather shocks resulting in unpredictable economic growth trends. Moving forward, the county should put in place measures to mitigate weather shocks while at the same time promoting manufacturing through agro-processing, and enhancing access to agriculture markets, including through collaboration with the private sector.
- b) **The county's own source revenue increased marginally from Ksh 2.2 billion to Ksh 2.3 billion between 2014/15 and 2017/18.** However, as a share of total revenue, the county's own source revenue declined from 23 per cent in 2014/15 to 17 per cent in 2017/18. Overall, total county revenue increased from Ksh 8.2 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 9.5 billion in 2017/18 mainly because of transfers from the National government. To improve the share of own source revenue, the county should strengthen measures for tax collection and management.
- c) **Maternal and child health outcomes have improved, but the rate of child immunization has declined.** The number of women with access to skilled delivery increased from 63.1 per cent in 2014/15 to 66.6 per cent in 2017/18. This is largely because of the introduction of free maternity services in 2013. The share of fully immunized children in the county declined from 89.4 per cent in 2014/15 to 83.1 per cent in 2017/18. To reverse this latter trend, the county should prioritize investments in immunization.
- d) **The budget for Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) increased from Ksh 1.0 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 1.4 billion in 2017/18.** Partly because of this increased spending, the gross ECDE enrolment rate in the county went up from 67.3 per cent in 2014/15 to 99.6 per cent in 2017/18. Looking forward, the challenge for the county is to ensure equitable distribution and effective utilization of available resources. In addition, the county could ring-fence ECDE resources² so that they are not used for other purposes.
- e) **The county recorded an improvement in water and sanitation budget allocation from Ksh 0.4 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.5 billion in 2015/16 before declining to Ksh 0.4 billion in 2017/18.** The budget execution rate also decreased from 57 per cent in 2014/15 to 31 per cent in 2017/18. This partly explains why the population with access to improved water and sanitation remained constant. The county should improve execution of WASH budget for improved WASH-related indicators.
- f) **The county's allocation to child protection, youth and women stagnated at an average of Ksh 0.09 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, female genital mutilation (FGM), early and/or forced marriages.
- g) **The county only committed Ksh 25 million in one fiscal year (2014/15) to interventions that directly contribute to boosting child nutrition, at a time when nearly a third (27.2%) of children are stunted.** The county should

ensure that direct nutrition interventions, across several sectors such agriculture, education and health are budgeted for, with visible budget lines. Moreover, nutrition should be well articulated in the County Integrated Development Plans.

- 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 57 per cent in 2014/15 to 31 per cent in 2017/18. The low budget execution rate was partly because approved budgets were not released on time by the National Treasury. Procurement and cash flow planning by the county was also weak. To improve budget utilization rates, there is need for the National Treasury to adhere to disbursement schedules by releasing resources on time. On its part, the county should strengthen procurement systems and improve cash flow forecasting.
- 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 number of reported cases of child neglect and abandonment from 53 in 2014 to 2,454 cases in 2018, yet there is no specific budget line for this. The same also applies to gender-based violence which has increased in recent years.

1. COUNTY OVERVIEW

Nakuru occupies a land area of approximately 7,495 km² and is divided into 11 sub-counties and 55 wards. The county's population was 2.16 million in 2019, which is 4.5 per cent of the National population. This constituted of 1.07 million males, 1.08 million females and 95 intersex persons.

In 2015/16, the overall poverty rate in the county was 29.1 per cent with 3.7 per cent living in extreme poverty, which is better than the overall national rates of 36.1 and 8.6 per cent, respectively. Among children, one in every three children were affected by monetary poverty or lack of financial means³. Additionally, 20.2 per cent of youth and 30.8 per cent of women were also affected by monetary poverty. Moreover, 38.6 per cent of children were living in multidimensional poverty; that is, deprived of, in several areas, including nutrition, healthcare, education, housing and drinking water⁴. Levels of monetary poverty remained lower than national averages for children, youth and women. The overall high rates of poverty, especially among women means that planning and budgeting processes should 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: Nakuru County administrative, poverty and demographic profile, 2015/16

Administrative Profile		Latest Available				
Area (km ²)		7,495				
Number of sub-counties		11				
Number of wards		55				
Overall poverty (%)		29.1				
Extreme poverty (%)		3.7				
Population (2019)		2,162,202				
Group	Children	National Children	Youths	National Youths	Wo/men	National Wo/men
Monetary Poor						
Male (%)	32.7	42.1	20.9	29.1	30.1	30.5
Female (%)	34.2	41.0	19.6	28.8	30.8	34.1
Total (%)	33.5	41.6	20.2	28.9	30.8	32.4
Population	872,578	20,742,290	653,917	13,443,268	353,608	7,847,350
Multidimensionally Poor						
Male (%)	39.9	49.3	41.1	44.7	59.5	51.0
Female (%)	37.4	47.1	49.5	49.4	62.4	60.8
Total (%)	38.6	48.2	45.5	47.1	61.3	56.1
Population	872,578	20,742,290	653,917	13,443,268	353,608	7,847,350

Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (Various)

