

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION VIEWS ON THE CFSP 2024/2025

EDUCATION

The members of the public gave written and oral submissions as follows;

Construction of 5 ECDE classrooms per ward

The program had zero allocation and the members of the public request an allocation of Kshs. 5,000,000.

Provision of furniture for ECDE children

Members of the public requests an allocation of Kshs. 40,000,000 to purchase furniture's for ECDE children of which majority lack where to seat in various ECDE centres across the county.

Integration of ICT in ECDE centers

The members of the public requests an allocation of Kshs. 2,500,000

Introduction of Digital literacy programme in VTCs

The members of the public request a total of Kshs. 36,000,000

Provision of scholarship to needy students/education support program

Members of the public requests an allocation of Kshs. 350,000,000 instead of an allocation of Kshs. 135,000,000 to assist the many vulnerable pupils across the 45 wards.

A memorandum from the Bungoma County Child Rights Network (BCCRN) submitted as follows:

The County is facing various challenges in Education sector which include:

- **Inadequate provision of learning materials.** Our engagement with education stakeholders has revealed the importance of teaching aids in enhancing learner and teacher interactions that promote transfer of breadth of skills to the learners and increases learning achievements. However, **closer look at the county education plans and budgets shows that there is**

inadequate resourcing of schools to provide learning and teaching aids. This makes it difficult for school managers to adequately provide learning materials that would deliver the requisite breadth of skills including digital literacy, critical thinking, problem solving, communication, collaboration, creativity, innovation and citizenship.

County did not allocate funds to ECDE amenities, a crucial program in holistic development.

- **Inadequate funding to special needs education sub-programme.** The recently enacted Children Act 2022 expressly requires children with disabilities and those with special needs to acquire education and health services free of charge. There is therefore need for the requisite budgetary allocations to be made to actualise the legislative expectation.

We take note that **special needs education learners have different disability categorizations that requires the County Department of Education to embrace differentiated unit cost, as opposed to a flat rate capitation for SNE learners.** A learner having a hearing impairment will require learning materials that are very different from those used by a learner with physical disability as the latter may only require adjustments to the learning environment to make it friendly for them.

- **In adequate teacher preparedness to deliver CBC.** For effective curriculum implementation, the teachers must have the capacity to interpret the curriculum through instructional strategies and techniques. Although there is evidence of some of the teachers being trained on CBC, stakeholder engagements shows that the training was inadequate. **There is scientific evidence that teachers' scope of knowledge about subject matter should be deep and more than the curriculum they teach.** The teachers should be equipped with more subject content for effective implementation of the competency-based curriculum. **Engagements with teachers and other education stakeholders on the roll out of CBC revealed a lack of information, communication and technology (ICT) skills among the majority of teachers.** This is one of the main challenges facing the implementation of the competency-based curriculum and most of the teachers are not able to integrate information, communication and technology (ICT) in the learning and teaching

within the competency-based curriculum. **Additionally, the introduction of the 21st Century skills and the competence-based curriculum means that instructional methods must change to more learner centred approaches** from the traditional approaches of teacher centred learning. These determine how much is learned by the learners and not just focusing on covering the syllabi.

- **Unfavourable Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR).** A high PTR 42:1 for public pre-primary centres against the recommended ratio of 25:1. This means that many public pre-primary schools in Bungoma County lack the necessary number of teachers hence less attention to pupils.
- **Slow pace of policy and legislation development and implementation** has hampered the enjoyment of quality education in the counties. A case in point is the **domestication of the early childhood development policies and legislations at the county level** in accordance with the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and the provisions of the Early Childhood Education Act of 2021 and Guidelines of 2019.
- **Lack/poor sanitation in ECDE centres.** We recommend that the county government build/improve sanatoriums & other related amenities including those for the special needs' learners.
- **Parental involvement and engagement in CBC** did not consider the unique vulnerabilities of children living with illiterate caregivers, orphans with unstable adult caregivers, parental neglect, poverty and home environment of children from dysfunctional families. As a result, there is a lot of disparity among children on caregiver support in school activities and assignments. **The lack of parental support has therefore made it difficult to actualize the full implementation of the CBC among vulnerable children.**

As much as we agree with the priorities set by the department for FY 2024/25, we feel that the proposed allocations are too low to make any impact based on the identified gaps. We also notice with concern **zero** allocation to key a programme like equipping of ECDEs with furniture. We therefore propose that the allocations to the department of

education and Vocational Training be scaled up to increase the department's ceiling to **Kshs. 1.99B** and recommend as follows;

