



CONSOLIDATING GAINS AND DEEPENING DEVOLUTION IN KENYA UNDP-UN WOMEN-UNICEF JOINT PROGRAMME

Programme Progress Report
January 1 – September 30, 2020

Project Summary	Country:	Kenya
	Project Duration:	2019 – 2022
	Budget and Donors:	Sweden = US\$ 23,713,800
		Finland
		Italy = US\$ 1,017,000
	Annual Budget for 2020:	US\$ 3,492,386
	Cumulative expenditure	US\$ 2,277,267
Contact Persons:	Dan Juma	
	Team Leader – Governance and Inclusive Growth UNDP Kenya dan.juma@undp.org	
	Mary Njoroge	
	Programme Manager – Devolution UNDP Kenya mary.njoroge@undp.org	

Collaborating Partners:

The National Treasury, Ministry of Devolution and ASALs, Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, Office of the Controller of Budget, Council of Governors, Kenya School of Government, County Assemblies Forum and Frontier Counties Development Council



Acronyms

ADP:	Annual Development Plan
ASAL:	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
AWP:	Annual Work Plan
CAF:	County Assemblies Forum
CBEF:	County Budget and Economic Forum
CBROP:	County Budget Review Outlook Paper
CEC:	County Executive Committee
CECM:	County Executive Committee Member
CIDP:	County Integrated Development Plan
CIMES:	County Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System
COBS:	County Open Budget Survey
COG:	Council of Governors
COVID:	Corona Virus Disease
CP:	Child Protection
CPIE:	Child Protection in Emergencies
CPIMS:	Child Protection Information Management System
CRA:	Commission on Revenue Allocation
CSOs:	Civil Society Organizations
DDWG:	Devolution Donor Working Group
DP:	Development Partner
DRM:	Disaster Risk Management
DRR:	Disaster Risk Response
e-CIMES:	electronic County Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System
e-NIMES:	electronic National Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System
FCDC:	Frontier Counties Development Council
FGM:	Female Genital Mutilation
FY:	Fiscal/Financial Year
GBV:	Gender-Based Violence
GEWE:	Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
GMS:	General Management Services
GRB:	Gender Responsive Budgeting
HR:	Human Resources
IFMIS:	Integrated Financial Management Information Systems
KIPPRA:	Kenya Institute for Policy Analysis and Research
KNBS:	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
KSG:	Kenya School of Government
M&E:	Monitoring and Evaluation
MCA:	Member of County Assembly
MDAs:	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MED:	Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate
MoU:	Memorandum of Understanding
MPTF:	Multi Partner Trust Fund
MTP:	Medium Term Plan
NDRM:	National Disaster Risk Management

NG:	National Government
NIMES:	National Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System
OBS:	Open Budget Survey
OCOB:	Office of the Controller of Budget
OSR:	Own-Source Revenue
PC:	Performance Contracting
PF4C:	Public Finance for Children
PFM:	Public Financial Management
PFMA:	Public Finance Management Act
PFM DPG:	PFM Development Partner Group
PIU:	Programme Implementation Unity
PMS:	Performance Management System
PUNO:	Participating United Nations Organization
PWD:	People with Disability
SCOA:	Standard Chart of Accounts
SDGs:	Sustainable Development Goals
SERP:	Socio-Economic Response Plan
SIDA:	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SIR:	Social Intelligence Report
TA:	Technical Assistance
TNT:	The National Treasury
ToT:	Training of Trainers
UN Women:	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women
UN:	United Nations
UNCDF:	United Nations Community Development Fund
UNDAF:	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP:	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF:	United Nations Children Fund
UN Women:	United National Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women
USAID:	United States Agency for International Development
VAC:	Violence Against Children

Table of Contents

I.	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
II.	PROJECT RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS	9
III.	KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT	16
IV.	RISKS AND ISSUES	18
V.	TARGETING, SUSTAINABILITY, STRENGTHENING NATIONAL CAPACITIES AND SOUTH-SOUTH TRIANGULAR COOPERATION	20
VI.	COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIPS	22
VII.	LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS	22
VIII.	FINANCIAL REPORT	24

I. Executive Summary

Background

Kenya has recorded sustained economic growth and progress in human development over the past five years. However, challenges remain on issues related to marginalization, equity, accountability, environment and climate change. The devolved system of governance instituted with the creation of 47 counties in 2013 offers a great promise towards addressing these issues. Devolution in Kenya is in its second five-year phase. During the first phase of devolution (2013-2017) the focus was on transferring functions and services from the national government to the newly established county governments. In the second phase (2018-2022), county governments are now established. The has shifted the focus to economically and politically marginalized counties where human development has remained low over the years.

Although overall progress in Kenya has been substantial, there remains a high level of poverty and exclusion in these counties. Despite a decline in the overall poverty, the poverty rates in the remote, arid and sparsely populated northern frontier counties remain above 80%. Poverty levels are also highly feminized, with dire effects being experienced among women, youth, children, people with disability (PwD) and other vulnerable groups. In order to address the urgent human development challenges of the most marginalized, the Joint UNDP-UN Women-UNICEF Devolution Programme targets development of policies, plans and strategies that address equity, accountability and environmental issues while at the same time streamlining revenue collection and budgeting processes. The programme's reach was extended and sustained through the use of national and regional institutions such as the National Treasury (TNT), Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA), Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), Office of the Controller of Budget (OCOB), Council of Governors (CoG), the Kenya School of Government (KSG), County Assemblies Forum (CAF) and the Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC).

The Joint Devolution Programme has utilized a strong field presence and close relationships between UNDP, UN Women and UNICEF with county and national governments to focus on improving county governance capacity in areas related to poverty reduction and fighting inequality and discrimination. Specifically, the programme focuses on improving Public Financial Management (PFM), performance management, monitoring and reporting, resilience to environmental risks, citizen engagement and inclusiveness of especially women, youth, children, persons with disability and other marginalized groups.

