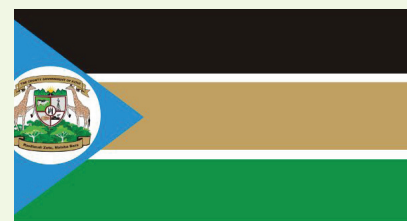


## Children, Youth and Women Sensitive Planning and Budgeting in Kenya: Kitui County Brief, 2014/15-2017/18



*County Government of Kitui*

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BRIEF

This brief provides an analysis on how the County Government of **Kitui** plans and 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 highlights from the analysis are summarized below:

- a) **An estimated 54 per cent of the Gross County Product (GCP)<sup>1</sup> of Kitui, which is ranked 24th (1.4 per cent contribution to GDP) of all the 47 counties in Kenya, comes from services sector.** Agriculture is ranked second contributing 41 per cent of the GCP. Agricultural productivity is vulnerable to weather shocks resulting in unpredictable economic growth trends. Moving forward, the county should put measures in place to mitigate weather shocks, while at the same time promoting manufacturing through agro-processing, and enhancing access to agriculture markets, including through collaboration with private sector.
- b) **The county's own source revenue increased marginally from Ksh 0.255 billion to Ksh 0.416 billion between 2014/15 and 2017/18.** However, as a share of total revenue, the county's own source revenue declined from 5 per cent in 2014/15 to 3 per cent in 2017/18. Overall, total county revenue increased from Ksh 6.0 Billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 7.3 billion in 2017/18 mainly because of equitable share 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 the health sector fluctuated between Ksh 2.06 billion in 2014/15, Ksh 2.33 billion in 2015/16 and Ksh 3.02 billion in 2017/18, although maternal and child health outcomes generally improved during the period.** The number of women with access to a skilled birth attendant during delivery improved from 41.3 per cent in 2014 to 49.2 per cent in 2018, although remaining below the national average of 61.8 per cent in 2018. This is largely because of introduction of free maternity services in 2013. In addition, the share of fully immunized children in the county declined from 75.3 per cent in 2014 to 66.2 per cent in 2017, before improving to 81.8 per cent in 2018. There is need to invest more in immunization services, and increase awareness on free maternity services within the county.
- d) **The budget for Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) increased from Ksh 0.5 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.8 billion in 2017/18.** Partly because of increased spending on ECDE, gross ECDE enrolment rate in the county went up from 95 per cent in 2014 to 103.1 per cent in 2018. Looking forward, the challenge for the county is to ensure equitable distribution and effective utilization of available resources. In addition, the county should ring-fence ECDE resources<sup>2</sup> so that they are not used for other purposes such as secondary and higher education bursaries.
- e) **The county allocation for water and sanitation remained constant at 0.3 billion which was 3 per cent of the county total budget over the review period.** This was an under-investment given that about 66 per cent of the population having no access to improved water sources. The county needs to increase allocation for WASH.
- f) **The county's child protection, youth and women budget allocation as a share of the total county budget allocation during the review period averaged 2.7 per cent.** Spending on the sector increased from Ksh 0.205 billion 2014/15 to Ksh 0.361 billion in 2016/17 but declined to Ksh 0.301 billion in 2017/18 This was an under-investment given that this segment of the population is the most vulnerable.
- g) **The county only committed Ksh 8 million in one fiscal year (2014/15) to interventions which directly contribute to boosting child nutrition, at a time when 38 per cent of the children are stunted.** 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 above average. For instance, budget execution rates for water and sanitation have been increasing from 73 per cent in 2014/15 to 90 per cent in 2017/18.** The budget execution rate was partly because approved budgets were released on time by the National Treasury, and procurement and cash flow planning by the county was strong. 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 9 in 2014 to 1,794 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

**Kitui county** occupies a land area of approximately 30,497 km<sup>2</sup> and is divided into 8 sub-counties and 40 wards. The county's population was 1,136,187, which is 2.4 percent of the national population. This constituted of 549,003 males, 587,151 females and 24 intersex persons.

**In 2015/16, the overall poverty rate of the county was 48 per cent with 12.8 per cent living in extreme poverty, which is worse than the overall national rates of 36.1 and 8.6 per cent, respectively.** Among children, one every two children were affected by monetary poverty or financial means<sup>3</sup>. 48.0 percent for youth and 43.9 percent for women were also affected by monetary poverty. Additionally, 75.5 per cent of children were living in multidimensional poverty; that is, deprived in several areas including nutrition, health care, education, housing and drinking water<sup>4</sup>. Youth and women recorded 73.4 per cent and 86.0 per cent multidimensional poverty, respectively. Monetary poverty rates are highest among children while multidimensional poverty rates are highest among women, implying that women are bearing the highest burden of poverty in Kitui county. Mitigating this phenomenon requires a planning and budgeting process that better considers the human capital sectors. This enables the county to maximize its productive and innovative potential of its future workforce and to initiate a fast and sustainable growth trajectory (Table 1).

