



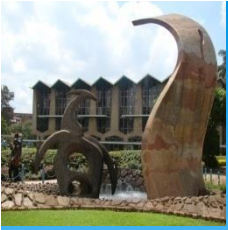
Devolution and Inclusive Citizenship in Kenya



Outline



- Background
- The problem
- Questions
- Methods
- Highlight of findings
- Conclusion



Background



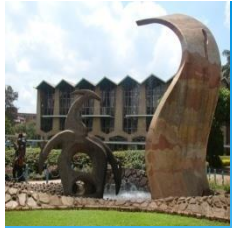
- ***Inclusive citizenship is at the heart of devolution in Kenya:***
 - Framing of Kenya Constitution 2010: justice, recognition, self-determination, and solidarity
 - Opportunity for democratic and accountable exercise of power
 - Self-governance to the people
 - Recognition of the rights of communities to manage their own affairs
 - Protect and promote the interests and rights of minorities and marginalised communities



Background



- **However:**
 - How power is exercised at the county level impacts on realization of devolutions' inclusionary potential
 - Challenges in engagement between county governments and citizens in service delivery
 - Patronage by county governments have undermined inclusion as envisioned in the Constitution.
 - Shift from 'techno-bureaucracies' to 'techno-democracies' not easy as envisioned
 - Entry point: public participation



Organizing questions



- How does devolution impact on inclusive citizenship in Kenya
 1. What is the nature of citizens engagement with devolved government?
 2. What identities are left out by the elites in the delivery of public goods in post-2013 Kenya?



Methods



- Key informant interviews in selected counties
- Focus group discussion in selected counties
- Afrobarometer Round 9 and Kenya Devolution Survey data set 2022
- Secondary sources

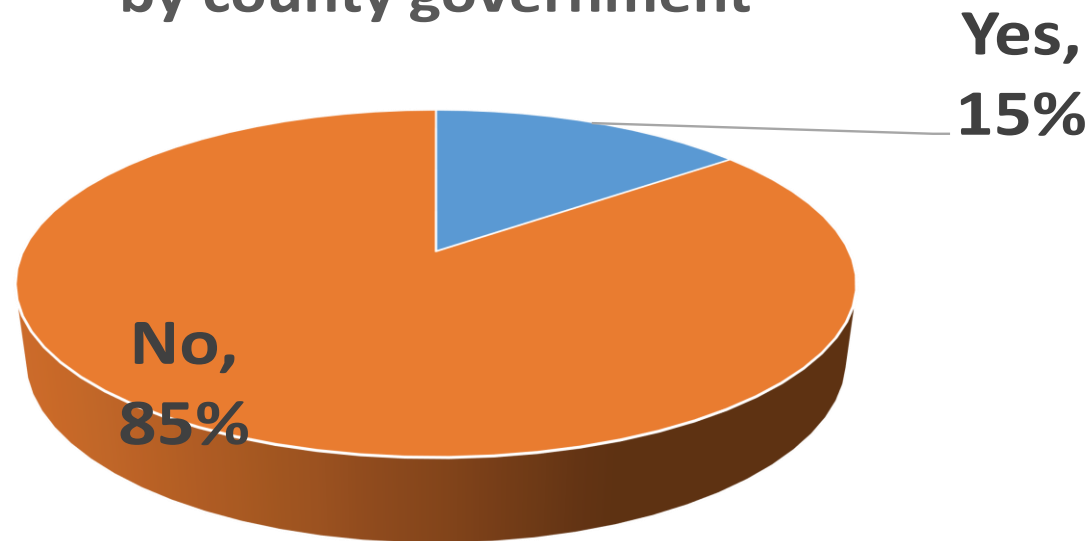


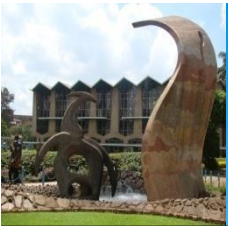
Nature of citizens engagement with devolved governance



- Public participation: good for accountability, improving citizens agency, voice and service delivery
- Citizens awareness of public forums organized by the county governments' which are open to all citizens remains low