The Joint Devolution Programme contributes to UNDAF Outcome 1.1: By 2022 people in Kenya access high quality services at devolved level that are well coordinated, integrated, transparent, equitably resourced and accountable. The average budget utilization by county governments was 78 percent, 2 percent below the eighty percent target¹. Through capacity building, technical assistance and on-the-job support to county governments, the programme contributed to an increase in the proportion of budgets that allocated the priorities of women, youth and children. In 2019/20 fiscal year, 41% of county

¹ Office of the Controller of Budget, 2020 County Budget Execution Report.

government budgets reflected the priorities of women, youth and children against a target 35%, compared with a national government proportion of 27 against a similar target².

Output 1.1: Government has strengthened policy, legal, and institutional mechanisms for coordinated, inclusive and effective service delivery: During the reporting period, 24 county executives³ fully signed Performance Contracts. Out of these, 15 counties⁴ received direct support from the Joint Devolution Programme through the CoG. The programme supported Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) legislative development and overall coordination between national and county governments through deployment of a DRR specialist at the UN Resident Coordinators Office. Through this, UN partners reviewed the National Disaster Risk Management (NDRM) Bill 2020 and developed comprehensive inputs on the Bill to relevant government agencies. The programme, through the UN humanitarian hub coordination mechanisms, sectoral and multi-sectoral emergency coordination structures, development of regular infographics for ongoing emergencies (COVID-19, floods, food insecurity and refugee crisis) and development of county disaster risk profiles for 13 counties⁵, enhanced the preparedness of county governments and partners to effectively respond to emergencies and minimize the negative effects of floods and disease outbreaks. The programme also provided technical assistance for development of Isiolo County Child Protection Policy and West Pokot County Child Protection Bill.

Output 1.2: Public Financial Management institutions have strengthened processes and systems for equitable, efficient and accountable service delivery: The programme supported county capacity building on: Public Finance for Children (PF4C) methodologies, including formulation and roll out of the new Standard Chart of Accounts (SCOA); planning and technical forums with UNCDF (United Nations Capital Development Fund) and UNDP on Own Source Revenue (OSR) generation models in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) and pastoralist economies; research, analysis and training on tax administration systems in select counties.

Output 1.3: County level institutions have strengthened capacity for evidence-based planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation for accountable service delivery: The programme supported strengthening of NIMES and CIMES capacities to enable reporting of non-financial information. This improved tracking of service delivery, and engendered evidence-based planning and budgeting by the county governments. The programme supported MED to strengthen Busia County M&E processes through sensitization of its M&E Committee, induction of county leadership on the proposed County M&E policy and sensitization of key non-government stakeholders on the roles of County M&E Committees. The programme worked with the County Assemblies Forum (CAF) to support county assemblies of Garissa, Kajiado and Kilifi counties on scrutiny of the County Annual Development Plans (ADPs). Through this engagement, there is now an enhanced oversight role of county assemblies in the budget making cycle. Enhanced alignment of ADPs to CIDPs increased county responsiveness to citizen priorities.

² Office of the Controller of Budget, 2020 County Budget Execution Report.

³ Kajiado, Kilifi, Kwale, Mandera, Kisumu, Vihiga, Kiambu, Makueni, Meru, Kakamega, Nyeri, Embu, Marsabit, Nyandarua, Samburu, Bungoma, Busia, Kajiado, Kericho, Kirinyaga, Nakuru, Taita Taveta, Kisii and Turkana

⁴ Kajiado, Kilifi, Kwale, Mandera, Kisumu, Embu, Marsabit, Samburu, Bungoma, Busia, Kajiado, Kericho, Nakuru, Taita Taveta and Turkana

⁵ Turkana, Baringo, West Pokot, Samburu, Mandera, Marsabit, Wajir, Isiolo, Garissa, Tana River, Kilifi and Lamu counties

The programme partnered with Kenya Institute for Policy Analysis and Research (KIPPRA) and Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) to provide technical assistance to counties to use the joint programme's county budget brief and poverty profile recommendations to mainstream children, youth and gender in plans and budgets and align their 2020/21 budgets. The programme enhanced national and county systems for generation of disaggregated data on Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Violence Against Children (VAC), child marriages and marginalized populations to enable evidence-based decision making at both levels of government. This enhanced inclusion of women, youth, children and People with Disability (PwD) issues in county planning, budgeting and decision-making processes.

Through the support of the programmes, 1168 children in Garissa County and 274 children in Turkana County who were returned to families from residential care institutions due to COVID-19 were identified for further social protection support through home-based care.

The programme strengthened the capacity of national and county governments for risk-informed development planning and budgeting through training of county technical staff and stakeholder groups for Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE) for integration in disaster preparedness, response, recovery and reporting of Disaster Risk Response. The programme improved county capacities for effective implementation of child protection services by mapping of existing GBV related legislation in all the target 14 counties and development of county specific frameworks and legislation on GBV and Child Protection (CP) in Marsabit, Turkana, Kilifi, Kajiado and Narok counties. Further, the programme enhanced the capacity of Busia County stakeholders on provision of child protection services during emergencies using Operational Guidelines on Child Protection in Emergencies (CPIE).

Output 1.4: Counties have improved institutional capacities for participation and inclusion of women, youth & PWDs in planning and decision-making processes: Through the support of the programme, all the target counties have established CBEFs as required by law. More than 50% of the CBEFs are involved in the budget making process while the rest are relatively new and have not yet started engagement with the budget process. The programme, through the Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA), supported training of Turkana, Busia, Kilifi and Lamu CBEFs, leading to more participatory planning and budgeting processes. Programme support to Turkana CBEF led to incorporation of gender issues in revenue administration and development of a land revenue administration action plan while support to Isiolo CBEF culminated into incorporation of nursing booths for women revenue administration officers since most revenue officers are women.