**Table 1: Kitui County administrative, poverty and demographic profile**

Administrative Profile						Latest Available	
Area (km <sup>2</sup> )						30,497	
Number of sub-counties						8	
Number of wards						40	
Overall poverty (%)						48%	
Extreme poverty (%)						12.8%	
Population (2019)						1,136,187	
Group	Children	National Children	Youths	National Youths	Wo/men	National Wo/men	
Monetary Poor							
Male (%)	51.2	42.1	51.7	29.1	36.5	30.5	
Female (%)	46.8	41.0	44.5	28.8	48.1	34.1	
Total (%)	49.1	41.6	48.0	28.9	43.9	32.4	
Population	570,854	20,742,290	264,954	13,443,268	172,035	7,847,350	
Multidimensionally Poor							
Male (%)	76.0	49.3	72.3	44.7	75.2	51.0	
Female (%)	75.0	47.1	74.4	49.4	86.0	60.8	
Total (%)	75.5	48.2	73.4	47.1	81.7	56.1	
Population	570,854	20,742,290	264,954	13,443,268	172,035	7,847,350	

Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2018)

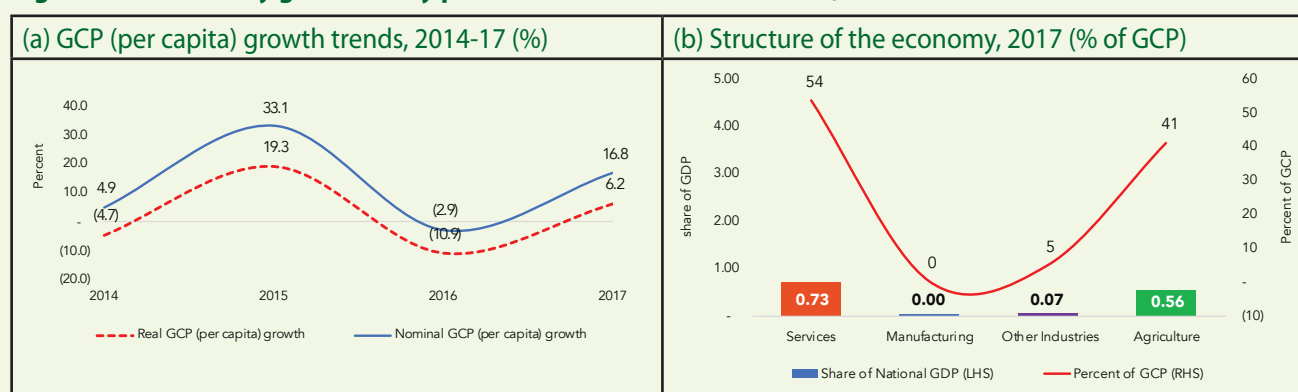
## 2. STATE OF COUNTY ECONOMY

### 2.1 Gross County Product Growth

**Kitui county accounted for 1.4 per cent of the national GDP in 2017.** The county's real Gross County Product (GCP) per capita growth rate expanded to a maximum of 19.3 per cent recorded in 2015 and contracted to a minimum of 10.9 cent recorded in 2016 (Figure 1a). The drastic economic growth decline in 2016 was largely attributable to a prolonged drought period experienced across the county.

**The economy remains heavily reliant on services sector, which accounted for 54 per cent of the GCP and 0.73 per cent of the national GDP in 2017 (Figure 1b).** Agriculture and other industries accounted for 41 per cent and 5 per cent of the GCP, respectively. The services and agriculture sectors are important drivers of job creation for women, youth and PWDs. The county needs to consider a mix of agriculture productivity enhancing measures such as modernization of production systems, reduction of cost of farming, improvement of infrastructure to link rural areas with markets, and value chain promotion to boost the sector's productivity. The county should also seek to attract more investments in manufacturing, and services, for a balanced economy.

