



Inclusive Futures

Promoting disability inclusion

Vihiga county disability-inclusive budget tracking

FY2016–17 to FY2020–21

Briefing | June 2021



Contents

Executive summary	3
Key findings	3
Key challenges	4
County investments in disability inclusion	5
Investments in the Department of the County Executive	6
Investments in the Department of County Public Service Board	6
Investments in the Department of Education	7
Investments in the Department of Environment	9
Investments in the Department of Health	9
Investment in the Department of Gender, Culture, Youth and Sports	10
Investments in the Department of Lands, Housing and Physical Planning	10
Investments in the Department of Administration and Coordination of County Affairs	12
Critical funding gaps, FY2018–19 and FY2020–21	12
Conclusion	13
Recommendations for DPOs and the county government	13

Acknowledgements

This briefing has been funded with UK aid from the UK government, and was developed by Development Initiatives with the support of the Inclusive Futures consortium. The opinions expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the UK government or other members of the Inclusive Futures consortium.

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 tracks the inclusivity of Vihiga county budgets from financial years (FY) 2016–17 to 2020–21 towards persons with disabilities. It begins with an overview of disability prevalence in the county, then looks at county investments in disability inclusion. It concludes by looking at the critical financial gaps in the disability sector and providing actionable recommendations to be taken up by both the county government and disabled persons organisations (DPOs).

The analysis in this briefing omits FY2019–20 due to unavailability of disaggregated data, at least at sub-programme level, which makes it difficult to draw comparisons with other FYs under consideration.

Key findings

- Eight out of the 13 county departments in Vihiga had a disability-inclusive budget line between FY2016–17 and FY2020–21. However, since there is no disaggregated project or activity data, it is not possible to determine the actual amount meant for disability mainstreaming alone, since allocations in these departments went to gender and disability mainstreaming.
- Each county department included one programme with a disability-inclusive budget line, except the Departments of Health, Education and Land, which had more than one.
- The bulk of the total disability-inclusive budget went to the Departments of Gender (45.0%), Education (31.0%) and Land (13.0%).
- Allocations made to the disability-inclusive budget line have been extremely low and have not been appropriated consistently during the period under review.
- Out of the total cumulative county budget of KES 27.0 billion over the period under review, only KES 27.6 million (0.1%) was allocated to promote inclusion and support persons with disabilities. However, it is important to note that this figure could in reality be lower, because the funding was allocated to gender and disability mainstreaming programmes in various departments, rather than to disability alone.
- The budget for disability inclusion decreased by 0.6% in FY2017–18, before increasing by 165.5% in FY2018–19 and seven-fold in FY2020–21. The significant increase in FY2020–21 was because of the introduction of gender and disability mainstreaming budget lines in the Department of the County Executive, the Department of Environment, the Department of County Public Service and the Department of Administration and Coordination of County Affairs.
- There is a significant gap between what the annual plans indicate is needed for investment in disability (and gender mainstreaming), and the budget allocations.
- For the period under review, annual allocations for disability inclusion as a share of the annual county budget ranged between 0.001% and 0.11%, while the share in department

budgets ranged between 0.02% and 3.0%.

Key challenges

- There is a lack of disaggregated data, especially for FY2019–20. For FY2019–20, county budget data was only available at programme level, and it is difficult to include it in the analysis with the other FYs under review, which have a slightly better disaggregation. Therefore, only budget data from FY2016–17, FY2018–19 and FY2020–21 has been used in the analysis.
- There is limited disaggregated data at project or activity level. All the disability-inclusive budget lines in Vihiga county were under the gender and disability mainstreaming sub-programme. It is, however, unclear how much of the funds are set aside for disability mainstreaming only.
- There is inconsistency in funding. Funding has not been consistently appropriated for the period under review.

