

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



*Solutions to Leapfrog SDGs Implementation in
the last Stretch to 2030*



SDGs KENYA FORUM
Coalition for Sustainable Development





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WORD FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON

Dear Esteemed Stakeholders,

It is with great pride that I address you on behalf of the SDGs Kenya Forum as we commemorate another year of outstanding achievements. Our collective efforts in SDG localization and capacity-building have significantly impacted Kenya's development landscape. From empowering over 400 marginalized citizens through grassroots dialogues to aligning political party frameworks with SDG priorities, 2024 has exemplified the power of partnerships and collaboration.



This year, gender equity and inclusive representation took center stage in our agenda. Milestones such as the Kajiado County WEE Policy and the Samburu Gender Policy highlight our success in advocating for progressive legislative frameworks. The establishment of the European Union Kenya Youth Sounding Board exemplifies our commitment to meaningful youth engagement, fostering leadership and innovation at local and global levels.

The Forum's commitment to accountability and evidence-based advocacy has been reinforced through strategic partnerships with KNBS, UN Women, and FEMNET, among others. Initiatives like the Citizen-Generated Data framework have set new benchmarks in transparency and inclusivity, bridging critical data gaps in SDG monitoring and reporting. At international forums, our representation has showcased Kenya as a model for SDG-driven policies and practices.

As we look to the future, sustainability remains central to our mission. By prioritizing local ownership, robust partnerships, and capacity-building, we aim to institutionalize SDG frameworks within county governance structures. Together, we can ensure that no one is left behind in this transformative journey.

Thank you for your invaluable contributions to the Forum's success. Let us forge ahead with renewed determination and solidarity for a brighter, more sustainable future.

With sincere appreciation,

George Awala

Chairperson, SDGs Kenya Forum

WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Members, Partners, and Stakeholders,

As we reflect on 2024, I extend warm greetings and deep gratitude for your unwavering support in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across Kenya. This year has been marked by significant progress in the localization and domestication of SDGs for ownership, which has strengthened the integration of global goals into national and county-level policies. By working together, we have empowered grassroots communities through initiatives like the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) dialogues and strengthened capacities for data-driven decision-making, reinforcing our commitment to inclusive development.



Gender equity remained at the heart of our work, as demonstrated by the remarkable achievements of the Meaningful Engagement: Transformative Action (META) project and Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) initiatives. These efforts have driven policy advancements at county levels and fostered leadership among women and youth. Additionally, our advocacy for accountability and data-informed processes has built a robust framework for monitoring and reporting SDG progress. Partnerships with key actors such as the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) have been pivotal in embedding Citizen-Generated Data into national systems, ensuring that every voice counts.

Globally, regionally, and nationally, we amplified Kenya's presence in SDG dialogues. [At the High-Level Political Forum \(HLPF\)](#), United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD), and the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68) [and at the Humburg Sustainability Conference](#), we highlighted Kenya's advancements while sharing lessons learned. These platforms not only positioned us as leaders but also catalyzed new opportunities for collaboration. As we look ahead, the Forum remains steadfast in its mission to achieve sustainable development by embracing innovation, inclusivity, and evidence-based strategies.

I thank our members, partners, and supporters for their relentless dedication to this mission. Let us continue to champion transformative change, ensuring that the SDGs are not just aspirations but realities for all.

Warm regards,

Florence Syevuo

Executive Director, SDGs Kenya Forum

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2024 Annual Progress Report by the SDGs Kenya Forum showcases significant strides in advancing sustainable development across Kenya. Guided by its Strategic Plan (2023–2027), the Forum has demonstrated remarkable achievements in SDG localization, gender equity, youth engagement, data-driven advocacy, and capacity building. With 320 member organizations spanning all 47 counties, the Forum’s membership grew by 70 organizations in 2024, reflecting its expanding reach and influence.

Key initiatives included community dialogues, capacity-building workshops, and multi-stakeholder engagements in counties such as Taita Taveta, Makueni, and Siaya, focusing on empowering marginalized groups and enhancing grassroots participation in SDG processes. The Forum also strengthened partnerships with key stakeholders, including government bodies, international organizations, and civil society, facilitating robust policy advocacy, gender equity initiatives, and data ecosystem enhancements.