Awareness of public forums organized by county government





Nature of citizens engagement with devolved governance



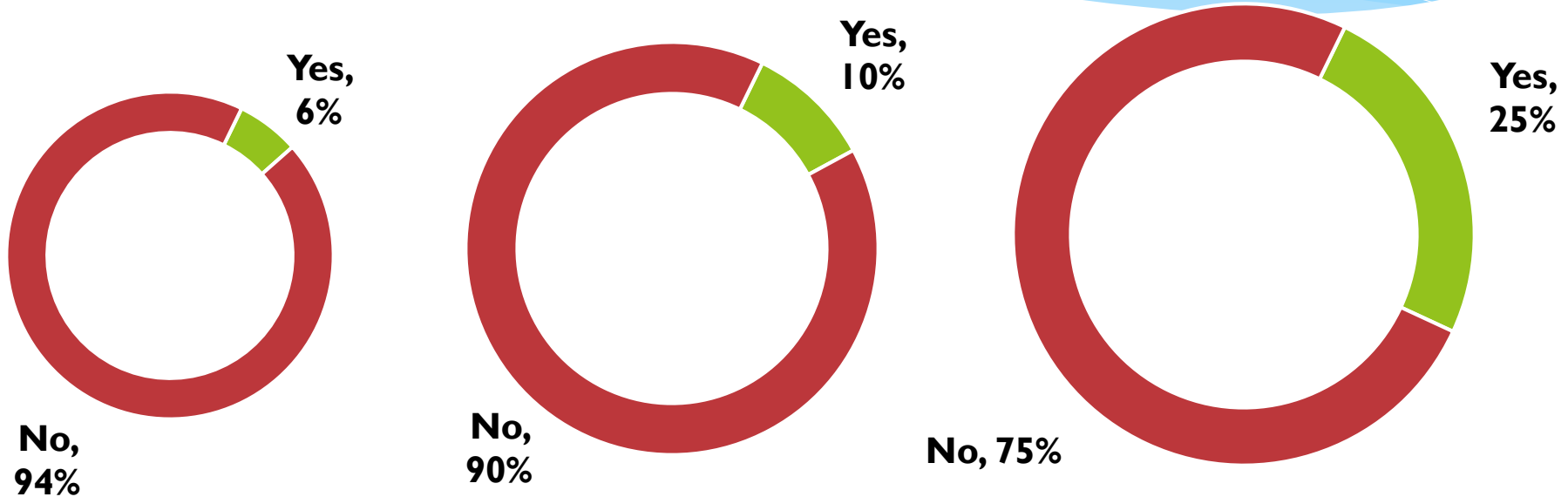
Category	Attend a community meeting	Join others to raise an issue	Attend a demonstration or protest
No, would never do this	7.00%	8.0%	67.00%
No, but would do if had the chance	28.10%	35.5%	21.20%
Yes, once or twice	17.40%	19.4%	5.90%
Yes, several times	32.40%	25.8%	3.20%
Yes, often	14.60%	10.7%	1.20%
Missing; unknown	0.00%	0.1%	0.00%
Don't know	0.40%	0.5%	1.50%



Nature of citizens engagement with devolved governance



- Existence of marked variations between public forums organized by Chiefs, vs. county government units



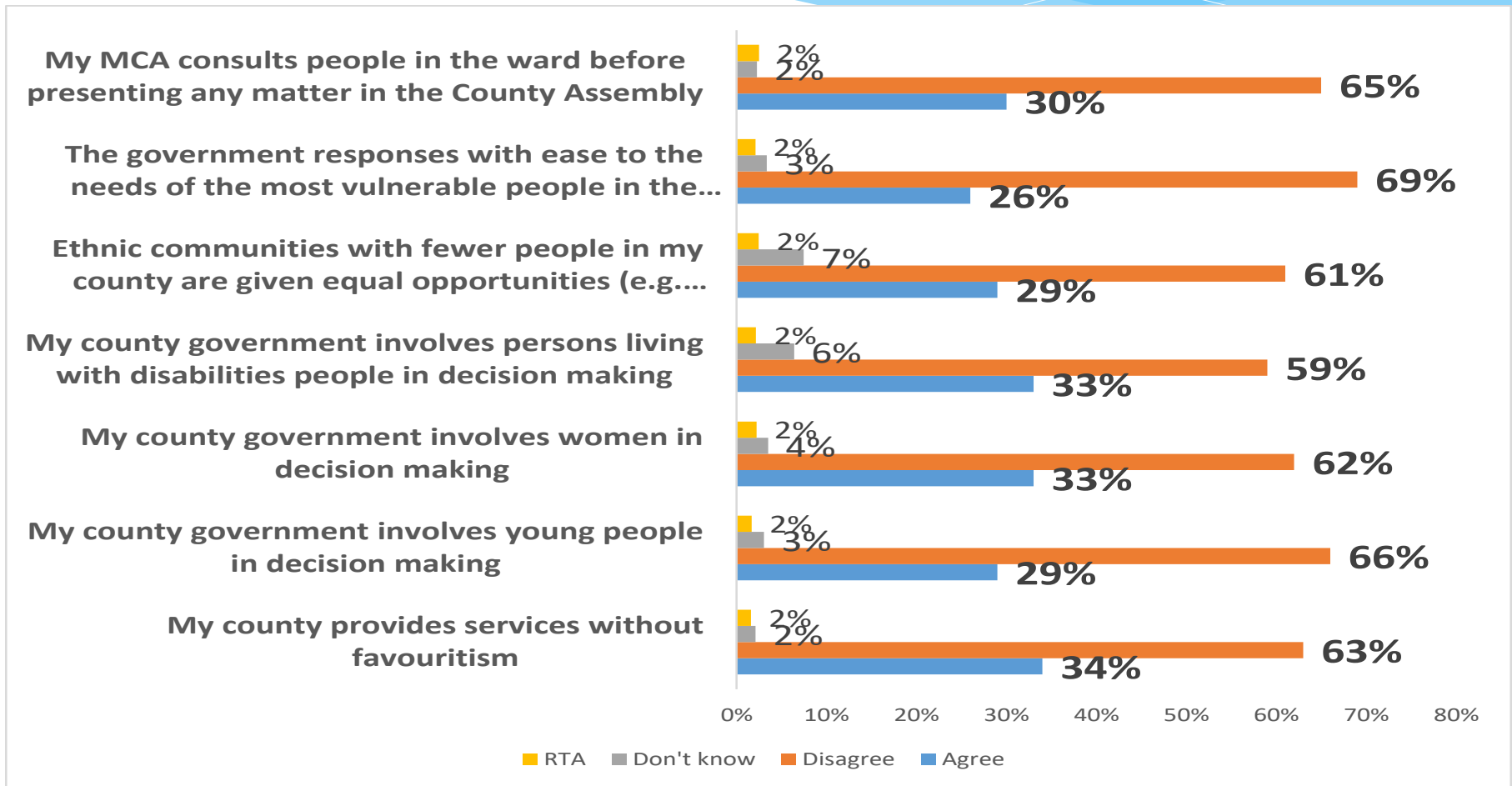
Comparison between public meeting attendance organized by the Governor, MCAs and Chiefs