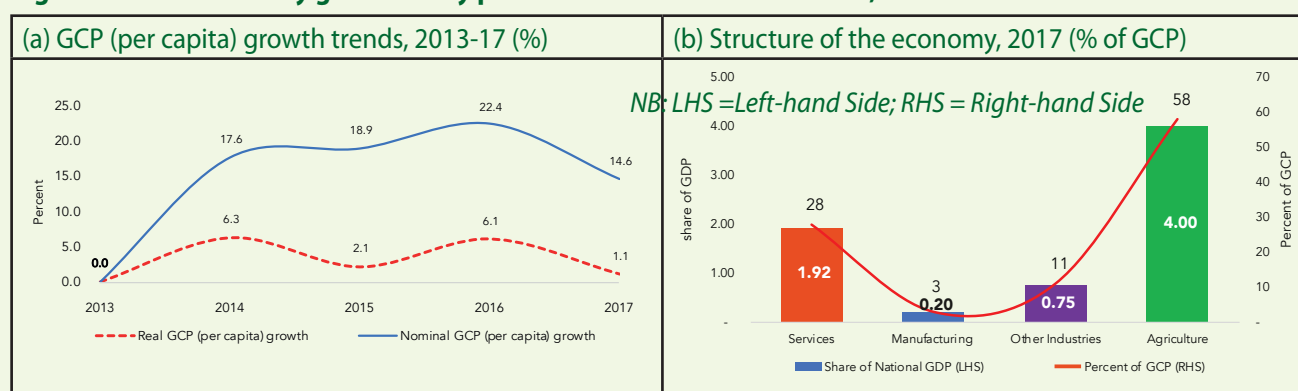
2. STATE OF COUNTY ECONOMY

2.1 Gross County Product Growth

Nakuru County accounted for 6.9 per cent of the national GDP in 2017. Its Gross County Product (GCP) per capita growth rate fluctuated between a maximum of 6.3 per cent recorded in 2014/15 and a minimum of 1.1 per cent recorded in 2017/18 (Figure 1a). The most recent downturn was largely due to the prolonged drought across the county.

The economy has remained reliant on agriculture, which accounted for 58 per cent of GCP and 4 per cent of national GDP in 2017 (Figure 1b). Manufacturing and service sub-sectors contributed 11 per cent and 3 per cent to the GCP while other industries, including agro-based industries and mining, contributed 28 per cent to the county economy. This trend calls for diversification to manufacturing, services and other industries/sectors. The county is making efforts to revive the manufacturing industry, which is particularly important for job creation. To increase agricultural productivity and the participation of women and youth within the sector, the county should put in place mechanisms to reduce the cost of farming, enhance the marketing of agricultural produce and promote agricultural value chains. This can be done through development of the necessary infrastructure such as roads, and enhancing farmers' capacities in modern agricultural methods. Extension services, agribusiness and research need to be promoted. The county should seek to attract more investment in manufacturing and services for a balanced economy. This can be achieved through collaboration with different sub-sectors, especially the private sector.

