

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF BUNGOMA



**COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA
OFFICE OF THE CLERK**

THIRD ASSEMBLY FOURTH SESSION

LIAISON COMMITTEE

**REPORT ON THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON BUNGOMA COUNTY
ANNUAL ESTIMATES FY 2025/2026**

**Clerks Chambers
County Assembly Buildings
P.O BOX 1886 - 50200
BUNGOMA, KENYA**

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INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to Article 196 (1) of the Constitution of Kenya, Section 87 of the County Government Act, 2012 and Section 131 (2) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012, the Liaison Committee of the County Assembly invited the general public, Civil Society Organizations and other stakeholders to the public participation and submission of memorandums on the Bungoma County Annual Budget Estimate FY 2025/2026 on 14th and 15th May, 2025 in the County Assembly precinct; Paskari Nabwana Hall. On 14th May, 2025, representatives across the 45 wards attended the public participation forum and submitted the views on each sector.

On 15th May, 2025, the following stakeholders addressed before the committee and presented their memoranda;

- a) Kenya Workers Right and Harmonization program (KWRHP)
- b) Tongaren Sub-county CSOs
- c) Bungoma County CSOs coordinating unit
- d) Western Kenya Human Rights Watch
- e) Mwatikho Torture Survivors Foundation
- f) REDO Kenya and Bungoma Budget Champions
- g) Council of Human Ecology Centre
- h) Bungoma County Children Rights Network and Partners
- i) Emerging Leaders Foundation – Tunaweza Program
- j) Mama na Mtoto Initiative and RMNCAH
- k) Torch Africa
- l) Bungoma County Civil Society Organization Forum (BCSF)

SUBMISSION FROM THE PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDERS

1) TRADE, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIALIZATION

Public Views

Code 2210800 (Cleaning Services and Receptions), the allocation should be reduced and reallocated to development programs that directly support people on the ground.

Code 2640503 (Trade Loans) should have its allocation increased to benefit more people. Additionally, disbursements should be sent to mobile phones rather than bank accounts for easier access.

Code 3111011 (Purchase of Lighting Equipment – Transformers) should be allocated funds, as many markets lack lighting, which negatively impacts business operations.

Code 2410104 (Project Supervision) should be allocated adequate funds to ensure that all projects are properly implemented and meet their intended objectives.

For Code 2640503 (Other Capital Grants), the department should lobby for additional grants to invest in industries that will create employment opportunities.

The allocation for Energy Installation of Transformers should be increased to connect more areas that currently lack electricity.

The implementation of the Industrial Park project is progressing slowly and needs to be accelerated.

Bungoma Civil Society Organization Forum (BCSF) Members

Market infrastructure improvements across key markets are recommended. This will guarantee an enabling environment for the traders and this will translate to compliance and therefore lead to increased revenue. The markets mentioned are; Chwele, Cheptais, Myanga, Mayanja, Kamukuywa, Malakisi, Misikhu, Kipsigon, Soko Kubwa, Chebkube, Bukembe, Kimilili, Brigadier, Dorofu and Webuye.

Bungoma County CSOs Coordinating Unit

There is no allocation on trade loans. They recommend that Assembly reallocate Kshs.15 *Million* to the Fund

Tongaren memorandum

Tongaren residents request to be sensitized on what the County Government Act states in regard to Townships development strategy in line with the following approved PDPAs; Mukuyuni (Kamakoiwa) township PDP, Mbakalo township PDP, Lungai township PDP, Kibisi township PDP, Tongaren Township PDP and Ndalul township PDP.

The county should put in place PDPs implementation to revive the functionality of township and embrace community development agenda in terms of priority.

Western Kenya Human Right Watch

More funds should be invested in industrialization or cottage industries for value addition that has no funds allocated.

2) ROADS, INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS

Public Views

For Code 2210300 (Domestic Travel, Subsistence, and Other Transportation Costs), the allocation should be reduced by a quarter, as the current allocation is high.

For Code 2210800 (Hospitality Supplies and Services), the allocation should be reduced to Kshs. 10 million. The department should prioritize development initiatives instead.

The department should provide documents related to the previous budget to allow the public sufficient time to compare them with the proposed allocations.

The department should clear existing supplier credit before proposing or initiating any new projects.

Need an operational fire station in Bungoma. It was constructed by there are no works but instead it has been converted to Road, Infrastructure and Public Work departmental Officer

What is the Status of the Webuye fire stations?

Bungoma Civil Society Organization Forum (BCSF) Members

The sector had an approved CFSP ceiling of Kshs 685,409,783, consisting of a Recurrent Expenditure of Kshs 40,759,393 and Development Expenditure of Kshs 644,650,390 while the Annual Budget allocation is Kshs 616,782,191, consisting of a Recurrent Expenditure of Kshs 184,554,999 and Development Expenditure of Kshs 576,022,798 hence a deviation of Kshs 68,627,592 or 10.1% that needs to be explained.

