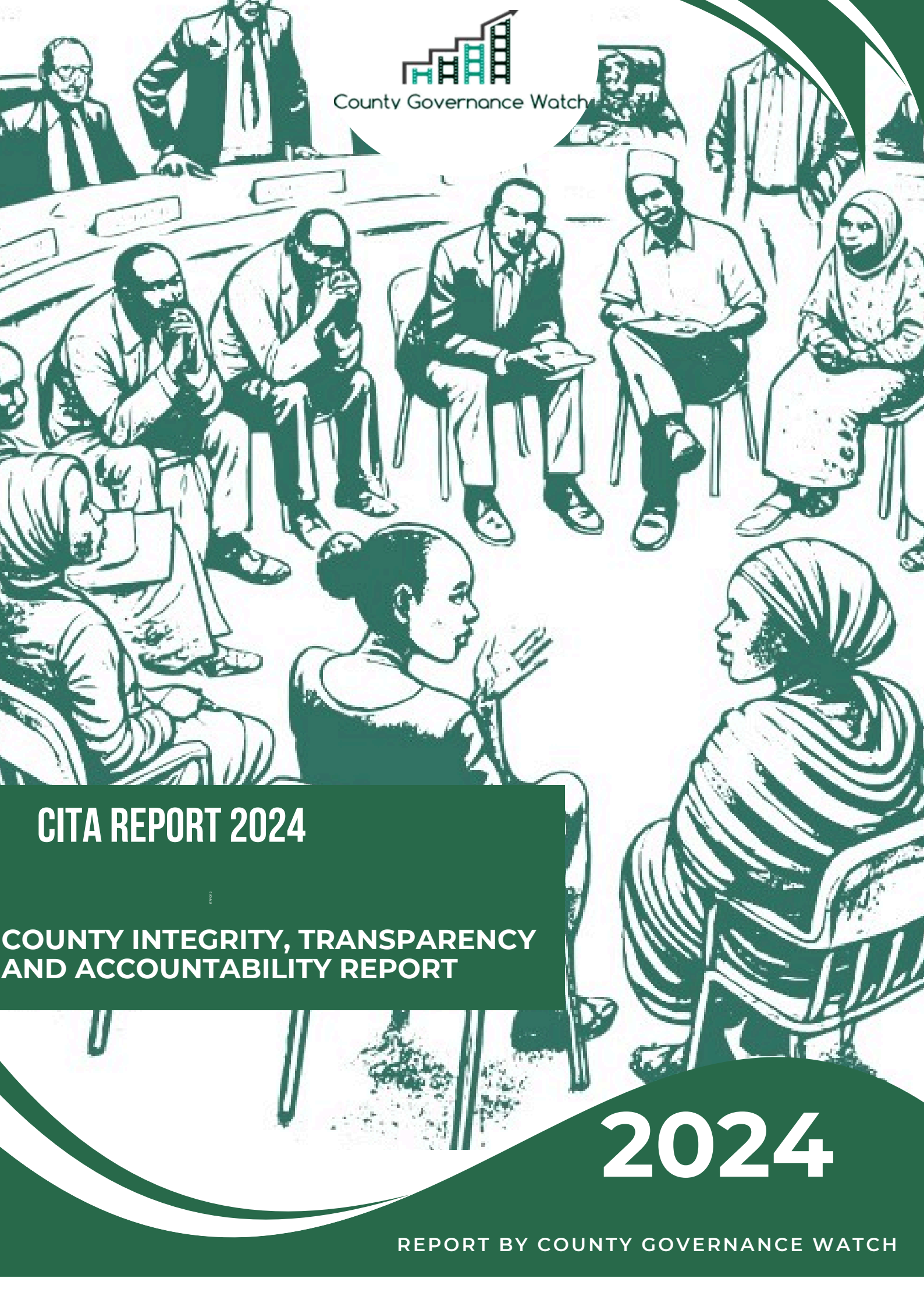




County Governance Watch



CITA REPORT 2024

COUNTY INTEGRITY, TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

2024

REPORT BY COUNTY GOVERNANCE WATCH

Table of Contents



01.

ABOUT US

02.

ORGANIZATION THEMATIC AREAS

03.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

04.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

05.

METHODOLOGY

06.

DEMOGRAPHICS

07.

KEY FINDINGS

08.

CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



On behalf of County Governance Watch (CGW), I take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the individuals whose tireless efforts and unwavering commitment have culminated in the successful production of the County Integrity, Transparency, and Accountability (CITA) Report. This report reflects the collective vision, dedication, and expertise of a team driven by the shared goal of fostering transparent and accountable governance within Kenya's devolved systems

At the heart of this achievement is the exceptional leadership and technical acumen displayed by the members of the Technical Committee, which I had the honor of chairing. Your collaborative spirit and shared commitment to excellence were instrumental in steering this initiative to success.

I would like to acknowledge Romeo Odumbe, from our Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Department, whose meticulous data analysis and insights provided the foundation for this report. Romeo, your ability to synthesize vast amounts of information into actionable intelligence ensured the credibility and relevance of our findings. Your dedication to precision and your unwavering commitment to delivering high-quality work are commendable.