County disability prevalence rates

The reported disability prevalence rate in Vihiga county has reduced slightly over the last 10 years. Comparison of the disability prevalence rate in the last two censuses (2009 and 2019) shows that there was a reduction in disability prevalence rate by 1.5%, from 5.3% in 2009 to 3.8% in 2019.¹

Though the 2009 figures are widely disputed by UDPK as a significant under-representation of persons with disabilities, there are possible reasons for this 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 awareness creation of DPOs prior to the census might have contributed to the low disability rates. Despite the reduction in the prevalence rate, it is important to note that Vihiga county ranked the highest in disability prevalence rate among the counties in the western region in 2019.

Unlike the overall county disability prevalence rate, which was available in both the 2009 and 2019 censuses, reported county disability prevalence-by-type data was only available in the 2019 census. Cognition, visual and mobility disabilities were the top three prevalence rates, reporting 1.0%, 1.3% and 1.8% respectively, followed by hearing disability at 0.6% and self-care disability at 0.5%. Communication disability had the lowest prevalence rate at 0.4%.²

County investments in disability inclusion

Eight out of the 13 county departments in Vihiga had a disability-inclusive budget line between FY2016–17 and FY2020–21. These were the Department of the County Executive, the Department of County Public Service, the Department of Education, the Department of Environment, the Department of Health, the Department of Gender, the Department of Lands, Housing and Physical Planning, and the Department of Administration and Coordination of County Affairs.

Across the departments, only one budget line has a disability-inclusive component: gender and disability mainstreaming. This programme ensures the promotion of equality between men and women, and sets up an atmosphere that highlights the needs and aspirations of persons with disabilities. It is centred on creating all-inclusive and accessible environments for persons with disabilities across the different departments in the county. However, since there is no disaggregated data, it is not possible to determine how much funding was allocated to disability mainstreaming alone.

Allocations made to the disability-inclusive budget line have been extremely low, and have not been appropriated consistently for the period under review.

Of the eight departments that had disability-inclusive budget lines, the majority had one programme each with a disability-inclusive budget line, except the Department of Health, the Department of Education and the Department of Land, housing and physical planning, which

had more than one programme. The bulk of the total disability budget went to the Department of Gender (45.0%), the Department of Education (31.0%) and the Department of Land housing and physical planning (13.0%).

The budget for disability inclusion decreased by 0.6% in FY2017–18, before jumping up by 165.5% in FY2018–19. The budget then increased seven-fold in FY2020–21 (as mentioned in the executive summary, there was no disaggregated budget data to compare for FY2019–20). The dramatic increase in FY2020–21 was a result of the introduction of gender and disability mainstreaming budget lines in the Department of the County Executive, the Department of Environment, the Department of County Public Service and the Department of Administration and Coordination of County Affairs. However, as noted, it is difficult to separate disability mainstreaming from gender mainstreaming budget lines because the county budget data is not presented in a disaggregated form.³

Despite the increases observed during the period under review, allocations to disability inclusion as a share of the total county budget remained less than 1.0%, while the share in department budgets ranged between 0.02% and 3.0%.

Investments in the Department of the County Executive

Analysis shows inconsistent allocations and reductions to the disability-inclusive budget in the Department of the County Executive across the period under review.

The Department of the County Executive had one budget line – gender and disability mainstreaming – that was disability inclusive. This budget line was under the management and administration of the county services programme. In the period under review, there were appropriations in only two FYs (FY2016–17 and FY2020–21), but the appropriation in FY2020–21 declined by 85.0%. The share of allocation of the disability-inclusive budget line in the total programme budget was low in both years, at 1.4% in FY2016–17 and 0.1% in FY2020–21. It is difficult to explain the reasons for the reduction in the allocation due to unavailability of budget documents; additionally, it is not possible to ascertain whether this reduction was sustained in FY2019–20.

The share of allocation of the disability budget line in both the department and county budget reduced in both FY2016-17 and FY2020-21, from 0.44% in FY2016–17 to 0.08% in FY2020–21 for the department shares and from 0.03% in FY2016–17 to less than 0.004% in FY2020–21 for the county budget shares. There were no allocations in FY2017–18, FY2018–19 and FY2019–20.