Figure 1: Nakuru County gross county product and economic structure, 2013-2017

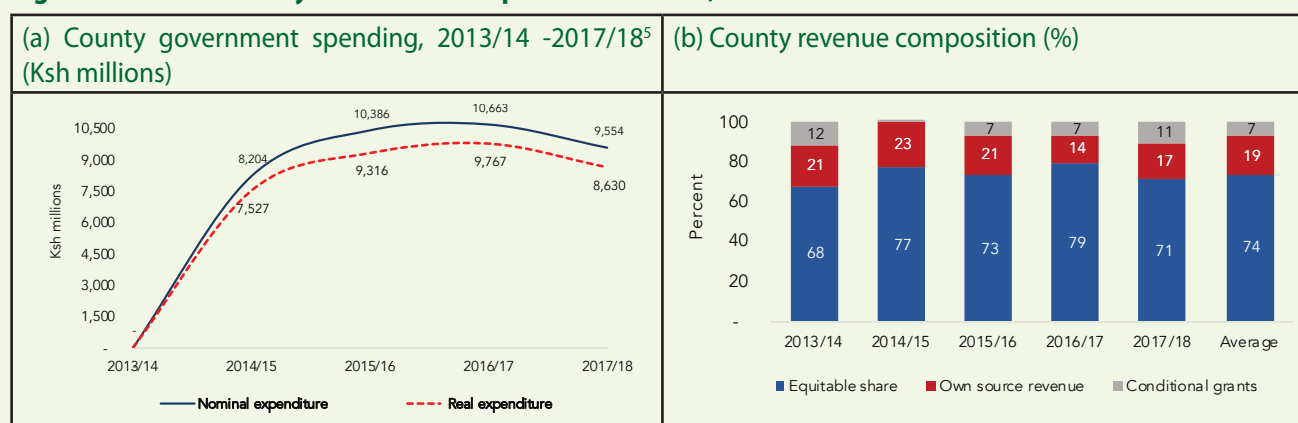


Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (Various) reports

2.2 Overall Budget Performance

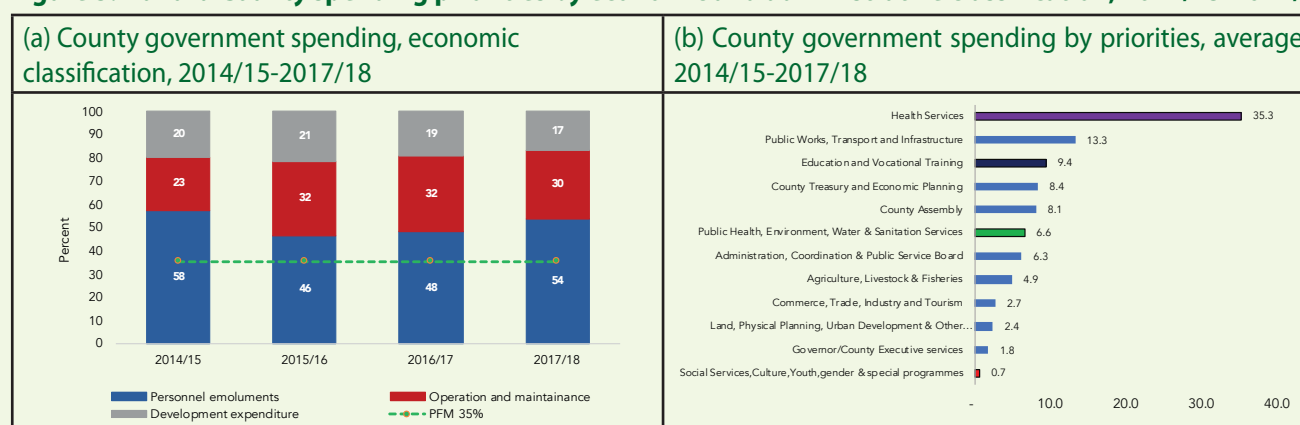
The county government annual budget grew from Ksh 7.5 billion to Ksh 9.8 billion between 2014/15 and 2016/17, and then declined to Ksh 8.6 billion in 2017/18 (Figure 2(a)). The effect of inflation accounted for, on average, Ksh 0.9 billion in loss of purchasing power during the period. The county budget is largely financed by government transfers, which account for, on average, 74 per cent between 2014/15 and 2017/18. In nominal terms, own source revenue increased from Ksh 2.2 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 2.3 billion in 2017/18 while equitable share transfer increased from Ksh 5.9 billion to Ksh 9.3 billion during the same period. Own source revenue as a share of total revenue fell from 23 per cent in 2014/15 to 17 per cent in 2017/18. The contribution of own source revenue and conditional grants was, on average, 26 per cent (Figure 2(b)). There is need for enhanced fiscal efforts to accelerate revenue mobilization from both local revenue and conditional grants.

Figure 2: Nakuru County revenue and expenditure trends, 2013/14-2017/18



Source: Office of the Controller of Budget (Various) reports, 2013/14-2017/18

Figure 3: Nakuru 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 development share of total budget increased from 20 per cent in 2014/15 to 21 per cent in 2015/16, then declined to 17 per cent in 2017/18. The recurrent expenditure, constituting of personnel emoluments and operation and maintenance costs, accounted for about 81 per cent of county government spending throughout the period. Wages alone accounted for about 54 per cent of all county government spending (Figure 3a). This reflects low compliance to the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act 2012 provision that caps development spending at a minimum of 30 per cent of total budget, and the 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.

The county spent about 56.9 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 varies 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 and women. For women, the county government sought to improve access to maternal health services by constructing and equipping

Table 2: Nakuru 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	-	-	-	-	80.0	79.0	-	-	-	-
MMR (death per 100,000 live births) 2016 Estimate	-	-	-	-	191.0	495.0	-	-	-	-
Skilled birth attendant coverage (%) (source: DHIS2)	63.4	53.5	63.1	56.9	64.6	59.3	54.2	53.0	66.6	64.9
Proportion of pregnant women who attended at least one ANC visit during pregnancy (%) (Source: DHIS2)	86.8	76.4	81.4	75.4	81.6	76.9	73.7	73.7	82.3	81.9
Proportion of pregnant women who attended at least four ANC visit during pregnancy (%) (Source: DHIS2)	40.9	35.9	41.3	39.7	38.2	39.8	34.0	32.6	42.4	48.7
Proportion of children under one year who are fully immunized (%) (Source: DHIS2)	89.4	70.2	85.8	75.7	79.8	72.4	88.4	65.9	83.1	77.0
DPT/Hep+HiB3 dropout rate (%) (Source: DHIS2)	4.6	6.8	5.7	7.2	3.2	6.6	7.5	10.1	3.9	4.0
Still Birth Rate (%) (Source : DHIS2)	19.6	29.3	14.3	22.6	19.1	21.5	24.5	22.6	18.3	20.4

