

# Homa Bay County

## Alternative Budget Memo on Sanitation 2020/21

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By Institute of Economic Affairs

### 1.0 Introduction

The Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA-Kenya) together with Homa Bay Sub-County Civil Society Organizations are pleased to present the Budget memo on sanitation for the fiscal year 2020/2021.

The budget memo contains budget proposals from the public Sub-County stakeholders who attended the IEA-Kenya pre-budget hearings that took place on Wednesday, 20th August 2019 at Twin Tower Hotel in Homa Bay Town. The proposals submitted were consolidated and synthesized by IEA. The Budget Memo seeks to influence county government decisions and help civil societies to develop viable alternatives to government policy. Equally, it provides a complementary avenue for deepening participatory budgeting given the legal basis for public participation in government planning and budgeting processes.

The purpose of this memo is to bring about a call for action and to shed light on Sanitation issues. This will help provide useful information, plans, proposals and policies that will enable Homa Bay county government set priority and resource allocation on WASH sector in the county.

### 2.0 Why Focus on Sanitation and why does coverage matter?

Sanitation is a devolved function of the county government and a constitutional right in Kenya. The National Government has the responsibility of ensuring that it develops the requisite policies on sanitation which are then integrated and implemented by the county government. Further, universal access to improved sanitation yields maximum health, social and economic benefits. For example, Homa Bay County loses Kshs. 920 million each year due to poor sanitation (World Bank report) and this includes; losses due to access time, premature death, health care costs and productivity. This estimate does not include some costs that could be significant (such as water pollution and tourism) and is therefore likely to under-estimate the true cost of poor sanitation.

A Study entitled “The Effects of Poor Sanitation on Environment, Public Health and Well-Being commissioned by SNV Netherlands Development Organization as part of the Voice for Change Partnership (V4CP) Programme advocates for county governments to address Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) issues affecting their communities”. The V4CP Programme is implemented by SNV in collaboration with the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA). The research was conducted by the Centre for Population Health Research and Management

(CPHRM). Key findings suggest that Homa Bay County has high cases of diarrhoeal diseases which are the leading cause of illness for children below the age of five years. This is also brought out in Homa Bay County Alternative Budget Memo 2019 as an issue of concern in the sanitation sector.

### 3.0 Problem Statement

Most urban and trading centres in Homa Bay County and especially in Suba South Sub-County lack adequate public health and sanitation facilities such as public toilets, safe water sources and effective drainage and waste disposal facilities. The end result has been high morbidity and greater burden on the health care system. Latrine coverage in Homa Bay County is estimated at 60%. However, using the CLTS (Community-Led Total Sanitation) approaches, many ODF (Open-Defecation-Free) villages are being modelled and latrine coverage is on the rise.

The safe use of Latrines and hand washing techniques has not been observed by majority of the citizens in the County. This poses a threat of diarrhoea and cholera attacks to young children in both private and public schools, Infants and the old in the community.

Latrine coverage is still low compared to the constant rise of the population. Waste Disposal in the beaches, Town centres and urban centres is also still very poor with no proper waste disposal mechanisms in place. In Homa Bay County (where budget allocation to WASH is 11% of total public health budget), only 22% of the population has improved sanitation coverage, while 38.8% practice Open Defecation and about 20% of the population has unimproved sanitation.

Waste management is an ever growing challenge. There is lack of awareness about waste disposal, management and re-use in most parts of the county. During the rainy season, poorly disposed solid waste finds its way back into the lake polluting the water besides being used by millions of habitants (human beings, animals, reptiles and other forms of life) in and around the Lake region. As a result, there is high rate of deaths resulting from water-borne diseases among the population living in affected areas.

The call to end the practice of Open Defecation (OD) is being made with growing emphasis on the link between OD and stunting in children. The number of people practicing OD is still rising. In Rusinga Island, this practice has resulted to deaths with the most affected group being children below 5yrs.

It is for this reason that local CSO networks from Homabay County prepared budget proposals to be presented to the County Government of Homabay to prioritize the sanitation sector by ensuring proper waste disposal mechanisms are in place in Homabay County and sanitation facilities are available in public places like beaches and markets for the realization of the County Vision of “An industrialized, healthy and wealthy County”.

