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**A GENDER ANALYSIS OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENTS
ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS BILL, SENATE BILLS NO. 2 OF 2022.**

**SUBMISSION BY THE WEE HUB IN RESPONSE TO A CALL FOR
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION WITH A DEADLINE OF 20 MAY 2022**

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INTRODUCTION

The African Women Studies, UON WEE Hub takes a keen interest in Kenya's Fiscal Policy situation with the view of supporting the increased participation of women in the Kenyan Economy. The engagements of the African Women Studies, UON WEE Hub on Kenya's Fiscal Policy environment is a deliberate approach to support the policymakers (National Treasury, County Assemblies and Parliament) by providing alternative choices on matters that directly affect the plight of women in the country and their involvement in economic activities. The focus is on women's economic empowerment by pin-pointing the inclusion, omission, reduction and increment of the funds that have an impact on the economic empowerment and participation of women in the economy. The analysis is in line with the critical areas that the AWS UON WEE Hub attaches importance in uplifting the lives of women which are Health, Primary Education, Water and Sanitation, Clean and Affordable Energy and Unpaid Domestic and Care Work. Directing efforts on policies aimed at improving food security, Women's Economic Empowerment, childcare, financial inclusion, social protection among other issues would directly impact on the abilities of women to engage more in the economy and that would yield accelerated growth.

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS IN THE ANALYSIS

The representations of the AWS UON WEE Hub is based on the two different schedules that indicate the allocations, loans and grants to the 47 counties. In schedule I and schedule II, the additional allocations to county government governments from the national government share of revenue and the loans and grants from the development partners in the for financial year 2022/2023 covers aspects of the critical thematic areas that the AWS UON WEE-Hub champions for the economic empowerment of women.

Conditional Allocations from National Government Revenue

The conditional grant for leasing of medical equipment from the national government given as Ksh. 110,638,298 uniformly for all the 47 counties as part of the MES program in place since 2015 targets **healthcare** improvement which is a vital aspect in improving the livelihoods of women across the country.

Additional Allocations from Development Partners

Though not uniformly provided in the 47 counties, the loans and grants from development partners targets **agriculture** through the National Agricultural and Rural Inclusive growth Project (NARIGP), the Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture (KCSAP) and the Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP). The Water and Sanitation Development Project (WSDP) by the IDA also given as a credit by the World Bank targets access to clean and affordable **water and sanitation services** in the selected counties which is also at the core of AWS UON WEE Hub services. **Clean and affordable energy sources** is targeted by the loans and grants in the selected counties through the Locally-Led Climate Action Program (FLLoCA). Access to primary health care is targeted by the DANIDA Grant for supporting the primary health care in developed context and that is given in all 47 counties. The Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Project (KISIP 11) and the Drought Resilience Programme in Northern Kenya (DRPNK) are also key areas of interest for the AWS UON WEE Hub as all contribute to the overall objective of empowering women economically. Unfortunately, the issue of Domestic Care and Unpaid Work has remained unmentioned despite the significant role that it plays in enhancing women economic empowerment.

ANALYSIS

Reduction in the Proposed Allocations

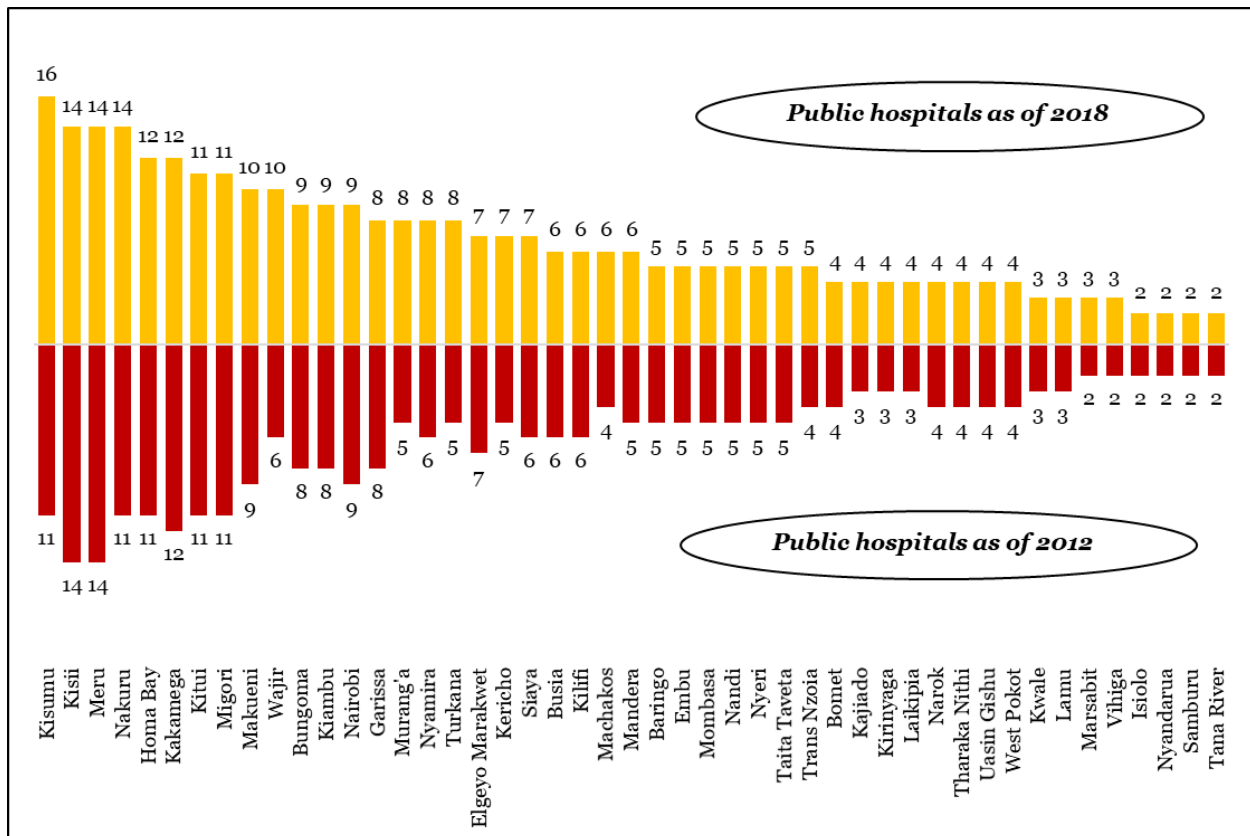
A comparison between financial year 2021/2022 and the proposals for financial year 2022/2023 additional allocations to county governments from national government share of revenue and loans and grants from development partners shows a significant drop as illustrated.