Source: Ministry of Health (2018), Demographic Health Information Systems

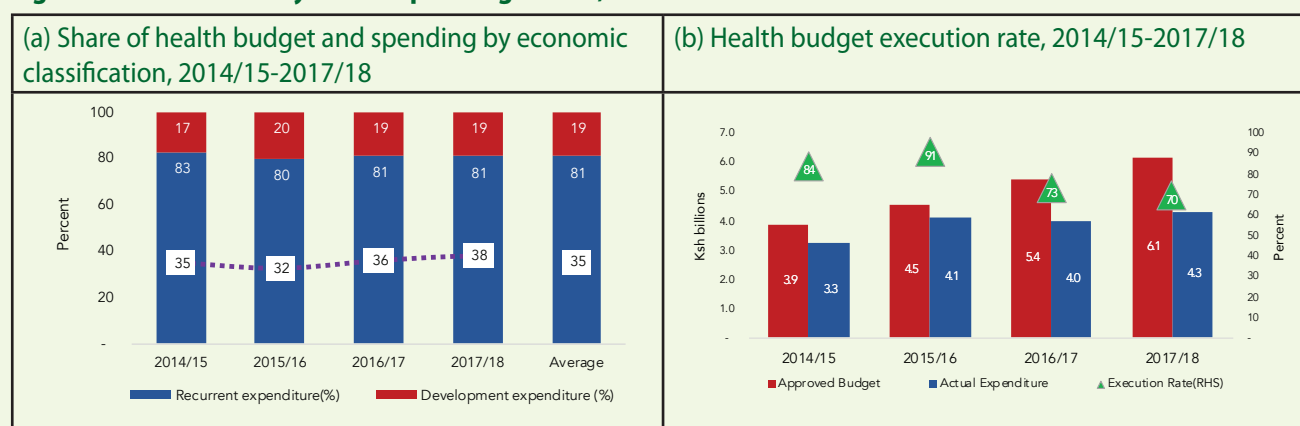
maternity units. In addition, the county also prioritized implementation of the output-based approach in reproductive health. It further sought to improve outpatient services for mothers and children. The county also prioritized the integrated management of childhood illnesses within the county's basic health package. Other cross cutting priorities include upgrading of infrastructure; enhancing county health governance structures; revitalizing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Health Management Information System; implementing the environmental health programme; eliminating communicable diseases; and halting and reversing the rising burden of non-communicable diseases.

The number of women who had access to skilled birth attendant increased from 63.4 per cent in 2014 to 66.6 per cent in 2018 due to introduction of free maternity services in 2013. The proportion of children fully immunized worsened in the review period, although the proportion was above the national average. The share of fully immunized children in the county declined from 89.4 per cent in 2014 to 83.1 per cent in 2018. Infant mortality and under-5 mortality rate was estimated at 80 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2016, which was slightly higher than the national average of 79 deaths per 1,000 live births.

3.1.2 Health budget and expenditure

The share of health budget as a proportion of total county budget allocation decreased from 35 per cent in 2014/15 to 32 per cent in 2015/16 before increasing to 38 per cent in 2017/18. Health actual expenditure expanded from about Ksh 3.3 billion to Ksh 4.3 billion. Spending on health comprised of, on average, 81 per cent recurrent expenditure and 19 per cent development expenditure (Figure 4(a)). The absorption rates increased from 84 per cent in 2014/15 to 91 per cent in 2015/16 before declining to 70 per cent in 2017/18. This is attributed to exchequer failure to release the full amount approved in the health budget.

Figure 4: Nakuru 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 of health infrastructure and human resources in all the sub-counties. The county also aims to prioritize investments in reproductive health information, especially for the youth, and undertake awareness campaigns on healthy practices, including the use of contraceptives. It also aims to continue investing in quality health services by employing more health service providers, constructing more health facilities and equipping the facilities.

The county will need to address various challenges in the 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; inadequate funds for purchasing anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs); increased new cases of HIV/AIDS in the county especially among the youth; delays by the National Treasury in releasing funding to the sector; and pending bills affecting the overall sector absorption rate.

3.2 Education and Vocational Training

3.2.1 Education sector priorities

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. Between 2014/15 and 2017/18, the county education sector focused on supporting ECDE and youth polytechnics while the National government supported primary, special needs, secondary and tertiary education.

Gross ECDE enrolment rate increased from 67.3 per cent in 2014 to 99.6 per cent in 2018 while net enrolment rate (NER) increased from 65.9 per cent to 75.9 per cent during the same period. This was generally higher than the national averages of 94.4 per cent for GER and 63.5 per cent for NER, indicating that more children joined ECDE in the county following devolution of the ECDE function to counties. The increase in enrolment rate can also be explained by the Ward envelope fund that led to construction of more ECDE centres. The expansion of infrastructure was accompanied by employment of more teachers and provision of learning materials and equipment, while increasing enrolment rate. More girls were enrolled in ECDE than boys in the county (Table 3).

Gross primary and secondary school enrolment rates stood at 107.3 per cent and 71.1 per cent in 2018, respectively. Net enrolment rate (NER) decreased from 99.0 per cent in 2014 to 91.3 per cent in 2018 for primary school and increased from 59.5 per cent to 41.2 per cent for secondary school during the same period. There was 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 20 accredited vocational centres in the county, enrolling 1,733 learners.