### 4.0 Is there any need to understand the priority setting in the budget process?

The process of priority setting in whatever sector at the county government level is preceded by a planning process. This entails preparation of annual county development plans that identify strategic priorities for the medium term. These plans are drawn from the five year County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) that each county has developed. As the basis of county budgeting and expenditure process, county governments make efforts towards aligning these plans to Vision 2030 and its Second Medium Term Plan.

However, this is constrained by the fact that available statistics are segregated by the former districts, division and location and not the current planning and service delivery units of the devolved system (county, sub counties and wards). Equally, although majority of counties involved the public in the formulation of these plans, this has not been done consistently coupled with the fact that most counties engaged consultants to develop the CIDPs.

Given the limited time and the foregoing issues, a number of counties are currently reviewing their CIDPs for the period 2017-2022. Counties through the County Executive Committee member for Finance are supposed to submit their annual County Development Plan to the County Assembly not later than 1st September for their approval and a copy



sent to the National Treasury and to the Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA). As a critical entry point for public engagement, the County Executive Committee member for Finance is legally required to publish and publicize the annual development plan within 7 days for public access. To implement these priorities, detailed programmes will be developed complete with financial implications and performance indicators. In addition, these plans also provide details on how county governments will respond to changes in financial and environmental context.

## 5.0 Basis for Resource Envelope and stakeholders views in the budget cycle

The basis for deciding the size of resource envelope or the macro fiscal policy making process involves county governments making projections of resources they anticipate to raise or mobilize. These resources are to finance priority and expenditure plans over the medium term. Specifically, the process starts with the issuance of circulars to guide all county government entities in their preparation of the budget. Consequently, each county prepares a Budget Review and Outlook Paper (BROP) that are submitted to the County Executive Committee (CEC). Further in February, the County Treasury in consultation with the various stakeholders prepares and submits County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP) to the CEC which captures details of broad strategic priorities and policy goals to guide budget preparation. The CFSP is consequently submitted to the County Assembly for their approval by 28th February.

### The CFSP shall contain the following:

1. How the projections on economic growth of Kenya and other macroeconomic indicators as contained in the Budget Policy Statement (BPS) will impact on the economic environment for the county for the following budget year and in the medium term.
2. Anticipated size of county budget based on expected growth of the county, revenue,

expenditure and public debt projection over the medium term accompanied by underlying economic assumptions

3. Indicative expenditure ceilings for the various county entities
4. Statement indicating whether the county adhered to fiscal responsibility principles

The approved CFSP and recommendations provided by the County Assembly forms the basis of finalizing County Budget Estimates for the financial year. Counties are allowed to revise their fiscal framework in case of a significant or an unexpected change in the county economic growth and/or due to induced policy changes emanating from change of government.

## 6.0 Homa Bay County Sanitation Budgetary Allocations Trends

According to a report co-produced by IEA and Homa Bay County, Budget increased in nominal terms from Kshs. 5 billion in 2014/15 to Kshs. 6.7 billion in 2016/17<sup>1</sup>. Homa Bay's budgetary allocation individually to the two sanitation sensitive ministries of health and water and environment was on an upward trend both in absolute and relative terms for the period 2014/15 to 2016/17 except for a drop in 2015/16. The same trend was witnessed with regard to the two combined sanitation sensitive ministries over the same period. The difference is that for the Ministry of Water and Environment the increase in allocation in 2016/17 from the drop in 2015/16 was lower than the absolute and relative budget amount in 2014/15 as shown in table 1 (on page 4).

<sup>1</sup><http://www.ieakenya.or.ke/publications/bulletins>



**Table 1: Trends in Homa Bay County Sanitation Sensitive Budgets (Kshs. Million)**

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	% Change
Health Services	1205.6	1537.6	1833	19.2
Water and Environment	468.5	155.4	355.9	129
Total sanitation sensitive ministries	1674.1	1693	2188.9	29.3
<b>Total Homa Bay county budget</b>	<b>5016.2</b>	<b>6551.8</b>	<b>6723</b>	<b>2.6</b>

This trend is not convincing with regard to addressing the substantial challenge of a markedly low access to improved sanitation, 25% against a national average of 65.2%. On this point, Community Health Services budget on average for the period 2014/15 to 2016/17 accounted for about 1.1% of the Ministry of Health budget<sup>2</sup>. It is important to however note that sanitation service is part of Community health services, as other services including vaccination are factored into this sub-programme. Lack of further disaggregated budget data however makes it difficult to establish the proportion of Community Health Services that is sanitation specific. This notwithstanding, table 1 further shows that between 2015/16 and 2016/17 sanitation related budget (Community health services) reduced by 28% a cause for concern in regard to prioritization and focus in sanitation given the low access to improved sanitation services noted earlier.