Investments in the Department of County Public Service Board

The Department of County Public Service’s disability-inclusive budget allocation is only available in the FY2020–21 budget (FY2019–20 data is omitted).

The Department of County Public Service Board had one budget line – gender and disability

mainstreaming – with an allocation under the Administration, Planning and Support Services programme in FY2020–21 of KES 0.5 million. This represented a 1.28% share allocation in the FY2020–21 programme budget.

Similarly, the percentage share of the disability budget in the department budget was 1.28%, while the percentage share of allocation in the county budget was 0.01%.

Investments in the Department of Education

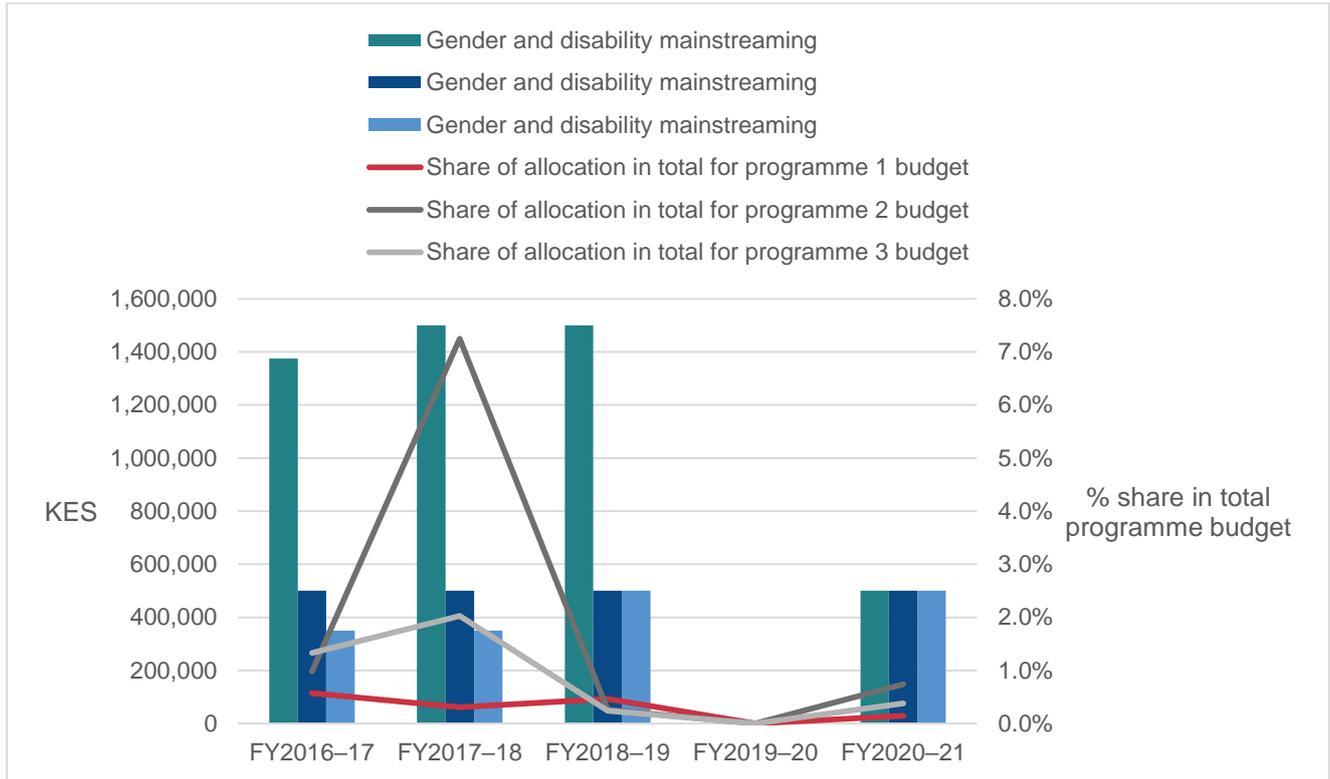
In Vihiga county there are a total of 930 early childhood development centres, 398 primary schools and 116 secondary schools. Out of these, only 13 are registered as schools providing special needs education to children with disabilities.⁴ Disability-inclusive budgets could be traced in three programmes – namely the Administration, Planning and Support Services programme, the Vocational Education and Training programme, and the Early Childhood Development and Education Development and Coordinating programme. Each of these was situated under the budget line ‘gender and disability mainstreaming’. The Administration, Planning and Support Services programme received the highest disability funding, followed by the Vocational Education and Training programme. The ECDE Development and Coordinating programme had the lowest disability budget.