Table 3: Nakuru County selected education sector performance indicators

Pre-primary School	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
Gross enrolment ratio (%)	67.3	73.6	99.6	94.4
Net enrolment ratio (%)	65.9	71.8	75.9	63.5
Male (%)	48.8	73.4	69.6	62.5
Female (%)	51.2	70.2	83.1	65.0
School size (Public) (Pupils) (Average)	76.0	75.0	74.0	85.0
Gender parity index (value)	1.1	1.0	-	-
Pupil-teacher ratio (No.) (Public)	45.0	31.0	28.0	31.0
Proportion of enrolment in private schools (%)	36.5	31.5	42.0	33.0
Primary School	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
Gross enrolment ratio (%)	112.5	104.0	107.3	107.2
Net enrolment ratio (%)	99.0	88.0	91.3	82.4
Male (%)	50.5	86.0	92.6	81.7
Female (%)	49.5	90.0	90.2	83.0
School size (Public) Average No. of pupils	369.0	338.0	523.0	375.0
Gender parity index (Value)	1.0	1.0	-	-
Pupil-teacher ratio (No.)	56.0	42.0	44.0	40.0
Proportion of enrolment in private schools (%)	17.0	16.0	16.0	16.0
Secondary School	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
Gross enrolment ratio (%)	68.8	58.7	71.1	66.2
Net enrolment ratio (%)	59.5	47.4	41.2	37.5
Male (%)	50.7	49.6	39.9	35.4
Female (%)	49.3	45.2	42.1	39.8
School size (Public)	317.0	-	438.3	392.0
Gender parity index (value)	0.9	0.9	-	-
Pupil-teacher ratio (No.) (TSC)	45.0	30.0 z	33.0	32.0
Pupil-teacher ratio (No.) (TSC and BOM)	21.2	20.2	22.0	20.0
Proportion of enrolment in private schools (%)	40.4	30.7	13.0	5.8

Source: Ministry of Education (Various), Education Statistical Booklets 2013-2018

3.2.2 ECDE budget and expenditure

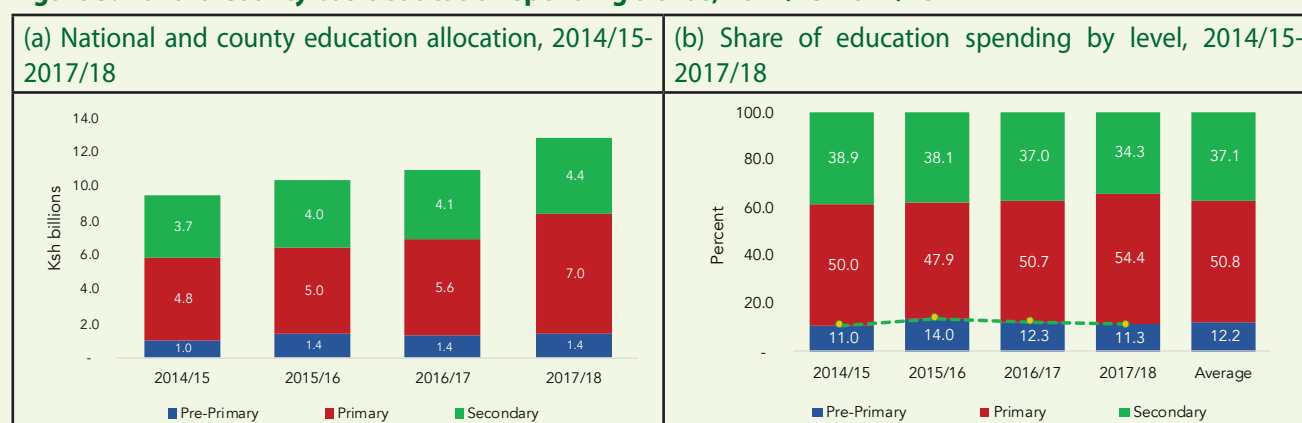
The share of ECDE spending in the county increased from Ksh 1 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 1.4 billion in subsequent years. The share of ECDE spending as a proportion of total education spending was, on average, 12.2 per cent during the period. Spending on primary and secondary education increased from Ksh 4.8 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 7.0 billion in 2017/18 and Ksh 3.7 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 4.4 billion in 2017/18, respectively (Figure 5(a)).

The share of ECDE budget in the total county budget allocation averaged 9.4 per cent over the review period, comprising of, on average, 54 per cent development and 46 per cent recurrent (Figure 6a). The absorption rate declined from an average 50 per cent in 2015/16 to 35 per cent in 2017/18 (Figure 6b).

3.2.3 Education medium term expectations

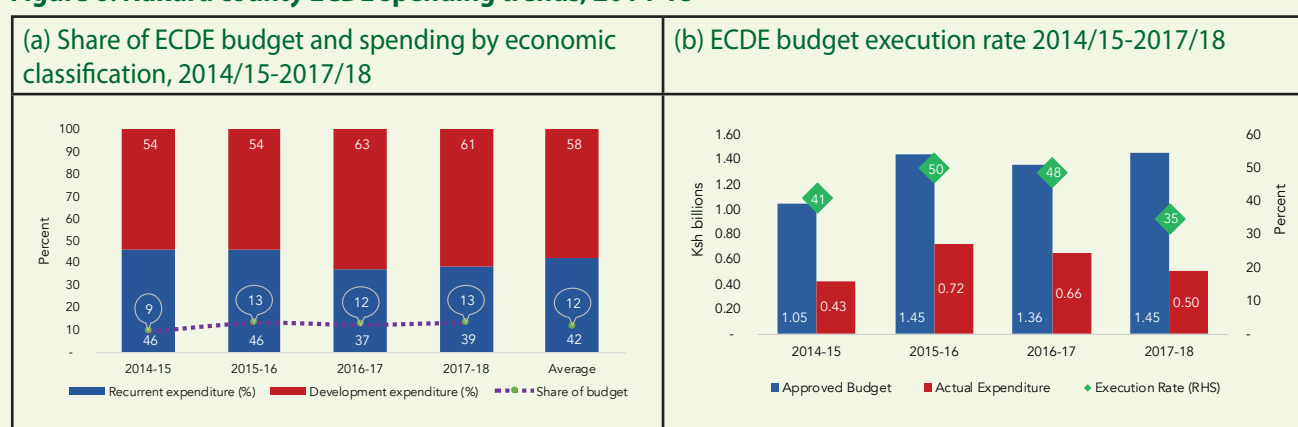
Financial constraints, shortage of staff, and inadequate working tools and equipment are a major challenge for both ECDE centres and vocation training institutions. The county government with support from stakeholders aims to continue

Figure 5: Nakuru County basic education spending trends, 2014/15-2017/18



Source: National Treasury (Various), IFMIS

Figure 6: Nakuru county ECDE spending trends, 2014-18



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

investing 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 establish a county policy on vocational training, revitalize and modernize public centres, and increase the number of vocational training institutions participating in co-curricular activities. The county further seeks to increase capitation funds for vocational and technical centres.