Lessons Learnt and Recommendations

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted implementation of activities, especially those which required physical engagement with partners, occasioning delay in implementation of activities between March and August 2020. The prioritization by project Implementing Partners (IPs) and Responsible Parties (RPs) of COVID-19 response and mitigation activities caused further delay in implementation. However, the team continued to remotely support the county government and other agencies in implementing programme activities. Programme activities resumed in September 2020 following the easing of travel and other restrictions. However, the need to observe COVID-19 prevention protocols still limit physical engagement with stakeholders.

The onset of Covid-19 pandemic provided an opportunity for a strategic response among Development Partners (DPs) and UN agencies where reprogramming of activities and identification of COVID-19 response initiatives based on the Socio-Economic Response Programme (SERP) for COVID-19 was initiated.

The UN agencies leadership and engagement in strategic policy dialogue spaces (e.g. UNICEF chairing the Public Finance Development Partner Group-PFM DPG, UNDP chairing the Devolution Donor Working Group-DDWG) enhanced visibility of the Joint Devolution Programme and enhanced coordination with other agencies like World Bank.

Financial Delivery

During the reporting period, the programme utilized US\$ 2,277,267 out of the total work plan budget of US\$ 3,492,386. This represents 65% of the total budget.

II. Project Results and Achievements

2.1: Progress Against Project Outcomes

Outcome	Target	Achievement	Status
By 2022 people in Kenya access high quality services at devolved level that are well coordinated, integrated, transparent, equitably resourced and accountable	85% budget utilization by national government	89%	On track
	80% budget utilization by county governments	78%	On track
	35% of national government budget that reflects the priorities of children and women	27%	On track
	35% of county government budget that reflects the priorities of children and women	41%	On track

The UN Joint Devolution Programme contributes to UNDAF Outcome 1.1: By 2022 people in Kenya access high quality services at devolved level that are well coordinated, integrated, transparent, equitably resourced and accountable. Under this outcome, the project seeks to strengthen capacity of county governments to utilize their resources in providing coordinated, integrated, transparent, equitable and accountable services to their citizenry. Under this outcome, the programme is contributing to and tracking enhanced capacity of county governments to utilize budgets allocated to them. In 2019, county governments absorbed 80% of their approved budgets while national government absorbed 35% of their approved activities. During the reporting period, the average budget utilization by county governments was 78%, 2% below the 80% target. These achievements show that the capacity of county governments is still low but improving. The programme will continue to strengthen capacity of county governments to absorb allocated resources in improving the lives of their citizenry.

The programme sought to directly influence county government budgets to reflect the priorities of women, youth and children. As a result, through regular on job training and support, the programme partly contributed to an increase in county government allocation to children, youth and women areas to 41% in FY 2019/20 from 31.2% in FY 2016/17. This was 6 percentage points above the programme target of 35%. The National Government (NG) allocation to children, youth and women was 27%, 8 percentage points below the target of 35%. Since a significant amount of the country budget remains at the national level, the programme will continue to pursue initiatives aimed at increasing resource allocation to the priorities of women, youth and children.

There was notable progress in enhancing public participation systems, and for the first time, the country will produce a comprehensive county government Open Budget Index. This is projected to improve counties' Public Finance Management (PFM) systems and processes with significant automation work for budget and M&E systems currently underway. Programme initiatives helped to strengthen National Intergovernmental systems, including the Standard Chart of Account (SCOA) at TNT, automation of the

budget reporting system for OCOB, electronic National and County Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Systems (e-NIMES and e-CIMES) at MED, and Social Intelligence Reporting (SIR) system in the State Department for Planning under TNT. Detailed outputs and activities are elaborated under Output 1.4 in the next section.

2.2: Progress against Project Outputs

Output 1.1: Government has strengthened policy, legal, and institutional mechanisms for coordinated, inclusive and effective service delivery

Output Target	Summary Achievement	Status
4 counties establish PMS	15 counties established PCs	On going
4 counties have operational PMS	15 counties have operational PCs	On going

The project is tracking two indicators for the establishment of Performance Management Systems (PMS): the number of counties that have established PMS and those with an operational PMS. The first indicator leads to the achievement of the second. For FY 2020/21, 24 county executive committees⁶ have signed Performance Contracts (PCs) which are part of the PMS. Out of these, 14 counties⁷ received direct support from the Joint Devolution Programme through the CoG. Signing of PCs is preceded by target setting, negotiation, vetting and finally the signing of PCs between the governor and relevant County Executive Committee members (CECs) who then cascade the targets to their respective officers through divisional PCs or individual Performance Appraisal System (PAS). For this first indicator, there is 100% achievement during the FY 2019/20. However, in 2018/2019, no county went through the full PC cycle from end to end. The programme worked with the CoG and counties to ensure that counties fully embrace PCs through mid-term reviews and end term evaluations. One setback was the low technical capacity of CoG to support counties in this process. The programme, in response to this, brought on board a team of PMS experts to support counties to establish fully operational PMS.

The programme supported county executive committees to accomplish the following: implement county assembly recommendations on children’s issues during the budget process; develop county budget briefs and poverty profiles recommendations; improve PF4C capacity for counties which includes county assemblies; strengthen public finance for children, youth and women sensitive budgeting; support national and county governments to develop policies and legal frameworks; support National Treasury coordination of different stakeholders to roll out of key PFM frameworks and follow up on policy issues; support Disaster Risk Management (DRM) sector coordination in counties including preparedness and reporting, and development of county disaster risk profiles for Turkana, Baringo, West Pokot, Samburu, Mandera, Marsabit, Wajir, Isiolo, Garissa, Tana River and Lamu counties.