Tongaren memorandum

Tongaren sub-county deserve better road network for quick movements and transportation of products from the interiors to cereals and produce boards. Misikhu Brigadier road has been launched and re-launched for the past 13 years and it is far from its completion.

Western Kenya Human Right Watch

It should be clear on which roads are done by the National Government, County Government and World Bank to avoid confusion and corruption.

3) YOUTH AND SPORTS

Public Views

The purchase of office furniture and fittings should be reduced, as these items depreciate at a low rate.

The purchase of computers, printers, and IT equipment should be limited to Kshs. 300,000, since maintenance costs for these items are relatively low.

Stadium not to be made an administrative block, this will divert its purpose the way the fire station has lost its meaning.

Bungoma Civil Society Organization Forum (BCSF) Members

The Chemoge High Altitude Centre should be finalized in FY 2025/26, the project commenced in 2024.

Bungoma County CSOs Coordinating Unit

Youth Empowerment funds has no allocation but recommend that the County Assembly allocates Kshs. 10 million.

Kenya Workers Rights and Harmonization Program

Develop and maintain sports facilities and equipment to promote participation and excellence in skills and sports.

Western Kenya Human Right Watch

The county government still budgeted for the Masinde Muliro Stadium in FY 2024/25 despite National Government taking over.

4) GENDER AND CULTURE

Public Views

For Code 2211000 (Specialized Materials and Supplies – Purchase of Uniforms and Clothing for KICOSCA), the allocation should be reduced from Kshs. 15 million to Kshs. 10 million, as uniforms and clothing are just a single item.

An allocation of Kshs. 15 million should be set aside to support women and Persons Living with Disabilities (PLWDs), with proper regulations put in place. Additionally, there should be increased awareness about the importance of repaying loans on time to further empower these groups within the community.

Bungoma County CSOs Coordinating Unit

Disability fund and Women funds have no allocation and they recommend that they be allocated Kshs. 15 million and Kshs. 20 million respectively.

KICOSCA Games has an allocated Kshs. 31,500,000 while Youth Awareness on AGPO has no allocation. They recommend that games be reduced by Kshs. 15 million and the same be reallocated to empowerment and sensitization on AGPO

Kenya Workers Rights and Harmonization Program

1. Ensure that budget allocations benefits all genders equally and age groups and adjust allocations accordingly to address identified gaps according to coalition on violence against women.
2. Ensure data is collected and used to inform program development to understand the specific needs of different groups according to Kenya Vision 2030.
3. Conduct consultations with communities to ensure that the needs and priorities are reflected in the budget and provide opportunities for feedback and comment.

Bungoma County Children Rights Network and Partners

On children matters in the department of Gender, Culture, Youth and Sports, we wish to submit that there is no mention of children in the budget documents (Itemized and PBB) as if the county has no mandate on safeguarding children rights of survival, development, protection and participation. Besides, the recently enacted Bungoma County Children Policy in line with the International Instruments, the Constitution of Kenya and the Children Act, 2022 provides for a framework on children matters in the county.

Recommendations

- County Assembly to appropriate funds towards children protection programmes.
- County Assembly to appropriate funds to establishment and operationalization of Bungoma County Children Act to facilitate children participation.
- Appropriate funds to marking of Day of African Child marked on 16th June and International Children Day marked on 20th November.

5) FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING

Public Views

For Code 2210700 (Training and Expenses), the allocation should be reduced by 10% as the trainings are not taken seriously.

The allocation for fuel, oil, and lubricants should be reduced by 20%. Unnecessary travel should be minimized to cut costs.

In Planning, the allocation for Code 2210100 (Utilities, Supplies, and Services) should be increased, as the proposed allocation is insufficient to cover essential needs.

The transport reimbursement for public participation should be increased to Kshs. 3,000.

Western Kenya Human Right Watch

There is reluctant or corruption in Own Source Revenue collections

Kenya Workers Rights and Harmonization Program

1. There is need to enhance own source revenue collection by focusing on plan approvals to mitigate on the negative variance in local generated revenue for effective performance.
2. There is need to prioritize Development Expenditure for timely implementation of projects across key sectors like healthcare, education, agriculture, infrastructure and economic development.
3. Need for an economic assumption in the budget preparation that shows how the assumptions were arrived at and why they differ with the national budget which should reflect what is captured in the CFSP.

REDO Kenya and Bungoma Budget Champions

1. Rebalance expenditure to target a 60:40 ratio between recurrent and development spending.
2. Improve revenue forecasting through a comprehensive potential assessment and faster deployment of BARMS.
3. Operationalize an M&E dashboard and ensure quarterly performance reviews are conducted and published.