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. For the water sub-sector, the county sought to increase coverage of water supply and drainage services in the county by 20 per cent during the period. For the sanitation sub-sector, the county targeted: increasing the provision of solid

Table 4: Nakuru County selected WASH sector indicators

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

Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2014), KDHS 2014/15; County Government of Nakuru (2018), County Integrated Development Plan

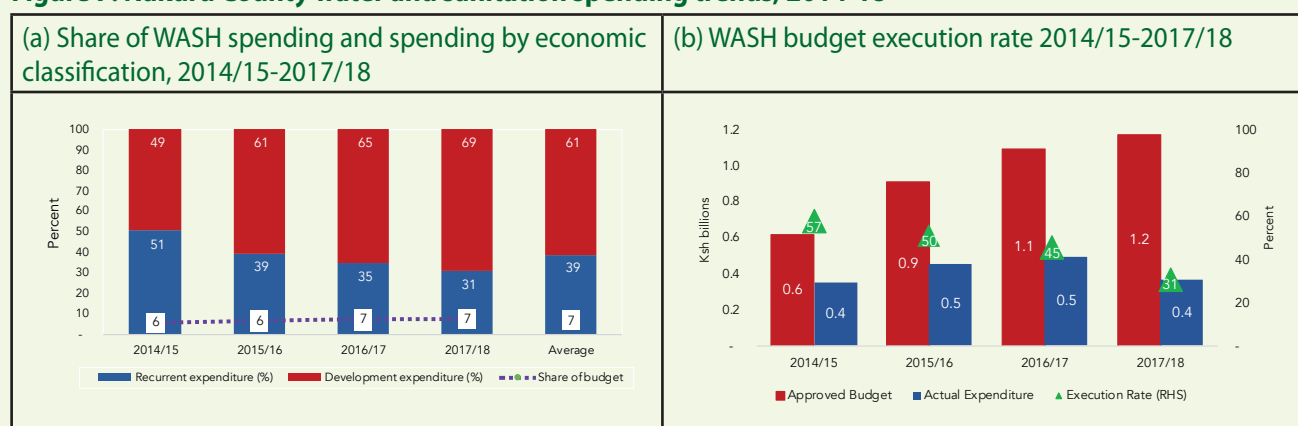
waste management services; maintenance of a hygienic living environment; enhancing aesthetic qualities of the county; improving construction and maintenance of sanitation facilities; controlling air, land and water pollution; and improving rainwater management.

Access to improved water and sanitation was recorded at 72 per cent and 62 per cent, respectively. The population within the service area of water utility (company) decreased from 64 per cent to 51 per cent between 2014/15 and 2017/18. The proportion of population covered or served by the utility improved from 56 per cent in 2014 to 83 per cent in 2018. The sector experienced the problem of non-revenue water⁶ which stood at about 40 per cent in 2018; an improvement from 52 per cent in 2014. High non-revenue water denies the water utility revenue to enhance water service delivery and to meet water operations and maintenance costs.

3.3.2 Water and sanitation budget and expenditure

On average, water and sanitation was allocated 7 per cent of total county budget between 2014/15 and 2017/18. Spending by economic classification on water and sanitation (WASH) increased from Ksh 0.4 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.5 billion in both 2015/16 and 2016/17 before declining to Ksh 0.4 billion in 2017/18. Spending consisted of, on average, 39 per cent recurrent and 61 per cent development. The approved budget allocation to the county increased from Ksh 0.6 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 1.2 billion in 2017/18. However, the absorption rate declined from 57 per cent in 2014/15 to 31 per cent in 2017/18. This is attributed to failure by the exchequer to release the entire approved budget amount, and capacity constraints.

Figure 7: Nakuru County water and sanitation spending trends, 2014-18



Source: Office of the Controller of Budget (Various) reports, 2014/15-2017/18. NB: LHS = Left-hand Side; RHS = Right-hand Side

3.3.3 Water and sanitation medium term expectations

Lack of water and sanitation policy, and or an action plan or legislative framework remains a major challenge for the sector. The county also grapples with limited modern equipment for hydrogeological survey, and inadequate sewer infrastructure. In the plan period 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, partnership with the private sector will be strengthened.

3.4 Child Protection, Youth and Women

3.4.1 County priorities

The County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2013 to 2017 highlighted key priorities for the development of children, youth, persons with disabilities (PWDs) and women. The county sought to increase the number of women engaging in income generating activities by availing non-collateral loans 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 the sub-counties.