Omitting FY2019–20 due to unavailability of disaggregated county budgets, the total disability budget saw a steady increase between FY2016–17 and FY2018–19 before making a sharp decrease in FY2020–21. It rose by 5.6% in FY2017–18, followed by another 6.4% increase in FY2018–19. Between FY2018–19 and FY2020–21, the disability budget was cut by 40.0% to KES 1.5 million in FY2020–21.

The share of the disability budget in total programme budgets was analysed by programme. Analysis of the aggregate shares of disability budget in the total programme budgets for the period under review shows that the share in the Vocational Education and Training programme was the highest at 0.6%, followed by both the Administration, Planning and Support Services programme and the ECDE Development and Coordinating programme at 0.4%.

Annual shares of disability budget in the Administration, Planning and Support Services programme decreased in the first two FYs under review, before increasing in FY2018–19. Between FY2018–19 and FY2020–21, the share dropped significantly to 0.15%. The sharp reduction in FY2020–21 was caused by a cut in the disability budget by KES 1.0 million. The share of disability budget in the Vocational Education and Training programme increased from 1.0% in FY2016–17 to 7.3% in FY2017–18; this was followed by a significant decrease in FY2018–19, before a slight increase in FY2020–21. The dramatic increase in FY2017–18 was brought about by a huge cut of 86.4% in the total allocation that went to the Vocational Education and Training programme. The share of disability budget in ECDE Development and Coordinating followed a similar trend, with slight decrease between FY2016–17 and FY2017–18 (Figure 1).

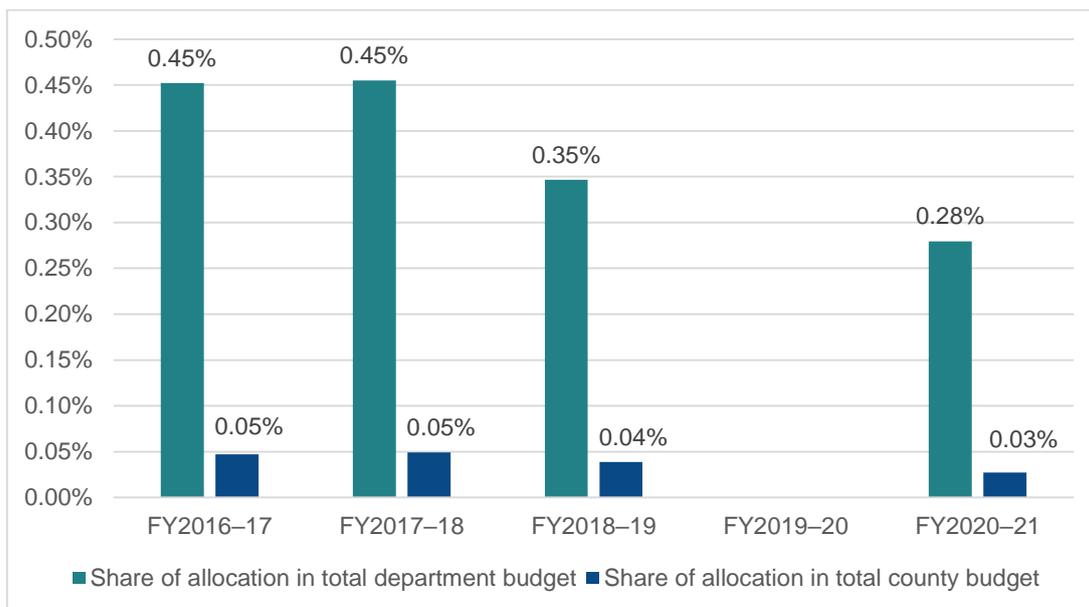
Figure 1: Trends in share of allocation in the programme budget