A special note of appreciation goes to Edna Miriti, whose exceptional technical expertise and guidance proved invaluable throughout the process. Edna, your deep understanding of the subject matter and strategic approach to problem-solving enriched the report with practical recommendations. Your leadership in ensuring the integration of evidence-based insights into the report's structure has set a benchmark for excellence.

I also recognize the valuable contributions of Daniel Muia, whose support and efforts played a significant role in shaping the report. Daniel, your diligence, and commitment were evident in every stage of the process. Your collaborative approach and willingness to go the extra mile ensured that the team consistently met its objectives.

This report is a testament to the strength of teamwork, and it underscores the importance of bringing together diverse talents and expertise to achieve common goals. I am confident that the CITA Report will serve as a critical resource in advancing integrity, transparency, and accountability in governance across the counties.

I would also like to thank the 11 focal points, 33 enumerators and the 1,097 respondents who took their time to fill in the questionnaires. Without this data, we would not have been able to get the information and feedback we received, which was crucial in compiling of the CITA report.

As the Executive Director of CGW, it is both a privilege and a source of immense pride to work alongside such dedicated and skilled individuals. Together, we have taken yet another step towards building a future where accountability is not just a principle but a lived reality in every county in Kenya; with the hope that the recommendations of this report will inform accountable service delivery processes.

Thank you for your hard work, resilience, and passion for change. I look forward to continuing this journey with you as we strive to strengthen our governance systems and empower communities across the nation.

With deepest gratitude and appreciation,

Kevin Osido
Executive Director,
County Governance Watch (CGW)



ABOUT US

County Governance Watch (CGW) is a registered not-for-profit organization established in Kenya. It is an active convener in Kenya's governance, development, and social transformation. Since its inception, CGW has made significant strides in strengthening the pillars of good governance in Kenya and the region at large. Through its Kenya program and with a specific focus on the counties. CGW has taken lead in the creation of the County Governance Index (CGI) for measuring the governance and service delivery in the counties.

CGW's purpose is to provide solutions for socio-economic and political development in the counties by educating, training, developing the capacities of women, youth, and persons with disability by offering platforms for engagement with the county structures and other stakeholders in strengthening the county governance processes and enhancing opportunities for the public to participate in the governance, leadership, and decision making processes of their affairs.

MISSION

Our mission at County Governance Watch (CGW) is a steadfast commitment to the heart of our purpose: Empowering Citizen Engagement for Quality Service Delivery, Sustainable Development, and Peace in Kenyan Counties. In the pursuit of this mission, we dedicate ourselves to creating a dynamic and inclusive platform. This platform serves as a catalyst, enabling citizens to actively engage with the processes that drive sustainable development and foster a peaceful coexistence within the diverse tapestry of Kenyan counties. We firmly believe that empowering citizens with the tools, knowledge, and opportunities for meaningful engagement not only transforms governance but also lays the foundation for a future where service delivery is synonymous with excellence and progress. Our mission is a call to action, an unwavering commitment to building a better, more inclusive future for all.

VISION

Our vision is a beacon illuminating the path ahead: Empowered citizens enjoying high quality, efficient and transparent service delivery. This aspirational statement encapsulates the future we strive to create—a future where citizens are not merely recipients of services; but determining the service, defining its standards and actively shaping the governance landscape. We envision a county environment where empowerment fuels engagement, fostering a seamless, transparent, and efficient delivery of services that meet the diverse needs of our communities. This vision inspires us to channel our efforts towards a Kenyan society where the principles of quality, efficiency, and transparency form the bedrock of public service.



Organization Thematic Areas



1. Devolution & County Participation:

- **Devolution:** Devolution refers to the process of transferring certain powers and responsibilities from the central government to regional or local governments, in this case, the counties in Kenya. CGW is actively involved in monitoring and advocating for effective devolution, ensuring that county governments have the resources and capacity to manage local affairs efficiently.
- This involves initiatives aimed at encouraging and facilitating public participation in county governance and decision-making processes. CGW organizes forums, training, or awareness campaigns to ensure that citizens are actively engaged in shaping their county's policies and priorities.

2. Defend My Future Campaign:

CGW is focused on protecting the rights and interests of future generations. This campaign often targets issues like environmental conservation, social justice, and good governance to ensure a sustainable and secure future for all.



3. Human Security and Security Sector Reforms:

Human Security: CGW engages in activities related to safeguarding human security, which can include addressing issues like poverty, health, education, and safety.
Security Sector Reforms: CGW advocates for reforms that enhance transparency, accountability, and respect for human rights within the security sector.

4. Research, Reflection, and Policy Advocacy:

CGW conducts research to gather evidence and data on various governance and development issues. This research informs policy advocacy efforts, where CGW works to influence decision-makers and policymakers to create and implement policies that benefit marginalized communities and promote good governance.

5. County Election Dialogues:

This involves organizing dialogues, debates, or forums around county elections. It can be a platform for discussing election-related issues, the performance of candidates and the electoral process, and encouraging informed voting and civic engagement.



6. Youth and Governance:


CGW empowers youth by providing them with knowledge and skills to participate actively in local and national governance. Youth engagement is crucial for building a future of informed and involved citizens.