The programme provided technical support to DRR legislative development and overall GoK coordination support (national and county governments) through deployment of a DRR specialist at the UN Resident Coordinators Office. Through this, UN partners reviewed the National Disaster Risk Management (NDRM) Bill 2020 and developed comprehensive inputs for presentation at the public

⁶ Kajiado, Kilifi, Kwale, Mandera, Kisumu, Vihiga, Kiambu, Makueni, Meru, Kakamega, Nyeri, Embu, Marsabit, Nyandarua, Samburu, Bungoma, Busia, Kajiado, Kericho, Kirinyaga, Nakuru, Taita Taveta, Kisii and Turkana

⁷ Kajiado, Kilifi, Kwale, Mandera, Kisumu, Embu, Marsabit, Samburu, Bungoma, Busia, Kajiado, Kericho, Nakuru, Taita Taveta and Turkana

participation phase as well as advocacy with relevant government agencies. Enactment of the NDRM bill will contribute to reducing the number of people affected by disasters. Through the UN humanitarian hub coordination mechanisms, technical support was provided to sectoral and multi-sectoral emergency coordination structures, thus enhancing the preparedness capacity of county governments and partners to effectively respond to emergencies and minimize the negative effects of floods and disease outbreaks in the COVID-19 context. Information management support through development of regular infographics for ongoing emergencies (COVID-19, floods, food insecurity and refugee crisis) is being provided. Development of county disaster risk profiles for Turkana, Baringo, West Pokot, Samburu, Mandera, Marsabit, Wajir, Isiolo, Garissa, Tana River, Kilifi and Lamu counties is ongoing.

The programme supported the development of county level legal and policy framework for child protection including supporting Isiolo & West Pokot counties to develop a Child Protection Policy and a Child Protection Bill respectively. This was enhanced by communication and advocacy for children at national and county level.

Output 1.2: PFM institutions have strengthened processes and systems for equitable, efficient and accountable service delivery

Output Target	Summary Achievement	Status
22 counties providing detailed public budget information	30 counties provided detailed budget information through websites and other channels: Approved programme-based budget; Approved citizen budget; Annual Development Plan; County Budget Review and Outlook Paper; Quarterly budget implementation report, and Finance Act.	On going
2 counties improve collection of Own Source Revenue	2 counties: Turkana County – OSR increased by 49% in 2020 against the same period in 2019 Isiolo County – OSR collection improved by 46% in 2020 compared to the same period in 2019.	On going

At the start of devolution, counties had weak accountability structures on financial management. This led to high fiduciary risks which required strong county public finance management systems. The programme sought to address this by enhancing public participation in county budgeting processes and supporting county governments to generate OSR. These efforts addressed county capacity constraints on public finance management and strengthened social accountability and financial transparency mechanisms at county level. This culminated into more participatory planning and budget-making process for the three supported counties.

County Budget Transparency

The programme, in collaboration with International Budget Partnership (IBP), monitored the availability of budget information on websites, social media pages and other online platforms. Through this support, 30 counties published their budget information on their websites and other online channels, against a target of 22 counties. To achieve this, the programme supported county capacity building on several PFM initiatives including: revision and planning for a phased roll out of the new SCOA with 300 national and county officers trained; planning and technical forums for OSR generation models in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) and pastoralist economies; development of Turkana and Garissa county

investment case for provision of child protection services in humanitarian context; research, analysis and training on tax administration systems in select counties and providing virtual and physical on job support to county governments on children, youth and women sensitive planning and budgeting. The programme also supported the Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA) to mainstream gender in County Budget and Economic Forum (CBEF) operational guidelines and undertake training in Turkana, Isiolo, Busia and Kilifi counties.

Own Source Revenue

Generation of county OSR has been hampered by the unpredictable inter-governmental fiscal transfer framework and revenue sharing process, which is also not sufficiently robust to address county service delivery needs. Other challenges undermining the ability of counties to identify sources and generate OSR include: weak fiscal planning and budgeting processes⁸; and absence of uniform process and systems to capture and monitor targeted and actual service delivery results from fiscal planning, budgeting, monitoring, evaluation and reporting processes⁹. The programme interventions informed by these findings provided on-the-job support to county executive and the assemblies' committees to improve the intergovernmental fiscal transfer schedule, OSR administration, strengthening the framework for use of conditional grants and overall implementation of other PFM reforms at both levels of government. The programme also supported CRA to develop the capacity of county governments to generate OSR. Specific interventions were undertaken in Turkana and Isiolo counties.

Turkana County – Through the programme's support, Turkana County OSR increased by 49%¹⁰ in 2020 compared to 2019. In the third quarter of FY 2019-2020, the OSR for Turkana increased by 21% compared to the same period the previous year. In the third quarter of FY 2019-20, the OSR for Turkana increased by 32% from the previous year. This improvement was a result of targeted interventions by CRA which included training for staff, capacity assessment of CBEFs, and development of a revenue-administration reform action plan for the county. These initiatives led to increased staff morale; first land revenue waiver announcement; Turkana County Assembly commitment to adopting the primary legislation action plan for revenue administration, and County Executive commitment to implementing the action plan. This contributed to the increased revenue.

Isiolo County – OSR for Isiolo County increased by 46%¹¹ compared to the same quarter the previous year. In the third quarter of the FY 2019-20, the revenue of Isiolo increased by 3% compared to the same quarter the previous year. This increase can be attributed to the intervention of CRA through training, assessment and development of a revenue administration action plan. Outputs achieved through these interventions included a revenue enforcement bill, County Assembly commitment to implementation of the action plan, County Executive commitment to implementation of the action plan and motivation of revenue administration staff.

⁸ Robust county fiscal planning and reporting structures must be able to answer the following questions: What services are resources being spent on? Where have the resources been spent? What resources have been allocated to service delivery facilities? What are the results?

⁹ Source: National and County Budget Brief developed with support from the Joint Devolution Programme

¹⁰ Source: CRA Reports.

¹¹ Source: CRA Reports.