Source: Development Initiatives, based on Vihiga county programme-based budgets, FY2016-17 to FY2020-21

The percentage share of allocation in the Department of Education budget was at a constant 0.45% for FY2016-17 and FY2017-18, before declining by 0.10 percentage points in FY2018-19. It then dipped further in FY2020-21 to 0.28%. Similarly, the share of disability budget in the total county budget remained constant in the first two FYs under review, decreasing slightly in FY2018-19 and FY2020-21. FY2020-21 had the lowest share in the period under review (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Trends in allocation in department and county budgets



Source: Development Initiatives, based on Vihiga county programme-based budgets, FY2016-17 to FY2020-21

Investments in the Department of Environment

The Department of Environment had only one programme with a budget line supporting persons with disabilities. The programme was titled Administration, Planning and Support Services, with the budget line being ‘gender and disability mainstreaming’. Noting the FY2019-20 omitted budget data, analysis shows the programme received an allocation of KES 40,000 in FY2020-21, representing a percentage allocation share of 0.03% in the total programme budget in FY2020-21. The share of the budget line allocation in the total department budget and the county budget was at 0.02% and 0.01% respectively.

Investments in the Department of Health

The Department of Health had three programmes that allocated funds to support persons with disabilities between FY2016-17 and FY2020-21. The programmes were the Administration, Planning and Support Services programme, the Preventive and Promotive Health Services programme, and the Curative and Rehabilitative Health Services programme. Each had one budget line titled ‘gender and disability mainstreaming’; however, the allocations were not made consistently. There were no allocations in FY2017-18 or FY2019-20. Additionally, there were two programmes in FY2016-17 and FY2020-21 that did not receive allocations. However, it should be noted that the budget data was missing in FY2019-20.

Annual shares of disability-inclusive budget in the Administration, Planning and Support Services programme were less than 0.05% for the entire period under review. The share

decreased from 0.04% in FY2016–17 to 0.01% in FY2018–19, before making a slight increase to 0.02% in FY2020–21. Shares of disability budget in the Preventive and Promotive Health Services programme and the Curative and Rehabilitative Services programme were only available in FY2018–19, at 0.18% and 0.06% respectively. The low shares in the health sector can be attributed to low allocation to disability-inclusive budget lines compared to the huge budgets allocated to other programmes.

The share of disability-inclusive budget in both the department budget and the county budget averaged at 0.01% and 0.004% respectively for the period under review. The low shares in both department and county budgets are due to the minimal budget allocated to the disability-inclusive budget lines compared to the department and county budgets.

Investment in the Department of Gender, Culture, Youth and Sports

The Department of Gender, Culture, Youth and Sports is responsible for, among other tasks, the empowerment of young people, children and persons with disabilities; however, allocations supporting persons with disabilities were made in only two FYs, under a programme titled Youth and Gender Development. The allocations were made in FY2018–19 and FY2020–21. The allocation in FY2018–19 was KES 7.2 million, which reduced by 0.31% to KES 5.0 million in FY2020–21. The shares of disability budget in the total programme budget for these two FYs were the highest in all the programmes reviewed – 34.0% in FY2018–19 and 35.6% in FY2020–21. The significance of the shares can be attributed to smaller programme budgets compared to the significant budget for the budget lines supporting disability.

The share of disability allocation in the department budget was also the highest across all county departments, accounting for 3.0% in FY2018–19 and 2.6% in FY2020–21. The share in county budgets was 0.1% in both years with disability-inclusive budget lines.

