



TOWARDS INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT IN KWALE COUNTY

About COVAW

OUR CORE VALUES

Integrity: COVAW is committed to the highest forms of accountability and honesty

Dignity: COVAW believes in freedom of choice and autonomy regarding bodily integrity

Courage: COVAW stands for what is right and just and takes intentional bold steps in uncharted paths to effect change for women and girls

Solidarity: COVAW is inspired by the principles of diversity, equity and equality, and empathises with, and supports women and girls to access social justice and human dignity

Commitment: COVAW is passionate about working for the safety and the wellbeing of women and girls. COVAW has a pledge to fulfil its promises.

OUR MISSION

COVAW exists to champion the rights of women and girls to be free from all forms of violations.

OUR VISION

A society where women and girls enjoy equal rights, freedoms and thrive in safe spaces.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

COVAW, in partnership with VOICE is currently implementing a 2-year project in Kwale county called *TUPO.TUSIKIZWE* (We are here. Listen to us). The project aims at empowering marginalized women and girls, including those with disabilities to participate in the county budgeting processes by enhancing their voices to demand for the uptake of their priority needs, demand accountability from their leaders and equitable distribution of resources.

UNDERSTANDING DEVOLUTION

Inclusivity: It is the establishment of policies for providing equal access to opportunities and resources for people who might be excluded or marginalised. According to the Kenyan constitution 2010 - Women and men have the right to equal opportunities in political, economic, cultural and social spheres.

What is devolution?

Devolution is a situation where there is decentralization of the government's decisions regarding service delivery to its citizens. It means that, these services are brought near the communities and villages, thus making them more accessible.

What are the characteristics of Kenya's devolution?

Two levels of government, County & National, both working together and the following are their characteristics:

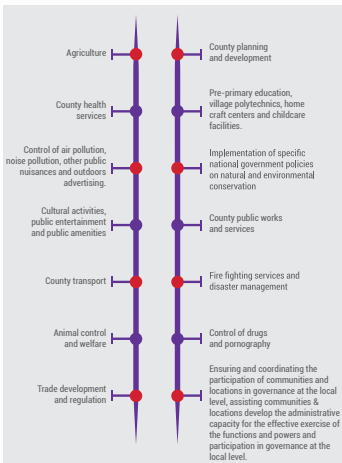
- They can secure their own resources
- They must ensure citizen participation
- They both have democratically elected representatives.
- They have power to control own budget and accounts and the ability to raise revenue
- Citizens' equal access to available resources at either level is guaranteed.

Why was devolution introduced?

Devolution was introduced as provided for in Article 174 of the constitution to promote social and economic development and the provision of close, easily accessible services throughout Kenya and to enhance government responsiveness to the needs of the citizens.

What are the functions of county government?

The county government is responsible for delivery of quality services including:



Citizen participation in county planning processes

You have a right to participate in the running of your county. This right is provided in the Constitution and other laws. All citizens of Kenya have the right to participate and it is their civic obligation to engage in all county governance processes.

Roles and functions of the county assembly and the county executive

01

A county executive committee may prepare proposed legislation for consideration by the county assembly.

02

Implement county legislation;

- Implement, within the county, national legislation to the extent that the legislation so requires;
- Manage and coordinate the functions of the county administration and its departments; and
- Perform any other functions conferred on it by this Constitution or national legislation.

03

The county executive committee shall provide the county assembly with full and regular reports on matters relating to the county.

County Executive

01

Representation: Members of County Assemblies (MCAs) represent those who elected them to the law making body at the county.

County Assembly

02

Legislation - which is making of laws for the County i.e. legislation

03

Oversight, which is looking after the interest of the people with regards to management of public affairs at the county level including implementation of policies, use of resources and delivery of services

04

Approve the fiscal budget, borrowing and expenditure by the County Government

How can women, girls & Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) participate in the county planning process?



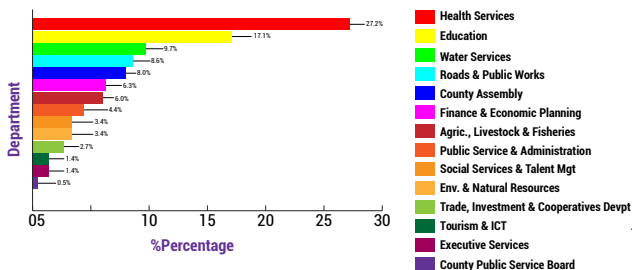
County budget making process

What is a budget?

A budget is a plan of how the government intends to raise funds or revenue and spend it within a given period. The period is referred to as a Financial Year and its covers July 1 – June 30. The law requires county governments to develop budgets for each financial year.

Key areas of Kwale county budget expenditure

Provisional expenditure ceilings for FY 2020/21 and their ranking.