Output 1.3: County level institutions have strengthened capacity for evidence-based planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation for accountable service delivery

Output Target	Summary Achievement	Status
7 counties with improved M&E capacities	3 counties adopt CIMES and develop their County Annual Progress Report	On going

Lack of evidence-based programming approaches, low data generation and inadequate usage of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) information has led to counties not effectively addressing citizen needs through their interventions. The programme sought to address this by strengthening county capacity to generate and use qualitative and quantitative data for planning, implementation and reporting. The programme sought to strengthen CIMES, NIMES, PMS, County Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS) and County Spatial Planning to help counties track and measure progress as they implement their CIDPs and ADPs, particularly as they impact marginalised and vulnerable groups and areas. The programme worked with national and county governments to strengthen both tiers of intergovernmental relations in planning, budgeting and service delivery.

The programme supported strengthening of NIMES and CIMES capacities to enable reporting of non-financial information. This improved tracking of service delivery, and engendered evidence-based planning and budgeting by the county governments. The programme also: strengthened inter-county M&E approaches and the e-NIMES and e-CIMES systems and reporting at both national and devolved levels; supported KNBS to strengthen statistics capacity of counties and undertake inequality and employment analysis and preparation of the population monographs; supported IBP to engage citizens and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on county government planning, budgeting and service delivery.

The programme supported MED to enhance operationalization of CIMES in Busia County through familiarization of stakeholders with the content of the Busia County M&E Policy, training of Busia County M&E Committee on basic concepts of Monitoring and Evaluation and sensitization of stakeholders on the CIMES framework, County M&E committees and their roles and responsibilities. In addition to specific CIMES capacity building activities in the three counties, the programme strengthened the inter-county M&E champions approach, re-integrated e-NIMES, E-CIMES and reporting at both national and devolved levels, supported Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) to strengthen counties statistics capacity and undertake inequality and employment analysis and preparation of the population monographs. The programme also supported IBP to engage citizens and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on planning, budgeting and service delivery.

County assemblies play a pivotal role in the development of legislation, approval of county budgets and implementation of county executive plans. The programme sought to build the capacity of both arms of government to enhance their ability to work together to deliver better services for citizens. The programme supported the CAF to enhance the oversight role of county assemblies in the budget making cycle. During the reporting period, CAF introduced Members of County Assemblies (MCAs) and county assembly technical staff to review ADPs for Kajiado, Kilifi and Garissa counties. The county assemblies linked the ADPs to resource and expenditure frameworks to ensure implementation and service delivery achieved desired policy outcomes. To enhance CAF's capacity for guiding county assemblies in ADPs and budget review processes, the programme supported institutional capacity strengthening which provided skills in that enabled a deepened understanding of the budget cycle as per the PFM 2012 Act.

The programme supported KIPPRA to develop 47 county budget briefs as baselines on PFM in counties and service delivery. The budget briefs have specific recommendations in social sectors on inclusion of women, children and youth priorities in county planning, budgeting, and implementation. The budget briefs will inform technical assistance to counties to: mainstream gender in plans and budgets; align the budgets with key recommendations from the budget briefs in 5 select counties¹²; finalize and launch 47 County Budget Briefs with recommendations on inclusion of women, children, and youth in planning and budgeting process. The programme provided technical assistance to OCOB to: (i) integrate gender dimensions in budget monitoring and reporting, (ii) develop gender responsive training guidelines on planning, budgeting, monitoring of budget implementation, reporting, and utilize the manuals to train OCOB staff, and (iii) develop harmonized Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) guidelines on county budget process to train county budget officers, county planning officers and other relevant staff in the 5 counties.

The programme enhanced national and county systems capacity for the generation of disaggregated data on GBV, FGM, VAC, and child marriages and marginalized populations for evidence-based decision making at both levels of government through training of data users on gender statistics based on outcome of the gender dimensions monographs, and support to KNBS to complete and publish county poverty profiles and undertake inequality analysis applying census data. This enhanced inclusion of women, youth, children and PWD issues in county planning, budgeting and decision-making processes.

Several governmental functions, including gender, DRR, and social protection, are not fully devolved leading to lack of clarity on responsibilities between the two levels of government. Counties, as a result, give lower priority to budgets that support social inclusion activities. Often overlooked are activities that target marginalized groups, strengthen social planning, and include county assemblies and citizens and CSOs in public participation, and develop gender responsive and child sensitive budgeting. The programme strengthened the capacity of national and county governments for risk-informed development planning and budgeting through training of county technical staff, CSGs and CDCs on GEWE integration in disaster preparedness, response, recovery and reporting of Disaster Risk Response (DRR). The programme also provided technical assistance for integration of gender into policy and legislation review/formulation in resilience building and DRM in West Pokot and Elgeyo Marakwet counties, and risk assessment and development of county hazard maps in West Pokot, Elgeyo Marakwet, Lamu and Mandera counties.

The programme improved county capacities for effective implementation of child protection services by mapping of existing GBV related legislation in all the 14 counties and development of county specific frameworks and legislation on GBV and CP in 5 counties.

Output 1.4: Counties have improved institutional capacities for participation and inclusion of women, youth & PWDs in planning and decision-making processes

Output Target	Summary Achievement	Status
50% of the 14 focused counties have	100% of programme counties establish	On going

¹² Turkana, Busia, Isiolo, Kilifi and Kajiado counties

mechanisms for inclusive public participation of women, youth and PWDs	County Budget and Economic Forums	
--	-----------------------------------	--

The Constitution of Kenya 2010, in Articles 1, 10, 35, 174, 196, 201, 232, provides the foundation for the of public participation and involvement of citizens in decision making processes of governments. Further, Section 87 of the County Government Act, 2012 sets out the principles of citizens’ participation in counties. These include reasonable access to the process of formulating and implementing policies, laws and regulations as well as the approval of development proposals, projects and budgets.

Section 131 (6) of PFMA, 2012 provides that the County Executive Committee member for finance shall take all reasonably practicable steps to ensure that the approved budget estimates are prepared and published in a form that is clear and easily understood by, and readily accessible to, members of the public. County governments are therefore required to publish and publicize their budget information in online and social media channels which are easily accessible to members of the public. The programme, in collaboration with IBP, monitored the availability of budget information on websites, social media pages and other online platforms. Through this support, 30 counties against a target of 22 counties published their approved programme-based budget; approved citizen budget; ADPs; County Budget Review and Outlook Paper (CBROP); quarterly budget implementation reports, and Finance Acts on their websites and other online channels. This enhanced public scrutiny of county planning and budgeting processes thereby enhancing fiscal transparency in the counties.

