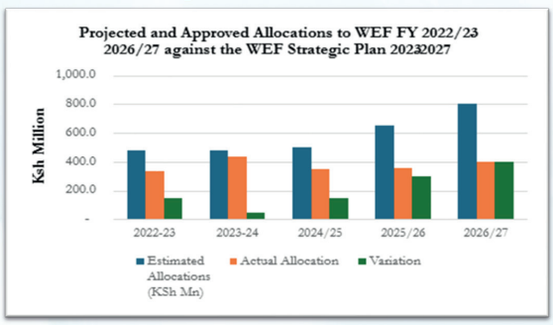
ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT:
RESOURCING AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE WOMEN ENTERPRISE FUND (WEF)

Annual National Shadow Budget 2027/2028

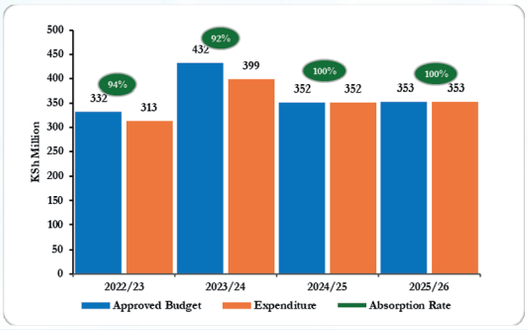
IPF
INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC FINANCE

Key Findings

Actual budget allocations remained below the projected financing requirements under the WEF Strategic Plan 2023–2027, resulting in a persistent and widening gap between planned resource needs and approved budget provisions



High absorption did not consistently produce the planned outputs, creating an efficiency gap between resources spent and results delivered.



Gaps in the Fund's legal and institutional framework, coupled with limited disclosure, may constrain transparency and Parliament's ability to assess the link between budget allocations, implementation performance and results.

Regulatory changes in 2021 and 2022 left uncertainty about WEF's specific governance and financing arrangements. Public access to the quarterly implementation reports promised in its strategy is also lacking. An adverse Auditor-General opinion on FY 2023/24 accounts identified serious documentation and control concerns. Audit queries do not, on their own, establish loss of public funds.

Policy Recommendations

01 Parliament should consider increasing budgetary allocations to the Women Enterprise Fund (WEF) to support the achievement of the strategic targets and objectives outlined in its Strategic Plan, particularly as the Plan approaches the end of its implementation period.

02 The WEF Board should develop and submit a consolidated financing schedule detailing the opening loan portfolio, anticipated loan repayments, administrative expenditures, funds available for onward lending, planned disbursements, and projected closing portfolio.

03 The WEF Board should strengthen monitoring, evaluation and learning systems within the Women Enterprise Fund (WEF) to ensure that financing reaches intended beneficiaries and contributes to sustainable women's economic empowerment.

https://repository.kippra.or.ke/server/api/core/bitstreams/b8ea8bfc-cb2b-457c-a58d-34873c977a16/content
https://wef.go.ke/resource/strategic-plan-2023-2027
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