| | Financial Year 2021/2022 | Financial Year 2022/2023 | Decrease | % Decrease |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Additional Allocations from National Government Share of Revenues. | 7,537,000,000 | 5,654,000,000 | 1,883,000,000 | 24.98% |
| Conditional Allocations of Loans and Grants from Development Partners | 32,343,890,515 | 31,382,332,918 | 961,557,597 | 2.97% |
| TOTAL | 39,880,890,515 | 37,036,332,918 | 2,844,557,597 | 7.13% |

Whereas the current 2022 BPS is guided by the intent to tighten the fiscal operating environment and avoid exceeding the debt ceiling, the reduction in the key funding as is the case above will hamper the quest to empower women economically and improve their livelihoods. As indicated in the key areas of focus, the conditional allocation from the national government revenues and the loans and grants from the development partners have a direct impact on areas that have an impact on the economic empowerment of women and hence the AWS UON WEE- Hub would request that the amounts be maintained to the same levels. The 24.98% reduction from the national government share of revenue will reduce the gains that are currently being targeted by the program. The reductions in the amount especially in areas that are considered as most vulnerable will have huge consequences on measures such as fighting droughts and increasing acreage under irrigation.

Uniformity in Funds allocated for the MES Program

Whereas the Additional Allocations Bill 2022 has evidently targeted the MES program with an intent of ensuring that it runs to full completion, it is notable that the expansion of referral health care infrastructure has been slow and not uniform across the country.



Source Data: MOH

As revealed in above by one of the studies undertaken by the MOH, the number of referral facilities increased by 35 between 2012 and 2018. Under the MES, most counties expanded and equipped existing hospitals to provide specialized treatment, while a few counties added new hospitals or upgraded primary facilities to referral facilities. It shows that the adopted uniform and one fit all strategy for the MES Program is not working in some areas of the country.

CONCLUSION

The leasing of medical equipment (Managed Equipment Services-MES) project initiated in 2015 as an alternative health care financing option to scale up health infrastructure for provision of specialized medical care has majorly been skewed towards developed parts of the country while the other parts continue to lag behind. The additional allocations should not be uniformly done but be undertaken in a way that prioritizes the areas which have less facilities and difficulties in accessing primary health care.

The design of the MES project was not informed by a comprehensive disease burden and health infrastructure needs assessment for each of the county governments and it is clear that not all that counties are homogenous.

From numerous researches undertaken by the AWS UON WEE Hub, there is overwhelming evidence that a focus on the empowering women economic status will have a direct impact on improving livelihoods which is directly related to the theme of the 2022 Budget Policy Statement (BPS) **“Accelerating Economic Recovery for Improved Livelihoods.”**

The proposed one size fit all approach adopted as a mechanism of providing the counties with the additional allocations is not appropriate. With the highlighted disparities, the additional funding should be based on the affirmative need to improve the situation of counties that are way below average when it comes to the distribution of the services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The AWS UON WEE Hub recommends a review of the MES program and prioritize allocation towards counties that have lagged in terms of acquiring and equipping their hospitals since that is clearly a challenge.

The AWS UON WEE Hub recommends a further evaluation and reconfiguration of the project before it lapses to ensure that citizen receives value for investment in terms of better health outcomes to avoid a situation where all the intended benefits are not achieved.

The issue of Unpaid Domestic Care and Work should also be prioritized by county governments as they engage development partners for loans and grants since it is an area that requires massive intervention to help uproot issues that bedevil women in their quest to achieve economic empowerment.

While the AWS UON WEE Hub appreciates the role that the development partners are doing in funding the areas that are key in uplifting the plight of women, it is important that the government to also offer additional funds to such areas. The national government should have strategies in place to enhance such donor funded projects if the donors exit the country so that the livelihoods depended on the funds are not affected.

ANNEX

**THE COUNTY GOVERNMENTS ADDITIONAL
ALLOCATIONS BILL, 2022**

A Bill for

AN ACT of Parliament to provide for the additional allocations to county governments for the 2022/2023 financial year; the responsibilities of National Government and county governments pursuant to such allocation; and for connected purposes.

(3) The National Treasury shall facilitate any agreement between a county government and a development partner and shall table the agreements in the National Assembly and the Senate before inclusion in the Budget Policy Statement.