7. Climate Governance Program:

Strengthening Inter Agency Collaboration Towards Effective Climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation strategies for addressing climate change.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The County Governance Watch survey on the Status of Accountability at the County Level in Kenya involved 1,097 respondents from 11 counties. This study was conducted to assess public awareness and perception of accountability, focusing on how effectively county governments manage budgets and engage citizens in governance processes. By selecting counties across different economic blocks, the survey aimed to provide a representative view of accountability practices and public engagement across the regions. Since the implementation of Kenya's 2010 Constitution, devolution has aimed to decentralize governance and enhance service delivery. However, corruption remains a persistent issue undermining the goals of devolution. Transparent governance practices are critical to ensuring that county governments serve public interests. Accountability measures, such as budget transparency and active public participation, can mitigate corruption and improve service delivery, especially for marginalized groups. Devolution, intended to promote local governance and accountability, the expectation was that counties would improve transparency and public service delivery. However, corruption remains a pervasive issue, with counties being sites for mismanagement and misappropriation of funds.

Corruption in Kenyan counties stems from various governance challenges. Devolution, established by the 2010 Constitution, has empowered counties to manage local resources and make independent governance decisions. However, despite this increased autonomy, corruption has persisted due to weak checks and balances, lack of public accountability, and limited citizen awareness about governance processes. The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) reported investigations into irregular procurement practices, unauthorized spending, and embezzlement of funds designated for public services. These also face challenges with transparency, limited public participation, and restricted access to county budget information, preventing communities from effectively monitoring resource allocation.

OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE 1

Awareness of Budgetary Allocations: Assessing citizens' understanding of budget allocations and utilization.

OBJECTIVE 2

Functionality of County Websites: Evaluating whether county websites are current and provide accessible, comprehensive budget information.

OBJECTIVE 3

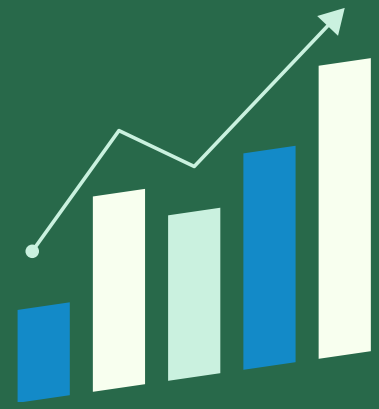
Public Participation: Measuring the effectiveness of citizen engagement in governance, leadership, and decision-making.

OBJECTIVE 4

Public Accountability: Examining mechanisms for ensuring accountability of county officials in budget decisions.



METHODOLOGY



Sampling and Data Collection

- Sample size per county (n): 99 respondents
- Z-score: 1.96 (for 95% confidence level)
- Proportion (p): 0.5

Data Displays

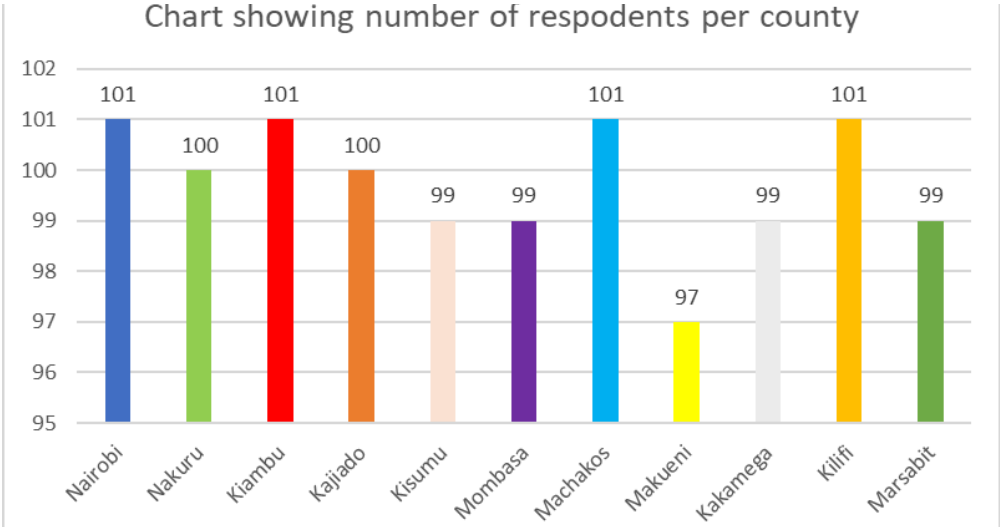
The study was conducted across eleven counties: Makeni , Nairobi, Kiambu, Marsabit , Kilifi, Kajiado, Kisumu, Nakuru, Kakamega, Machakos, and Mombasa. A total of 1,097 respondents participated through surveys, and key informant interviews, averaging 99 respondents per county.

Tools and Techniques

A mixed-method approach included qualitative and quantitative methods:

Surveys: To gather citizen perceptions on county budget awareness, corruption, and website quality.

Key Informant Interviews: Engaging local leaders and officials on governance challenges.