Specifically, on child protection, the county recorded an increase in the number of reported cases of child neglect and abandonment from 53 cases in 2014/15 to 2,454 cases in 2017/18. Similarly, child trafficking, abduction and kidnapping increased from 2 in 2014/15 to 26 in 2017/18. However, cases of child sexual abuse and child labour declined significantly. Child physical and emotional abuse increased during the period (Table 5).

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

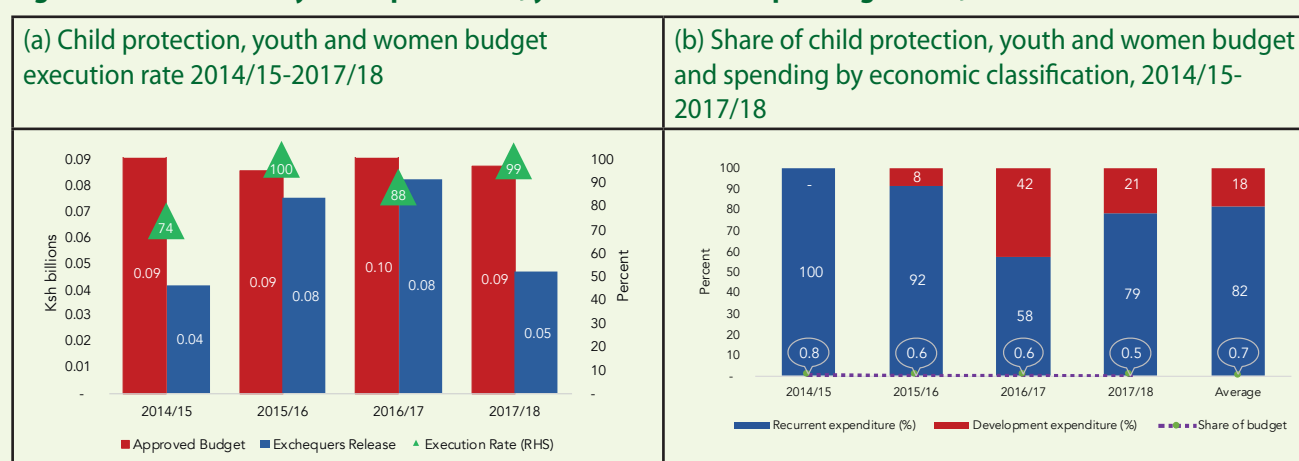
Indicators	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
Child Neglect and Abandonment	53	767	2,454	73,245
Child Sexual Abuse	29	636	2	172
Child Trafficking, Abduction and Kidnapping	2	32	26	1,022
Child Labour	12	168	2	378
Child Emotional Abuse	5	58	13	853
Child Physical Abuse	34	583	44	2,031
Female Genital Mutilation	-	9	1	40

Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2014), KDHS 2014/15; County Government of Nakuru (2018), County Integrated Development Plan

3.4.2 Budget and expenditure on selected social services

The share of total county budget allocated to youth development, disability, child protection and gender mainstreaming averaged 0.7 per cent between 2014/15 and 2017/18. Spending on the above issues was, on average, Ksh 0.09 billion and constituted 82 per cent recurrent and 18 per cent development expenditure. The share of recurrent expenditure was highest in 2015/16, representing 90 per cent of total expenditure and lowest in 2014/15, accounting for 74 per cent of total expenditure. The absorption rates increased from 74 per cent in 2014/15 to 100 per cent in 2015/16 before decreasing to 88 per cent in 2016/17 then increasing to 99 per cent in 2017/18.

Figure 8: Nakuru County social protection, youth and women spending trends, 2014/15-2017/18



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

3.4.3 Medium term expectations

Over the period 2018 to 2022, the county aims to construct additional youth empowerment centres, promote entrepreneurial culture and innovation among the youth, and regulate the gaming industry. For women, the county intends to continue initiatives for gender mainstreaming, and undertake initiatives to reduce gender-based violence. The county will also continue to advocate for inclusion of persons with disability and collect data for a PWDs database. Street children will continue to be rehabilitated and reintegrated into homes.

3.5 Nutrition

3.5.1 Nutrition priorities

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

For children, county nutrition indicators were generally higher than national averages, according to 2014 data. Stunting was 27.6 per cent of the population while wasting and underweight children was 4.5 per cent and 10.2 per cent, respectively (Table 6). Furthermore, while the proportion of households consuming adequately iodized salt in the county was slightly higher than the national figure, the proportion remained lower than the target proportion of 100 per cent. Vitamin A supplementation among children aged 6 to 59 months was low when compared to the target proportion of 80 per cent and far below the national coverage of 24 per cent in 2014.