**Figure 1: Kitui county gross county product and economic structure, 2014-2017**

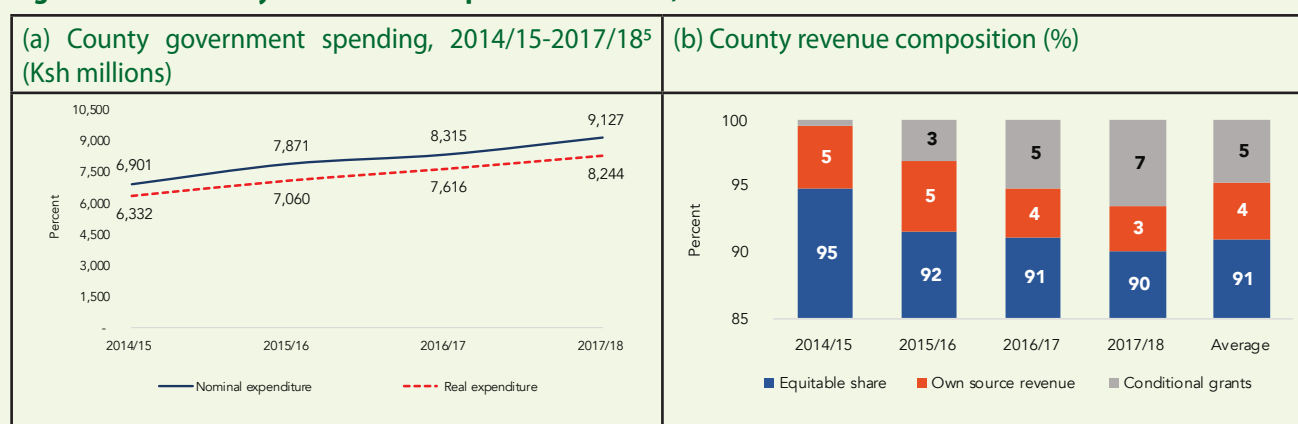


Source: KNBS (2019) Statistics

### 2.2 Overall Budget Performance

**The county government annual spending in real terms steadily grew from Ksh 6.9 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 8.3 billion in 2017/18 (Figure 2a).** The effect of inflation accounted for an average Ksh 1.4 billion in loss of purchasing power during the period. This spending is heavily dependent on national government transfers, accounting for on average 91.8 per cent between 2014/15 and 2017/18. The burden of the drop in the county government spending predominantly affects social sector spendings, which are recurrent in nature. The county's own source revenue share of the total revenue is comparatively lower, averaging 4.3 per cent of the county revenue composition over the period under review. In nominal terms, own source revenue increased from Ksh 0.255 billion in 2013/14 to Ksh 0.416 billion in 2015/16 before recording a decline to Ksh 0.335 billion by 2017/18. The contribution of own source revenue and conditional grants was, on average, 8.2 per cent (Figure 2b). Therefore, there is need for enhanced fiscal efforts to accelerate revenue mobilization from both local revenue and conditional grants.

**Figure 2: Kitui county revenue and expenditure trends, 2014/15-2017/18**



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

**The share of actual development budget increased from 43 per cent in 2014/15 to 48 per cent in 2015/16 before declining 36 per cent in 2017/18.** The recurrent expenditure on wages and operations and maintenance dominate spending, constituting 35 per cent and 23 per cent of the total spending, on average. This leaves only 43 per cent of the county income available for development, which compromises the county long-term objectives, including infrastructure development (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 2015 Regulation 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 over 62.2 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 impact 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 this period, the county outlined key priorities that targeted children, youth and women.** The sector's priorities included: construction of 23 new health facilities across the county to reduce the distance to a health facility, and 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 that was rising.

**The proportion of women who had access to a skilled birth attendant during delivery significantly declined from 41.3 per cent in 2014 to 49.2 per cent in 2018, which is below the national average of 61.8 per cent by 2018, despite the introduction of free maternity services in 2013.** The proportion of women who attended at least four ANC visits was low compared to those who attended one ANC visit in the review period in the county. Moreover, the rate of still births in the county were above the national averages from 2016 to 2018, while the maternal mortality rate in the county stood at 330 deaths per 100,000 live births.

**The health status of children within the county remained relatively below the national average in key indicators in the review period.** The share of fully immunized children in the county declined from 75.3 per cent in 2014 to 66.2 per cent in 2017, before improving to 81.8 per cent in 2018. Under-5 mortality rate was recorded at 57 deaths per 1,000 live births against the national average of 79 deaths per 1000 live births by 2016.

**Table 2: Kitui county selected health sector performance indicators**

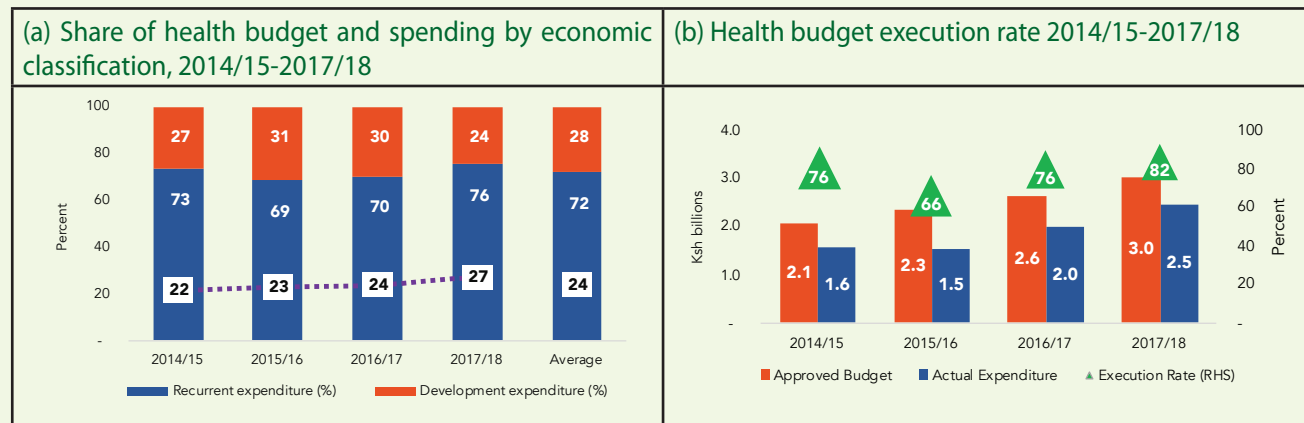
Selected Health Indicators	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	County	National	County	National	County	National	County	National	County	National
U5MR (death per 1,000 live births) 2016 Estimate	-	-	-	-	57.0	79.0	-	-	-	-
MMR (death per 100,000 live births) 2016 Estimate	-	-	-	-	330.0	495.0	-	-	-	-
Skilled birth attendant coverage (%) (source: DHIS2)	41.3	53.5	45.0	56.9	42.2	59.3	38.6	53.0	49.2	64.9
Proportion of pregnant women who attended at least one ANC visit during pregnancy (%) (Source: DHIS2)	72.4	76.4	68.4	75.4	68.4	76.9	63.7	73.7	76.8	81.9
Proportion of pregnant women who attended at least four ANC visit during pregnancy (%) (Source: DHIS2)	29.9	35.9	29.5	39.7	29.6	39.8	25.3	32.6	41.1	48.7
Proportion of children under one year who are fully immunized (%) (Source: DHIS2)	75.3	70.2	72.7	75.7	67.1	72.4	66.2	65.9	81.8	77.0
DPT/Hep+HiB3 dropout rate (%) (Source: DHIS2)	4.8	6.8	5.2	7.2	8.1	6.6	10.2	10.1	2.8	4.0
Still Birth Rate (Source : DHIS2)	20.0	29.3	21.9	22.6	35.2	21.5	24.2	22.6	24.4	20.4

