

# Understanding the Budget

A child-friendly guide



# THIS BOOK BELONGS TO

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## Do you know what budgeting is?

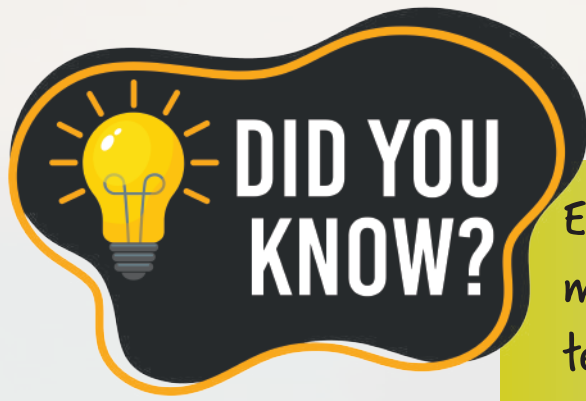
Budgeting is how the government decides to spend its money. Every year, the government collects money through taxes and other sources, then shares it out to things like schools, hospitals, roads, and programs that help children and families. This booklet helps you see how money is being used to support children like you in Kenya.





# Education Sector





Education got the **biggest slice** of Kenya's **2025/26** budget! That means the government decided to spend more money on schools, teachers and learning than on anything else..

## What Changed in the Education Budget?



**2025/26.** the Kenyan government has planned to give **KSh 718.8** billion to the education sector.

Making it the highest funded sector in the national budget.



increase from the **KSh 656.6 billion** allocated in the **2024/25** financial year

## Now let's explain what went up and what went down:

### 1. Junior Secondary School (JSS)



The money for Junior Secondary School (Grades 7–9) increased a lot. In the previous year, it was KSh 25.5 billion, and now it is KSh 38.6 billion. This means schools will have more money to buy books, build more classrooms, and help teachers teach better, especially using the CBC system (Competency Based Curriculum).

## 2. Technical and Vocational schools (TVET)



also got more money. These schools help older students learn skills to get jobs. This extra money means students will get better equipment, more teachers, and better training.

There's also more money for training teachers and bringing in digital tools so that learning is modern and keeps up with the world.

### But not everything increased:

#### 1. Free Primary Education (FPE)

Free Primary Education received less money. It dropped from KSh 12.5 billion to KSh 9.36 billion. This means schools might have fewer learning materials like books, desks, or chalk.



#### 2. Free Day Secondary Education

Free Day Secondary Education also went down, from KSh 65.4 billion to KSh 54.88 billion. This money helps pay for school fees and health insurance for students in public day secondary schools. With less money, some students may not get as much support, and schools may have fewer resources.



### 3. The School Meals Program

which provides free lunch to students, also dropped from KSh 5 billion to KSh 3 billion. This may mean fewer schools will be able to offer lunch to students.



### 4. sanitary towels for girls

The money for sanitary towels for girls, which helps girls stay in school during their periods, was not listed clearly this year. It might still be in the budget, but we can't see it as its own item.



Also, the money for paying exam fees for KCPE and KCSE dropped a lot from KSh 5 billion to KSh 1.72 billion. This means the government might pay for fewer students to sit for exams unless more funds are added

## Budget Items

What it Means

Allocated Budget  
2024/25

Estimated Budget  
2025/26

What Does It Mean?

### 1. Free Primary Education FPE

The government pays for your learning at primary school.

KSh 12.5 billion

KSh 9.36 billion

Less money was allocated this year,

### 2. Free Day Secondary Education

The government helps you go to day secondary school and provides insurance.

KSh 65.4 billion

KSh 54.88 billion

This covers school fees and EduAfya insurance for students.

### 3. Junior Secondary Capitation JSS

Money for each junior secondary student (Grade 7–9).

KSh 25.5 billion

KSh 38.62 billion

More funds were allocated to support CBC learning.

### 4. Sanitary Towels for Girls

Free pads for girls to stay in class during periods.

KSh 940 million

Not specified

May be bundled into a larger health or education budget line.

### 5. Exams Fee Payment

The government pays for your national exams (KPE/KCE).

KSh 5 billion

KSh 1.72 billion  
(KNEC)

This amount goes to the Kenya National Examinations Council.

### 6. Teacher Hiring & CBC Training

More teachers were hired and trained to teach CBC.

KSh 6.1 billion

Not itemized directly, but likely included under teacher colleges or quality assurance.

Fewer schools may receive meals due to a smaller budget.