Based on available data for 2015/16, about Kshs. 4 million was allocated for Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) out of Community Health Services total allocation of Kshs. 29.4 million, thus accounting for 13% of total sub-programme budget. As a proportion of the Ministry of Health budget, about 0.2% was dedicated to delivery of sanitation services and specifically for setting up pit latrines with the aim of promoting sustainable sanitation through behaviour change. Specifically from the Ministry of Health, the proportion of sanitation specific services at 0.2% is quite minimal given the significant sanitation challenges<sup>3</sup>.

## 7.0 Situation Analysis

The CIDP 2013-2017 notes that most urban and trading centres in Homa Bay County lack adequate public health and sanitation facilities such as public toilets, safe water sources and effective drainage and waste disposal facilities (County Government of Homa Bay, 2014). Moreover, about 18% of the households do not have sanitation facilities against a national average of 8.4%. Specifically latrine coverage is estimated at 60%.

Without strategically addressing these challenges high cases of morbidity and health care system burden are imminent. Besides the CIDP points out that using Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approaches many ODF free villages are being modelled and latrine coverage is on the rise. Success in the latter case is influenced by Southern Nyanza Community Development project that has improved sanitation outcomes in Suba, Karachuonyo, Rangwe and Ndhiwa.

Homa Bay as a County with its mission of building and preserving optimal conditions for accelerated, inclusive and sustainable development that guarantees safe livelihoods, dignified living and progressive pathways for all citizens of the County to thrive as contained in the County CIDP (2013-2017), has not achieved much on matters of Health and Sanitation.

The CIDP 2018-2022 acknowledges development of waste management system as a priority for the County in reference to poor sanitation and hygiene in public places such as markets. As such, it seeks to improve sanitation in all trading centre by building of latrines and setting up of hand washing taps in public places.

<sup>2</sup><http://www.ieakenya.or.ke/publications/bulletins>

<sup>3</sup>Annual County Governments Budget Implementation Review Report, 2014/15-2016/17



## PROPOSALS

### Proposed Homa Bay budget submissions for the Financial Year 2020/2021

#### Suba South Sub-County

No	Proposal	Justification
1.	Carrying out Sub-County sensitization in Public gatherings, Beaches, Schools and Town centres on Health, WASH and Waste Disposal management inclusively by all partners. The community along the lake have a tendency of throwing litter anyhow because of lack of knowledge on waste disposal.	Awareness creation on the waste disposal best practices as witnessed and documented in other areas/Counties that have practised safe Health Techniques and waste management.
2.	Establishment of Community Sanitation Advocacy Committees where the public can engage and debate sanitation issues to create more awareness.	Community sanitation advocacy committees will encourage better sanitation behaviour in the community of Suba South sub-County and Homa Bay County.
3.	Establishment of Waste Disposal sites, safe dump sites and erection of waste tins in Beaches, Town Centres and in Public Primary Schools and Facilitate the community and Citizens to equally own the County and devolved system structures and facilities for better service delivery and project sustainability.	Proper waste disposal mechanisms will ensure proper waste disposal and management hence improving the environmental hygiene.
4.	Establishment of safe toilets in Beaches, Town Centres and in strategic sites in the Community to control communicable diseases and water borne diseases that come as a result of poor waste disposal and poor faecal matter disposal.	Engage community leaders and put key actors to task on latrine coverage and take immediate action on emerging issues in the community to reach ODF and ensure availability of sanitation facilities along the beaches and town centres.
5.	Facilitation to Participate in Public Health Days e.g World Toilet Day and Public Days through dramas, theatre, songs and poems to advocate for health and sanitation to the community to make informed choices	This will bring about openness and changes in individual's behaviour from the household level, community level and to the Institutions.
6.	Establishment of Safe water Tanks with treated water to serve the community along the lake region to reduce chances of contracting disease such as Diarrhoea and other communicable diseases.	This will lead to Reduction in cases of water-borne diseases.

