



SDGs KENYA FORUM
For Sustainable Development

Report on “Leave No One Behind” Community Dialogue

Held at St. Luke’s Church Hall, Oloitokitok, Kajiado County

Hosted by VSO Kenya

Monday 28th November 2016

The Kenya SDG Forum has been organising a series of Community Dialogues in 5 counties with the theme of “Leave No One Behind”, commonly known as the LNB Dialogues, supported by CIVICUS (World Alliance for Citizen Participation). The aim of the dialogues is to enable the voices of some of the most marginalised communities in the country to share their feelings with regard to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and for the Kenya SDG Forum to gather information on the levels of exclusion that are experienced by citizens in the different counties. It is intended that the insights gathered in these dialogues will then be shared with the Kenyan government as Kenya prepares for Vision 2030 Medium Term Plan III and in other national planning process. Kenya is among countries that have volunteered to report during the next High Level Political Forum in 2017 at the international level and this therefore afforded an opportunity to the SDG Forum to shape the agenda locally and also be part of the implementation and reporting process.

The 5 dialogues took place in November-December 2016 in the following counties: Kakamega, Machakos, Meru (together with Isiolo), Kajiado and Nakuru. Each was organised and hosted by a different member of the SDG Forum and specific marginalised groups that were targeted throughout the process were Women, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), Young People, Pastoralists, Rural People and Older Persons.

The specific objective of the dialogues was as follows:

“To ensure effective engagement of the youth, persons with disabilities, older persons and rural and marginalised women and men in the implementation of the SDGs.”

The 4th LNB Dialogue was held in Kajiado County, specifically in Oloitokitok on Monday 28th November and was hosted by VSO, in particular their Youth Programme known as International Citizen Service (ICS). The dialogue was exceptionally well attended with a total of about 160 people who were representative of the marginalized groups listed above as well as representing the four Administrative Divisions of Oloitokitok sub-county.

The process for the day was as follows:

- Welcome Remarks (from County Government representatives, Community Representatives, the Kenya SDG Forum and VSO)
- Overview of SDGs framework and what it means for citizens at local level
- SDGs and Inclusion of Marginalised groups (Women, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), Young People, Pastoralists, Rural People and Older Persons)
- Identification of groups that are left behind, priorities, concerns/challenges, progress made by government, gaps and suggested solutions
- Agreement of key Action points / way forward and selection of team of 6 people to represent the group at National Forum event
- Reflections and Closing Remarks

The methods used during the day were a mix of Presentation, Plenary Dialogue and Groupwork. The main facilitators were Kavengo Matundu (SDG Forum), Florence Syevuo (SDG Forum) and John Cornwell (VSO), supported by Yvonne Komora (VSO-ICS Project Coordinator).

The small groups were organised in the following way: Youth (2 groups), Women & Men. The combined outputs from the different groups were as follows:

Which Groups are left behind in this (sub-) county?

- Women
- People living with disabilities
- Elderly people
- Street families
- Illiterate people
- People living in marginalised areas
- Boy children
- People living under extreme poverty
- Widows
- People living with HIV & AIDS
- Orphans
- Pastoralists

What are the challenges people face in the community?

- Poverty
- Tribalism
- Insecurity
- Illiteracy
- Corruption
- Poor leadership
- Insecurity
- Unemployment.
- Inequality
- Climatic change
- Cultural barriers
- Lack of women empowerment
- Ignorance
- Political goodwill
- Less resources
- Infrastructure
- Early marriages
- Water and hygiene
- Drug and substance abuse
- Human wild life conflict
- Lack of proper law enforcement especially due to corruption and bribe
- Lack of finance
- Lack of cooperation (team work)

What progress has the government made in tackling these children?

- Lobby for gender equality
- Adult education
- Rural electrification
- Free primary education
- Food security sensitization
- Capacity building/ community empowerment
- Security improvement (nyumba kumi initiatives)
- Easier and fast access to funds
- Improvement of infrastructure
- Free medical care (maternal services)
- Improvement of technology for example communication channels
- Establishment of rescue centres
- Anti-female genital mutilation campaigns
- Drilling of boreholes
- Water filter distribution
- Cohesive co-existence
- Existence of women and youth funds
- Availability of bursaries for needy children to aid in the education

What possible Solutions are there for the issues affecting communities?

- ❖ Advocacy on equality
- ❖ Workshops and vocational trainings
- ❖ Marketing strategies in agricultural produce
- ❖ Integrity and accountability
- ❖ Education on farming methods depending on climate and type of soil
- ❖ Follow up on projects
- ❖ Enlighten community on the role played by Non-Governmental Organisations
- ❖ Inclusive involvement by government and all locals
- ❖ Ensuring the sustainability of projects by establishing partnership to avoid duplication
- ❖ Come up with policies to reduce deforestation
- ❖ Consensus change of mindset to harmful cultural practices

Agreed Action points

1. Form a committee in charge of community development activities and networking
2. Using CBOs to pass information to others
3. Make use of technology in order to get information
4. Everyone to be in charge to creating awareness to others
5. Form groups in charge of community development issues

Elected Representatives (representing different Divisions of Oloitokitok, Youth, PWDs, Men & Women)

Grace Koyah, Saidimu Kisaru, David Sarbabi, Serah Ngei Momoi, John Taiko Manto & Alice Wambui Ngige

Conclusion

The dialogue was overall a great success and, despite the large numbers present, there was a lot of engagement of participants and high levels of interest to learn about the SDGs and to understand their implications for development in the sub-county and the broader county of Kajiado.

One very positive outcome was the formation (through a participatory process) of a group / team who will represent the County at the forthcoming National Dialogue. This team held their first meeting at the end of the Dialogue and have since formed a whatsapp group and have been actively communicating amongst themselves and with their other colleagues around SDG issues to ensure that the agenda of “Leave No One Behind” is becoming internalised at a local level.

Many thanks to the wonderful participants who came with energy, ideas and willingness to share their thoughts and feelings. Thanks also to the VSO-ICS team who organised every aspect of the programme and logistics, as well as the members of the SDG Forum and GCAP (Global Call for Action against Poverty) who gave practical support to the participants through their presence and participation.

John Cornwell & Yvonne Komora
VSO Kenya
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