



**SDGs KENYA FORUM**

Coalition for Sustainable Development

**SPOTLIGHT**

**Q1**

# NEWSLETTER

JANUARY - MARCH HIGHLIGHTS ON FOSTERING COLLABORATION AND DRIVING PROGRESS



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## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 1st Quarter Newsletter of the SDGs Kenya Forum for the year 2024! As we step into a new year, we are excited to share with you the remarkable progress and impactful initiatives that have marked the beginning of this journey. This edition covers the months of January through March and highlights our unwavering commitment to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Kenya.

In this newsletter, we showcase a series of significant events and inspiring success stories that have shaped the first quarter. From groundbreaking projects that promote gender equality, we are proud to highlight the collective efforts of our team and partners in making a difference.

Our aim is to keep you informed and engaged with the latest developments and achievements within the SDGs Kenya Forum. We believe that transparency and communication are key to fostering collaboration and driving progress. This edition not only reflects our past accomplishments but also sets the stage for future initiatives that promise to bring us closer to our goals.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our mission. Together, we can achieve sustainable development and create a brighter, more equitable future for all. Stay tuned for more updates and join us in celebrating the successes and milestones of the first quarter of 2024.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

We are thrilled to present to you the latest edition of our newsletter, which encapsulates the incredible strides we have made in promoting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Kenya and across the globe. This quarter has been a period of significant activity and progress, marked by several impactful events and collaborative initiatives. Our commitment to driving sustainable development remains unwavering, and we are excited to share these developments with you.

The first quarter of 2024 has been a period of remarkable progress and collaboration for our community. We kicked off the year with the highly anticipated CSOs Voluntary National Reviews Report Writing workshop in partnership with the Open Institute. This three-day event provided a platform for reviewing our achievements and engaging with technical experts to enrich our submissions, underscoring our commitment to sustainable development goals.

In March, the Technical Working Committee on Citizen-Generated Data held a pivotal workshop that brought together experts and stakeholders to explore the potential and challenges of citizen-generated data. The workshop fostered dynamic exchanges and innovative approaches, strengthening our collective capacity for data-driven decision-making.



Additionally, we played a crucial role in "The Africa We Want and the UN We Need: A Regional Dialogue for the Summit of the Future" held in Abuja. Our active participation and contributions highlighted our dedication to regional dialogue and partnerships, shaping a vision aligned with our sustainable development aspirations.

As we reflect on these accomplishments, we invite you and your organizations to join our community. By becoming members, you will have the opportunity to collaborate, share knowledge, and contribute to our mission of creating a brighter, more equitable future.

Thank you for reading our quarterly newsletter. Your continued support and commitment are vital as we strive to make a lasting impact. Let us continue to work together towards achieving the SDGs and building a brighter future for all.

**Regards,**

*Florence Syevuo*

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

# Empowering Youth for Global Advocacy AUNYD Workshops and Trainings

Welcome to the latest edition of the SDGs Kenya Forum Newsletter!

During the first quarter, we had two significant events under the Africa United Nations Young Delegates (AUNYD) program: the National Education Assessment Workshop which was held in Machakos County and the First Regional Training held in Juba, South Sudan. These events marked a major step in empowering youth delegates from diverse regions, including Turkana, Kisumu, Mombasa, Nairobi, and beyond, equipping the youths with skills and knowledge needed to advocate for youth-related issues on a global stage.

## National Education Assessment Workshop:

### A Milestone in Youth Empowerment

Held in Machakos County, the National Education Assessment Workshop brought together vibrant youth fellows for comprehensive assessments and training sessions. Experienced facilitators, Wilkister Aduma and Diana Kaburu, led the sessions, guiding the fellows through UN protocols and encouraging the development of innovative ideas for global advocacy.

The Fellows showcased their impressive intellect and deep commitment to addressing critical issues faced by youth in Kenya and East African countries. Through a rigorous selection process, two outstanding delegates were chosen to represent the youth at the upcoming UN General Assembly in New York and undergo rigorous regional trainings ahead of their mission. This milestone highlights our ongoing efforts to empower young leaders and promote meaningful youth participation in international forums.

A key component of the workshop was the design of the outreach campaigns by the Fellows ahead of the implementation and execution. These campaigns aim to raise awareness, advocate for youth rights, and promote Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within communities in Kenya. (localization of the SDGs) The creativity and dedication displayed was truly inspiring, underscoring the potential of our youth to drive meaningful change at the local, national, regional and global stage.