#### Suba North (Mbita) Sub-County

No	Proposal	Justification
1.	Community Action Day forums and Community Participative Clean up and trash management	This will ensure water bodies remain clean for humans, mammals, reptiles and plants. It will also help reduce air and water-borne diseases and deaths among children and adults.
2.	Comprehensive Community-led Hygiene Awareness Campaign Program.	The target population is vulnerable to poor sanitation and personal hygiene. Their direct involvement will improve both general and personal hygiene.



No	Proposal	Justification
3.	A Door-To-Door WASH Awareness Campaign Program	The target population need continuous awareness creation on hygiene awareness
4.	Creation of Beach Hygiene management units	90% of the population living along the lake region either bathe or wash nappies in the lake. This has made lake water unsafe for human consumption besides being polluted. This initiative will help stop this culture.
5.	Building of better Latrines with bathing rooms and Construction of water tanks along the beaches.	The current ratio of latrines to the population in some beaches is 1:2000. This ratio is alarming and that's the reason why there is need for action

### Rachuonyo East Sub- County

No	Proposal	Justification
1.	Carry out sensitization at community unit level in public gatherings, schools, town centres on general health, water, hygiene and sanitation and proper waste disposal management.	Most diseases at the community level are preventable if resources are put towards ensuring that people have access to WASH resources and information and that waste at market centres is collected on time ensuring a cleaner, healthy and safe environment.
2.	Community mobilization, sensitization and awareness meetings	There is linkage between the rate of occurrence of diseases (diarrhoea) and exposure to sanitation messages. Creation of awareness will raise the standards of hygiene and hence reduce the occurrence of diarrhoea especially children under five years of age (risk group include: the elderly, people living with HIV/AIDS, Pregnant mothers and children under five years of age)
3.	Community dialogues (quarterly)	Structured dialogues meetings to constantly review and come up with solutions to solve the sanitation problems in the sub-county
4.	Treating water at source ensures that water is of good quality and that community members have access to treated water hence reducing occurrences of diarrhoeal diseases in the sub county Provide provisions for chlorine dispensers at water sources and constantly monitoring and refilling the dispensers.	This will ensure supply of clean and safe water for consumption.
5.	Routine school health inspection and sanitation	To ensure that school going children have access to great sanitation environments and that their schools are regularly inspected to make sure they are habitable.
6.	Routine inspection of sanitation facilities to ensure they are fit for use by the public	This will ensure that public toilet facilities are clean and they are in good conditions and that the public sanitation facilities are in good management to ensure they do not cause any public health nuisances



No	Proposal	Justification
7.	Ensure the sanitation of the sub county is multi sectoral to address the relationship between sanitation and other sectors	To ensure that all aspects of water and sanitation are addressed by relevant related departments in the county governments, there is need for stakeholder collaboration.
8.	Formation of inter-sectoral community advocacy committees where the public can engage and debate sanitation issues to create more awareness.	This will encourage better sanitation behaviour and behaviour change in the communities of Rachuonyo East and Homa Bay at large

### Rachuonyo North Sub-County

No	Proposal	Justification
1.	Initiate CLTS Activities, through triggering and verification.	This will ensure the ODF campaign is intensified hence ensuring the county reaches the ODF status.
2.	Community Sensitization through dialogue forums to discuss sanitation issues.	Awareness creation on sanitation issues will enlighten the members of the public on the need to demand for better sanitation services
3.	Capacity build artisans on new technology available on toilet designs that are suitable to the Homa Bay county soil and terrain	This will enable artisans to provide products that match the need of Homa Bay people in offering solutions to access to improved sanitation
4.	Hold WASH Demos including; Hand washing Demos, Water Treatment Demos and Safe Water Systems Demos	This will enlighten the community on the proper way of treating water and washing hands.



## Annexes

### Annex 1: Sector-Proposal Contributors

Name	Organization
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5. Nicholas Mumbo	NYAKONYA
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7. Duncan O. Yongo	LKCU
8. George Odhach Oloo	KOGUTA
9. Samwel O. Odhiambo	CAITHS
10. Odum Richard	Child Fund-LRDP
11. John Otieno	JAPA-PH

### Annex 2: Pictorials



Participants during the Homa Bay County pre-budget hearings group discussion



## NOTES

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Institute of  
Economic Affairs

# Homa Bay County

## Alternative Budget Memo

**The Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA-Kenya)** is a civic forum which seeks to promote pluralism of ideas through open, active and informed debate on public policy issues. It is independent of political parties, pressure groups and lobbies, or any other partisan interests.

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