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

### 3.1.2 Health budget and expenditure

The share of health budget in the total county budget allocation increased from 22 per cent in 2014/15 to 27 per cent in 2017/18. The health budget expanded from Ksh 2.1 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 3.0 billion in 2017/18. Spending on health comprised of, on average, 72 per cent recurrent and 28 per cent development expenditures (Figure 4a). The absorption rates decreased from 76 per cent in 2014/15 to 66 per cent in 2015/16 before increasing to 82 per cent in 2017/18. This is attributable to failure by the exchequer to release the full amount approved in the health budget.

**Figure 4: Kitui county health spending trends, 2014-18**



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

### 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 investments in reproductive health information, especially for the youth and undertake awareness campaigns on the importance of healthy reproductive practices. It also aims to continue investing in provision of quality health services by employing more health service providers, and constructing more health facilities and equipping them.

## 3.2 Education and Vocational Training

### 3.2.1 Education sector priorities

County governments are responsible for Early Childhood Development 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. Between 2014 and 2018, the county education sector focused on supporting ECDE and youth polytechnics while the national government supported the primary, special needs, secondary and tertiary education.

Gross ECDE enrolment rate increased from 95 per cent in 2014 to 103.1 per cent in 2018 while net enrolment rate (NER) declined from 89.8 per cent to 66.0 per cent during the same period. This was slightly higher than national averages of 78.4 per cent and 77.2 per cent, indicating that more children joined ECDE than before the implementation of devolution. The decline in net enrolment rate implies that children of school-going age in Kitui county had not started school during the review period. More boys were enrolled in ECDE than girls in the county (Table 3).

Gross primary and secondary enrolment rates stood at 115.2 per cent and 72.2 per cent in 2018, respectively. Net enrolment rate (NER) decreased from 96.7 per cent to 87.9 per cent for primary school and from 55.1 per cent to 31.4 per cent for secondary school during the same period. There was inequality in access to primary and secondary education between male and female school-going children in favour of female learners by 2018 as shown in Table 3. In 2018, there were 20 accredited vocational centres in the county enrolling 1,733 learners.

### 3.2.2 Basic education budget and expenditure

The share of ECDE spending in the county increased from Ksh 0.5 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.8 billion in 2016/17 and 2017/18. The share of ECDE spending as a proportion of total education spending was, on average, 6.9 per cent during the period under review. Spending on primary and secondary education increased from 5.0 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 7.3 billion in 2017/18 and from Ksh 2.8 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 3.3 billion in 2017/18, respectively (Figure 5(a)).

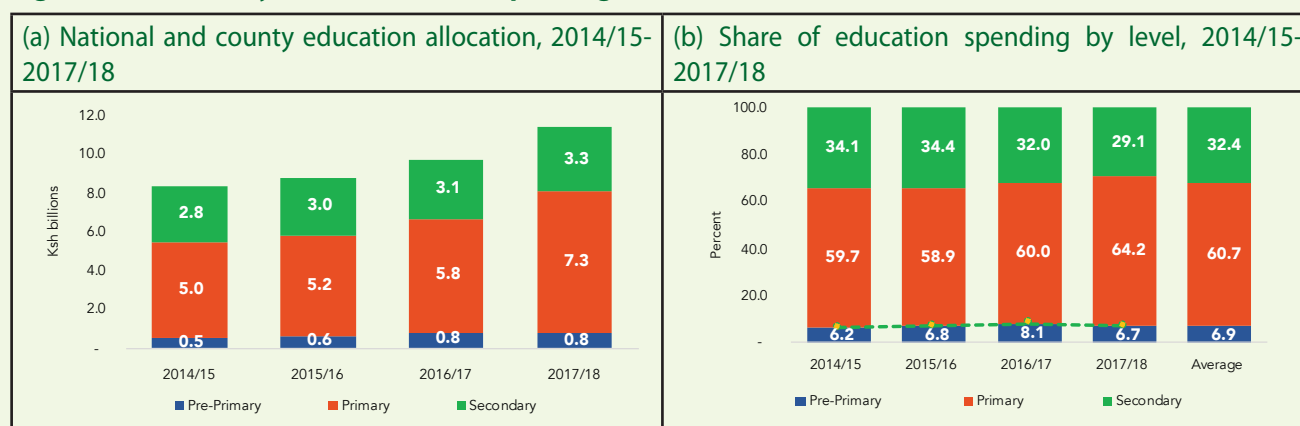
**Table 3: Kitui county selected education sector performance indicators**