DEMOGRAPHICS

CITA REPORT

DURATION:
19TH JUNE 2024
- 30TH AUGUST
2024

Key Metrics

Total Engagements:

1097

NO OF COUNTIES

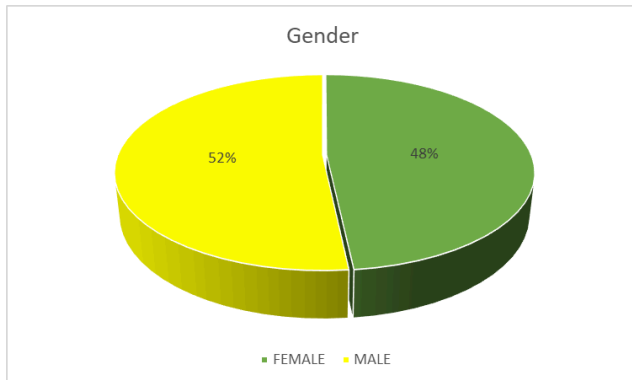
11

CONFIDENCE LEVEL

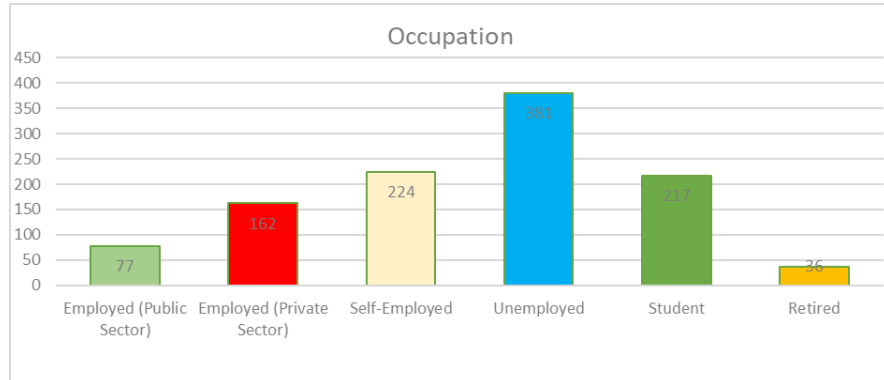
95%

Respondents Demographics

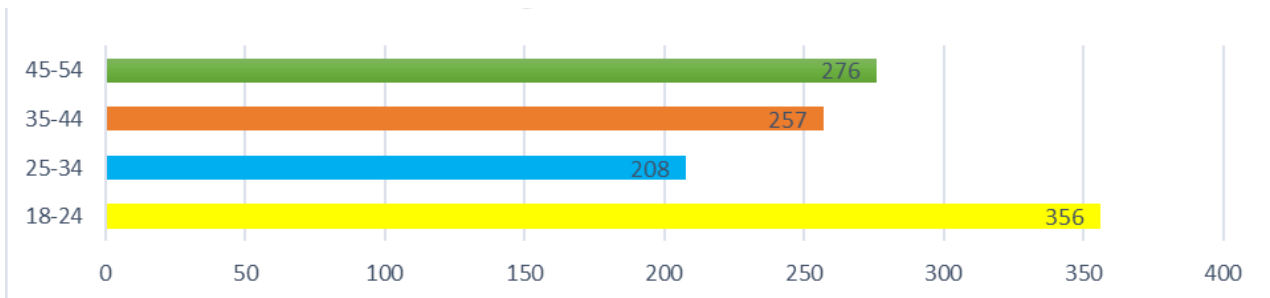
Gender



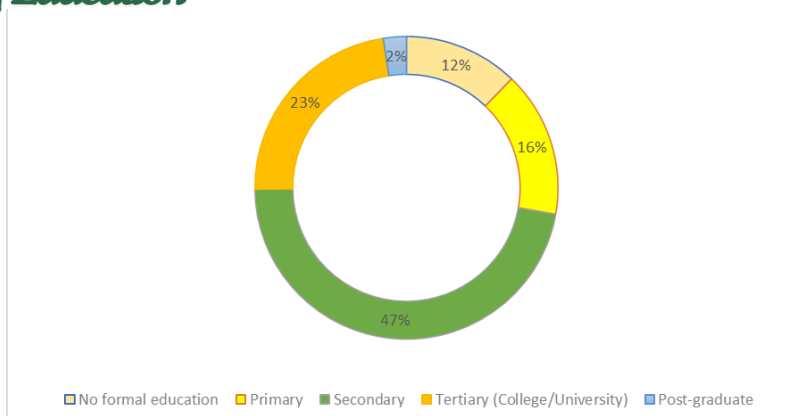
Occupation



Age Distribution



Level of Education



KEY FINDINGS

Accessibility of County Budgets



Access to budgetary information is a critical component of transparent governance. Citizens must be able to easily access information on budget allocations and expenditures to understand how public funds are being used.



Top performers:

Makueni County emerged as a leader in budget accessibility, with 65% of respondents reporting ease of access to budget details. Makueni's proactive approach, including user-friendly digital platforms and community outreach, has made budget information accessible to the public. Nairobi (52%) and Kiambu (50%) also showed positive results, leveraging digital channels such as official county websites and social media to share budget details with their constituents.



