



BUDGET BRIEFS FOR GENDER RESPONSIVENESS MERU COUNTY GOVERNMENT



Study conducted by:
Gender Violence Recovery Centre (GVRC)

Period
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BUDGET BRIEFS FOR GENDER RESPONSIVENESS

MERU COUNTY GOVERNMENT



1. INTRODUCTION

Gender based violence remains a public health concern as an impediment to development. It is one of the worst forms of human rights violations. It hampers socio-economic growth and overall health of the survivor, community and the country at large. A lot of empirical research on causes of GBV conducted have given recommendations on the strategies to curb GBV at various levels. Recent costing study by National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) and UNWomen (2016) estimated that 1% - 2% of the national Gross Domestic Product is consumed by Gender Based Violence.

Despite the good intention of devolution, Counties have not adopted gender responsive approach to development that would accord particular attention to equality and non-discrimination. Adopting gender responsive approach to budgeting and development permits the considerations to eliminate harmful and discriminatory practices that perpetuate Gender based violence and seek to promote social and cultural values and norms that favour equality, equity as well as justice.

A budget is the most comprehensive statement of a government's social and economic plans and priorities. In tracking where the Funds comes from and where it goes, budgets determine how public funds are raised, how they are used and who benefits from them. Therefore, implementing commitments towards gender equality requires intentional measures to incorporate a gender perspective in planning and budgeting frameworks and concrete investment in addressing gender gaps.

Gender-responsive budgeting is not about creating separate budgets for women, or solely increasing spending on women's programs. Rather, gender-responsive budgeting seeks to ensure that the collection and allocation of public resources is carried out in ways that advance gender equality and women's empowerment. It should be based on in-depth analysis that identifies effective interventions for implementing policies and laws that advance women's rights. It provides tools to assess the different needs and contributions of men and women, and boys and girls within the existing revenues, expenditures and allocations and calls for adjusting budget policies to benefit all groups.

Gender-responsive budget analysis, along with legislation, and other practical policy measures can address gender bias and discrimination. It is a step not only towards accountability to women's rights, but also towards greater public transparency and can shift economic policies leading to gains across societies.

Prevention and response to GBV is heavily dependent on external funding necessitating the need for sustainable domestic financing. However, budgets for women programs remain insignificant as the departments created to implement gender programs in the Counties remain under-resourced. In addition, budgetary allocation is either gender blind or neutral. Thus, there exist gender gaps in the budget allocation and particularly so for programs addressing GBV which is seen as private and domestic in nature.

Therefore, this budget brief provides for guidelines for enhancing capacity for key stakeholders (GBV Networks (CSOs), Members of County Assemblies and County Management team) to ensure a gender responsive budget that include GBV vote head in individual County under review.

1.1 Objectives of the Development of the Budget briefs

The budget briefs aspire to enhance the participation of the right holders and duty bearers in the budget process to realize more resource allocation towards GBV management. In addition, the budget briefs seek to guide in lobbying for allocation of funds towards prevention and response to GBV in Meru County.

The objectives included to:

1. Enhance the capacity of Members of County Assemblies and County Management team and GBV Working Groups (CSOs) in monitoring and analysing the County budgets to realize gender responsiveness in Embu County
2. Engage in advocacy that leads to enhanced gender responsiveness in the appropriation of funds
3. Promote budgetary allocations for gender equality interventions
4. Push for increasing domestic financing towards GBV management
5. Empower structures for GBV response and timely intervention

1.2 Methodology

The methodology entailed:

1. Content analysis of the First Generation County Integrated Development Plans (CIDP), County Fiscal Strategy Papers, County Appropriation Bills of the Financial Year 2016/2017
2. Content analysis of the National Government budget policy statement of the year 2017/2018
3. Consultative engagement with various stakeholders such as:
 - Members of County Assembly
 - County Executive Committee – CECs and chief officers/directors
 - CSOs /GBV working groups (networks)
 - Local administration and public institutions – police, DPP, Justice System, EACC

1.3 The Key Questions Asked for the Budget Brief

- What was the allocation in FY2016/2017?
- How was it appropriated from a gender perspective?
- How much was allocated to the programs in the various sectors as itemised in the Mid-Term Expenditure Framework?
- How was the allocation to the various programs in the FY2017/2018 at the national level?
- How can the appropriation of the FY2016/2017 budgets be scaled up to suit the interests of men and women boys and girls?