Investments in the Department of Lands, Housing and Physical Planning

In the period under review, there were two programmes with disability-inclusive budget lines: the Administration, Planning and Support Services programme and the Urban, Physical Planning and Housing Services programme. The budget line in both programmes was for gender and disability mainstreaming.

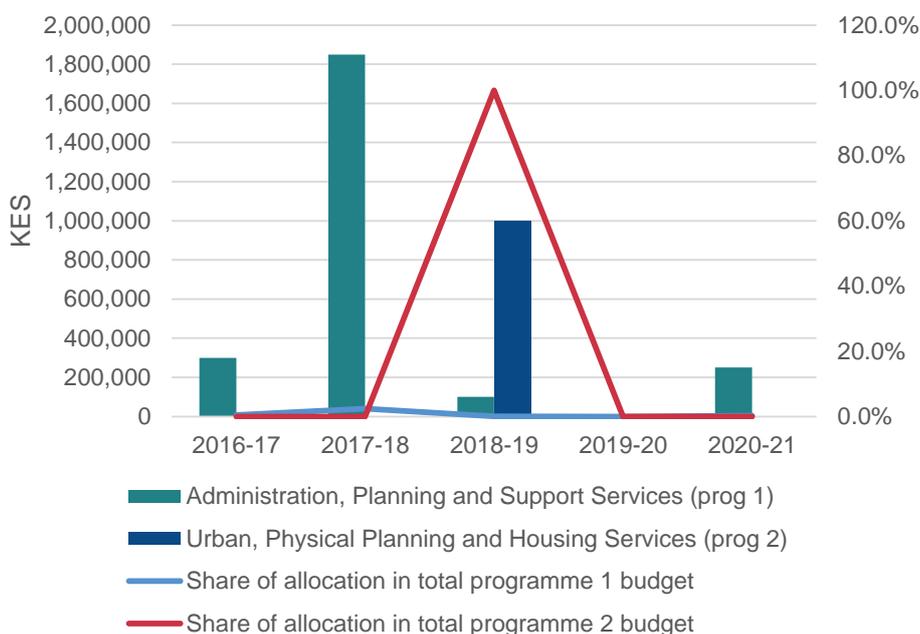
Apart from FY2019–20, which was omitted due to lack of disaggregated budget data, budget lines supporting persons with disabilities under the Administration, Planning and Support Services programme received allocations in all the FYs under review. Allocations increased three-fold in FY2017–18, then dropped by 95.0% in FY2018–19. The budget then increased by 150.0% in FY2020–21.

The cumulative share of the disability-inclusive budget in the Administration, Planning and

Support Services programme was 0.6%. The annual share of disability allocations in this programme increased by two percentage points in FY2017–18, before making a sharp drop in FY2018–19 to 0.07%. The share increased in FY2020–21 due to the improvement in allocations to the disability-inclusive budget line. Similarly, the dramatic increase in FY2017–18 can be attributed to the 95.0% increase in allocation to the disability-inclusive budget line between FY2016–17 and FY2017–18.

The budget line under the Urban, Physical Planning and Housing Services programme received allocations only in FY2018–19. The budget line received 100.0% of the total budget allocated to the programme (Figure 3).