## AUNYD First Regional Training in Juba: Equipping Youth for Global Engagement

Following the success of the National Education Assessment Workshop, the AUNYD program conducted its First Regional Training in Juba, South Sudan. This dynamic event brought together passionate youth representatives from various countries, focusing on equipping them with the necessary skills to engage in United Nations processes effectively.

The training kicked off with an emphasis on understanding the key roles of UN Youth Representatives and delving into essential documents that would guide their work. Through interactive sessions led by experienced mentors, the delegates gained valuable insights into drafting mandates, identifying gaps, and contributing to the Summit of the Future (SOTF) scheduled for September 2024 in New York.

One of the highlights was the group discussions where youth representatives collaborated with South Sudanese youth fellows to explore optimal approaches for



incorporating outreach campaigns into their mandates. These discussions emphasized the importance of partnering with local youth, timely updates, and involving host country youth in event planning to enhance youth engagement and participation in decision-making processes.

The delegates also participated in a simulated panel discussion, mirroring the United Nations High-Level Week. This exercise prepared them to present their demands and mandates effectively, fostering critical thinking and engagement on issues such as youth participation, unemployment, and peace and security.

As the training progressed, the youth representatives set the stage for weekly virtual meetings to prepare for upcoming events like the ECOSOC Youth Forum and Civil Society Conference. These meetings, facilitated by dedicated moderators and rapporteurs, will serve as platforms for knowledge sharing, progress tracking, and continuous communication among the delegates.

The training concluded with a reflective session

where mentors, representatives, coordinators, and the UNASS team shared their experiences and insights. This vibrant exchange highlighted the strong bonds formed within the team and the anticipation for future collaborations and interactions.

## Looking Ahead: Empowering Youth for Global Change

The National Education Assessment Workshop and the AUNYD First Regional Training in Juba were transformative experiences for our youth delegates. These events have empowered them to become ambassadors of change and advocates for global progress. As these young leaders continue their journey, they are poised to make a lasting impact on the world stage, driving positive change and amplifying the voices of youth across Africa and beyond.

We are proud to support these young leaders in their quest for positive change and look forward to their continued success on the global stage. Stay tuned for more updates on their journey and impact in our upcoming quarterly newsletters. Together, we can create a sustainable and equitable future for all.



# THE PEOPLE DIALOGUE FESTIVAL

## Empowering Communities through the SDG Village at the People Dialogue Festival 2024

We are excited to bring you highlights from the People Dialogue Festival (PDF) 2024, held at the University of Nairobi. This dynamic event brought together diverse voices and perspectives for meaningful discussions on governance, democracy, and sustainable development. A key highlight of the festival was the SDG Village, a dedicated space for engaging conversations about the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their local implementation.

The SDG Village served as a vibrant platform for stakeholders to explore the interconnectedness of democracy, sustainability, and inclusive development. Participants from various sectors emphasized the importance of collaborative partnerships across themes, populations, and nations to achieve the SDGs collectively. These discussions underscored the need for transparency, accountability, and innovative financing mechanisms to effectively support SDG projects. The energy and commitment displayed by all attendees were truly inspiring.

Climate action took center stage at the SDG Village, with conversations focusing on the critical role of grassroots engagement, civic education, and youth involvement in combating climate change. Participants highlighted the significance of youth-led innovations and inclusive partnerships in driving progress towards the SDGs. The village fostered a sense of urgency and empowerment, encouraging young people to take an active role in sustainable development initiatives.

Throughout the festival, the SDG Village facilitated in-depth discussions on Kenya's progress towards the SDGs, challenges in data management, and the pivotal role of counties in SDG implementation. The interactive sessions not only raised awareness about the SDGs but

also inspired actionable recommendations for enhancing their implementation in Kenya. By fostering dialogue, collaboration, and innovation, the SDG Village empowered communities to take ownership of the sustainable development agenda and work towards a more inclusive and accountable future.