Table 6: Selected nutrition performance indicators

Indicators	2014-County	2014-National
Stunted children (%)	27.6	26.0
Wasted children (%)	4.5	4.0
Underweight children (%)	10.2	11.0
Vitamin A supplements coverage	12.4	24.0
Proportion of children aged 6 to 59 months- Received Vitamin A supplement	73.6	71.4
Proportion of children consuming adequately iodized salt	100.0	99.1
Proportion of households consuming adequately iodized salt	99.9	99.2
" Household salt iodization (50–80 mg/Kg KIO3) (% samples) "	74.0	57.0
Number of women (BMI)	24.1	23.2
Overweight or obesity among women aged 15 to 49 years	38.5	28.9

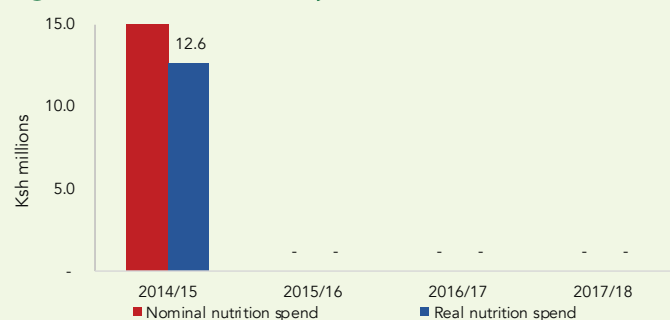
Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2014), Kenya Demographic and Health Survey 2014

The proportion of overweight or obese women in the county stood at 38.5 per cent, higher than the national average of 28.9 per cent. The average Body Mass Index (BMI)⁷ of women in the county was 24.1.

3.5.2 Nutrition budget and expenditure

The county spending on nutrition (direct nutrition interventions) was Ksh 25 million in 2014/15. There was no direct spending on nutrition between 2015/16 and 2017/18. This could be attributed to lack of a proper nutrition plan in the county.

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



Source: National Treasury (Various), IFMIS 2014/15-2017/18

3.5.3 Nutrition medium term expectations

In the period 2018-2022, the county will need to promote nutrition education and strengthen the Community Units to offer broad-based services to eliminate malnutrition cases.

3.6 Other Initiatives for 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 of Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) reserved for women, youth and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). A total of 285 youth, 185 women and 20 PWDs were issued with AGPO certificates. However, there is need to translate the certificate issued by AGPO into tangible business opportunities to the vulnerable groups mentioned.

b) Children: The county has drafted a memo to the County Executive Committee to inspect and regulate day cares in the county. To address the problem of street children in Nakuru town, the county is establishing a drop-in centre for street children.

c) Youth: The county has established the Directorate of Youth with the overall mandate of ensuring youth participate in governance and empowerment opportunities. This will create an all-round youth by focusing efforts on sports, arts, economic activities, agribusiness, and ICT, and offering linkages and mainstreaming. The Directorate will mark international youth week annually as a forum to interact with youth and collect information to help improve service delivery.

d) Women: The county aims to refurbish and establish women empowerment and gender-based violence (GBV) rescue centres. The process to develop a gender policy and strategic plan has been initiated. Development of a women's database to facilitate empowerment through credit and savings activities has also been initiated. Prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV) is also highlighted as a major activity for the county. In line with this development, GBV technical working groups and training of duty bearers on GBV justice system has started. Additionally, a GBV referral tool has been developed.

e) PWDs: The county has actualized the county PWD's fund, which is a milestone. The county has profiled 78 PWDs companies, built capacity for 550 PWDs groups, and distributed mobility and assistive devices for PWDs with physical, hearing and visual impairments.

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	An estimated 58% of the Gross County Product (GCP) of Nakuru, which is the second largest of all the 47 counties in Kenya, comes from agriculture.	The county should put in place measures to mitigate weather shocks, while at the same time promoting manufacturing through agro-processing, and enhancing access to agriculture markets, including through collaboration with the private sector.	County Treasury and Planning/ County Executive/Department of Agriculture
Revenue	County own source revenue increased marginally from Ksh 2.2 billion to Ksh 2.3 billion between 2014/15 and 2017/18, respectively.	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, was low.	The National Treasury should 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	Maternal and child health outcomes have improved, but the rate of child immunization is declining.	To reverse the rate of child immunization, the county should prioritize investments in immunization.	County Treasury and Planning/ County Department of Health
Education	The budget for Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) has increased from Ksh 1 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 1.4 billion in 2017/18.	The county should ensure equitable distribution and effective utilization of available resources. In addition, the county should ring-fence ECDE resources so that they are not used for other purposes.	County Treasury and Planning/ County Department of Education
WASH	About 30 per cent of the population have no access to improved water. Further, 38 per cent have no access to improved sanitation. Sewage coverage is also negligible, with only 28 per cent accessing the services.	More investment is needed in new water infrastructure, with attention given to operations and maintenance of the existing infrastructure, and accessibility by households to remove the burden on children and women.	County Treasury and Planning/ County Department of Water and Sanitation/NARUWASCCO/ NAWASCCO
Nutrition	The county only committed resources to direct nutrition (Ksh 25 million) in one fiscal year (2014/15). This is a concern given that nearly a third (27.2%) of the children are stunted.	The county should ensure that nutrition-related 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

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.	County Planning, Statistics and M&E Unit; and Social/Gender Departments
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(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 See, for example, UNICEF (2017), *Early Moments Matter*, New York: UNICEF.
- 3 *Monetary poverty* measures the lack of financial means of households to provide its members with basic goods and services deemed necessary for their survival and development. *Extreme poverty* refers to an income below the food poverty line. Households whose adult equivalent food consumption expenditure per person per month fell below Ksh 1,954 in rural areas and Ksh 2,551 in urban areas were deemed to be food poor. Similarly, households whose overall consumption expenditure fell below Ksh 3,252 in rural areas and Ksh 5,995 in urban areas, per person per month were overall poor.
- 4 *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.
- 5 Base year 2013.
- 6 *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).
- 7 *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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