	Identified Priorities	Rationale	Call to action
A.	<p>We agree with the county government plan to undertake the following sub programs: Construction of ECDE classrooms (Ward based), Provision of learning materials, provision of furniture for ECDE learners, construction of ECDE model centres, equipping of ECDE centres with play equipment , school feeding program, co-curricular activities, recruitment of teachers and promotion of teachers. However we feel that school feeding program require parental involvement to make it sustainable.</p> <p>We further observe that no consideration has been made for WASH facilities and recommend that every constructed classroom be fixed with rain water harvesting equipment and 3 door pit latrine & urinary.</p>	<p>This will ensure a conducive learning environment to learners that will enable Holistic Skills Development (HSD).</p> <p>But to our dismay, these priorities have been allocated very little and others have ZERO (o) allocations.</p>	<p>The County Assembly to consider these as key priorities and approve adequate funds for their implementation as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Learning materials- Kshs. 50M up from Ksh.15M -Equipping of ECDE centres with play equipment- Kshs. 25M from ZERO allocation -Equipping of ECDE centres with furniture Kshs. 30M from ZERO

			<p>allocation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Construction of ECDE classrooms(Ward based)Ksh. 120M up from Ksh.86M - Co-curricular Kshs.20M from ZERO allocation - Recruitment of teachers- Kshs.10M from ZERO allocation - Promotion of teachers- Kshs.38M up from Ksh.15M -School feeding programme 60M from Zero allocation.
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B.	We recommend that integration of ICT to ECDE centres be prioritised.	Digital literacy is a key component of the CBC and of great importance to a 21 st century learner.	Allocate Ksh. 25M.
C.	Integration of special needs education in ECDE has not been given priority.	To ensure special needs learners access education as other learners without segregation.	Allocate funds to enable implementation.
D	Registration of Pre-Primary learners in the KEMIS	Enable tracking of transition from Pre-Primary to lower primary.	Allocate funds to enable implementation in collaboration with the MoE.
E.	Our engagements with stakeholders revealed that quality assurance and standards have not been adhered to, we support the prioritising of capacity building of teachers and Quality Assurance but decry the low allocation.	To ensure to adherence standards in curriculum delivery	Increase allocations as follows; -Capacity building of teachers- Ksh.30M up from Ksh.6M -QA- Supervision

			and assessment Kshs.15M up from Kshs.2M
F.	We recommend for fast tracking of the enactment of the Pre- Primary Education policy, Pre- Primary Feeding policy, the Child Care Centre policy and the School Health Policy.	Provide a framework to ensure implementation of programmes herein.	Increase allocation from Kshs.1M to Kshs.6M
G.	We recommend for a comprehensive school health programme.	Provide a safe environment and cognitive development for learners .	Incorporate and fund the programme in collaboration with partners

We therefore recommend that the department's ceiling be increased from the proposed **Kshs. 1,433,157,743** to **Kshs. 1,999,435,102** to cater for the key needs and priorities at ECDE level.

General Recommendations

1. It is our informed opinion as per 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 centres**. We strongly recommend that the county government sticks to its core mandate and ensures resources are allocated accordingly.
2. We also recommend that the county government of Bungoma works in collaboration with the Ministry of Education to ensure that ECDE learners are registered in the KEMIS for easy tracking on transition to primary. We call upon the County Executive and County Assembly to collaborate in ensuring digital registration of ECDE learners for ease of tracking transition to lower primary.

3. We also decry the poor workmanship in the construction of ECDE classrooms under the ward based projects. Our interaction with stakeholders has established that political interference and lack of Project Management Committees (PMCs) as the cause. We recommend that the construction of ECDE classrooms adheres to the set standards and under established and functional PMCs.

4. With our county population almost at 2M people, having an enrolment of slightly over 100 thousand ECDE learners is low. This means that we have children who are supposed to be in school but still at home. We recommend for an ECDE enrolment drive to ensure that children who are supposed to be in school are enrolled.

5. It's our informed and strong opinion that the department of Education and Vocational Training comes up with a capitation grant to cater for learning needs of the ECDE learners as it is the case with primary and secondary schools implemented by the Ministry of Education. Though captured as a priority, it has zero allocation.

A memorandum from Elgon ward community leaders and stakeholders submitted that they want completion of the construction of Koony vocational training centre.

HEALTH AND SANITATION

Health planning, policy, resource mobilization and health financial management

The members of the public requests an allocation of Kshs. 32,490,000 from an initial allocation of Kshs. 12,661,390.

Pending bills

The members of the public requests the county assembly to address debt problems to enable the facilities to run efficiently by allocating enough amount of Kshs. 84,816,483 to clear all the pending bills instead of a mere Kshs. 29,960,833.

Primary health care

Members of the public requests allocation of Kshs. 28,818,750 instead of an allocation of Kshs. 9,000,000

Reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health care

Members of the public requests allocation of Kshs 100,000,000 instead of the proposed Kshs. 25,249,997. There is increased demand due to increased population.