BUNGOMA CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION FORUM (BCSF) MEMBERS

1. There is need for the Department of Finance and Economic Planning to develop a policy framework for the operationalization of the County Revenue Management Board, within the budget for the Financial Year 2025/26.
2. Despite a revenue potential of Kshs. 2.5B, collections remain low due to system inefficiencies. Integration with GIS and a forensic audit are recommended on the current revenue automated management system to address the leakages. Enhancement of OSR can be a relief to over-dependence on exchequer release.
3. The County Government of Bungoma did not align the 2024/25 budget by not adhering to its strategic plans, reflecting fiscal indiscipline. Strict adherence to PFM Act, 2012 and PFM Regulations in implementation of 2025/26 Budget to be observed
4. The proposed Annual Budget FY 2025/26 did not abide by to ceilings set in the CSFP contrary to provisions of Article 201 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 as read together with *Section 131 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 and with Regulation 37 of the Public Finance Management Regulations, 2015.*
5. In the proposed Annual Budget Estimates FY 2025/26, the targeted Local Revenue is **Kshs 671,057,448** and Appropriation in Aid is **Kshs 1,295,070,023** whereas the Appropriation in Aid for the Approved CSFP is **Kshs 816,800,000**. This translates to a deviation of **Kshs 478M or 36.9% deviation** from the Approved CSFP 2025/26, which is yet to be explained and clarified by the Department of Finance and Economic Planning
6. The previous year's actual development expenditure fell below the 30% threshold while recurrent expenditure was 70%. This needs correction in 2025/26.

6) TOURISM, ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Public Views

Code 2210300 (Domestic Travel, Subsistence, and Other Transportation Costs), especially air travel, the allocation should be reduced by 25% to encourage the use of road transport.

Code 2210700 (Training Expenses), the allocation for accommodation should be reduced by utilizing county-owned facilities and hotels, which will also help boost the local economy.

Code 2210105 under Water and Natural Resources, the allocation should be reduced by 30% to promote the use of road transport, allowing better access to tourist sites.

Bungoma Civil Society Organization Forum (BCSF) Members

1. The CFSP Ceiling for the Department of Environment, Tourism, Water and Natural Resources FY 2025/26 is Kshs 1,218,176,311, consisting Recurrent Expenditure of Kshs 87,918,623 and development Expenditure of Kshs 1,130,257,688 while in the Annual Budget allocation is Kshs 1,215,213,136, consisting Recurrent Expenditure of Kshs 592,284,474 and Development Expenditure of Kshs 546,968,800 hence a deviation of 2,963,175 or 0.2%. However, an explanation on the increase of Recurrent Expenditure with Kshs 45,317,674 and the reduction of the Development Expenditure from Kshs 1,130,257, 688 to 546,968, 800 in the Annual Budget for the FY 2025/26 is required.
2. The FLLoCA Projects across the County are not cost effective. There is no transparency and accountability in the implementation. Public participation has been inadequate

Council of Human Ecology center

The budget lacks specific funding allocation on water other than the famous KOICA project allocation is Kshs. 500 million that is under PPP.

The budget lack technical capacity and man power to come out with a framework on project appraisal and identification of the county water needs and sustainability.

There are no ways of raising resources to develop water projects to serve the people of Bungoma County.

The following areas need to be addressed;

- Policy and legal framework
- Water resources management
- Water service provider support
- Water infrastructure development
- Water private finance

The component of water projects sustainability and community ownership of implementation project is missing.

Not all 45 wards need the drilled boreholes.

The County Water rig is underutilized yet people have no water

The budget is over dependent on the completion of the KOICA which covers small part of the County.

The communities where the county drilled water boreholes do not have the following information on it;

- Boreholes depth
- Water volume
- General water level
- Strategic or permanent water level
- Water quality results
- Any other minerals or chemical found in the soil during the drilling process
- Most preferred type of water pump and its maintenance
- Iron removal plant for boreholes with high iron content

The county should promote roof water catchment/harvest

Community dams/ pans have been sealed by erosion from poor road construction and poor farming method. The department should be involved in improving open water quality.

Contractors awarded contracts to develop water pans only fence the water point leaving out big portion of land.

They recommend that the county pull itself from NZOWASCO because it has no value to the residents of Bungoma.

The County Government should sponsor some of its workers to study technical skills and take up technical jobs.

Political clan should also minimize over politicizing development projects.

7) LANDS, URBAN PHYSICAL PLANNING, HOUSING AND MUNICIPALITIES

Public Views

Code 2210300 (Domestic Travel, Subsistence and Other Transport Costs): The allocation should be reduced from Kshs. 2.5 million to Kshs. 2 million. The savings should be reallocated to ward-based projects.

Code 2210303 (Daily Subsistence Allowance): The allocation should be reduced to Kshs. 500,000. The savings should also be reallocated to ward-based projects.

