



## **Inclusive Futures**

Promoting disability inclusion

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# **Bungoma county disability-inclusive budget tracking**

FY2016–17 to FY2020–21

Briefing | June 2021



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The Inclusive Futures programme is made up of disability and development specialists and global leaders from 16 organisations, coming together under one initiative funded by UK aid from the UK government. Our goal is to ensure opportunities for persons with disabilities and a future that's disability inclusive.

The briefing also benefits from the insights of partners including United Disabled Persons of Kenya (UDPK) and the Western Disability Network.

# Executive summary

This briefing presents research that was undertaken as part of Development Initiatives' work on **data to support disability inclusion**. It is part of a series of publications that track disability inclusion in county budgets in Kenya. This briefing looks at the inclusivity of Bungoma county budgets towards persons with disabilities between the financial years (FY) 2016–17 and 2020–21. It begins with an overview of the disability prevalence rate in the county, then looks at county investments towards disability inclusion. It concludes by outlining the critical financial gaps in the disability sector and provides actionable recommendations for both the county government and disabled persons organisations (DPOs).

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## Key findings

- Only one budget line under the Department of Gender, Culture, Youth and Sports has a disability-inclusive budget in the period under review. This budget line is titled 'Purchase of wheelchairs for persons with disabilities'.
- Disability-inclusive budget is only available for FY2018–19. This is the only available allocation that could be traced towards inclusion of persons with disabilities in the county across the period under review.
- The total disability-inclusive budget from FY2017–2021 was KES 10.0 million. This represents just 0.09% of the annual county budget of KES 11.3 billion in FY2018–19.
- The share of the disability budget in the annual programme and department budget represents 8.5% and 3.0% respectively in FY2018–19.
- Unavailability of budget supporting documents, such as annual development plans (ADPs), has limited the scope of analysis of the critical funding gap. However, in the draft ADP that was available, there is no mention of planned allocations to disability considerations.

# County disability prevalence rates

The disability prevalence rate in Bungoma is reported to have reduced by over half between the 2009 and 2019 censuses. In 2009 the disability prevalence rate was reported at 4.7%, while in 2019 the rate was reported at 2.0%,<sup>1</sup> which was slightly lower than the national average of 2.2%.

Though the 2009 figures were widely critiqued by UDPK as significantly underrepresenting the numbers of persons with disabilities, there are possible reasons for the reduction. These include the use of different methodological approaches, which is highlighted in Development Initiatives' paper on '[Status of disability in Kenya: Statistics from the 2019 census](#)'. Additionally, lack of proper training of enumerators on the Washington Group Questions module and poor involvement and education of DPOs prior to the census might have contributed to the low disability rates.

Though the overall disability prevalence rate figures were included in the last two censuses (2009 and 2019), the prevalence rates of disability by type are only available in the 2019 census report. The report shows that the highest prevalence rate in the county was in visual and mobility disabilities at 0.7%, followed by cognition and hearing disabilities at 0.4%, and communication and self-care disabilities at 0.2%.<sup>2</sup>

## County investments in disability inclusion

Analysis of Bungoma county budgets between FY2016–17 and FY2020–21 indicates that just one budget line under the Department of Gender, Culture, Youth and Sports has a dedicated disability budget for the period under review.

There are possible reasons for this, including:

- Competing priorities.
- Disability budgeting that is predominantly made at the national level, with fewer budget lines at the county level mainly for supporting the purchase of the assistive devices, social welfare for persons with disabilities and mainstreaming budgets across the various county government departments.
- Weak institutional frameworks that do not highlight the needs of the disability community and lack of awareness amongst persons with disabilities on the value of engagement with county officials at the budget planning stages.

This should be a point of serious concern not only to disability stakeholders, but to the Bungoma county government, given the trend in allocations to disability-inclusive budget lines.

The only disability-inclusive budget line in the period under review can be traced to the General Administration, Planning and Support programme under the Department of Gender, Culture, Youth and Sports. Additionally, across the period under review, this budget line was only allocated funds in FY2018–19; allocations dedicated to this budget line were cut in the other four financial years. While there is no direct explanation for this in the county budget documents, the budget cuts could have been made because of competing priorities, or

because the budget proposals were not made during the planning stage due to poor institutional frameworks.

Bungoma county allocated KES 10.0 million to support persons with disabilities in the period under review. This represents just 0.09% of the annual county budget in FY2018–19. It is not possible to determine whether this budget increased or decreased, because there have not been consistent allocations in the period under review.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, there has been no allocation to departments other than the Department of Gender, Culture, Youth and Sports, making it difficult to draw comparisons across departments.

