Governor: H.E Dr. Wilber K. Ottichilo, EGH
Deputy Governor: H.E. Wilberforce Kitiezo
Speaker: Hon. Christopher Omulele, CBS
Capital: Mbale
Key towns: Mbale, Luanda, Chavakali, Hamisi and Majengo
Regional Bloc: Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB)
Constituencies: 5
Electoral wards: 25
Land area and size: 563.7 km²
Temperature range: 14°C and 32°C

Agriculture provides a living for 80% of the county's population, through direct and indirect employment.

The major activities that drive the Vihiga County economy are; cottage industries, small-scale subsistence farming which includes crop and livestock farming, tea farming, wholesale and retail trade, quarrying and mining.

Own Source Revenue (OSR) accounted for 4% of FY 2022/23 revenue.

Recommendations

- Improvement of the county's overall revenue profile mainly in fully automating revenue collection by establishing a one-stop collection portal for own source revenue. This will also help to address challenges associated with revenue leakages.

- Strengthen compliance for established county laws and policies such as the climate change policies and enhance capacity building and awareness in climate change and green finance.

- Embracing the debt capital markets for infrastructure development financing.

Gross County Product (GCP) of Kshs 101.18 billion contributes 0.8% of Kenya's GDP

Population of 606,044 people
Annual Growth Rate of 1%
Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy of the county contributing 38.7% to the county's GCP

Kshs 6.68 billion Revenue (FY 2022/23)
Kshs 5.95 billion Expenditure (FY 2022/23)
Kshs 1.35 billion Pending Bills (FY 2022/23)

"Bb-" ken
Shadow Credit Rating

Key green projects

- **Upgrade of Water Schemes (MASENO, LUNYERERE & KAIMOSI)**: Scale and replicate use of solar energy across various water schemes to improve the sustainability of water supply services in the County, and install storage capacities for solar energy.

- **Energy Efficiency**: Promote and support the installation of solar power systems in government offices, schools, healthcare centres, markets, streetlights and at the household level. Development of wind mills and solar farms.

- **Industrial and Export Processing Zone, Kaimosi**: Develop a special export processing zone in Kaimosi in partnership with the National Government Special Economic Zone Authority to increase the level of value addition to farm produce.

- **Integrated Solid Waste Management & Recycling Plant, Luanda South**: Establish a solid waste management and recycling plant in Luanda South to facilitate functional and effective waste management in the County.

Governance structures

- Presence of a legal & regulatory framework for green/climate finance - Vihiga County Climate Change Fund Act 2019
- Presence of Vihiga County Water and Sewerage Services Bill, 2015 and the Vihiga County Solid Waste Management Policy, 2019
- Qualified for Financing Locally
- Led Climate Action (FLLoCA) funds

Green assets

- Water bodies: River Izava, River Eusalwa, River Erjordan, River Igalagoli
- Hills: Maragoli Hills, Bunyore Hills, Munzatsi Hills and Ibuyangu Hills
- Forests: Kibiri Forest, Maragoli Forest, Kaimosi Forest and over 40 Community Forests

Vihiga is one of the counties with a functional geographical information system (GIS) Lab which it utilises to improve land use planning and management.

April 2024