Allocate funds for the employment of an additional surveyor to improve efficiency, as there is currently only one surveyor in the county.

Allocate more funds to expedite the issuance of title deeds, especially in Chepyuk Ward

Municipalities: Funds should be allocated to upgrade Chwele, Webuye, Sirisia, Bumula, and Mt. Elgon so that they can benefit from available grants.

Western Kenya Human Right Watch

Construction of Governor and DG residence are not priority. Funds should be directed to income generating activities.

8) COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Public Views

For Communication Services and Supplies, the department should liaise with Safaricom to adopt a post-pay package in order to reduce costs.

For Hospitality Supplies and Services, training sessions should be conducted within the county to minimize expenses.

The purchase of office furniture should not be an annual expense; instead, damaged furniture should be repaired.

COUNTY ASSEMBLY

On Communication Supplies and Services, the Assembly should consider using digital platforms to cut down on communication costs.

The allocation for foreign travel should be reduced.

9) PUBLIC SERVICE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION AND COUNTY SECRETARY

Public Views

Code 2210300, domestic travel and subsistence – accommodation allocation to be reduced by half for it is not used as budgeted for.

On code 2210200, communication supplies and services under ICT to be increased to Kshs. 500,000 for an ICT hub to be put up.

On Basic Salaries: Salary increments should be implemented in a timely manner, and promotions should occur within the required timeframe to prevent employee strikes.

Code 2210200 – Telephone, Telex, and Internet: The allocation should be reduced from Kshs. 800,000 to Kshs. 400,000, as the current amount is unrealistic.

Shekemu Community Based Organization

The Governors total allocation is Kshs. 216,505,250, Kshs. 199,705,250 recurrent and Kshs 16,800,000 for development. The allocation should be reduced to find an allocation for youth that do not have an allocation in FY 2025/26 budget.

10) AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, FISHERIES, IRRIGATION AND COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Public Views

Code 2640503 – Other Capital Grants and Transfers (NAVCDP): The allocation should remain at Kshs. 151 million, not increased to Kshs. 159 million, as the program primarily benefits groups, excluding many individuals who are not members.

Purchase of Certified Crop Seeds and Fertilizer: The budget should be increased to benefit 1,000 farmers per ward (up from 500). A wider variety of seeds should also be procured to cater to regional differences.

Veterinary Supplies and Materials: The budget should be increased to ensure each ward has a veterinary officer.

Bungoma Civil Society Organization Forum (BCSF) Members

1. The approved Ceiling for Agricultural Sector consisted of Recurrent Expenditure of Kshs 51,058,405 and Development Expenditure of Kshs 421,635,882 that are different from the Resource Allocation in the Annual Budget for the FY 2025/26, where the Recurrent Expenditure is Kshs 43,058,405 and Development Expenditure is Kshs 406, 635,882 hence a deviation of **Kshs 23,000,000 or 4.86%** contravening provisions of Section 131 of the PFM Act, 2012 as read together with Regulation 37 of the PFM Regulations, 2015.
2. The free farm input program is unsustainable and should be replaced with a subsidized model. The crop insurance program was a scam and cash cow and should not be allocated any funds in FY 2025/2026.

Kenya Workers Rights and Harmonization Program

1. Allocate enough resources to programs that improve agriculture production, reduce postharvest losses and enhance access to affordable and nutritious foods (code 2211000)
2. Support farmers with extension services that provide training, technical assistance and access to resources (code 22007)
3. Utilize data on crop yields, market prices and weather patterns to inform program decisions and support the adoption of climate smart agriculture technologies to reduce environmental impact (code 31199/31301)

4. Support research and development activities that lead to improved crop varieties and sustainable practices through collaboration between the department, national ALFIC ministry and stakeholders.
5. Ensure transparency in budget allocation and implementation and hold stakeholders accountable for achieving targeted outcomes.
6. Support the development of strong and functional cooperatives and provide access to credit, market information and extension services leading to increased food security and proved livelihoods for Bungoma residents.

11) EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Public Views

Scholarships and Educational Benefits: These should be reinstated, as they had a significant positive impact on locals.

Equipping Vocational Training Centres (VTCs): Allocations should be increased to enhance quality training, as most centres lack essential equipment.

VTC Instructors: More instructors should be hired, and their salaries increased to improve motivation and retention.

School Feeding Program: There is a need for a clear legal framework to guide the use of the allocated Kshs. 30 million.