The share of the budget line in both the annual programme and the department budget was relatively large. Annual analysis of the budget data reveals that the share of the budget line in the total department budget and the total programme budget is only available in FY2018–19, which was 3.0% in the department budget and 8.5% in the programme budget. None of the other budget lines in the period under review were disability inclusive, and there are no budget documents available online, such as ADPs or county integrated development plans, to explain why this is the case.

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## Investments in the Department of Gender, Culture, Youth and Sports

The Department of Gender, Culture, Youth and Sports has a total of three programmes, namely: the General Administration, Planning and Support programme; the Cultural, Sports Development and Management programme; and the Gender Equality and Empowerment of Vulnerable Groups programme. Budget lines to this department are intended to improve service delivery and coordination of ministerial functions, programmes and activities, improve heritage and culture awareness, knowledge, appreciation and conservation, nurture talent through sports and promote gender equality and freedom from discrimination among vulnerable groups.

Only one of those three programmes had a disability-inclusive budget line: the General Administration, Planning and Support programme. The budget line was titled ‘Purchase of wheelchairs for persons with disabilities’. This budget line aims to support the purchase of assistive devices to help with the mobility of persons with disabilities.

This budget line was allocated KES 10.0 million in FY2018–19. During the other four years under review, no allocations were received. Due to inconsistency in allocation, it has not been possible to calculate the aggregate share in total programme budget across the five years under review, because the figures may not accurately reflect the outcome of the disability budget. In each FY the only available share in programme budget is for the year FY2018–19, which is 8.5%. Had this share been sustained over the whole period under review, it might have resulted in substantial inclusivity of the county’s budget compared to the other counties assessed.

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Share of disability budget in the total programme budget – 8.5%

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While the total department budget across the period under review represents KES 1.2 billion,

Bungoma county allocated just KES 10.0 million towards disability inclusion in FY2018–19. This represents an insignificant share in disability allocation compared to the total department budget. There is a need to not only improve allocations supporting disability inclusivity, but also to consistently allocate funds to other new budget lines across more programmes and departments.

Analysis of the total annual department budget for the period under review reveals that disability budget was only available in FY2018–19, with none allocated in the other four FYs. FY2018–19 had a share of 3.0% in the total department allocation in that year, which was KES 332.6 million. It is important to note that the reasons why there was no allocation for the other years under review, or why the county government allocated only KES 10.0 million, were not immediately clear. This is due to the lack of supporting budget documents available online, including on the county’s website.

Across the period under review, the share of disability budget in the total county budget is only available for FY2018–19. The share of disability budget in the total county budget in that year was 0.09%, which is very small given that the county budget in that year was KES 11.2 billion.

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Share of disability budget in total department budget – 3.0%

Share of disability budget in county budgets – 0.09%

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## Critical funding gaps

While there is undoubtedly a critical funding gap in the disability sector, given that the total number of persons with disabilities is 29,203 and only KES 10.0 million has been allocated to support one type of disability – those with mobility impairments – for the period under review, it is almost impossible to understand the reasons for these critical funding gaps due to inaccessibility of the ADPs. Unlike the rest of the counties under review, Bungoma county had only one ADP (FY2019–20) accessible online, which was in draft form.

The draft FY2019–20 ADP does not reflect allocations to disability; however, it mentions the risk of not mainstreaming disability across various departments in the county, as well as not building capacity of staff on matters of disability. According to the available county plan, the county government will mitigate this risk by conducting advocacy workshops to support the required transformation and engage the Kenya School of Government to support them in the provision of the required courses.<sup>4</sup>

In addition, there are other events that touch on disability, including Disability Day, screening of persons with disabilities, the identification and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, and the sensitisation of staff on the rights of persons with disabilities. However, there is no costing that has been attached to these budget lines.

Nevertheless, the document specifies that some benefits are given to persons with disabilities when accessing government procurement opportunities. It states that 30.0% of all

government procurement opportunities are supposed to be given to young people, women and persons with disabilities; however, this has not been mentioned anywhere in the annual budget for FY2019–20.



# Conclusion

Bungoma county has just one budget line that is considered disability-inclusive across the period under review.