# Health and Safety

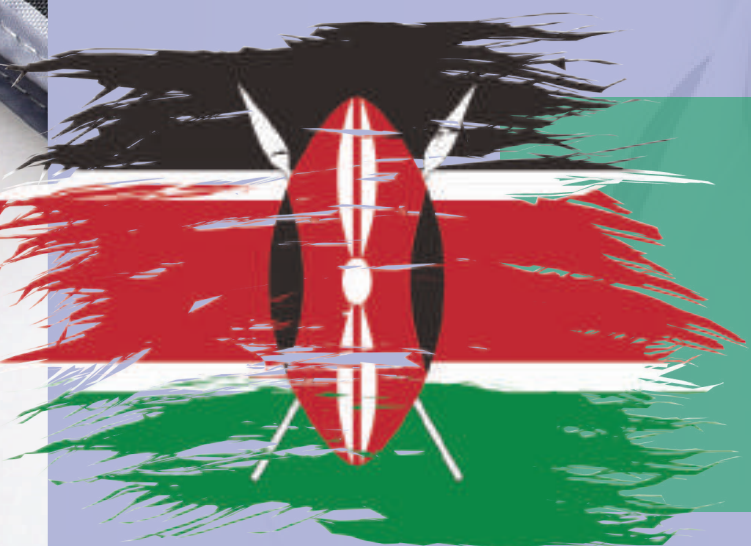




# DID YOU KNOW?

In 2025/26, Kenya plans to spend KSh 172.6 billion on health, this is more than ever before! That's a lot of money to help make sure people, including children, stay healthy.

## What's New?



### 2024/25.

the health budget was **KSh 118.86 billion**. Now it's **KSh 172.6 billion** that's over **KSh 53 billion** more!

This means the government wants to improve health services in many places. It shows they want:

- More doctors and nurses in hospitals
- More medicine for people who are sick
- Better equipment and facilities in clinics and health centres





## What's the Same?

The EduAfya program is still there. If you're a student in a public secondary school, you still have free health insurance. That means if you get sick, you can go to a hospital and get treated for free.



Hospitals and clinics will also keep treating children who have malaria, colds, flu, or injuries. Whether you live in a big city or a faraway village, the government wants you to be able to get help when you're sick.

## What's Missing or Not Clear?

**Some things are not easy to find in the budget:**



There's no separate amount just for children's health, like vaccines or school health clubs, even though we know these are still important.

Budget Item

What it Means	Estimated Budget 2025/26	What Does It Mean?
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1. EduAfya Student Insurance

Health cover for secondary school students.	Included in secondary education budget	Still part of Free Day Secondary Education (no separate budget).
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2. General Healthcare for Children

Money for hospitals and clinics to treat children.	Not itemized separately	Likely part of the larger Ministry of Health budget.
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# Every Child Matters



## Child Welfare and Protection



## DO YOU KNOW?

The government sets aside money every year to help children who need extra care and protection. This includes children without parents, children in trouble with the law, and even those who are too young to start primary school.

### State Department for Children Welfare Services (Overall Budget)

The State Department for Children Services is in charge of many child programs. In **2025/26**, they are getting **KSh 11.37 billion** to run children's homes, help street children, and protect kids from harm.

#### 1. Orphans and vulnerable children (called OVC)

The program that helps orphans and vulnerable children (called OVC) got more money this year. It rose from **KSh 7.9 billion** to **KSh 8.93 billion**. This helps children get food, school uniforms, and sometimes cash support.



#### 2. Child Protection Services (NCCS)

The Child Protection Services, which helps run children's rescue centres and keeps children safe from abuse, was given **KSh 81.1 million** in the **2025/26** budget. This money is meant to support children who are in danger or need urgent help. It is used to run rescue centres, provide shelter, and respond to child abuse cases.

While this amount will help protect many children, it's important to keep checking if it's enough to reach all the children who need support across the country.





### 3. Early Childhood Education (ECDE)

Money for Early Childhood Education (ECDE) is not clearly listed in this year's national budget. It may be included in another part of the budget, or counties may now be responsible for paying for pre-primary learning.