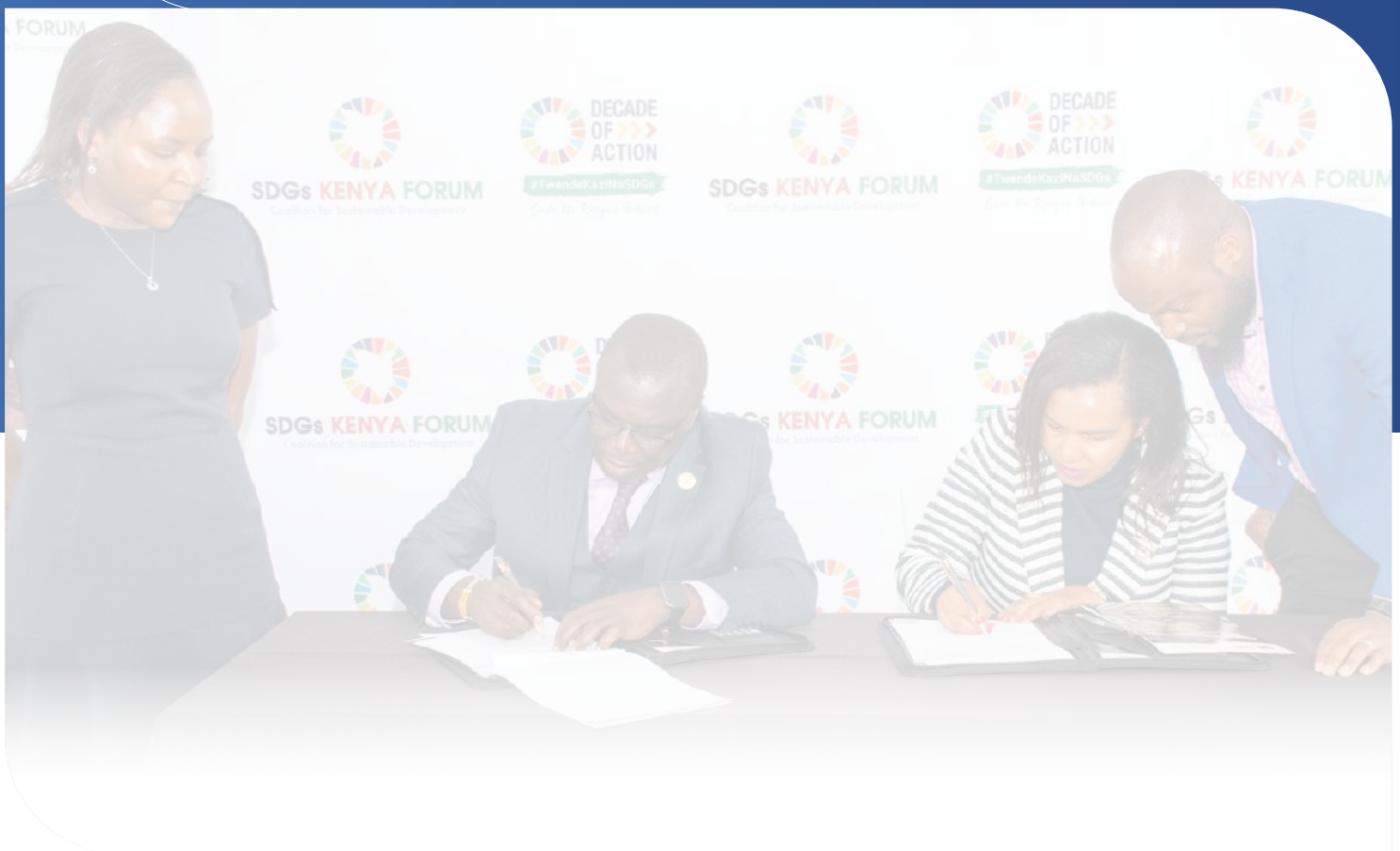
Notable outcomes include the successful implementation of projects under the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) initiative, alignment of SDG priorities with political party frameworks, and enhanced youth representation at global platforms like the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The Forum further demonstrated leadership in promoting gender equality through the META project and Women’s Economic Empowerment (WEE) advocacy, achieving policy advancements at national and county levels.

Data-driven initiatives, such as the Citizen-Generated Data (CGD) framework and gender-disaggregated data reporting, underscored the Forum’s commitment to evidence-based decision-making. The year also saw remarkable progress in public engagement and visibility, with increased social media presence and media partnerships amplifying the Forum’s voice in national and global SDG dialogues.

Looking forward, the Forum remains steadfast in its mission to strengthen partnerships, foster inclusivity, and drive sustainable development through innovative, data-informed, and community-centered approaches.