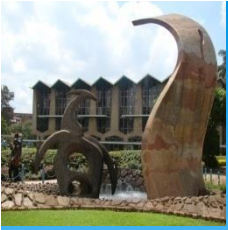


Nature of citizens engagement with devolved governance



- Overall, citizens have an issue with the nature of engagement with their county governments...





Nature of citizens engagement with devolved governance



- Does citizen's views matter in public decision making / tokenism
- Ease of influencing public decision making in the county
- Localized elites e.g. who get invited? / being co-opted
- Who set's the agenda for public participation forums
- What is the nature of feedback mechanisms
- Influence of pre-existing socio-cultural structure / relations between elites and non-elites
- Public expectation on compensation undermines practice of participation



Nature of citizens engagement with devolved governance



- Nature of elites commitment, public participation and inclusive development
- Willingness of county governor in strengthening participation
 - Operationalization of systems / structures for public engagement
 - Human resources
 - Devolution to village level would enhance participation
 - Resource envelop e.g. what goes to public participation



Identities left out...



What identities are left out by the elites in the delivery of public goods? How has this played out in pre-2010 and post-2010 Kenya?

- Devolution has expanded space for inclusion / voice of PWDAs, but more needs to be done
- A number of counties have initiated legislation on PWDAs e.g. Kisumu County 2014, Nairobi City County 2015, Machakos County 2016, Meru county 2016, Kilifi County 2016, Turkana County 2017, Homa Bay County 2019,
- However, devolution has opened new sites for marginalization of PWDAs e.g. being used in business elites in accessing public procurement



Identities left out...



What identities are left out by the elites in the delivery of public goods? How has this played out in pre-2010 and post-2010 Kenya?

- Enhanced every day conversations on inclusion of minorities, marginalized, women, youth, PWDAs / “haki yetu”
- Existence of varied participation gaps e.g. women (e.g. in ASALS); youth in some areas, PWDAs
- Exclusion of those considered ‘outspoken’ in the community
- Contradiction: inclusion yielding new sites for exclusion e.g. county public service