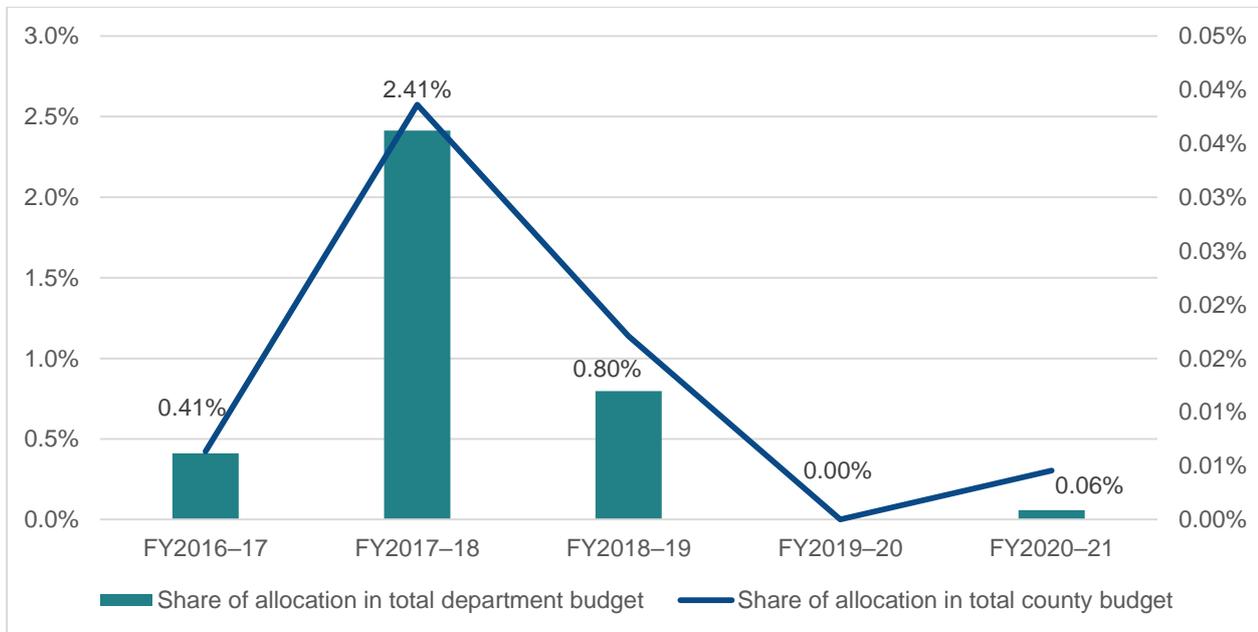
Figure 3: Trends in share of allocation in the programme budget



Source: Development Initiatives, based on Vihiga county programme-based budgets, FY2016–17 to FY2020–21

Cumulatively, the share of the total disability budget in both the department and county budgets was minimal, at 0.5% for the department budget and 0.02% for the county budget. Analysing the annual shares in both county and department budgets reveals that the shares of disability budget in the county budget ranged between 0.005% and 0.04%, while the shares in the department budget ranged between 0.06% and 2.41% (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Trends in allocation in the department and county budgets



Source: Development Initiatives, based on Vihiga county programme-based budgets, FY2016-17 to FY2020-21

Investments in the Department of Administration and Coordination of County Affairs

This department had one programme with a disability-inclusive budget line: the Administration, Planning and Support Services programme. The budget line, as was the case in the rest of the departments, was ‘gender and disability mainstreaming’. It received an allocation in FY2020-21, when a budget of KES 0.2 million was allocated to the budget line, which represented a 0.07% share of the allocation in a programme budget of KES 292.0 million.

The percentage allocation of the programme budget in the department and county budgets were both low – less than 0.1%. The share of allocation of the disability-inclusive budget in the total department budget was 0.07%, while the share in the county budget represented 0.004%.

Critical funding gaps, FY2018-19 and FY2020-21

Out of the total cumulative county budget of KES 27.0 billion over the period under review, only KES 27.6 million (0.1%) was allocated to promote inclusion and support persons with disabilities in Vihiga county. However, this figure could be lower, since the funding went to gender and disability mainstreaming programmes in various departments and not to disability mainstreaming alone. Due to lack of access to annual development plans (ADPs) in FY2016-17 and FY2017-18, it was not possible to provide accurate analysis for the critical

funding gaps in these years. However, for FY2018–19 and FY2020–21, there was available information that could be used to analyse the critical financing gaps.