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## Key points

- **Inconsistent budget allocations to the disability-inclusive budget lines.** Bungoma county allocated funds to the disability-inclusive budget line only once in FY2018–19, for the purchase of assistive devices. There is need for consistency in allocation year on year to not only support the purchase of assistive devices, but to also invest in education, health and social welfare.
- **Few budget lines are relevant to disability inclusion.** There is only one disability-inclusive budget line under the Department of Gender, Culture, Youth, and Sports for the period under review, despite a mention of mainstreaming disability across all departments in Bungoma county in the ADP. From the county programme-based budgets, it is evident that the county government has not taken steps to operationalise mainstreaming disability across county departments. Moving forward, sensitisation and awareness creation will be very important in order to make county departments disability inclusive.
- **Unavailability of budget supporting documents.** While the budget estimates were available, budget supporting documents including the ADP were not. Availability of such documents will help future analyses to understand the reasons for increase, decrease or omission of budget lines.

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## Recommendations for DPOs and the county government

- DPOs, together with disability stakeholders, should continue to advocate for better allocation of resources to support persons with disabilities. These resources should be consistent and mainstreamed across several departments and programmes within the county government.
- DPOs in Bungoma, led by the Bungoma Disability Network, need to follow up on the county government's pledge to engage with the Kenya School of Government for support in the provision of the required courses to support training of county staff on disability mainstreaming.
- DPOs should follow up on the Bungoma county ADP's claim that the county government allocates funds for the welfare of persons with disabilities. They should ensure that budgeting is consistent, and that in every financial year, every department's planning and budgeting includes an allocation for persons with disabilities. In all cases, disability should be viewed from a rights perspective rather than a medical one.
- As stated by the Western Disability Empowerment Network in a constitutional petition to the county government in November 2020, the county government should consider the inclusion and allocation of budget especially in various areas.<sup>5</sup> DPOs need to follow

through with the petition and ensure recommendations coming from it are implemented.

- Monitoring and evaluation frameworks should be inclusive of disability indicators to ensure data is disaggregated in terms of disability, gender and age as per the UNSTATs standards.<sup>6</sup> This will ensure that counties are able to plan and be accountable to persons with disabilities and DPOs.
- The county government needs to prioritise releasing all county budget documents, including those in the earlier phases of planning, to not only give some background information on the budget lines, but also to understand why some budget lines have reduced, increased or been removed totally from the budgets. This will increase the ease of conducting analysis such as can be found in this report, which requires historical data on budget and other supporting budget documents.
- Bungoma county should ensure allocations to persons with disabilities are sustainable and consistent, not only through support with purchase of assistive devices, but also through provision of education and health services, as well as social welfare and mainstreaming disability across various departments for better advocacy. The key to leaving no one behind is the prioritisation and fast-tracking of actions for the poorest and most marginalised people.

# Notes

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- <sup>1</sup> Spotlight on Kenya. Available at [https://devinit.org/data/spotlight-kenya?t=kenya\\_population&i=spotlight\\_on\\_kenya\\_2017.kenya\\_total\\_pop&y=2025](https://devinit.org/data/spotlight-kenya?t=kenya_population&i=spotlight_on_kenya_2017.kenya_total_pop&y=2025) (accessed 5 January 2021)
- <sup>2</sup> Spotlight on Kenya. Available at [https://devinit.org/data/spotlight-kenya?t=kenya\\_population&i=spotlight\\_on\\_kenya\\_2017.kenya\\_total\\_pop&y=2025](https://devinit.org/data/spotlight-kenya?t=kenya_population&i=spotlight_on_kenya_2017.kenya_total_pop&y=2025) (accessed 5 January 2021)
- <sup>3</sup> Bungoma county budget between FY2016–17 and FY2020–21. The budget documents were made available through a private correspondent, since we could not find them online.
- <sup>4</sup> 2019–20 Bungoma county annual development plan. Available at <https://bungoma.go.ke/annual-development-plan/> (accessed 12 January 2021)
- <sup>5</sup> See Synthesis Report. Available at [https://asksource.info/sites/default/files/SynthesisReport\\_0.pdf](https://asksource.info/sites/default/files/SynthesisReport_0.pdf)
- <sup>6</sup> UNSTATS. Overview of standards for disaggregation. Available at [https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/meetings/iaeg-sdgs-meeting-06/20170607\\_updated%20version-overview%20of%20standards%20of%20data%20disaggregation.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/meetings/iaeg-sdgs-meeting-06/20170607_updated%20version-overview%20of%20standards%20of%20data%20disaggregation.pdf) (accessed 6 April 2021)



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