The programme supported roll out of SCOA; planning and technical forum with UNCDF and UNDP on OSR generation models in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) and pastoralist economies; research, analysis and training on tax administration systems in select counties.

In 2019, CRA, with programme support, undertook an assessment of 15 counties¹³ to establish the effectiveness of the CBEFs in planning, budgeting, financial management, and public participation, which informed identification and implementation of mentoring and coaching activities for the counties based on their assessed CBEF capacity. The assessment established that while all the counties surveyed had established CBEFs, they were not established within 90 days after appointment of CEC members as required by Section 137 of Public Financial Management Act (PFMA, 2012). The CBEFs has representation of youth (4%), CSOs (5%), PWDs (11%), Faith-Based Organizations (12%), Elderly (12%), Women (13%), Business (13%), Labour (14%) and Professional organizations (17%). The assessment also established that: all the CBEFs had an equal number of non-state actors and county executive committee members; while all the counties has followed the process in nominating CBEF members, only Lamu, Mandera, Tana River, Turkana and Makueni have gazetted their CBEFs; Kitui, Makueni, Samburu, Taita Taveta, Tana River, Turkana and Mandera CBEFs were actively involved in the budgeting process while the other CBEFs had not been involved in the budgeting process; Mandera, Kitui, Makueni, Nyandarua, Turkana, Samburu and Taita Taveta CBEFs had developed and shared simplified budget documents, Turkana CBEF had not established a feedback mechanism for non-state actors, and Lamu, Garissa, Marsabit, Bungoma, Kisumu, Kirinyaga, West Pokot and Tana River counties had neither developed simplified budgets not established a feedback mechanism.

¹³ Bungoma, Garissa, Kirinyaga, Kisumu, Kitui, Lamu, Makueni, Mandera, Marsabit, Nyandarua, Samburu, Taita Taveta, Tana River, Turkana and West Pokot.

The findings of this assessment informed induction and training of the CBEF members to enable them to undertake their roles effectively. By August 2020, all the 47 county governments had formed CBEFs, and 45 out of 47 counties CBEFs had been inducted. CRA also developed and implemented a continuous capacity building programme for CBEF members. For example, Lamu which was rated the weakest CBEF was paired for mentorship and coaching by Makueni County which has a stronger CBEF. The peer-to-peer learning will be rolled out in 2020/21 FY.

The programme supported CRA to train CBEFs of Turkana, Lamu, Kilifi and Busia counties. The support included review of CBEF operational guidelines for the three counties to include gender and inclusion issues. Specifically, Turkana County incorporated gender issues in revenue administration in their legal framework and developed a land revenue administration action plan. Isiolo County incorporated nursing booths for women revenue administration officers since most revenue officers are women. Also, as a result of the programme’s support:

1. Busia County developed a simplified citizen budget for purposes of public participation; the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Finance reallocated funds for CBEF activities in the supplementary budget to implement the CBEF work plan;
2. Kilifi County for the first time undertook the CBEF through the preparation of the Annual Development Plan (ADP) and County Budget Review Outlook Paper (CBROP); finalized the constitution of its CBEF; and
3. Lamu County CBEF became actively involved in the preparation of the ADP 2019/20 after capacity building by CRA under the UNDP programme in August 2019.

The programme also supported the IBP to commission the County Open Budget Survey (OBS), which is currently underway, and provided technical assistance to OCOB to strengthen Project Management Committees and develop appropriate guidelines on inclusion to enhance social accountability in Garissa, Kilifi, Busia, Narok and Isiolo counties.

III. Knowledge Management

A well-designed and executed knowledge management is a critical driver for program delivery. The Joint Programme adopted a strategic approach to knowledge management to aid continuous learning and knowledge sharing. During the period under review, the programme significantly invested in knowledge management, with production of key knowledge products. The knowledge products are key to enabling county to county learning, and in ensuring sustainability of the work going forwards. Below are some of the knowledge products:

Output	Knowledge Product	Author	Link (location)
Output 1.2	47 County Budget Briefs	KIPPRA, UNICEF, UNWOMEN and UNDP	https://kippra.or.ke/index.php/publications/category/19-county-budget-briefs
Output 1.3	Women’s Empowerment Index	KNBS	https://www.unicef.org/kenya/media/1606/file/Women%20Empowerment%20Index%20Report%202020.pdf
Output 1.3.3	10 County Gender Data Sheets	KNBS	https://www.dropbox.com/sh/aew7clrpuocyphr/AADAzsFSxzvoNPfjcgAJTK-la?dl=0

Output 1.3.3	10 County Gender Data Sheets	KNBS	https://data.unwomen.org/publications/county-gender-data-sheets
--------------	------------------------------	------	---

IV. RISKS AND ISSUES

Project Risk and Issue Log as at September 30, 2020

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures/ Management Responses	Owner	Last update	Status
1	Weak collaborative mechanisms between key players on devolution matters.	Aug. 2018	political/ strategic	P=2 I=3	Facilitate frequent round table consultative forums among the players.	DDWG Chair	August 2020	Review during next quarter
2	Inter-County and Intra-County disputes especially over natural resources and county boundaries.	Aug. 2018	political/ strategic	P=2 I=3	Engage with relevant actors to ensure that dispute resolution mechanisms are established at both national and county levels.	UNDP (via DDWG, Conflict Groups)	August 2020	Review during next quarter
3	Diversion of government funds and attention due to natural disasters, drought, flood, or humanitarian crisis.	Aug. 2018	operational/ institutional	P=4 I=4	Work with national and county governments to expand resource mobilization base and work with development partners to ensure that resources mobilized are used prudently for intended results.	UNDP	August 2020	Review during next quarter
4	Fiduciary: Weak transparency and accountability for use of resources.	Aug. 2018	operational/ institutional	P=3 I=3	UNDP has conducted a micro-assessment for its IPs to assess their operational systems including HR, procurement, finance and programme management. Further, UNDP is applying direct payment HACT modalities and not advancing any cash to IPs.	UNDP	August 2020	Review during next quarter
5	Programming duplication by UN Agencies, Development Partners, GoK.	Aug. 2018	operational/ institutional	P=2 I=3	UN level: Monitor through the UN Devolution Working Group. DP & GoK level: Monitor through the Devolution Donor Working Group and Devolution Sector Working Group.	UNDP	August 2020	Review during next quarter