Bungoma Civil Society Organization Forum (BCSF) Members

1. Department of Education and Vocation Training Centres in the Approved CSFP for the FY 2025/26 has a ceiling of Kshs 235, 748, 987 thus with a Recurrent Expenditure of Kshs 96,495,952 and Development Expenditure of Kshs 139,253,034. This is different from the proposed allocation in the Annual Budget for the FY 2025/26 of Kshs 179,807, 737 thus with a Recurrent of Kshs 115, 882,737 and Development Expenditure of Kshs 47, 311, 784. Hence 23.7% negative deviation from the ceiling contravening Section 131 of the PFM Act, 2012 and Regulation 37 of the PFM Regulations, 2015. This massive deviation must be explained and/or clarified before the County Assembly by the Duty Bearers in the County Department of Finance and Economic Planning.
2. There is need to equip all the VTCs with modern training equipment's and competent instructors.
3. There is need to plan and budget for more ECDE Centres with proper WASH facilities rather than construction of single classrooms.
4. There is need to Programme and budget for equipping the ECDE Centres with teaching and learning facilities and materials.
5. That instead of planning and constructing of at least one Vocational Training Centres (VTC) in each ward; the plan should be to establish at least one Centre of Excellence in terms of VTC in each of the Nine (9) sub counties in Bungoma.

6. There is need to employ competent and adequate VTC Personnel in each of the envisaged Centres of Excellence.
7. There is need to plan for how to equip and operationalize the ICT Hub at Matili Technical Institute with linkages across all departments and sectors in the County
8. The County should develop a policy framework for regulating the establishment and registration of vocational training centres (VTCs) and strive to establish and budget for at one equipped VTC per Ward.
9. The VTCs should be facilitated to become income generating centres.
10. The County should develop a feeding policy, child care policy, home craft policy and recreation policy to govern the sub sectors. The PBB and Annual Budget should budget for the recruitment and deployment of the recently interviewed ECDE Teachers.
11. Budget and increase allocation for policy formulation from Kshs. 2 million to Kshs.5 million.
12. Under the curriculum development, the allocation should be increased from Kshs 5 million to Kshs. 10 million.
13. That at least Kshs. 10 million should be allocated for Quality Assurance and Standards.
14. They need clarity on ECDE Classrooms and ECDE Centres envisaged in the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010.
15. That the County Government sticks to its core mandate and ensures resources are allocated accordingly in line with the provisions of Clause 9 of Part 2 of the 4th Schedule to the CoK 2010 that the mandate of county as pertains education is pre-primary, vocational training, child care facilities and home craft centers.
16. That the construction of ECDE classrooms/Centres adheres to the set standards, specifications and Bill of Quantities under established and functional PMCs with the involvement of the Department of Education and Vocational Training. They decry the poor workmanship in the construction of ECDE classrooms/Centers under the ward based projects attributed to political interference and lack of Project Management Committees (PMCs).
17. That the County Government undertakes an ECDE enrolment drive to ensure that children who are supposed to be in school are enrolled. With a County population

of almost 2M people, an enrolment of about 100,000 ECDE learners is low. This means that we have children who are supposed to be in school but yet to be enrolled.

18. The Nutrition Policy for the ECDE Feeding Programme should be enacted and implemented through allocation of adequate funds in the FY 2025/26. There is need to establish a sustainable ECDE feeding Programme across the 45 Wards in the county. It should be allocated at least allocated Kshs 50 million annually beginning with the PBB for the Financial Year 2025/26.
19. The County Education Support Program should prioritize ECDE, Child Care Centres, VTC and Home Craft Centres. The County should not move away from budgeting for Scholarships and Bursaries without the concurrence of the National Government

Kenya Workers Rights and Harmonization Program

1. Allocate sufficient budget for tuition fee for effective learning, supervision and monitoring to enable VTCs meet their educational budget (code 22771)
2. Ensure allocation of funds to implement clear and transparent funding that supports the goals of making VTCs accessible to all regardless of their location and socioeconomic status (code 264101 on bursary and scholarship)
3. Need for learning and teaching materials, indoor and outdoor play materials for ECDE, conducive learning environment, nutrition and health support services to enable equity, retention and quality education services in ECDE (code 22009 on education and library services)
4. Ensure alignment with national education and vocational training objectives priorities.

Bungoma County Children Rights Network and Partners

They recommended that priority and sufficient funds to be appropriated on the following programmes;

- School feeding program, teachers capacity development, provision of learning materials, co-curricular activities, recruitment of more teachers and enactment of relevant policy and legal frameworks as key priorities as captured in the CIDP 2023-2027

- Integration of ICT to ECDE centres. Procurement of the digital gadgets alone is not enough to guarantee digital literacy
- Integration of special needs education in ECDE. Construction of special needs centers alone without proper integration will not address the aspect of inclusivity
- Registration of Pre-Primary learners in the NEMIS to enable tracking of transition from Pre- Primary to lower primary
- Quality Assurance and Standards and continuous capacity development for teachers to ensure adherence to standards in curriculum delivery.
- Fast tracking of the enactment of the Pre- primary Education policy, Pre- primary Health and Nutrition policy and the Pre-primary Education Act 2024.
- The implementation of a comprehensive school health programme (WASH, immunization, nutrition and Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) to provide a safe environment for physical and cognitive development for learners

Western Kenya Human Right Watch

The budget for ECD and Vocational Training Centres should be more. Lack of equipment in VTCs hinder skills development.