Counties Facing Challenges:

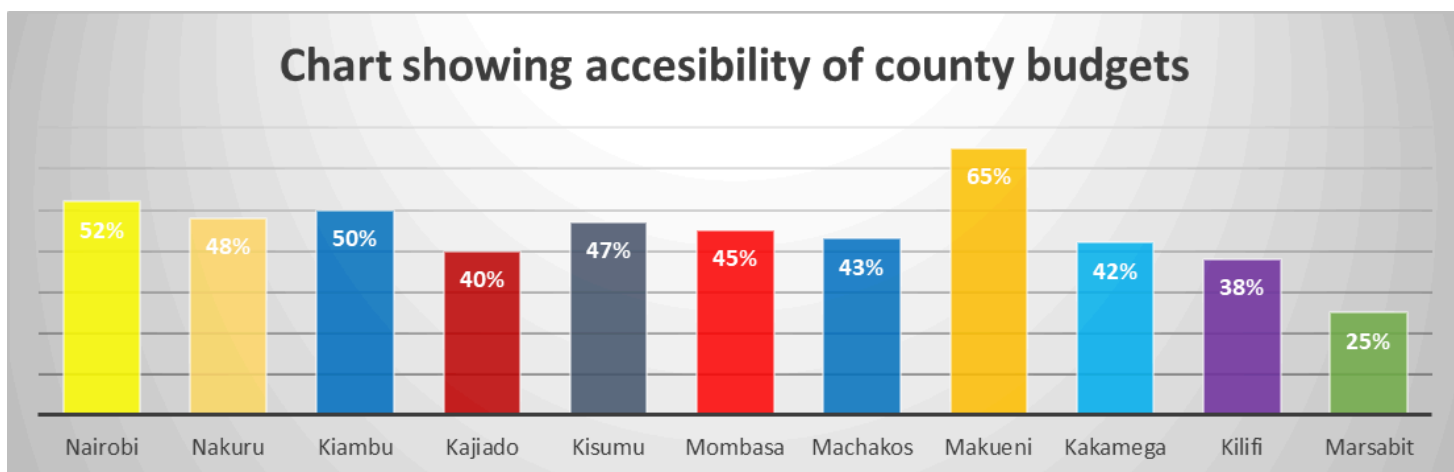
Marsabit County was found to have significant challenges, with only 25% of respondents aware of the budgetary information available to them. This suggests a substantial information gap, possibly due to inadequate communication strategies or limited digital infrastructure. Kilifi (38%) and Kajiado (40%) faced similar issues, attributed to weak outreach and lack of tailored communication methods for reaching diverse groups within the counties.



Overall Trend:

Across all counties, only 45% of respondents reported having access to budgetary information, revealing a widespread gap in information dissemination. This trend indicates that, despite available channels, budget information is often not readily accessible to or comprehensible by the public, highlighting an urgent need for improved dissemination practices, especially in counties with low digital literacy and internet penetration.

Chart showing accesibility of county budgets



QUALITY OF INFORMATION ON COUNTY WEBSITES

County websites are intended as primary platforms for disseminating information on budgets, contracts, and services. Website functionality and content quality are crucial for citizen access to accurate and timely data.

COUNTIES WITH EFFECTIVE WEBSITES:

These websites were rated positively for their ease of use, comprehensiveness, and regular updates, indicating that they are valuable tools for fostering transparency.

55%

Makueni's website received high marks for quality, with 55% satisfaction among respondents

52%, 51%

Nairobi (52%) and Mombasa (51%) also performed well, providing easily accessible information on budgets, ongoing projects, and contracts.

COUNTIES WITH WEBSITE CHALLENGES:

25%

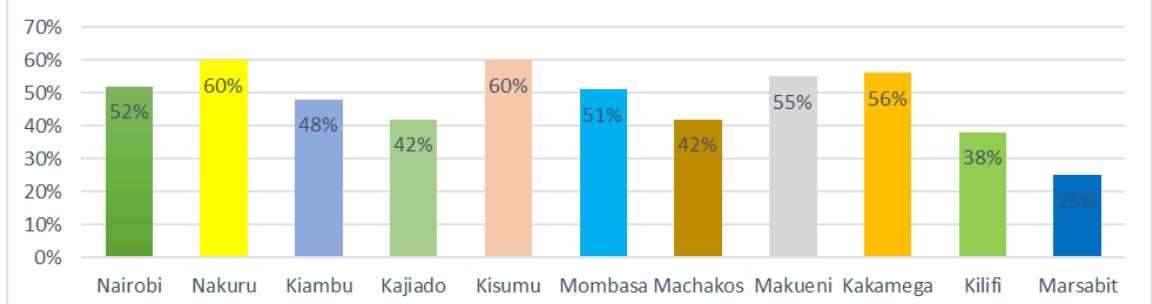
Marsabit scored the lowest in this area, with only 25% of respondents satisfied with the information available on its website

Similarly, Kilifi (38%) and Kajiado (42%) experienced issues related to outdated content, limited information on budget and project details, and a lack of user-friendly features. These challenges point to the need for capacity building within county ICT departments to ensure that websites are functional, relevant, and accessible to all citizens.

Average Satisfaction Level:

Overall, 55% of respondents across the eleven counties expressed satisfaction with their county websites, suggesting that while many counties are on the right path, significant improvements are needed to meet the full range of citizens' information needs.

Chart showing quality of information on county websites





Awareness of Budgetary Allocations

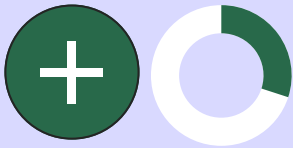
Understanding budget allocations is essential for citizens to actively engage in governance and hold officials accountable.

High Awareness Counties:



Makueni had the highest awareness level at 51%, largely due to effective outreach through community meetings, media campaigns, and partnerships with local civic groups. Nairobi (49%) and Kiambu (47%) followed closely, benefiting from comprehensive online resources and active civic education efforts.