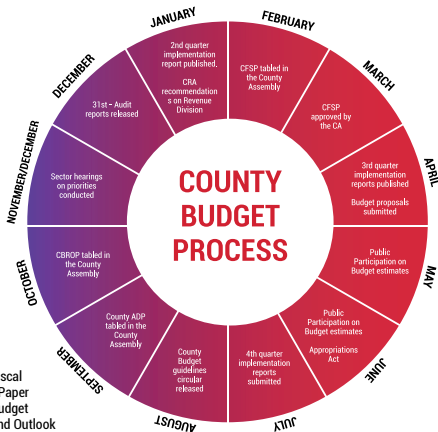
When analysing the county budget, it is important to wear the gender access and equity lens. For example, residents of Kwale County need to ask what is provided under health services? What is the breakdown under each allocation? How the top sectors' expenditure reflect on the quality of life for the people of Kwale.

Where does the county generate revenue?

County Governments in Kenya have two main types of revenues, the ones they collect directly from residents – known as Own Source Revenues – and the ones collected at the national level and passed on to Counties as inter-governmental transfers, the largest of which is the “equitable share”. Conditional & unconditional grants.

What are the key stages in the county budgeting process?

The budget process begins from August 30 every year when the County Treasury issues a Budget circular. The process goes on up to June 30 of the next year by when the Budget estimates are approved by the assembly for the government to spend the money.



Acronyms

- CFSP:** County Fiscal Strategy Paper
- CBROP:** County Budget Review and Outlook Paper
- OSR:** Own Source Revenue

How can women, girls and PWDs participate in the budgeting process?

As a citizen, you can participate individually or through representation in county budget making by:

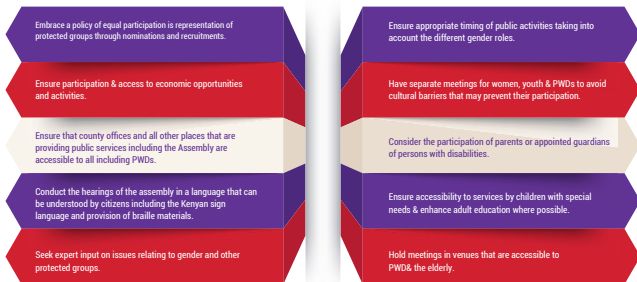
- Attending and contributing during county public participation forums including County Budget and Economic Forum (CBEF) and

Sector Working Groups (SWG)

- Submitting petitions and memoranda to the assembly
- Through consulting your elected leaders (MCAs) and sharing your concerns
- Writing letters to public officials on any issue of concern
- Advocacy activities and campaigns to push your ideas money shall be used.

Engendering the county budget

How can the county incorporate gender issues during resource allocation to ensure women, girls and PWDs benefit?



County governments must:

COVAW advocates for gender responsive budgeting because it:-

- Promotes accountability and transparency in fiscal planning;
- Increases gender responsive participation in the budget process, for example by undertaking steps to involve women, PWDs and men equally in budget preparation;
- Advances gender equality and women's rights and the rights of PWDs.

How can women, girls and PWDs benefit from equitable resource allocation?

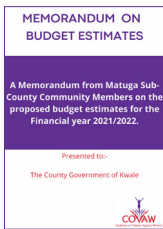
More women, girls and PWDs will be able to participate in the county's labour market, become useful members of society who contribute greatly to its GDP, have access to education and other services provided by the county.

How can the county benefit from gender responsive budgeting?

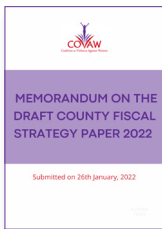
- Effective use of public resources.
- Elimination of gender inequalities with significant improvements in social, educational, health and economic indicators of a county.
- Gender responsive budgeting is an important tool that improves transparency, accountability, effectiveness and efficiency of management of public expenditure and provides for a more equitable distribution of public finances for women and men.

COVAW advocates for gender responsive budgeting because it advances gender equality and women's rights and the rights of PWDs.

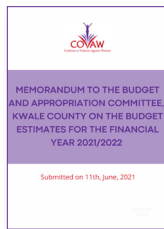
Materials developed by target communities and COVAW:



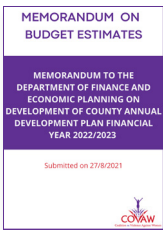
Memorandum on Matuga sub county budget estimates



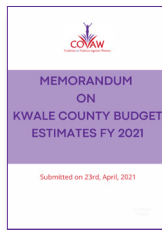
Memorandum on the draft Kwale county fiscal strategy paper 2022



Memorandum to the budget and appropriation committee, Kwale county on budget estimates FY 2021/22



PWDs memorandum on proposed county ADP FY 2022/23



Memorandum on Kwale county budget estimates FY 2021/22



Project Brief: Tupo Tusikizwe!
(We are here. Listen to us)



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