12) HEALTH AND SANITATION

Public Views

Code 221100 – Primary Health Care: Level 2 and 3 facilities have no allocation from the exchequer, yet they lack capacity to procure basic medicine and equipment. Their funding should be prioritized.

Bungoma County Referral Hospital: There is no current plan to purchase a motor vehicle, despite a shortage of ambulances. A fire-fighting vehicle and related equipment are also needed. Additionally, the mortuary requires renovation and expansion to meet the needs of the growing population.

Health Administration and Finance: The allocation should be reduced to Kshs. 30 million. The extra funds should be directed to underfunded Level 2 and 3 health facilities.

Bungoma Civil Society Organization Forum (BCSF) Members

1. The allocations for health should adhere to the Abuja Declaration and commitments the county has signed with the National Ministry of Health for full implementation of the UHC program; Intergovernmental Participation Agreement (IPA) by allocating at least 30% of the county budget to health progressively increase it.
2. The Expenditure Trends and figures in FY 2024/25 and Annual Budget for FY 2025/26 in the Health and Sanitation Sector are unclear and require explanation by the duty bearers in the Department of Finance and Economic Planning.
3. There is need to allocate adequate funds for the purchase of CT scans and MRI radiology machines for all the level 4 and 5 Health and Sanitation Facilities in the County.
4. Streamline charges at all public health facilities
5. The County should Programme and allocate adequate funds for the Construction and Equipping of a level 6 facilities (Bungoma County Referral hospital). The facility requires 10 acres which is available at the current 300 bed facility land or consider land acquisition from Bungoma Members Club.

6. The group commend the action of the County to commit to the operationalization of the Community Health Strategy (CHS). The PBB 2025/26 should demonstrate efforts to sustain the initiative of motivating the birth companions and CHPs.
7. The Department of health to first invest in the policy framework that will anchor payment of stipend for birth companions. We however note that for optimal realization of the community health agenda under CHS, the reporting component needs to be enhanced.
8. The Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) makes about 70% of all total proportion of Health program in health systems in Kenya hence recommends for increased RMNCAH allocation.
9. The county government to sustain interventions earlier supported by THS – UC project.
10. There is need to prioritize and budget to upgrade Malakisi Health Centre to a Sub County Hospital Status as it has almost all the facilities required, infrastructure and it serves a big population.
11. Prioritize and budget for restocking all pharmacies with essential drugs and commodities across all the health facilities in the County.
12. The County government has to minimize recurrent expenditure in the Health and Sanitation Sector so as to increase the development expenditure if the County is to achieve universal health care.
13. Formulate a policy framework and allocate adequate budget for reproductive health care programmes to safeguard the girl child from teenage pregnancies and child-motherhood.
14. Formulate HIV/AIDS Work Place Policy and allocate funds for outreach programmes at the village and ward level.
15. Increase budgetary allocation and the number of medical personnel in all the health and sanitation facilities particularly health centres and sub county hospitals across the County.
16. Mental illness is on the rise with lack of specialized Centre to handle these cases. There is therefore need to allocate funds for establishment of a mental health facility in the County to address the growing demand of mental health services.

17. There is need to budgetary allocation for the expansion of community health networks beyond Kimilili and Webuye sub counties.
18. The Department of Health and Sanitation should ensure that the 44 elevated health centres are adequately funded, equipped and staffed with qualified health workers in the Financial Years 2025/26, 2026/27 and 2027/28.

Call for sustainable financing to support the elimination of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) in Bungoma County – FY 2025/2026

Status of NTDs in Bungoma County

Bungoma is recognized as endemic for multiple NTDs, especially Soil-Transmitted Helminths (STH), Schistosomiasis (SCH), jigger infestations, and snakebite envenoming. These diseases predominantly affect school-age children, the immunocompromised, and households living in poverty and poor sanitary conditions.

A recent granular mapping survey identified that:

- **39 out of 45 wards** are endemic for STH
- **17 wards** are endemic for SCH
- The average prevalence stands at **7% for STH** and **4.6% for SCH**—significantly above the recommended national threshold of **2%**, which is the benchmark for MDA intervention

The implication is clear: Bungoma requires immediate and sustained action to scale up MDA, invest in WASH infrastructure, and enhance community education and mobilization.

Budget Allocation for NTDs in FY 2025/2026

Analysis of the **County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP) 2025** and the **Draft Programme-Based Budget (PBB) FY 2025/2026** reveals a concerning gap in resource allocation:

- Under **Programme 2: Preventive and Promotive Health**, and specifically **Sub-Programme 22: Neglected Tropical Diseases**, there is **zero allocation** in both the CFSP and the draft annual budget.