### 4. Children's Remand Homes

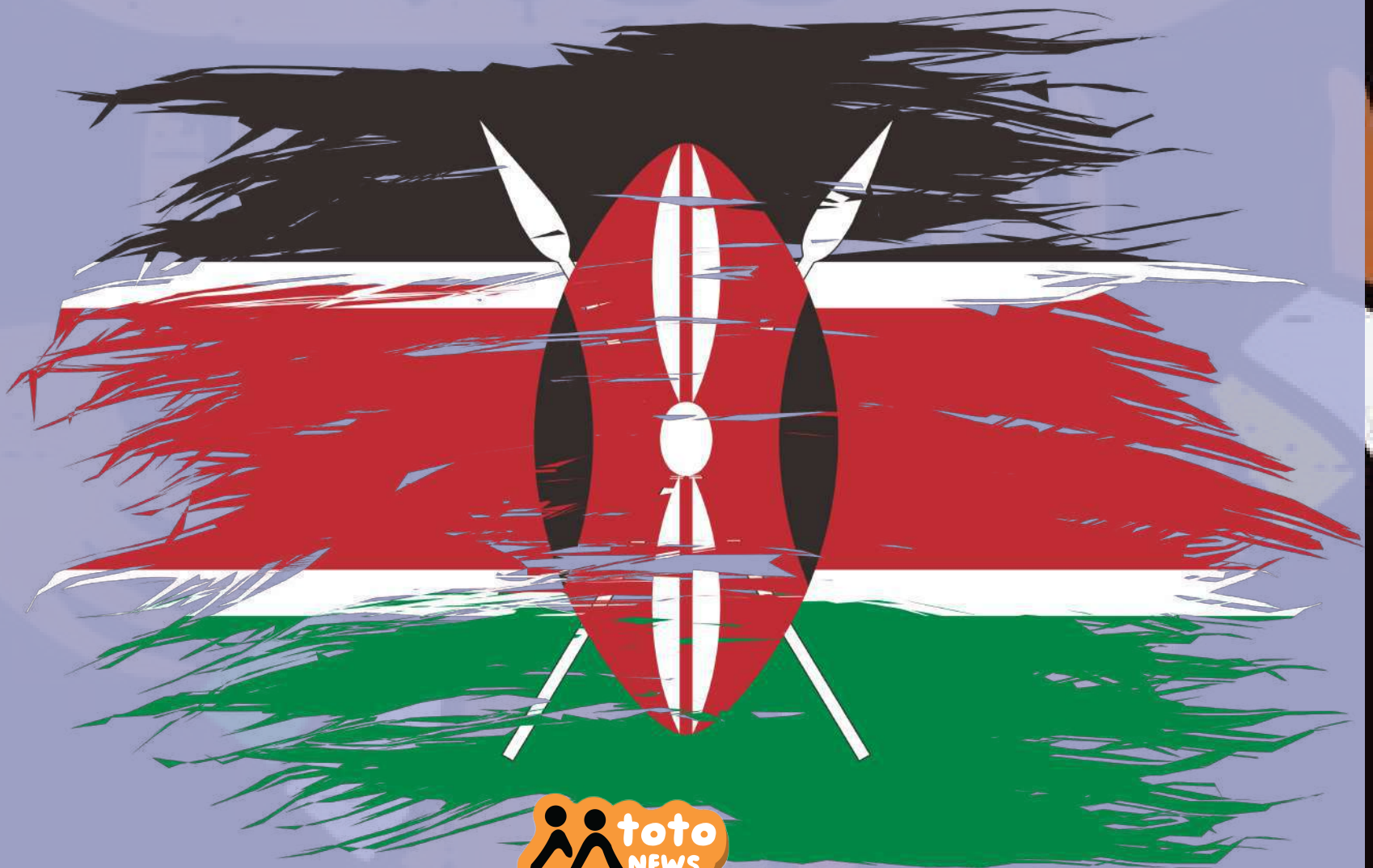
There is now a clear budget for Children's Remand Homes (KSh 180.6 million) and Borstal/Youth Training Centres (KSh 44.9 million).

These are places where children who have broken the law go to get guidance, education, and support instead of punishment.



# Budget Item

What it Means	Allocated Budget 2024/25	Estimated Budget 2025/26	Notes
<b>1. Support to Orphans &amp; Vulnerable Children</b>			
Helping orphans and children without enough family support.	Not specified	Not specified	Focused on cash transfers to provide direct support
<b>2. Child Protection Services (NCCS)</b>			
Keeps children safe and supports children's homes.	Not specified	Ksh 81,117,000	May be within larger child welfare allocations.
<b>3. Early Childhood Education (ECDE)</b>			
Supports learning for small children (age 3-5).	Not Specified	Not Specified	Slight increase from last year.





## Wait! The Budget Isn't Final Yet... So Let's Talk!

The budget we've shared in this booklet is called an "estimated budget" That means it's a plan the government is still working on but it is not the final version yet!



The final budget will be approved on June **30th** and there's time before then for you, your parents, teachers and community leaders to give feedback.



You can share what's missing what's needed more or what you think can be improved for children like you

### 1. The Financial Year

Kenya's financial year starts on July **1st** and ends on June **30th** the next year So the **2025/26** budget runs from July **1, 2025** to June **30, 2026**. That's when the government collects money (mostly through taxes) and spends it to run schools hospitals roads and children's programs.



## 2. When Does the Budget Start?

### September to January

Government departments start planning and asking what they need.

### February to March

The Treasury prepares a big draft budget called the Budget Policy Statement.

### April to May

The Parliament and public yes even kids give feedback on the proposed estimates

### June 15

Parliament must approve the final version

### June 30

The President signs it

### July 1

It becomes official and the money starts being used