Pre-primary School	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
Gross enrolment ratio (%)	95.0	73.6	103.1	94.4
Net enrolment ratio (%)	89.8	71.8	66.0	63.5
Male (%)	51.4	73.4	70.9	62.5
Female (%)	48.6	70.2	60.2	65.0
School size (Public) (Pupils) (Average)	54.0	75.0	55.0	85.0
Gender parity index (value)	0.9	1.0	-	-
Pupil-teacher ratio (No.) (Public)	39.0	31.0	27.0	31.0
Proportion of enrolment in private schools (%)	7.4	31.5	9.0	33.0
Primary School	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
Gross enrolment ratio (%)	120.7	104.0	115.2	107.2
Net enrolment ratio (%)	96.7	88.0	87.9	82.4
Male (%)	50.6	86.0	85.0	81.7
Female (%)	49.4	90.0	90.9	83.0
School size (Public) Average No. of pupils	253.0	338.0	233.0	375.0
Gender parity index (Value)	1.0	1.0	-	-
Pupil-teacher ratio (No.)	38.0	42.0	35.0	40.0
Proportion of enrolment in private schools (%)	6.0	16.0	6.0	16.0
Secondary School	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
Gross enrolment ratio (%)	55.9	58.7	72.2	66.2
Net enrolment ratio (%)	55.1	47.4	31.4	37.5
Male (%)	51.7	49.6	30.3	35.4
Female (%)	58.5	45.2	32.7	39.8
School size (Public)	196.0	-	226.1	392.0
Gender parity index (value)	1.0	0.9	-	-
Pupil-teacher ratio (No.) (TSC)	32.0	30.0	34.0	32.0
Pupil-teacher ratio (No.) (TSC and BOM)	19.1	20.2	19.0	20.0
Proportion of enrolment in private schools (%)	23.7	30.7	1.0	5.8

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

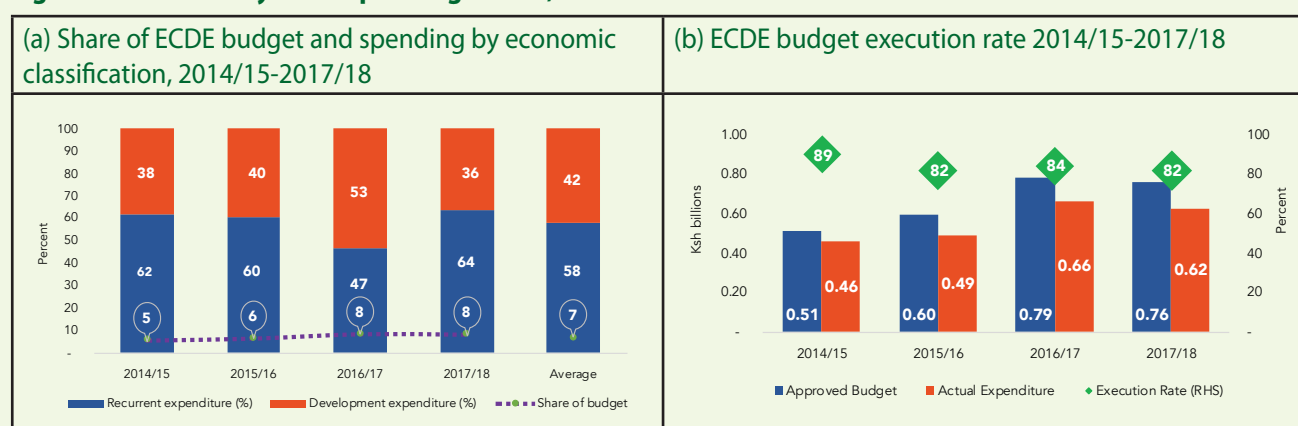
The share of ECDE budget in the total County budget allocation averaged 7 per cent over the review period, comprising of 42 per cent development and 58 per cent recurrent (Figure 6a). The absorption rate declined from an average 89 per cent in 2014/15 to 82 per cent in 2017/18 (Figure 6b).

**Figure 5: Kitui county overall education spending trends, 2014-18**



Source: National Treasury (Various), IFMIS

**Figure 6: Kitui 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 aims at increasing its investment in early childhood development with a focus on construction and upgrading of ECDE, strengthening the staffing of ECDE, training ECDE teachers including on skills on handling children with disabilities, integrating children with disability in ECDE and introducing school feeding programme pupils. In line with the enhancement of vocational and technical training, the county seeks to enhance village polytechnic education through provision of accessible infrastructure and equipment and the reorienting of the curriculum to offer life skills including farming, artisan, plumbing, beauty and therapy. To achieve these objectives, the county will require to partner with the national government and private sector to enhance ECDE and vocation training.

## 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. The county seeks to ensure access to affordable and sufficient water for both domestic and commercial use. For the sanitation sub-sector, the county targeted: increasing the provision of solid 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 53 per cent and 77 per cent, respectively.** The population within the service area of water utility (company) increased from 56 per cent to 97 per cent between 2014 and 2018. The proportion of population covered or served by the utility declined from 49 per cent in 2014 to 26 per cent in 2018. The sector experiences the problem of non-revenue water<sup>5</sup> at about 53 per cent as at 2018, deteriorating from 52 per cent in 2014. High non-revenue water denies the water utilities revenue to enhance water service delivery and in meeting operations and maintenance costs.