6	Beneficiary institution capacity implementation limitations.	Aug. 2018	operational/ institutional	P=3 I=3	Enhance the capacity of both national and county governments.	UNDP	August 2020	Review during next quarter
7	Program design doesn't prove feasible (not flexible, fit for purpose, impacts not being realized, etc.).	Aug. 2018	operational/ institutional	P=2 I=2	Adopt flexibility in the programming. A case in point is the re-programming of programme funds to support county government respond to COVID-19 pandemic.	UNDP	August 2020	Review during next quarter
8	Disagreement on the amount and timing of revenue to be allocated to counties.	July 2019	political/ strategic	P=4 I=4	Monitor through engagement with CRA and counties to see impact of a) delays occasioned by long debates on the amount to be allocated to counties; b) the actual amount allocated and if its level is enough for counties to undertake their mandate.	UNDP	August 2020	Review during next quarter
9	Delays in activities implementation due to travel restrictions occasioned by COVID-19 pandemic.	March 2020	Environmental	P=5 I=3	Establish necessary infrastructure required to respond to increasingly new remote demand from National and County government essential service delivery. Implement the regular devolution work in parallel with COVID-19 pandemic work once the emergency work was set up.	UNDP	September 2020	Review in the next quarter
10	Delays in approval of the policies and bills supported.	August 2018	Political/ institutional	P=3 I=4	Planning for the Training of Trainers (ToT) to train SCOA users in other government agencies during the phased roll-out as the team waits for the cabinet to legislate on Integrated Financial Management Information Systems (IFMIS) re-engineering.	UNDP	September 2020	Review in the next quarter

V. Targeting, Sustainability, Strengthening National Capacities and South-South Triangular Cooperation

5.1. Targeting

Target groups	Needs addressed	Evidence
National and County government social sector planning and economic officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Evidence/data generation – Training on social sector sensitive planning and budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 47 county budget briefs produced. ▪ 47 county poverty profiles produced ▪ Training of social sector planning and economic officer in all 47 counties in 8 clusters.
Intergovernmental agency (OCOB, CRA)	Automation of the OCOB budget reporting system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A firm undertaking the automation process for the MDAs and county quarterly budget implementation reporting system.
Women, youth, PWDs at county level	Meaningful participation in county budgeting and planning processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CBEFs have representation of women, youth, PWDs as required by the law.

5.2. Sustainability

Results achieved	Sustainability
Collaboration with other development partners working in the devolution areas e.g. under the devolution and PFM working groups	Collaboration with other programs working in the devolution space support sustainability and sustain change in the development cooperation sector.
TA to both National Treasury, County Assembly Forum and CoG	The sustainability of the efforts under Joint Devolution Programme strengthened by providing TA and building capacity. These efforts have built the requisite capacity in targeted partner institutions. This support also will developed tools and frameworks that can feed into nationally acceptable processes.
Gender responsive budgeting institutionalized in national and county budgeting processes	Development and institutionalizing the training tools on GRB in OCOB and CRA in progress.
Use of national government partners to implement the programme	Capacity created remains within government
MoU signed between Ministry of Labour & Social Protection and Kenya Social of Government for provision of trainings on social protection and child protection	Institutionalizing of training of government personnel for social protection, and child protection programming both of which include gender perspectives

programming

5.3. Strengthening National Capacities

Results achieved	Institution	National capacity strengthened
Automation of the budget reporting systems.	OCOB	MDAs and County government quarterly budget implementation reporting system
Monitoring and Evaluation Dashboards.	State Department for Planning, TNT	MDAs and County government National and County Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System strengthened.
Gender mainstreaming guideline in revenue administration.	CRA	Incorporation of gender in training of CBEFs CRA staff capacity on GRB strengthened.
Citizens and key stakeholders engaged in county planning, budgeting, monitoring, evaluation and reporting processes.	CRA	47 counties governments establish CBEFs.
Improved county visibility and transparency due to accurate and results-based reporting.	MED, State Department for Planning, TNT	National and county governments M&E (E-NIMES) reporting system.
Enhanced county government transparency.	CoG, CRA	Open Budget Index Initiative (for National and County government publication of planning and budgeting documents).
Enhanced tracking of expenditures and utilization of resources allocated for social sectors.	Social Governance Department, TNT	Social Intelligence Reporting (SIR) tools.
Faster disbursement and utilization of resources allocated to counties.	TNT	SCOA
Improved tracking of and reporting on budget utilization by counties.	OCOB	Automation of the budget reporting system.
Mapping of counties for disbursement of equalization fund.	CRA	Online system for revenue and expenditure database with equalization fund project GIS-enabled site

5.4. South-South Triangular Cooperation

Cooperating Country	Nature of Cooperation	Results Achieved
Mexico	SDG reporting under the programme-based budget	Codes provided in the revised SCOA Are now providing the capability to report on SDGs.