- Furthermore, while **Kshs 20 million** was earmarked under **Sub-Programme 21: Communicable and Non-Communicable Disease Control**, the funds were **not absorbed** as indicated in the expenditure reports.

This oversight risks reversing the progress made in public health and disproportionately affects vulnerable wards in Mt. Elgon, Tongaren, Bumula, and other sub-counties with high NTD prevalence.

Call to Action

BCSF submits the following recommendations to the County Assembly's Budget and Appropriations Committee:

a) Budgetary Allocation

- Revise the FY 2025/2026 budget to include a **minimum of Kshs 10 million** under Sub-Programme 22 for NTD prevention and control.
- Ensure this allocation supports MDA, community health education, disease surveillance, and treatment in endemic wards.

b) Ring-Fenced and Accountable Funding

- Establish safeguards to ensure that allocated funds for NTDs are ring-fenced, disbursed in a timely manner, and fully utilized.

c) Policy and Programmatic Action

- Direct the Department of Health to develop and implement a county-level NTD Action Plan, with clear indicators, timelines, and accountability frameworks.
- Invest in sustained MDA in all endemic sub-counties. This intervention, currently funded by donors, should be gradually taken over by the County Government for sustainability.

d) WASH and Infrastructure Investment

- Increase funding for clean water provision, school and market sanitation infrastructure, and hygiene promotion as complementary NTD interventions.

e) Multi-Stakeholder Coordination

- Support intersectoral collaboration, particularly with civil society organizations and community health units, to amplify outreach, advocacy, and delivery of services.

Okoa Mama na Mtoto Initiative (OMMI) and RMNCAH Network Zero allocation for key components in health.

Critical health programs like Reproductive Maternal Newborn Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH), Malaria, TB, Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and blood transfusion services, referral services and food quality and water hygiene have not been allocated funds yet there are technical substantive staff employed to coordinate them therefore underutilization of the technical staff.

They urge the committee to consider allocating funds to the said components which risk undermining the health status of the residents of Bungoma.

Health Financing

While the PBB 2025/26 notes 98% NHIF empanelment, it fails to align with the new Social Health Insurance (Taifa Care). As of April 2025, only 63% of public facilities were actively claiming from SHA. .

The PBB should recognize the current health financing mechanism by updating the department's achievements uptake of Social Health Insurance.

Health Infrastructure

Major maternal and child health infrastructure projects remain incomplete, including the 300-bed block at BCRH and maternity units in Naitiri, Bumula, and Sirisia. No funds have been allocated for their completion or equipping. The incomplete Blood Bank at BCRH seems to have been forgotten.

The county is urged to prioritize funding these critical projects for completion.

Commodity Security

The county has zero allocation for routine medical services and only Ksh. 50 million for medical drugs, with no clarity on its use. Primary Health Care facilities are excluded as procuring entities under the FIF Act. The Act on the other hand establishes Level 4 and 5 facilities as procuring entities. There are no specific regulations governing the proportions of allocations that should be directed towards commodities by facilities which should involve lifesaving commodities for mothers.

A policy directive mandating at least 40% of FIF go to commodity procurement is urgently needed

Leadership and Governance

Though the following policies have been developed; Bungoma County Health Services Act, 2019 and its regulations, the Bungoma county health facility establishment policy and the Bungoma county community health services policy, they are yet to be operational. The PBB 2025/26 demonstrates commitments to achieve this by having estimates for Leadership and Governance and Health Policy as Ksh. 34,500,000 and Ksh. 4,000,000 respectively.

There is need to clarify why the two budget lines appear separate when health policy is a subset of leadership and governance. The Liaison Committee should also provide strong recommendations for the policy documents and legislation to be fast tracked using the allocations.

Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Healthcare budget.

The reproductive health services including maternal health, family planning, Ante Natal Clinic (ANC), Post Natal Clinics (PNC) etc in Bungoma's vast network of health facilities accessed by women of reproductive age that represent 43% of the population and implementation of the RMNCAH programme covers 70% of all programs across the health sector it has been allocated 0.13% of the health sector budget (5M).

A minimum allocation of 3% is recommended to effectively support reproductive and maternal health services

Mwatikho Torture Survivors Foundation

- Medical insurance code 22910. No insurance for staff yet they deliver services to sick people who have insurance
- No allocation for beddings and linen yet we have worn out bedding which require replacement and patient keep sharing beddings even those who are from operation.
- No allocation on code 2010203 on maintenance of medical and dental equipment yet they are used every day.
- No allocation on code 2010200 on communication supplies and services yet any department need timely and prudent communication to enhance service delivery
- No allocation on employees' wages and salaries for BCRH and Webuye County Hospital.
- No allocation on code 22504 on advertising, awareness and publicity campaigns yet the department need to carry out vaccine awareness and campaign.
- No allocation on code 22904 motor vehicle insurance.
- Code 22100- medical drugs in Webuye County Hospital to be increased to enable resident not stain looking for prescribed drugs in outside pharmacies.
- Code 31111 need an allocation to purchase the ICT networking and communication equipment to enhance communication and manage data for patients in Webuye County Hospital.