**Table 4: Kitui county selected WASH sector performance indicators**

Indicators	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
County population within service areas of WSPs (%)	56	*	97	*
Water coverage by utilities (%)	49	53	26	*
Non-revenue water (NRW) (%)	52	42	53	*
Sanitation coverage within utility area (%)	77	69	-	*
Sewerage coverage (%)	13	*	-	*
Access to improved water (%)	53	*	53	*
Access to improved sanitation (%)	57	*	57	59
No toilet facility – Potential open defecation county-wide (%)	36	*	14	8

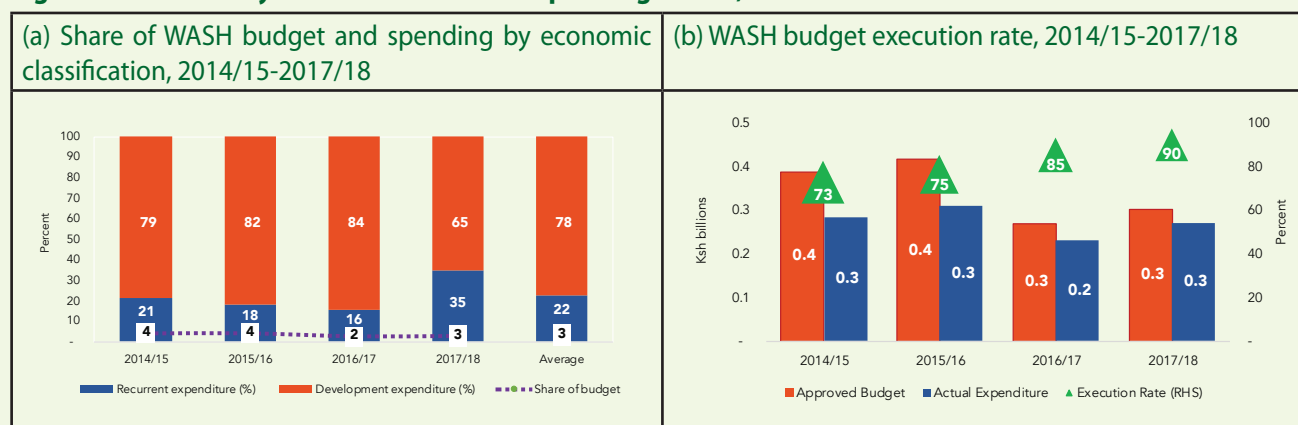
Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2014), KDHS 2014; County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2018

### 3.3.2 Water and sanitation budget and expenditure

**The total budget allocation to the sector as a share of the total county budget allocation during the review period was, on average, 3 per cent.** Total spending on the sector increased from Ksh 0.390 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.417 billion

in 2015/16, but recorded a decline to Ksh 0.303 billion in 2017/18. Spending consisted of an average 22 per cent recurrent and 61 per cent development expenditure. The absorption rate increased from 73 per cent in 2014/15 to 90 per cent in 2017/18. However, absorption rate increased from 73 percent in 2014/15 to 90 percent in 2017/18.

**Figure 7: Kitui county water and sanitation spending trends, 2014-18**



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 undertake water and sanitation infrastructure improvement to ensure an increase in the proportion of households with access to clean water. With a declining percentage of population under sewer coverage, few technical staff in the water sector, high breakage of water pumps compounded by a declining share of recurrent spending in WASH, more focus need to be given to operations and maintenance for the county to realize the outlined millstones.

## 3.4 Child Protection, Youth and Women

### 3.4.1 Child protection, youth and women priorities

The County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2013-2017 highlighted coordination and development of communities through social welfare; empowerment of youth through training; management of sports activities; promotion and regulation of responsible gaming; promotion of cultural development activities; and coordination of gender mainstreaming as key areas of focus for the social services, youth, gender and culture department.

Specifically, on social child protection, the county recorded a high number of reported cases of child neglect and abandonment, substantially increasing from 9 cases in 2014 to 1,794 cases in 2018. Similarly, the number of child physical abuse increased from 2 cases in 2014 to 73 cases in 2018 while child trafficking, abduction and kidnapping reported 11 cases.

The county has no reported case of female genital mutilation (FGM). The non-reporting of FGM to government institutions can be attributed to either intensive campaigns or initiatives to protect the girl child, or fear by the population to report such cases, and culture that approves such practices.