Average Level of Awareness:



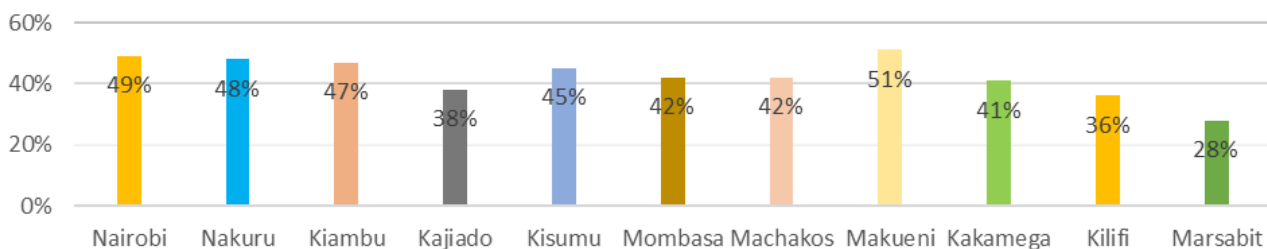
Across the eleven counties, 42% of respondents indicated a need for more accessible budget information. The data suggests that many citizens lack adequate knowledge on how county funds are allocated and used, underscoring the need for improved outreach and civic education to empower communities.

Counties with Lower Awareness Levels:



Marsabit recorded the lowest awareness, with only 28% of respondents informed about budgetary allocations. This low figure reflects challenges in accessing government documents, limited public forums, and poor outreach strategies, particularly in remote or marginalized areas. Kilifi (36%) and Kajiado (38%) also showed lower awareness levels, often due to language barriers and an absence of inclusive outreach tailored to local communities.

CHART SHOWING AWARENESS OF BUDGETARY ALLOCATIONS





CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION



Citizen participation in governance is vital for inclusive decision-making and accountability. The study explored citizens' opportunities to engage in budgetary and development matters.

High Engagement Levels:

Nairobi had the highest participation rate (60%), followed closely by Nakuru (56%), Makueni (55%), and Kisumu (54%). These counties have established regular public forums and use a combination of in-person and digital engagement methods to involve citizens in governance processes.



Counties with Low Engagement:



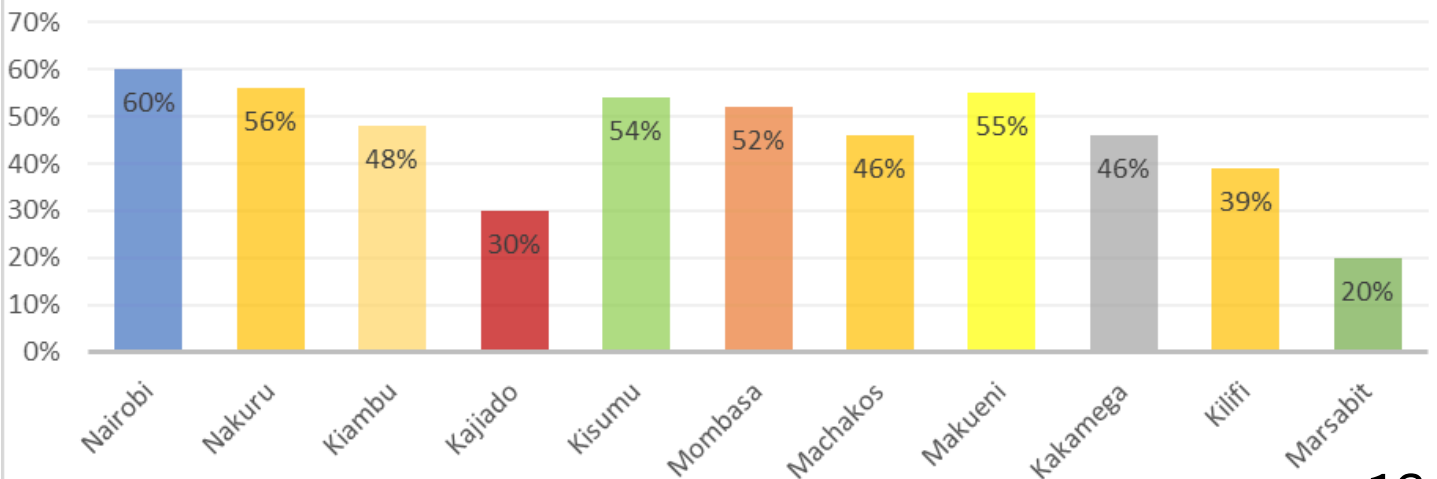
Marsabit showed the lowest engagement rate at 20%, largely due to limited outreach from county officials and poor organization of public forums. Kilifi (39%) and Kajiado (30%) also showed low engagement levels, with citizens often reporting inadequate notice or ineffective communication about public meetings.



Average Participation Rate:

Across the counties, an average of 48% of respondents reported feeling engaged in governance processes, which reflects a pressing need to strengthen and formalize citizen engagement efforts. Low participation rates signal the importance of tailored communication strategies and diverse outreach methods to reach underrepresented groups, such as women, youth, and rural residents.

Chart showing Citizen Engagement and Participation



ACCOUNTABILITY AND CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS

Public perceptions of corruption are closely tied to visible accountability mechanisms within county governments. The study sought to capture how citizens view the integrity of their county governments, particularly concerning procurement and resource allocation.

