



SUMMARY

Strengthening public financial management at the county government level in Kenya

Proposed by the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA), the Kenyan School of Government (KSG), the Office of Controller of Budget (OCOB), and the Public Expenditure and Financial Assessment (PEFA) Secretariat

INTRODUCTION

The new 2010 constitution in Kenya ushered in a devolved system of government comprising of 47 county governments. However, in transitioning from a centralized to a devolved system, counties are facing challenges including weak financial management, human capacity constraints, and weak accountability systems. The Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA), the Kenya School of Government (KSG) and the Office of Controller of Budget (OCOB) therefore seek to strengthen the public financial management systems of the counties in Kenya for enhanced delivery of services and creation of an enabling environment for development.

WHAT THEY WILL DO

Inspired by the Public Expenditure and Financial Assessment (PEFA) framework, this project will conduct an assessment of the county governments in Kenya on their administrative, financial management, and legislative capacities. The PEFA framework, which has been widely used across countries, will help establish capacity gaps. The identified gaps will form the basis for a reform agenda for the finance and budget officers at national and county levels.

Institutionalization of the relevant reforms will be supported by OCOB and other relevant stakeholders.

HOW THEY WILL DO IT

The project will begin with a participatory inception-workshop, where stakeholders from the counties will be invited to identify issues related to the administrative, financial management, and legislative capacities of the counties. The research team will then embark on a fieldwork mission to at least 6 counties to conduct surveys, key informant interviews, focus group discussions, and the collection of other relevant secondary data and documents. The data will then be analysed to produce a draft report which will be shared with all stakeholders. The final report will be subject to a national stakeholder workshop to validate the results.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The project aims to improve the governance and institutional arrangement of the counties to enhance their service delivery. Successful implementation is expected to lead to improved fiscal discipline, efficient allocation of public resources, and 'value for money'. In addition, a system of self-assessment will be developed and institutionalized. Anticipated outputs include policy briefs, media articles and blogs for further engagement with the public.