GENDER AND CULTURE

Cultural development and management

Members of the public request and increase an allocation from Kshs. 33,494,746 to Kshs. 50,000,000. This will help build more cultural centres in all sub-counties

Members of county assembly to allocate some funds in ward based projects to aid establishment of more cultural centres across wards in the county.

TOURISM, ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

A memorandum from torch Africa submitted as follows:

- The CSFP at Page 151 has allocated Kshs 500,000,000 to the KOICA Project, which is considered to be a donor funded Project without proper justification (footnote providing a rationale for the allocation).
- The CFSP 2024/25 at page 150 has Zero allocation for Tourist Product Development and Marketing yet it is a potential revenue generating stream that can enhance the County's Own Source Revenue (OSR).

Water sewerage services and support services.

Water services provision

Members of the public request increase of allocation from Kshs. 22,197,513 to Kshs. 50,000,000. Most wards in Bungoma county lack water so there is need to drill and upgrade bore holes so that the people can access clean water.

KOICA

An allocation of Kshs 500,000,000 to the KOICA project which is considered to be a donor funded project without proper justification i.e no foot note providing a rationale for the allocation.

There is Zero allocation for Tourist product development

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- The Ward Offices have been allocated a Total of Kshs 19,000,000 only, yet we have over 30 or so rented Ward Offices, eleven years since the inception of the

devolved system of government in Bungoma County. This is unfortunate and unjustifiable; Each Ward should have its own Official Offices constructed and maintained by the County Government instead of paying rent, which has become a lucrative venture for the private owners of such premises.

LANDS, URBAN AND PHYSICAL PLANNING AND HOUSING

A memorandum from torch Africa submitted as follows:

- The County Assembly has to exercise its oversight role on the construction of the official residence of the Deputy Governor on disputed Webuye Sub County Hospital Land. The CFSP for the Financial Year 2024/25 has allocated Kshs20,980,200 for the said Project. **Question.** Has the land dispute been amicably resolved to allow the construction to kick off?
- The CFSP 2024/25 at page 153 has Zero Allocation for the Preparation of the Valuation Rolls for 6 Urban Centres in Bungoma County. The issue of valuation roll is long overdue as the County has been losing millions of shillings in form of local revenue related to land and property rates. The County is still relying on outdated valuation rolls for the defunct local authorities that are not in tandem with the Constitution of Kenya,2010 and enabling legislations such as the Land and Environment Act,2011 and the Land Registration Act,2012.

Members of the public submitted as follows:

On Valuation roll for 6 urban centres, they request an allocation of Ksh16,848, 600 for the department to realize valuations of the six urban centres.

FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING

A written memorandum by torch Africa highlighted as follows:

- There is need for the Department of Finance and Economic Planning, particularly the Directorate of Budgeting to provide detailed explanation, justification and formula used in determining ceilings for Departments. This is informed by the numerous instances of unrealistic and skewed allocations in some Departments.
- The Department of Finance and Economic Planning has an allocation of over 1.4 Billion that cannot be properly rationalized or justified compared to other departments in the County. The County Assembly should properly interrogate the amount allocated to numerous directorates and programmes in the said Department. There is a lot of money allocated for various programmes in that Department that can be reduced and allocated to other Departments and essential Programmes across the county.
- The CFSP proposes an allocation of Kshs 41, 242, 992 for Resource Mobilization from previous allocation of Kshs 39,279,040, despite the fact that the County's Own Source Revenue has been dwindling and Bungoma County has never met its annual targets and exploited its local revenue potential. The quoted amount of money if added together with personnel emoluments and amount for general administration services in the Department of Finance and Economic Planning implies that the County is using more money in revenue administration and management than what its staff is collecting if the previous local revenue of Kshs 379 Million is anything to go by. There is no justification of why the County should continue using its internal staff to collect less than they earn. It is in the public domain and in the reports of the Senate that Bungoma County is doing poorly compared to its neighbor Kakamega in terms of Own Source Revenue. There is a revenue syndicate and a conveyor belt in Bungoma County operating in a similar manner just like the traffic department of the National Police Service.
- The County Assembly has not effectively performed its oversight function on the Own Source Revenue which is currently characterized by rampant leakages, corruption, conspiracy and misappropriation. It is unfortunate that the Department of Finance and Economic Planning is still using 88 casual workers as

revenue collectors, despite them not earning any salaries and/or allowances. This category of workers attached to the Directorate of Revenue simply pays themselves before they can decide what amount to declare or remit to the County Revenue Account. There is fiscal indiscipline and poor revenue administration and management in Bungoma County.

- The Information Communication Technology (ICT) with an allocation a total of Kshs 63,907,578 has been misplaced in the CFSP 2024/25. This Directorate is domiciled other Public Service Management and Administration and not in the Department of Finance and Economic Planning.