VI. Coordination and Partnerships

As earlier envisaged during the design stage and from the evaluations of the previous devolution programme, the joint programme is paying dividends. A few examples allude to this, for example in the CBEF work that UNDP is partnering with CRA, UNDP is providing expertise that has enabled gender mainstreaming in the CBBEFs, thereby enhancing gender participation in county planning and budgeting. UNICEF and UN Women are collaboratively working with KIPPRA to enhance county budget allocation for children and gender issues. Coordination and communication should be deliberately built into the programme and into UNICEF, UNDP and UN Women programme activities. Coordination has a central role in the program. In view of this, a Programme Implementation Unit (PIU) has been established and capacitated to coordinate programme activities, support PUNOs in implementation, build the capacity of implementing partners and responsible parties, and undertake central reporting for the programme.

Through the support of the PIU, PUNOs, IPs and RPs have aligned their interventions to national and county plans as outlined in various policy documents, including the Kenya Vision 2030, Third Medium Term Plan (MTP III), Big Four Agenda, 2018-22 and CIDPs. This has strengthened extensive consultation and collaboration between key stakeholders, thereby reducing potential for duplication of activities.

UN agencies leading in various policy dialogue platforms enhance and visibility of the programme. For example, UNICEF leading the PFM DPG enables amplifying of the programme results in macro spaces, while UNDP leading the DDWG enhances the programme coordination with others like World Bank, USAID and Denmark Programmes.

VII. Lessons Learned and Recommendations

The joint programme leverages field footprints, experience and practice of the three UN Agencies to develop interventions that works for the clients. It taps on their global knowledge on devolution and service delivery to develop solutions for gaps that constrained service delivery especially on social sectors. The program is drawing from experiences and expertise in other regions and international organizations to create workable solutions to capacity gaps and other challenges. This experience, combined with two other factors, will help achieve results. The two factors were (a) skilled staff who were highly knowledgeable about the local context and (b) cordial working relations with government counterparts.

National pandemics like COVID 19 require aligning the programmes to emergency response and prevention. The programme's Annual Workplan (AWP) was reprogrammed in March for 6 months which distracted the implementation of designed devolution work. The reprogrammed work contributed to the country's responsiveness to COVID-19. Some of the activities included creating awareness on prevention and response to the pandemic and boosted access to health/GBV services, provision of dignity kits for vulnerable women and girls, enhancing county HR capacity through the provision of health experts; social protection to the most vulnerable families through cash transfers.

VIII. Financial Report

Reporting Period: JANUARY - SEPTEMBER 2020	JANUARY - SEPTEMBER 2020			
	USD	USD	USD	USD
Contributions	SIDA	FINLAND	ITALY	Total
Opening Balance: 1st January 2020	3,127,932.44	2,200,220.02		5,328,152
Contributions from SIDA		-		0
Contributions from Finland				-
Contributions from Italy	-	-	441,501.10	441,501.10
Total Contributions	3,127,932	2,200,220	441,501	5,769,654
Expenditures				
Programme Cost				
JP OUTPUTS				
Output 1.1.1: National and county governments have strengthened select inter and intra-governmental coordination mechanisms		15,737.82	1,601.15	17,339
Output 1.1.2: Governments have harmonized governance policy, legal and institutional frameworks to support devolution	149,248.88	86,382.61		235,631
Output 1.1.3: Improved county capacities for effective implementation of child protection services	13,872.34			13,872
Output 1.2.1: County capacities strengthened for equitable and inclusive budgeting		5,839.53		5,840
Output 1.2.2: County capacities improved for revenue projection, generation, collection and reporting				0
Output 1.3.1: Counties have strengthened planning and service delivery mechanisms		9,455.78		9,456
Output 1.3.2: National and county governments have strengthened monitoring, evaluation, reporting systems	89,010.65	3,646.50		92,657
Output 1.3.3: National and County systems improved for the generation of disaggregated data (GBV, FGM, VAC, child marriages and marginalized populations including PWDs at county level, including a joint baseline study) for evidence-based decision making at both levels of government				0
Output 1.3.4: National and County governments have strengthened capacity for risk-informed		84,591.00		84,591

Reporting Period: JANUARY - SEPTEMBER 2020	JANUARY - SEPTEMBER 2020			
	USD	USD	USD	USD
development planning and budgeting				
Output 1.4.1: County governments have established public participation policy, legislation and frameworks				0
Output 1.4.2: County governments have established and operationalized inclusive citizen engagement and accountability mechanisms	39,315.45			39,315
Output 1.4.3: Increased capacity of CSOs to engage county governments on planning, budgeting and service delivery				0
COVID-19 RESPONSE OUTPUTS				
Enhanced Communication and targeted messaging for improved awareness about COVID 19 across demographic groups in Kenya	185,540.77	93,413.18		278,954
Improved COVID 19 Health Responsiveness at national, county and sub county level	288,377.48	372,254.15	47,698.18	708,330
COVID Gender Responsiveness enhanced		110,713.68		110,714
Human Resources enhanced for improved responsiveness to COVID at national, county and sub-county level	110,368.51	24,283.07	26,581.13	161,233
PIU & Coordination: Improved Programme Management Support to the devolution programme	50,679.85	179,915.64	11,947.40	242,543
Total Programme Costs	926,414	986,233	87,828	2,000,475
Indirect Support Costs (GMS)	59,364.8	86,357.04	7,056.20	152,778
Commitments and Undepreciated assets & Inventory	98,870		25,144.93	124,014
Total Expenditures	1,084,648	1,072,590	120,029	2,277,267
Balances as at 30th September 2020	2,043,284	1,127,630	321,472	3,492,386

Photo Gallery



Figure 1: CAF Officials conferring during a past training.



Participants at the UN and Partners Retreat to Review the Draft DRM Bill 2020, Naivasha, 15 October 2020

Photo credit: Cobrado/IOM/2020



The Director General of KNBS during the launch of county budget briefs and poverty profiles.

Photo Credit: JDP Communications Team



UNICEF Kenya Country Representative during the launch of county budget briefs and poverty profiles



UN Resident Coordinator during the launch of county budget briefs and poverty profiles



UNDP Kenya Resident Representative during the launch of county budget briefs and poverty profiles