- How can programs be improved to be more gender responsive and reprioritised?
- Which policies need to be made, adjusted and reprioritized?
- How does policy implementation become effective (check allocations vs policy commitments /desired impact)?
- How can stakeholders monitor gender responsiveness in program formulation and implementation?
- What are the indicators essential for ending GBV driven by deprivation, poverty and disempowerment of men, women, girls and boys by sector

1.4 Gender Gaps / Responsiveness in the County Budgets

An analysis of budget making process demonstrated a significant level of being gender responsive and hence provided an opportunity to scale up and ultimately provide for a vote head to address GBV. A brief analysis of the Meru County budgets is as shown below:

The budget brief assignment entailed situational analysis as the first step toward effective and efficient Gender Responsive Budgeting. This greatly aided in identifying gender gaps that exist in the budget of the 2016/2017 financial year. A comprehensive analysis of the various sector yielded several gender gaps.

Budgetary allocation and Gender gaps

Overall, budgeting focused on 14 areas. Some are recurrent expenditure while others addressed specific areas as depicted in the table below.

Summary of Fiscal Outlook between supplementary budget and Printed Budget estimates for the FY 2015/16

| DEPARTMENT | APPROVED | PRINTED | VARIANCE |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| County Assembly | 906,186,903.05 | 881,186,903.05 | 25,000,000.00 |
| Governor | 268,215,089.00 | 269,715,089.00 | (1,500,000.00) |
| Treasury | 713,679,795.88 | 1,626,648,795.88 | (912,969,000.00) |
| Agriculture | 564,899,083.89 | 509,399,083.89 | 55,500,000.00 |
| Water | 831,214,992.98 | 747,914,992.98 | 83,300,000.00 |
| Education | 711,236,178.04 | 469,236,178.04 | 242,000,000.00 |
| Health | 1,961,885,277.66 | 1,919,185,277.66 | 42,700,000.00 |
| Planning | 260,606,852.38 | 252,306,852.38 | 8,300,000.00 |
| Public Service | 631,893,006.90 | 618,893,006.90 | 13,000,000.00 |
| Transport | 962,935,510.12 | 559,435,510.12 | 403,500,000.00 |
| Cooperatives | 370,142,963.21 | 326,142,963.20 | 44,000,000.00 |
| Culture | 270,606,766.88 | 272,437,766.88 | (1,831,000.00) |
| Public Service Board | 14,617,589.14 | 14,617,589.14 | - |
| Town Administration | 27,030,085.00 | 28,030,085.00 | - |

The key social sectors which presented an opportunity for allocations to include a GBV vote head were adequately resourced but had a significant number of gender gaps. These were Health, Education, Agriculture and Water and Sanitation each one of them is discussed below:

Health

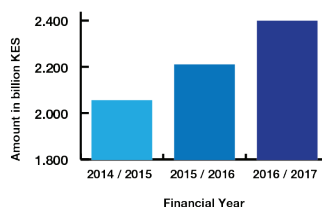
Budgetary allocation was done to support construction and upgrading of health facilities, procurement of health medical inputs, management of children illnesses through sensitization, immunization, and awareness creation campaigns. The Sector allocated Ksh 1.969 billion, Ksh.2.107 billion, and Ksh 2.254 billion for the FY 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016 /17 respectively.

The county intended to control communicable disease, Non-communicable conditions Prevention; New dispensaries constructed & equipped; Health Centres rehabilitated & equipped; Model health centre constructed; Theatres equipped; Cancer centre established and Health legislative and regulatory frameworks reviewed and implemented.

Gender gaps

The county overlooked the possibility of Malnutrition leading to stunted growth in Buuri and Tigania regions. Sex and Gender Based violence touches on security and health, yet there is nothing allocated to fund any program that address sexual and gender based violence that is notably rampant in the region.

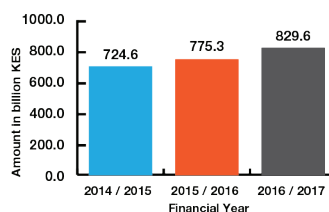
Budget allocation for Health Sector



Agriculture, Rural and Urban Development Sector

During the 2016/17-2018/19 Mid-Term Expenditure Framework period, focus was directed on crop development, crop value addition input supply support and agribusiness development, animal husbandry, livestock market access improvement, animal diseases management and control, Fish hatchery development and fish breeding, Local fish feed manufacture, Improvement and rehabilitation of machinery at AMS Mitunguu, Improvement of training facilities and farm development at ATC Kaguru, Digital topographical mapping and integrated strategic spatial plans, Planning and survey of market centres, Land Adjudication. In order to implement the prioritized programmes, the Sector has been allocated Ksh 724.6 million, Ksh. 775.3 million, Ksh. 829.6 million for the FY 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17 respectively.