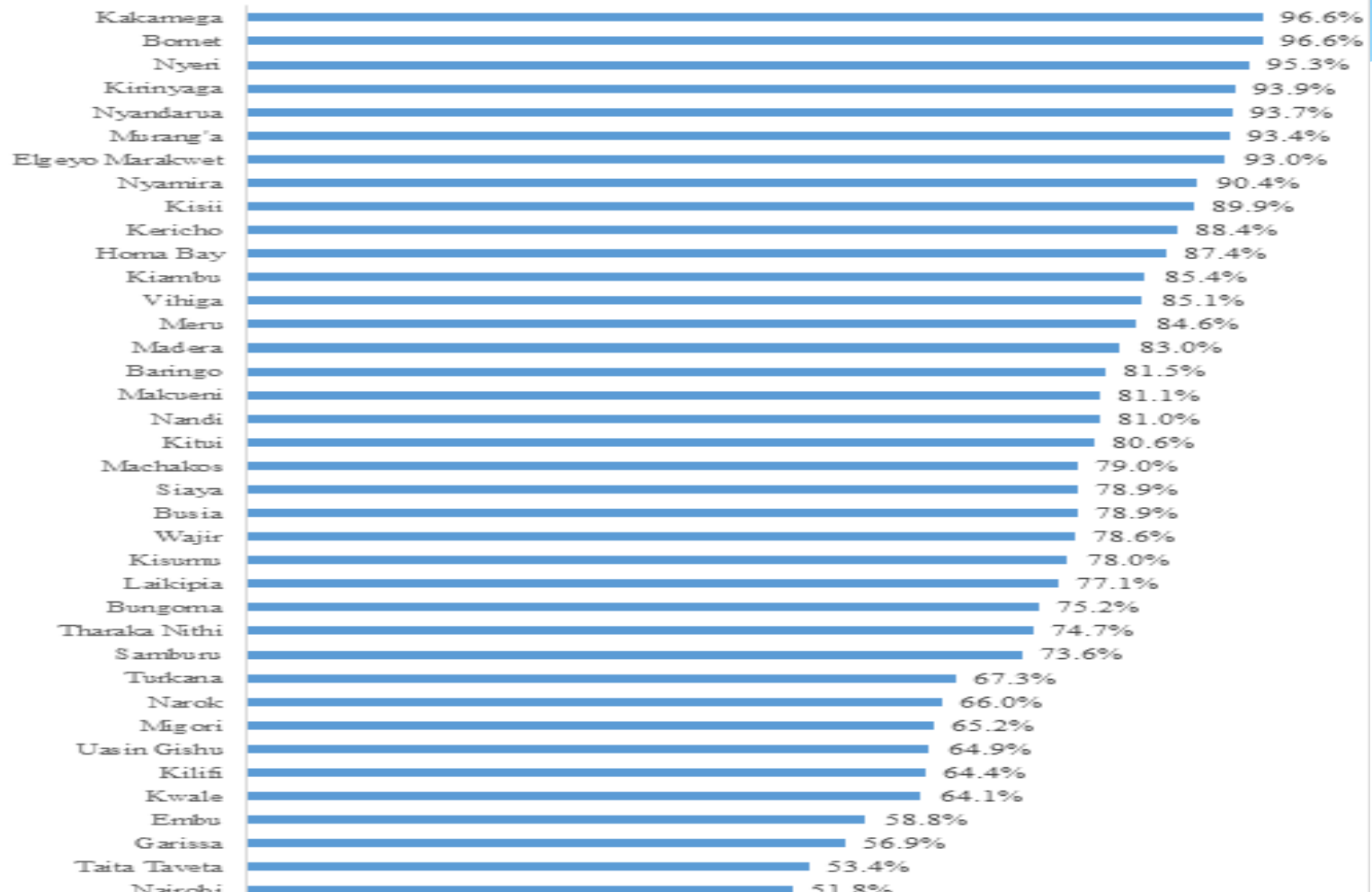


Identities left out...



Devolution: Exclusion through inclusion

Ethnic diversity in county public service





Identities left out...



What identities are left out by the elites in the delivery of public goods? How has this played out in pre-2010 and post-2010 Kenya?

- Lack of access to information remains a key blockage to the quality of citizen engagement in county processes

	Urban	Rural	Total (%)
Very easy	8	9	9
Somewhat easy	15	13	13
Not easy	73	72	73
Don't know	3	4	4
Refused To Answer	1	2	1



Identities left out...



Issue	Agree	Disagree	Don't know	RTA
I understand the county budget process	24%	68%	5%	2%
Citizens are involved in identification of priority programmes and projects to be implemented by my county government	25%	70%	3%	2%
My county government openly shares information on development projects	23%	70%	4%	2%
My county government is transparent in budget implementation	20%	72%	5%	2%
Information on county budget is availed in a format that ordinary citizens understand	21%	70%	6%	3%
My county government publicizes all planning, budgeting and budget execution documents	22%	69%	6%	2%
My county assembly reviews county budget effectively	24%	65%	9%	2%



Conclusion



- Counties are conscious of the need to mainstream inclusivity in public participation efforts so as to close differing participation gaps e.g. of gender, disability, minorities and marginalized groups.
- Devolution has expanded spaces to claim inclusive citizenship e.g. giving people voice, calls for justice etc.
- Inclusionary potential of devolution is being undermined by county level elite who do not seem to let go
- Devolving governance beyond the ward to the village level would help enhance the participation of citizens in county affairs.