In conclusion, the SDG Village at the People Dialogue Festival 2024 exemplified the power of collective action and partnership in driving progress towards the SDGs. It showcased the importance of inclusive dialogue, youth engagement, and innovative solutions in advancing sustainable development goals at the local level. The festival served as a catalyst for change, inspiring participants to actively contribute to building a more sustainable and equitable society. By highlighting the transformative potential of the SDGs and promoting collaborative efforts, the SDG Village demonstrated that sustainable development is not just a goal but a collective responsibility that requires the commitment and engagement of all stakeholders.





## DATA FOR MONITORING SDGs

### PEER TO PEER LEARNING WORKSHOP

Enhancing Sustainable Development Goals Monitoring Through Peer-to-Peer Learning

The Capacity Enhancement Session on Civil Society Organization Voluntary National Reviews (CSO VNR) held on the 14th and 15th of March was a pivotal opportunity for CSOs to strengthen their reporting capabilities on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Participants received guidance on aligning CSO data with national indicators, reporting on interventions aimed at accelerating SDG implementation, and reflecting on the impact of COVID-19. Key aspects discussed included the principles of leaving no one behind, addressing emerging challenges, and contextualizing larger frameworks to grassroots levels. Additionally, the session focused on generating initial drafts for the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), conducting gap analysis, sharing success stories, and providing recommendations for future actions.

As we move forward, let us actively engage in the VNR process, share our organizational interventions, and work towards achieving our commitments. The upcoming CSO conference in Nairobi and the High-Level Political Forum present excellent opportunities for us to influence policy and drive positive change.

NB: We urge all organizations, regardless of size, to participate in the VNR process. It offers valuable partnerships and enhanced visibility for your work. Thank you to all participants for their enthusiastic involvement in the session. Let's continue collaborating towards a sustainable and inclusive future.





# The CSOs Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report Writing Workshop

Empowering Civil Society Organizations in Kenya: A Path to Sustainable Development

In a concerted effort to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda in Kenya, the SDGs Kenya Forum, in collaboration with the Open Institute, recently organized a transformative three-day workshop for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). The workshop, held from 25th to 27th March 2024 at Maanzoni Lounge in Machakos, focused on the preparation of the 2024 CSO Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report.

The VNR process, inspired by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, serves as a critical platform for countries to assess and present their progress in implementing the SDGs. Recognizing the importance of inclusive reviews at both national and sub-national levels, the workshop aimed to equip CSOs with the necessary tools and knowledge to contribute effectively to the national development process.

Through a series of engaging sessions, stakeholders representing diverse groups such as women, persons living with disabilities, youth, children, seniors, indigenous communities, and marginalized populations came together to share experiences, best practices, and challenges encountered in their respective fields. The workshop not only facilitated a comprehensive review of CSO progress but also provided a forum for technical experts to interact with participants and enhance their report submissions.

One of the key highlights of the workshop was the development of a roadmap outlining

timelines for organizations to submit their reports for compilation. This structured approach not only encouraged collaboration and information sharing but also emphasized the importance of continuous improvement and learning within the CSO community.

As Kenya prepares to present its third VNR in July 2024, the workshop underscored the significance of CSOs in aligning their activities with the national development agenda. By mirroring the VNR process and assessing their contributions to the SDGs, CSOs play a pivotal role in driving sustainable and inclusive growth across the country.

Looking ahead, the roadmap outlined during the workshop delineates clear steps for CSOs to finalize and submit their reports, culminating in the formal submission of the CSO VNR report to the Government in May 2024. This collaborative effort not only strengthens the partnership between CSOs and the government but also reinforces the commitment to achieving the SDGs in Kenya.

In conclusion, the workshop served as a catalyst for empowerment, collaboration, and knowledge sharing among CSOs, paving the way for a more sustainable and prosperous future for all Kenyan citizens. As we celebrate the progress made and anticipate the launch of the final VNR report, let us continue to work together towards a world where no one is left behind, and where the collective efforts of civil society drive positive change and transformation in our society.

## TECHNICAL WORKING COMMITTEE WORKSHOP ON CITIZEN-GENERATED DATA

This collaborative endeavor brought together experts, practitioners, and stakeholders passionate about harnessing the power of citizen-generated data for meaningful impact. Against the backdrop of innovation and collaboration, participants delved deep into discussions aimed at exploring the potential, challenges, and best practices surrounding citizen-generated data.