Budget allocation for Agriculture, Rural and Urban Development Sector



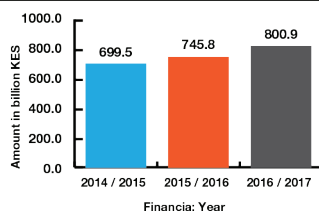
Gender gaps

According to Meru County Strategic Plan, 2016, only close to 50% have titles to their land; also there are several cases in court some due to eviction of women particularly widows. Such issues affect crop production and were not addressed in the budget. Funds allocated to youth, men and women to upscale their farming was not clearly spelled out with proportion.

Education

The County Educational goal is to facilitate provision of quality education, training, mentorship, research and innovation for capacity building and prosperity. Therefore, during the 2016/17 - 2018/19 Mid Term. Expenditure Framework (MTEF) period, the sector focus was directed on Early Childhood Education, Basic Education, Technical Vocational Education and Training, General Administration, Planning and Support Services and Quality Assurance and Standards. In order to implement the prioritized programmes, the Sector was allocated Ksh 699.5 million, Ksh.748.5 million, Ksh. 800.9 million for the FY 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17 respectively. During validation session, the participants highlighted insistence by the sector on equal allocation of funds to each ward without consideration that others wards have better facilities which others have deploring condition of the other facilities and crucial infrastructure and require more allocation

Budget allocation for Education



Existing Issues and Gender Gaps

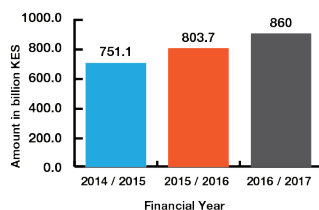
- As noted above and in the Meru strategic plan, the county experiences high dropout rate among boys than girls. There should be budgetary allocation for a scientific research to establish why education is pushing more boys out of school. More funds should be allocated to implement findings and recommendations.
- There should be funds allocated for the construction of gendered toilets and according to the recommended gender ratio in every school.
- Games and Sports are crucial part of learning. "All books without play make Mutungi and Kanana dull boys and girls". Lack of such facility can be push-out of school factor. As such, enough budgetary allocation should focus on co-curricular activities at all levels of education within the county.
- FGM and conflict within the family and community are major challenges in education sector, yet, no funds was allocated to any program addressing such issues in the county. Budgetary allocation to such programmes is important.

Environment Protection, Water and Natural Resources

The Environment Protection, Water and Natural Resources sector comprises three sub-sectors namely: Environment and Natural Resources' Water Services and Housing. The sector's mission is to manage water services; environment and natural resources sustainably.

For the 2016/17 – 2018/19 MTEF period the sector prioritized Programmes intended to promote sustainable utilization and management of the environment and natural resources for

Budget allocation for Environment Protection, Water & Natural Resources



socio-economic development. These Programmes included: Environment Management and Protection, Alternative energy Technologies, Irrigation and Drainage Infrastructure, Water Resource Management and General Administration, Planning and Support Services.

For the sector to implement the prioritized activities, it was allocated Ksh 751.1 million, Ksh.803.7 million, Ksh. 860 million for the FY 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17 respectively.

Existing Issues and Gender Gaps

More funds should be allocated to water services and housing to ensure that the sector supply clean piped water connected to every household within the county. Doing so will improve household health, reduce overreliance on rain fed agriculture, reduce time used to fetch water mostly done by women and children within the county as affirmed by participants.

1.5 Gender responsive budget should include budgetary allocation for the following

1. Allocate resources and develop adequate infrastructure for provision of health, legal and protection services
2. Develop capacity development plan to support multi-sectoral interventions for enhanced effectiveness such as:-academic/research organizations, - advocacy groups, NGOs, faith-based and the private sector – by allocating resources towards training and continuous assessment. Human resources are the most crucial and especially those working in various sectors that interact with current and probable GBV survivors and perpetrators e.g. train law enforcement agents, prosecutors, judges, etc. to increase their awareness of GBV; Create practices for the protection and medical treatment of victims ensuring that forensic evidence procedures are followed; Sensitize and train health care professionals to recognize signs of GBV; Ensure County budget includes resources for appropriate health response to GBV.
3. Allocate funds towards operationalization of the National guidelines for the management of sexual violence and guidelines for handling child survivors at each level of health sector can offer services ranging from basic services to comprehensive care
4. Collaborate with National Government to decentralize and resource for forensic laboratory
5. Allocate funds towards institutionalization of multi-sectoral referral mechanism and directory for GBV service provision across all sectors
6. Engaging a gender expert for gender sensitization, capacity building, gender auditing, monitoring and evaluation as an essential component of GBV programs
7. Finance community advocacy programing working with men, especially youth, and communities at large, to change attitudes and behaviours and influence change.
8. Allocate funds for shelter and evacuation services to the victims and survivors



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