KEY INSIGHTS

Counties with High Corruption Concerns: Perceptions of corruption were notably high in Marsabit (80%), Kiambu (70%), and Nairobi (68%). In these counties, citizens expressed concerns over opaque procurement processes and perceived favoritism in resource allocation. The high corruption perception suggests a lack of transparency in how contracts are awarded and funds are managed, with procurement decisions often seen as benefiting politically connected individuals rather than the public.



80%

KEY INSIGHTS

Counties with Lower Corruption Perceptions:

Makueni stood out with a relatively low corruption perception at 40%. This lower level can be attributed to Makueni's established accountability practices, such as open budget meetings and visible mechanisms for public participation, which help build trust and reduce skepticism about resource management.

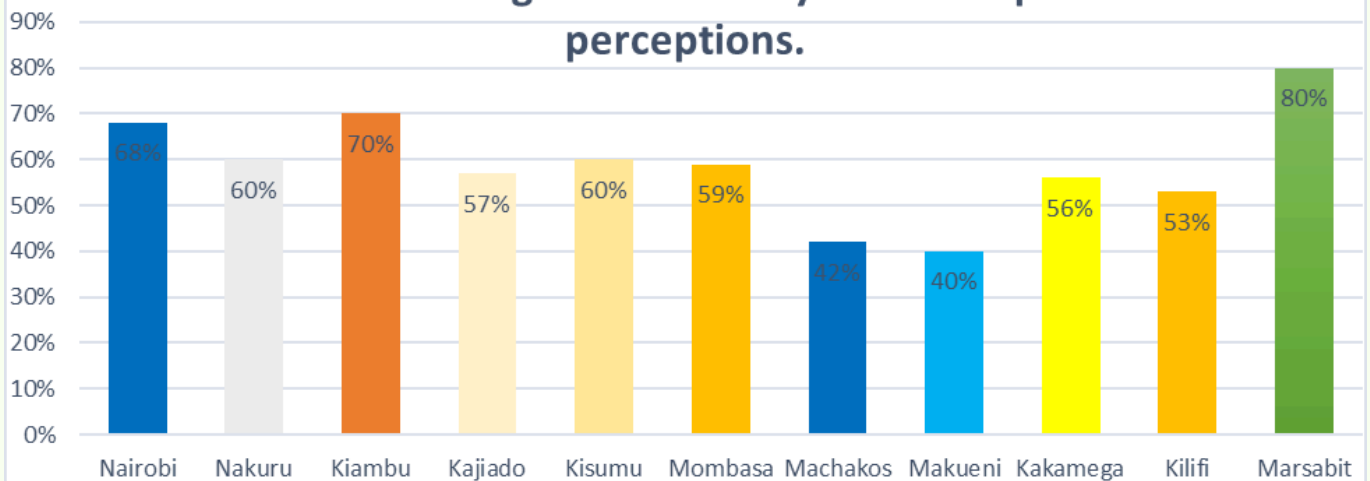


40%

GENERAL SENTIMENT ACROSS COUNTIES

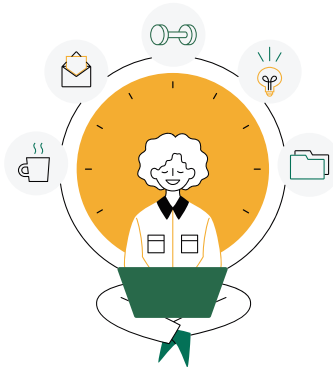
On average, 58% of respondents across the eleven counties expressed the need for stronger accountability measures, indicating that corruption remains a major concern in local governance. There is a clear demand for improved oversight and transparent management of county resources to rebuild public trust.

Chart showing accountability and corruption perceptions.



TRANSPARENCY IN CONTRACTS AND WORK DONE.

Transparency in procurement and contract implementation is essential for ensuring that public funds are used effectively and projects are completed as promised.



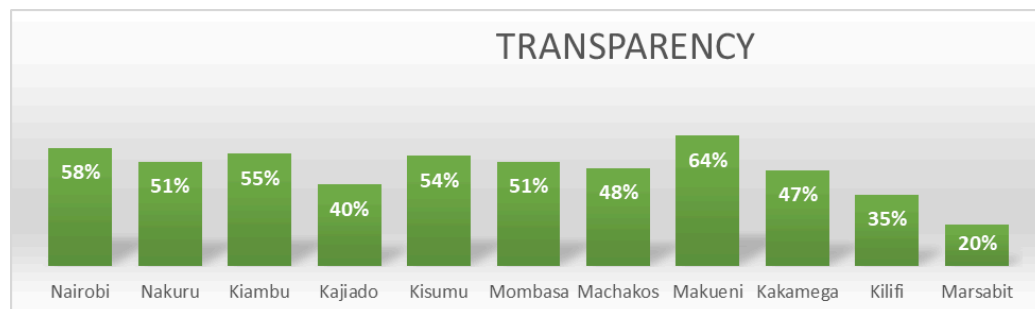
Counties with Low Transparency:

Marsabit had the highest level of dissatisfaction at 80%, with respondents citing a lack of visibility on contracts and minimal updates on project status. Kajiado (70%) and Kilifi (65%) also scored poorly in this area, suggesting gaps in information-sharing practices and the need for more robust oversight mechanisms.