Throughout the workshop sessions, participants engaged in dynamic exchanges, sharing insights, experiences, and innovative approaches. From exploring methodologies for data collection to discussing strategies for data validation and analysis, the workshop fostered rich dialogue and collective learning. As we collectively navigate the evolving landscape of data-driven decision-making, the workshop served as a crucial platform for forging synergies, building capacity, and advancing the frontier of citizen-generated data initiatives.

Looking ahead, we are energized by the momentum generated during the workshop and the commitment of participants to drive forward actionable solutions. With a shared vision of empowering communities through data, we are poised to embark on a journey of collaboration, innovation, and impact. Together, let us continue to harness the transformative potential of citizen-generated data to create positive change and foster inclusive development.



## FEATURE ARTICLES

### Spotlight on Gender Equality (SDG 5)

Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world. Our initiatives in this quarter focused on empowering women through education, economic opportunities, and leadership development. We partnered with Implementing Partners to provide training for women in the marginalized areas, equipping them with skills to be independent. The month of March was Women's History Month and closely with our Implementing Partners we joined forces in honoring the incredible contributions of women throughout history.



### Spotlight on CSOs Voluntary National Review

Civil society organizations (CSOs) from across sectors convened for a momentous gathering aimed at catalyzing sustainable development goals. With a resounding commitment to fostering inclusive dialogue and collaborative action, stakeholders united to embark on this transformative journey. Together, we're poised to chart a course towards meaningful change, harnessing the collective power of advocacy and partnership.





## Spotlight on Field Visit to our Goal Group 15

We were thrilled to visit our SDG 15 goal group lead, Greening Mua Environmental Initiative, which showcased impressive climate action in Mua Location. Their inclusive approach, engaging women, youth, people with disabilities, schools, and religious organizations, truly demonstrated grassroots impact. This initiative amplifies the voices of vulnerable groups and communities, embodying the spirit of the SDGs through hands-on implementation. It was inspiring to see such dedicated efforts towards sustainability and community empowerment in action!



## PARTNER UPDATES

### Collaboration with Open Institute

In collaboration with Open Institute, we kicked off a three-day CSOs Voluntary National Review Report Writing workshop, marking a significant milestone in our collective journey towards sustainable development. During this workshop, we reviewed the progress made thus far and provided valuable insights to enrich the submissions. Technical experts interfaced with participants, fostering dynamic exchanges and collaborative learning. Together, we delved into methodologies, explored best practices, and honed our skills to ensure that our submissions reflect the depth of our commitment and the breadth of our expertise. As we continue to advocate for inclusive development and meaningful change, let us leverage this opportunity to amplify our voices and drive forward actionable solutions.



### Regional Dialogue

The SDGs Forum Kenya played a pivotal role as an active partner and contributor to “The Africa We Want and the UN We Need: A Regional Dialogue for the Summit of the Future,” held in Abuja. This significant event provided a platform for robust discussions and collaborations, shaping the vision for a future that aligns with our sustainable development goals. Our involvement underscores our commitment to these global processes and highlights our dedication to fostering regional dialogue and partnerships for a brighter, more sustainable future.





## UPCOMING EVENTS



### National SDG Summit August 2024

Mark your calendars for our National SDG Summit, which will bring together stakeholders from all sectors to review progress and strategize on accelerating SDG implementation.

### THE 2024 Annual National SDGs MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS CONFERENCE

### Annual Multi-Stakeholders Conference December 2024

We are looking forward to yet another engaging Annual National Multi-Stakeholders Conference 2024. The conference theme, dates and venue will be shared soon.



## BECOME A MEMBER

We are excited to invite you and your organizations to become members of our dynamic and impactful community! By joining us, you will have the opportunity to collaborate with like-minded individuals and organizations dedicated to advancing sustainable development goals and driving positive change. As a member, you'll gain access to exclusive events, workshops, and resources designed to empower and inspire.

Together, we can amplify our voices, share knowledge, and build a network of support and innovation. Whether you are an individual passionate about making a difference or an organization committed to sustainable development, your involvement is invaluable. Join us in our mission to create a brighter, more equitable future for all.

Become a member today and be a part of something extraordinary!