ROADS INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS

Members of the public submitted as follows:

On the programme of financial services, planning and stewardship ; it was proposed a reduction of ksh 7,732,211 to ksh 5,000,000 and the same to be transferred to the field development in the same department.

On construction of roads, bridges and drainage works; the members of the public propose an allocation of ksh 50,000,000 to cater for unfinished bridges and improve other drainage systems across the county.

On maintenance of roads, they propose an allocation of ksh 840,000,000 instead of ksh 461,159,015 so that most of the roads across the wards are rehabilitated and maintained.

On rehabilitation of roads, bridges and drainage works; the members of the public propose an allocation of ksh 20,000,000 to increase the coverage of roads in the county.

On supplier credit, the members of the public propose an allocation of the whole amount on the services not paid for as provided by the contractors and other pending bills.

AGRICULTURE

Members of the public submitted as follows;

On crop production and productivity (food industry and horticultural crops) to be allocated a total of ksh 534,800,00 in order to increase farm inputs from 500 beneficiaries to 700 per ward as this will improve food security

A memorandum from rural women in action in Bungoma county submitted as follows;

Key programs and sub programs if well implemented will go a long way to increase food productivity, security and commercially.

Recommend allocation to be made to ensure farmers instore agriculture produce. Proposed Agri- financial services with allocation of 33 million to be made available to target specific groups especially youth and women.

Target other nutritive assertive agriculture crops and livestock.

COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Members of the public proposed an additional allocation of ksh 12,868,770 towards governance and national values. The amount will be sufficient to run the program on all employees in the county.

PUBLIC SERVICE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION AND OFFICE OF THE COUNTY SECRETARY

A memorandum from torch Africa submitted ad follows:

- Public Participation which is a core constitutional and legal mandate, role and responsibility of county governments as fortified by Part 8 of the County Governments Act, 2012 has been allocated no money in the CFSP for the Financial Year 2024/25.
- Civic Education which is an important role and responsibility of county governments under Part 10 of the County Governments Act, 2012 has been allocated a mere 8 Million Shillings for the financial 2024/25 to be utilized in the 9 Sub Counties, 45 Wards and 236 Village Units. The amount allocated is a drop in the ocean and unrealistic.
- The Sub County Administration covering 9 Sub Counties and 45 wards has been allocated a total of Kshs 6,480,000 only in the CFSP for the entire Financial Year 2024/25. This is the anti-thesis of the spirit and letter of devolution as aptly articulated in Article 174 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010.
- It is interesting and suspicious that Madaraka Day that is essentially a National Government function has been allocated a total of 10 Million shillings. This more should be re-allocated to public participation and civic education programme in the County.
- Training and Development Programme for more than 700 staff in the Department of Public Service Management and Administration has been allocated Kshs 4,600,000 and general administration and coordination of County functions has been allocated 27,714,905 only This cannot be compared with general administration of Kshs 120,000,000 at page 180 for the Department of Finance and Economic Planning

Members of the public submitted as follows;

On medical insurance, the public requests the department to be allocated ksh 299,000,000 instead of the proposed ksh 131,484,922 since health of employees is very sensitive.

On public participation programme, an allocation of Ksh 10,000,000 should give to the department instead of a zero allocation. Public participation is enshrined in the constitution and it's a must. The case is same to civic education which is supposed given its requirement of ksh 20,000,000.

YOUTH AND SPORTS

Memorandum from torch Africa submitted as follows:

The CFSP 2024/25 at page 165 has Zero allocation for Sports and Talent development and a mere Kshs 2 Million for recurrent. That amount is inadequate and does not demonstrate any serious commitment of the County Government of Bungoma on Creative Industries within the framework of Creative Economy.

On Sports and Talent development and management, Members of the public submitted that an allocation of Ksh 2,000,000 is so little and they request the amount to be increased.

On general administration, planning and support services, the members of the public propose an allocation of ksh 25,000,000 as opposed to the allocation of ksh 9,446,355 in order to improve services on the ground.

TRADE, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIALIZATION

Members of the public proposed as follows;

On human resource development and management, an allocation of ksh 31,708,966 be maintained as requested instead of the ksh 24,086,326 in order to sustain salaries for all employees in the department.

On planning and support services, an allocation of ksh 10,0000,000 be maintained instead of the proposed ksh 4,708,185.

On trade enterprise development sub programme on fair trade practices and consumer protection; an allocation of ksh 18,892,824 to make sure the planned programme is implemented in the county.

On development of markets, an allocation of ksh 116,231,639 be provided instead of the proposed ksh 4,437,825

On energy purchase and installation of transformers; the members recommend an allocation of ksh 60,000,000 instead of the proposed ksh 45,000,000. This addition will provide electricity to the unreached areas.

On purchase of lighting equipment, the members of the public propose an allocation of ksh 56,000,000 instead of the proposed ksh 45,000,000 to provide quality equipment in the county.