Counties with High Transparency:

Makueni again led in this category, with 64% satisfaction among respondents regarding the transparency of contracts and project progress. Nairobi (58%) and Kiambu (55%) also showed positive ratings, reflecting structured approaches to disclose contract information and project updates.



CORRUPTION PREVENTION MEASURES RATINGS

CGW evaluated counties on their efforts to implement corruption prevention measures, including reporting mechanisms, feedback channels, and adherence to anti-corruption legislation. The study found that while some counties had taken steps to establish corruption prevention measures, challenges remained in execution and enforcement.

Areas for Improvement:

Marsabit and Kilifi faced significant challenges in implementing effective corruption prevention measures. These counties lacked reliable feedback mechanisms, and respondents noted a gap in adherence to procurement transparency and accountability protocols.

Positive Examples:
Counties like Nairobi, Makueni, and Kiambu demonstrated a commitment to corruption prevention through accessible hotlines, feedback mechanisms, and engagement platforms. These counties also adhered more closely to public procurement regulations, suggesting a structured approach to preventing misuse of resources.

	Corruption Hotlines	Legislative Frameworks	Feedback Mechanisms	Public Participation
Nairobi	63%	4%	47%	67%
Nakuru	64%	5%	45%	47%
Kiambu	62%	4%	46%	45%
Kajiado	57%	5%	5%	41%
Kisumu	63%	4%	56%	61%
Mombasa	49%	3%	46%	45%
Machakos	46%	4%	41%	44%
Makueni	64%	5%	34%	61%
Kakamega	47%	7%	26%	27%
Kilifi	64%	5%	9%	9%
Marsabit	53%	4%	25%	27%

01.

CHALLENGES

1. Political Influence and Limited Judicial Oversight:

Political interference continues to impede anti-corruption efforts, with local leaders often influencing resource allocation to benefit political allies.

2. Resource Limitations:

Anti-corruption agencies face severe financial and human resource constraints, reducing their ability to investigate and prosecute cases effectively.

3. Inadequate Citizen Awareness Programs:

The limited reach of civic education initiatives hamper citizens' understanding of governance and their ability to hold leaders accountable.

4. Weak Engagements:

Weak engagements between Executive and Legislative arms of government to enhance accountability and strengthen integrity

02.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Strengthen County Oversight Mechanisms:

Empower county assemblies with the resources and training needed to monitor budget allocations effectively and ensure that procurement processes adhere to transparency standards.

2. Implement Targeted Civic Education Programs:

Expand citizen awareness campaigns, particularly in counties with low engagement, to educate citizens on budgetary processes and their rights to access public information.

3. Enhance Digital Accessibility of County Information:

Counties should invest in user-friendly websites that provide budget updates, procurement information, and clear contact channels for feedback.

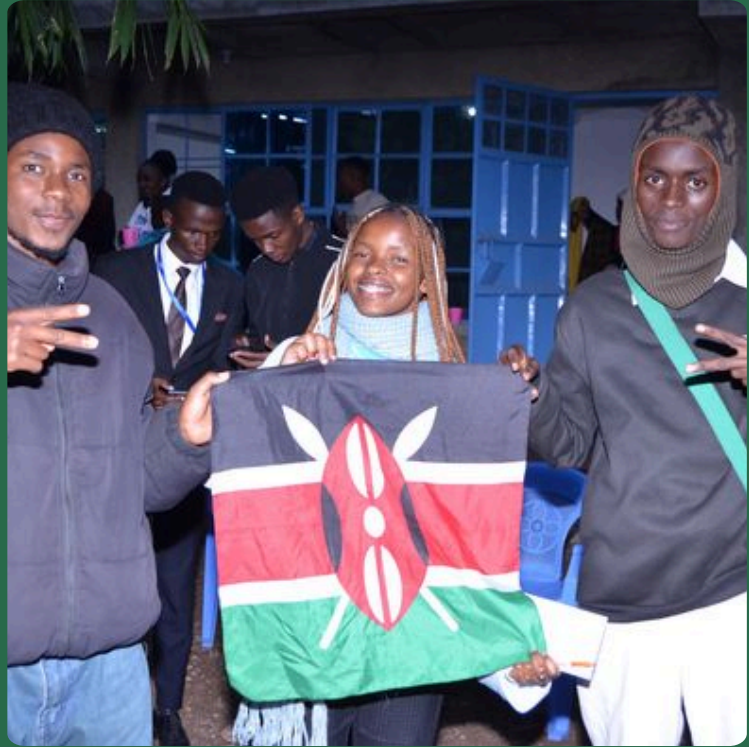
4. Develop and Enforce Clear Anti-Corruption Policies:

Counties should implement stronger policies to enforce anti-corruption laws, prioritize budgetary transparency, and adhere to public procurement guidelines.

5. Promote Public Participation Forums:

Encourage regular public forums and provide platforms for citizens to engage with county officials on budget allocations and development projects.

PICTORIALS





Contact Us



www.cgwkenya.org



info@cgwkenya.org



020 4404140



Governance Suites
ILU Compound,
Mtito Andei RD, Lenana Road,
Hurlingham
P.O. Box 104578- 00101,
Nairobi, Kenya