A review of the Vihiga county ADP for FY2018–19 reveals that in the Department of Health, under the General Administration and Support Services programme, a total of KES 11.5 million was to be allocated to the gender and mainstreaming budget line (KES 4.0 million for gender mainstreaming and KES 7.5 million to disability mainstreaming). However, the programme-based budgets in the same year show that only KES 0.1 million of the planned 11.5 million was allocated to both gender and disability mainstreaming. The significant cut in the budgets could be associated with slow disbursement of funds from the county treasury, resource constraints and procurement red tape.

Underbudgeting was also noted when comparing the FY2020–21 ADP and the programme-based budgets. According to the Department of Gender, Youth, Culture and Sports, an estimated KES 10.0 million was to be allocated to the gender and disability mainstreaming budget line to facilitate the implementation of the Vihiga Disability Act; however, in the FY2020–21 programme-based budget, only KES 5.0 million was allocated. This shows that only half of the funds that were estimated to be used were allocated for the budget line, resulting in a critical funding gap and reducing the support for persons with disabilities.

In the other departments that had disability-inclusive budget lines in FY2018–19 and FY2020–21, it is difficult to check for funding gaps because the ADP did not mention any estimates made to the programmes.

Conclusion

From the budget review, it is evident that there are not enough disability-inclusive budget lines in the county budgets. From the eight departments that had disability-inclusive budget lines, only three of them – the Department of Health, the Department of Education and the Department of Land – had more than one budget line. Additionally, allocations to these budget lines were not made consistently for the period under review, with some having only one allocation for the whole period.

The challenges of unavailability of disaggregated data and inconsistency in appropriation of funds limited the scope of analysis, especially for FY2019–20.

Recommendations for DPOs and the county government

The county government of Vihiga needs to improve on the current percentage share of allocation that goes into supporting persons with disabilities in each department. The following points are recommendations for the county government, DPOs and other disability stakeholders.

- Consider the constitutional petition by DPOs in Vihiga county to the county government in November 2020.⁵ The petition raised matters of concern to persons with disabilities and the need for representation, inclusion and allocation of budget in various areas. DPOs need to follow through with the petition and ensure that recommendations coming from it

are implemented.

- Properly educate persons with disabilities and their representative DPOs about county planning and budgeting processes and cycles. This will help them understand the value of engagement with county government and will help ensure that annual budgets include priorities that will benefit them.
- Build capacity of all county departments on disability-inclusive legislation, planning, budgeting, implementation processes and disability-sensitive language.
- Undertake planning and budgeting based on evidence. It is important for county department heads, especially the Department of Finance, to plan based on the data available on persons with disabilities in the county. This will help with identifying where potential interventions are required and will limit the significant funding gap in the disability budget that has been witnessed in the period under review.
- Monitor and evaluate frameworks that are inclusive of disability indicators to ensure that data is disaggregated in terms disability, gender and age as per the UNSTATS standards.⁶ This will ensure that counties are able to plan and be accountable to persons with disabilities and DPOs.
- The county government should prioritise disaggregating all their programme-based budgets to the activity level, to improve analysis tracking disability inclusion.

Notes

- ¹ Disability prevalence rates. https://devinit.org/data/spotlight-kenya?t=kenya_population&i=spotlight_on_kenya_2017.kenya_disability&y=2019&lc=KE.d18990&ln=vihiga (accessed 27 October 2020)
- ² Disability prevalence rates by type. https://devinit.org/data/spotlight-kenya?t=kenya_population&i=spotlight_on_kenya_2017.kenya_disability_communication&y=2019&lc=KE.d18990&ln=vihiga (accessed 27 October 2020)
- ³ Vihiga county budgets from FY2016–17 to FY2020–21. Budgets were availed through a private correspondent.
- ⁴ Ministry of Education, Republic of Kenya, 2009. The special needs education policy framework. Available at: <http://www.unesco.org/education/edurights/media/docs/446808882707702aafc616d3a2cec918bfc186fc.pdf>
- ⁵ See Synthesis Report Available at https://asksource.info/sites/default/files/SynthesisReport_0.pdf
- ⁶ UNSTATS, 2017. 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.



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