

Tracking subnational government investments in climate change adaptation and mitigation in Kenya

To combat climate change, counties invest directly and indirectly in climate change adaptation and mitigation programmes. This briefing, which highlights the recommendations and key findings from Development Initiatives' report *Tracking subnational government investments in climate change mitigation and adaptation in Kenya*,¹ analyses levels of county budget allocations towards climate change over three budget cycles in **Baringo**, **Kisumu**, **Laikipia** and **West Pokot**. Our research focused on the levels and progress of county public investments on climate change from 2016/17–2018/19; the extent of mainstreaming of climate change programmes in county offices; and policy and institutional frameworks in the select counties.

Recommendations

To improve investment in climate change adaptation and mitigation, the four counties we studied should:

- Strengthen own source resource mobilisation in counties to implement priority climate change actions.
- Establish county climate change funds to finance priority climate change actions at county level.
- Fast track finalisation of the draft Public Finance Management (Climate Change Fund) Regulations, 2018, to operationalise the National Climate Change Fund.
- Enhance mainstreaming of climate change mitigation into various sectors at county level to ensure sustainable development.
- Improve enforcement of forestry laws and regulations.
- Establish a national system for regular collection and analysis of the impacts of climate change and effectiveness of climate finance.

Key findings

Our assessment of climate change in terms of policy, institutional frameworks and public expenditure indicates the following:

- Vulnerability to climate change in the four counties is driven largely by a high prevalence of poverty – both income and food poverty. See Figure 1.

1. Development Initiatives (2019). Tracking subnational government investments in climate change mitigation and adaptation in Kenya: Progress, opportunities and challenges. Available at: www.devinit.org/post/tracking-subnational-government-investments-climate-change-mitigation-adaptation-kenya/

Figure 1
Income and food poverty by county, 2015/16

Figure 1.a Income poverty headcount rate

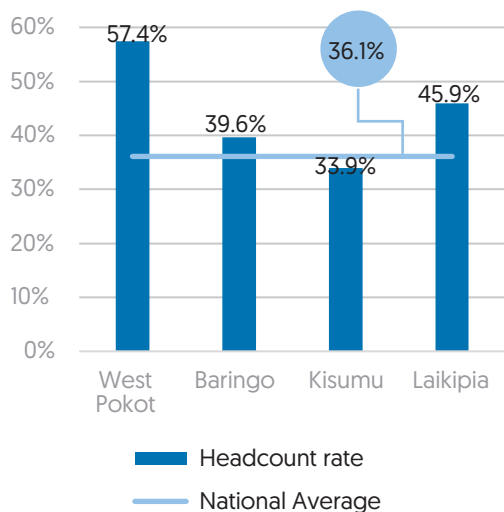
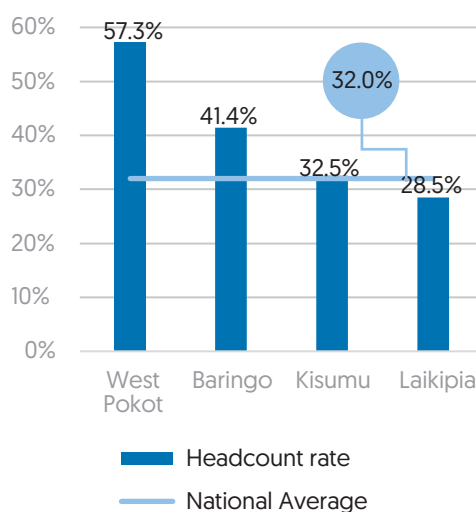


Figure 1.b Food poverty headcount rate



Source: Development Initiatives (DI) based on KIHBS, 2015/16

- Climate change investment constitutes just over 6% of county budgets in Kisumu and Laikipia and about 8% in West Pokot and Baringo. With the exception of Kisumu, direct investment on climate change ('Principal') receives a share of less than one-third of total marked climate change budget. See Figure 2:

Figure 2
Proportion of county budgets allocated to climate change and the composition of climate change investments, 2016/17–2018/19

Figure 2.a Share of climate change in county budgets

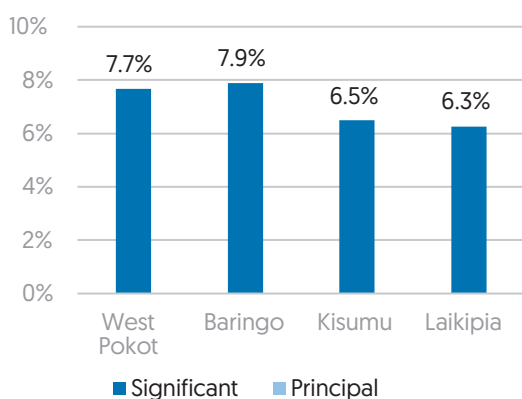
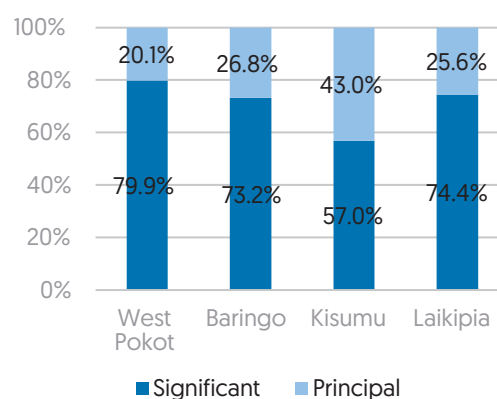


Figure 2.b Composition of climate change investments



Source: DI, based on county budget data for various years.