**Table 5: Kitui county selected social protection performance indicators (No. of reported cases)**

Indicators	2014-County	2014-National	2018-County	2018-National
Child Neglect and Abandonment	9	767	1,794	73245
Child Sexual Abuse	4	636	-	172
Child Trafficking, Abduction and Kidnapping	-	32	11	1022
Child Labour	3	168	2	378
Child Emotional Abuse	-	58	13	853
Child Physical Abuse	2	583	73	2031
Female Genital Mutilation	-	9	-	40

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

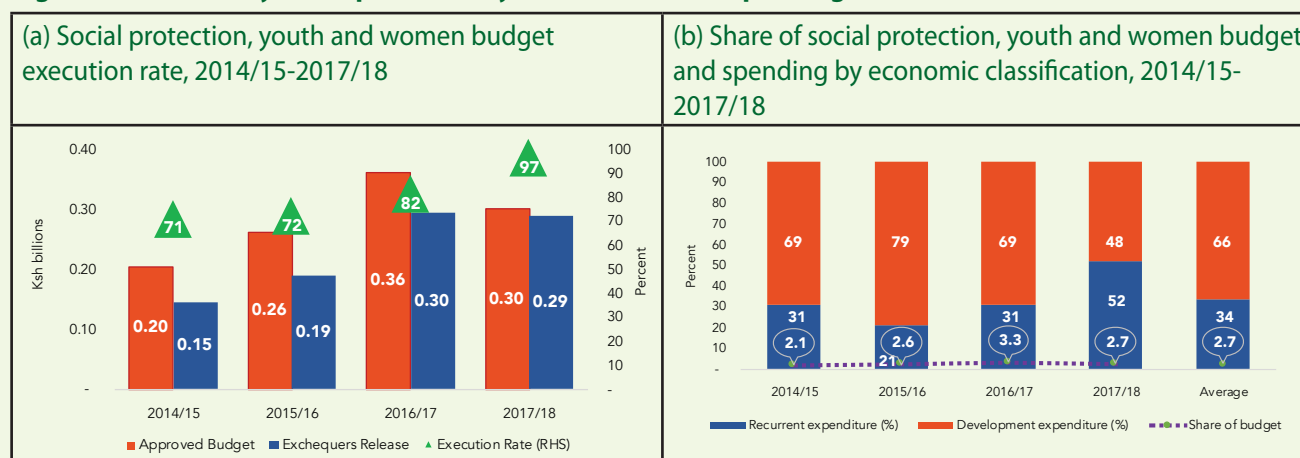
### 3.4.2 Child protection, youth and women budget and expenditure

The sector's budget allocation as a share of total county budget allocation during the review period averaged 2.7 per cent. Spending on the sector increased from Ksh 0.205 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.361 billion in 2016/17, but declined



to Ksh 0.301 billion in 2017/18, comprising of 34 per cent recurrent expenditure and 66 per cent development expenditure. The absorption rate increased from 71 per cent in 2014/15 to 97 per cent in 2017/18.

**Figure 8: Kitui county social protection, youth and women spending trends, 2013-18**



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

### 3.4.3 Child protection, youth and women medium term expectations

The county CIDP (2018-2022) aims to provide care, support and build capacities of individuals, vulnerable groups and communities 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 those of the national government to avoid duplication of 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 improvement of nutritional status of households to eliminate malnutrition cases.

**For children, county nutrition indicators were generally higher than national averages, according to 2014 data.** The proportion of stunted children was 38 per cent in 2014 while the proportion of wasted children was 5 per cent in 2018 against national averages of 26 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively. The proportion of underweight children was 21 per cent (Table 6). Vitamin A supplementation among children aged 6 to 59 months was 85 per cent against the national average of 71 per cent in 2014.

**The proportion of overweight or obese women in the county stood at 31 per cent, higher than the national average of 28.9 per cent.** The average Body Mass Index (BMI) of women in the county was 23.

**Table 6: Selected nutrition performance indicators**

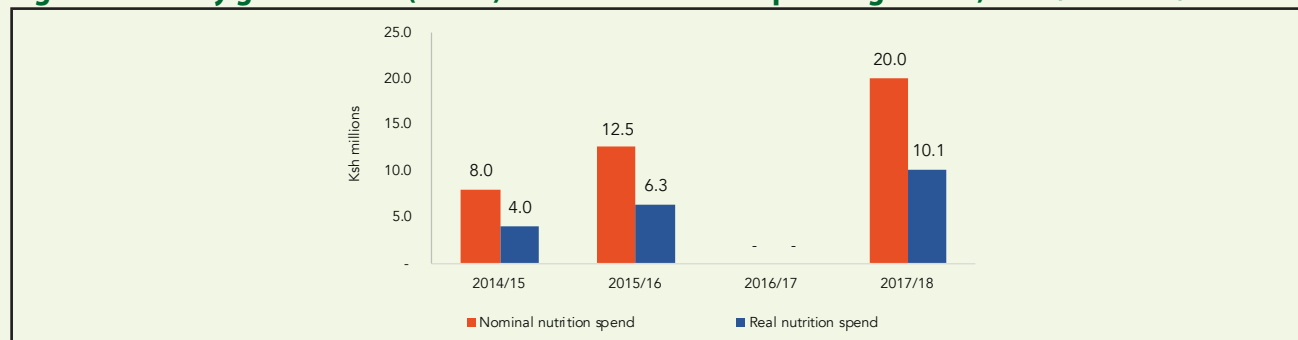
Indicators	2014-County	2014-National
Stunted children (%)	38.2	26.0
Wasted children (%)	4.6	4.0
Underweight children (%)	20.7	11.0
Vitamin A supplements coverage	14.6	24.0
Proportion of children aged 6 to 59 months- Received Vitamin A supplement	84.5	71.4
Proportion of children consuming adequately iodized salt.	99.8	99.1
Proportion of households consuming adequately iodized salt.	99.8	99.2
" Household salt iodization (50 – 80 mg/Kg KIO3) (% samples) "	74.0	57.0
Number of Women (BMI)	23.2	23.2
Overweight or obesity among women aged 15 to 49 years.	31.0	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 8 million in 2014/15 to Ksh 20 million in 2017/18. During the financial year 2016/17, there was no direct spending on nutrition. This could be attributed to lack of proper nutrition plans in the county.