## STAY INFORMED

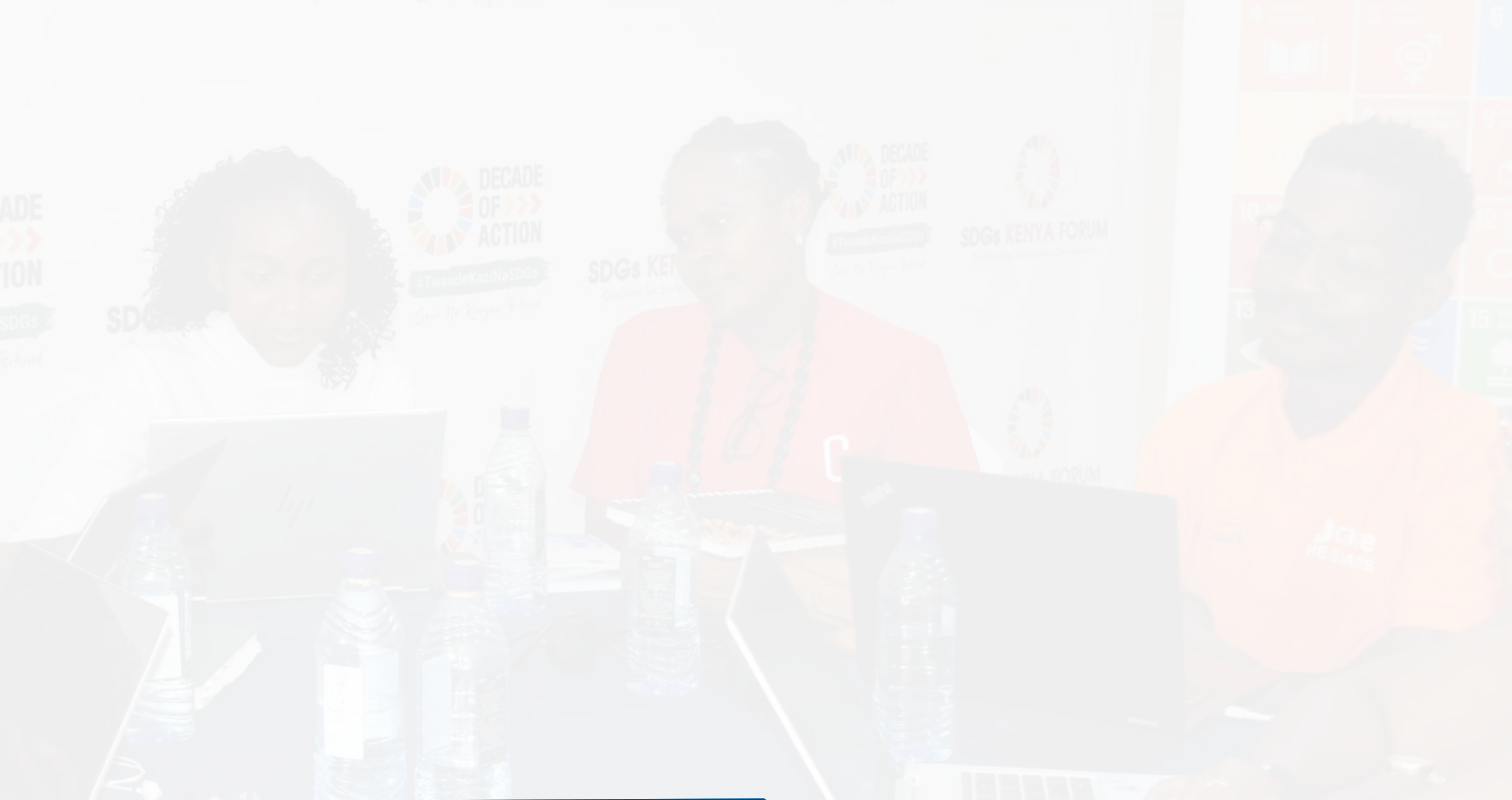
Follow us on social media and subscribe to our newsletter to stay updated on our latest activities and opportunities to get involved.

## CONCLUSION

As we conclude the first quarter of 2024, we reflect on the incredible strides we have made together. From the successful launch of the VNR inception meeting to the enriching workshop on citizen-generated data and our active participation in regional dialogues, this quarter has been a testament to our collective commitment to sustainable development and positive change.

Your engagement, passion, and dedication have been the driving force behind these achievements. As we move forward, let us continue to harness our collective strength, innovate, and collaborate to achieve our shared goals. Together, we are creating a brighter, more equitable future for all.

**Thank you for being part of the SDGs Kenya Forum community.**



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