Note: Principal climate change budget refers to allocations to budget items that are designed to address primarily climate change. Significant climate change budget, on the other hand, refers to allocations to activities that are carried out without the intent of addressing climate change primarily but indirectly address climate change adaptation or mitigation.

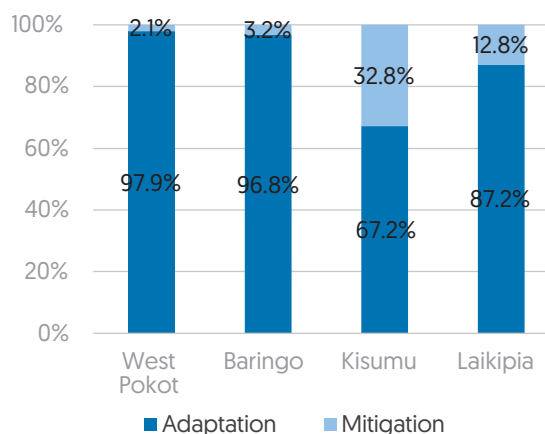
- The counties prioritise investment in climate change adaptation activities, which constitutes over four-fifths of their climate change investments, except in Kisumu. Climate change adaptation actions

in the counties are aimed at improving resilience by enhancing food security, household income, as well as access to water and roads. See Figure 3:

- The overwhelming majority of marked climate change adaptation budget items are traced to climate change-significant budget components (whose main objective is to achieve other socioeconomic development goals such as enhanced food production or access to water services). By contrast, climate change mitigation investments are mainly in activities whose principal objective is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or enhance carbon sinks. See Figure 4:

Figure 3

Share of adaptation and mitigation in total climate change investments, 2016/17–2018/19



Source: DI based on county budget data for various years

Figure 4

Share of significant and principal component in total adaptation and mitigation investments, 2016/17–2018/19

Figure 4.a Share of climate change budget components in total adaptation budget

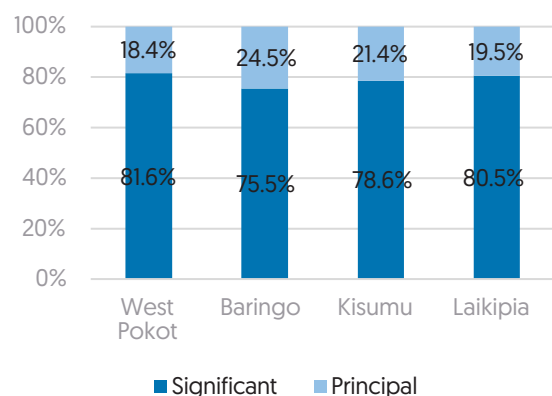
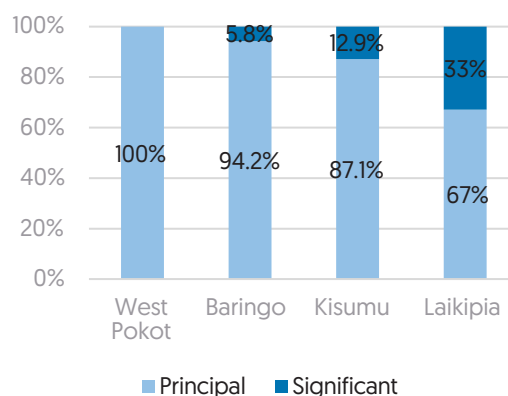


Figure 4.b Share of climate change budget components in total mitigation budget



Source: DI based on county budget data for various years

Note: Principal climate change budget refers to allocations to budget items that are designed to address primarily climate change. Significant climate change budget, on the other hand, refers to allocations to activities that are carried out without the intent of addressing climate change primarily but indirectly address climate change adaptation or mitigation.

- Investment in forestry and alternative energy sources are the main mitigation strategies in the four counties. However, progress in forestry development is constrained by weak enforcement of legislation.
- The report finds instances of inadequate funding and reallocation of funds to non-climate change related activities. The four counties, like most other counties in the country, are yet to establish county climate change funds to finance their priority climate change actions. This coupled with insufficient mobilisation of own source revenue and misappropriation of funds impede implementation of climate change actions.
- Effective targeting and climate finance impact tracking are constrained by inadequate access to quality data. For instance, there is no available data on the number of beneficiary households from investments to support households to transition to clean energy in Kisumu in 2017/18. The project included distribution of solar kits to replace the use of fossil fuels.

Development Initiatives (DI) is an independent international development organisation working on the use of data to drive poverty eradication and sustainable development. Our vision is a world without poverty that invests in human security and where everyone shares the benefits of opportunity and growth.

We work to ensure that decisions about the allocation of finance and resources result in an end to poverty, increase the resilience of the world's most vulnerable people, and ensure no one is left behind.

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