**Figure 9: 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

The CIDP 2018 to 2022 outlined key areas of focus in the nutrition sector. 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 be required to increase the share of nutrition sensitive spending, which has been inconsistent.

## 3.6 Other Initiatives for Special Interest Groups

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

#### a) AGPO

The county promotes the implementation of Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) Programme

#### b) Children

The county employed 2162 ECDE teachers, constructed/equipped 450 ECDE centers and recorded an increase in the ECDE enrolment from 65,000 to 88,106. The county established a rescue center for street children;

#### c) Youth

The county implements a 100% matching grant to support youth startups. The county has 52 vocational training centers and multiple youth employment centers that promote youth skills development.

#### d) Women

The county adheres to the 30:70 gender rule in employment with a female: male employment ration of 34:66 and 20 per cent of the leadership position being held by women. The county undertakes socio economic empowerment initiatives for women including undertaking 40 capacity building for women

#### e) PWDs

150 PWDs with physical, hearing and visual impairments were supported with assistive devices and 15 special needs institutions were supported for sporting activities needs.

## 4. RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY

A summary of the 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 54 per cent of the Gross County Product (GCP) of Kitui, which is ranked 24 <sup>th</sup> (1.4% contribution to GDP) of all the 47 counties in Kenya, comes from services sector. Agriculture is ranked second, contributing 41 per cent of the GCP. Agricultural productivity is vulnerable to weather shocks resulting in unpredictable economic growth trends.	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 Trade and Industry
Revenue	The county's own source revenue increased marginally from Ksh 0.255 billion to Ksh 0.416 billion between 2014/15 and 2017/18. However, as a share of total revenue, the county's own source revenue declined from 5 per cent in 2014/15 to 3 per cent in 2017/18. Overall, total county revenue increased from Ksh 6.0 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 7.3 billion in 2017/18, mainly because of equitable share transfers from the national government.	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 above average. For instance, budget execution rates for water and sanitation have been increasing from 73 per cent in 2014/15 to 90 per cent in 2017/18. The budget execution rate was partly because approved budgets were released on time by the National Treasury, and procurement and cash flow planning by the county was strong. To improve budget utilization rates, there is need for the National Treasury to adhere to disbursement schedules by releasing resources on time.	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 has been declining since 2014. The number of women who had access to a skilled birth attendant during delivery declined from 41.3 per cent in 2014 to 49.2 per cent in 2018. This is largely because of the introduction of free maternity services in 2013. However, the share of fully immunized children in the county declined from 75.3 per cent in 2014 to 73.7 per cent in 2017.	To reverse this latter trend, the county should prioritize investments in immunization.	County Treasury and Planning/ County Department of Health
Education	The share of ECDE spending in the county declined during the review period.	Allocate more resources for the ECDE programme and ensure that the county core function of ECDE and TVET is given priority.	County Treasury and Planning/ County Department of Education
WASH	The county allocation for water and sanitation remained constant at 0.3 billion which was 3 per cent of the county total budget over the review period. This was an under-investment given that about 66 per cent of the population having no access to improved water sources.	The county needs to increase allocation for WASH.	County Treasury and Planning / County Department of Water and Sanitation/
Child Protection, Youth and Women	The county's child protection, youth and women budget allocation as a share of total county budget allocation during the review period averaged 2.7 per cent. Spending on the sector increased from Ksh 0.205 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.361 billion in 2016/17, but declined to Ksh 0.301 billion in 2017/18.	This was an under-investment given that this segment of the population is the most vulnerable.	County Treasury and Planning/ County Department of Youth, Gender Culture and Social Services
Nutrition	The county only committed Ksh 8 million in one fiscal year (2014/15) to interventions that directly contribute to boosting child nutrition, at a time when 38 per cent of the children are stunted.	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 above average. For instance, budget execution rates for water and sanitation have been increasing from 73 per cent in 2014/15 to 90 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.	the county is better placed to effectively deliver the above-mentioned services, especially to women and girls  The county will need to prioritize investment in disaggregated data collection and management and apply the utilization of data in evidence-based planning, budgeting, monitoring and service delivery.	County planning, statistics and M&E unit.  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 See, for example, UNICEF (2017) Early Moments Matter, New York: UNICEF.
- 3 Monetary poor people are considered at risk of monetary poverty when their equivalised disposable income (after social transfers) is below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold, which is set at 60% of the national median value.
- 4 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.
- 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/M<sup>2</sup>. Broadly, a person is categorized as underweight if BMI is below 18.5 Kg/M<sup>2</sup>; normal weight: between 18.5 Kg/M<sup>2</sup> and 25 Kg/M<sup>2</sup>; and overweight: 25 Kg/M<sup>2</sup> to 30 Kg/M<sup>2</sup> and obese: over 30 Kg/M<sup>2</sup>.

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