Tongaren memorandum

There is need to establish an MTC at Mukuyuni Cattle dip 5 acre land in Mukuyuni Township community having been left out on strategic development partnership between the community, county and national governments. This will help upgrade the Mukuyunu Health Centre.

Kenya Workers Rights and Harmonization Program

There is need to equip flagship programs ie 300-bed capacity mother and child hospital wing at BCRH

GENERAL VIEWS

Public views

The ward based projects allocation should be increased to Kshs. 60 million.

All stall projects should be prioritized in the FY 2025/2026. The projects mentioned were;

- Misikhu brigadier road
- 100 bed capacity ward at Sirisia Sub county Hospital
- Misikhu maternity wing in Misikhu dispensary
- Bumula sub-county hospital- equipping
- Upgrading of Sichei KMTC to National level
- Chwele slaughter house
- Kapkeke dispensary

The projects should be implemented as per the initial plan

BUNGOMA CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION FORUM (BCSF) MEMBERS

- 1) Approved CFSP and proposed Annual Budget Estimates for FY 2025/26 uploaded on the County Assembly Website had not been signed by the CECM Finance and the relevant Chief Officer.
- 2) The County Assembly should approves policies and Regulations to expand revenue streams, realistic targets, and department-level mobilization strategies. GIS integration and adequate funding to be allocated for installation and staffing to operationalize the GIS laboratory.
- 3) Late approvals Annual and Supplementary Budgets and exchequer release delays have contributed to increased pending bills. Timely approvals, filing of returns and reporting are needed.
- 4) The wage bill is 43.3%, above the 35% as per Regulation 25 of the PFM regulations 2015 distorting the budget. Some Departments lack salary allocations vote without explanation.

- 5) Staff rationalization, increasing revenue and a freeze on most new hires, prioritizing technical staff were recommended to address staff shortage and regulate on constant employments. The industrial park will create employment and spur development of the County.
- 6) The Assembly must prevent supplementary budgets from overriding citizen input in the budget.
- 7) The County Flagship Projects should be reviewed and reduced in order to focus on affordable and cost-effective ones.
- 8) The public must be informed about MOUs and funding for joint projects with the national government or partners, including timelines and plans on the following projects; the Construction of Kamukukya and Kanduyi Markets and other Markets across the County, Kanduyi-Sang'alo Junction Dual Carriage Road, Masinde Muliro Stadium, Misikhu -Brigadier Road, among others.
- 9) The County Government should prioritize in the PBB 2025/26 the clearance of pending bills.
- 10) Many projects implemented lack functioning Project Management Committees (PMCs) and existing ones lack access to key documents like BQs and Project Budgets

REDO Kenya and Bungoma Budget Champions

1. Expand allocations to social inclusion funds and mainstream gender, youth, and disability across all departments.
2. Accelerate procurement reforms and staff recruitment, especially for extension services and M&E.
3. Foster cross-sectoral linkages (e.g., Agriculture-Nutrition, Health-WASH) to optimize development impact.

Bungoma County CSOs Coordinating Unit

1. The common Citizen was not put in focus while addressing the Social Benefit in the County Budget of the Year 2025/2026 - the Common Citizen is stripped naked
2. The Budget favors only the Big Fish - on Monetary Grounds

3. The County Assembly of Bungoma to step up meaningful oversight over the Executive - On prudent use of Public Funds, and ensure the Common Citizen from all the 45 Wards participate in provision of services - at the Procurement level and

Kenya Workers Rights and Harmonization Program

1. There is need for a structured payment plan to settle pending bills by ensuring there is an alignment between the annual budget with the County's medium- term plans for consistency and long term vision.
2. Ensure transparency and public participation in the budget process and consider mechanisms for social accountability to ensure resources are used effectively and efficiently.

Western Kenya Human Right Watch

According to the report of the Controller of Budget for the first half of FY 2024/2025, the county had received Kshs. 6,027,480,867 out of which only Kshs. 760,700,000, 12.6% was spend on development and the rest 87.4% on recurrent. None of the project paid spur development.

Concerned raise on flagship project;

- What is flagship project?
- What is the criterion of identifying flagship project?
- How many of them have been completed before starting new ones?

Flagship is defined as *the most important service or product*. Can construction of Governor's and DG's residence be classified as flagship?

It will be more inclusive if the County Government had at least one flagship project in every sub county and complete the existing one before starting new ones.

Ward based projects allocation should be increase in the wards in where many people live and sore services are needed there.