1.0

INTRODUCTION



1.0 INTRODUCTION

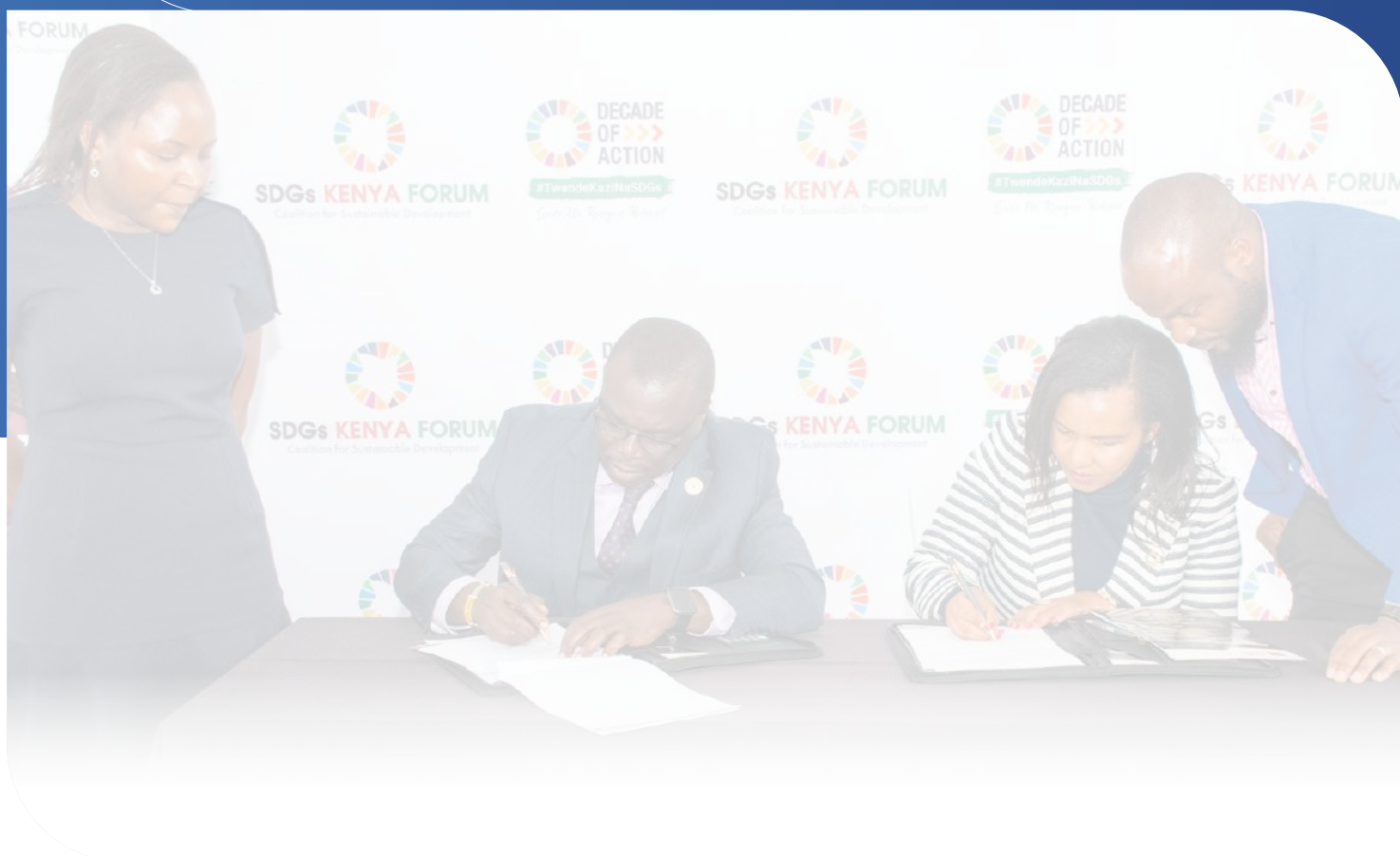
The 2024 Annual Progress Report highlights the SDGs Kenya Forum's critical role in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through collaborative efforts, strategic partnerships, and evidence-based approaches. Aligned with its Strategic Plan 2023–2027, the Forum worked across all 47 counties in Kenya to localize SDGs, enhance inclusivity, and empower communities. This report encapsulates a year of achievements, challenges, and lessons learned, underscoring the Forum's unwavering commitment to sustainable development and transformative change.

In 2024, the Forum expanded its membership to 320 organizations, fostering a diverse network of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs), NGOs, and other stakeholders. Through initiatives such as the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) project and Voluntary National Review (VNR) dialogues, the Forum facilitated citizen participation in monitoring and advocating for SDG implementation. These engagements empowered marginalized groups and provided a platform for inclusive policymaking, ensuring that no one is left behind in the quest for sustainable progress.

A hallmark of 2024 was the Forum's leadership in data-driven advocacy and gender equity. By strengthening Citizen-Generated Data frameworks and advancing Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) initiatives, the Forum not only addressed systemic gaps but also elevated the voices of youth and women. This year, the Forum's impactful activities, from global advocacy at the UN General Assembly to local dialogues in counties like Makueni and Siaya, reinforced its position as a pivotal force in championing the SDG agenda in Kenya.

2.0

ANNUAL PROGRESS PERFORMANCE AND ACHIEVEMENT



2.0 ANNUAL PROGRESS PERFORMANCE AND ACHIEVEMENT

2.1 Membership Report

The Forum’s current membership stands at 360 organizations, with members distributed across all 47 counties in Kenya. The membership base includes Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs), and local, national, and international NGOs. In 2024 alone, membership has grown by 70 organizations. The membership database is fully updated, featuring active email contacts and detailed information on members, including their county presence and organizational types (e.g., women-led, youth-led, PWD-focused, or inclusive).

To enhance member engagement and expand membership, the Membership Desk has implemented several key strategies. The first is hosting “Members’ Day” to interact with members, provide updates on the Forum’s progress, and gather feedback and suggestions. The inaugural Members’ Day will be held virtually on January 2025 with plans for an in-person meeting in the future. The second strategy involves leveraging community dialogues and grassroots events to recruit new members. Thirdly, the Forum maintains consistent communication with members through email, social media platforms, and phone calls, sharing updates on the Forum’s activities and SDG developments. Additionally, a dedicated membership liaison is available to address member inquiries and connect them with relevant desks for further support.

Membership Highlights for 2024

In 2024, we achieved significant growth by welcoming 70 new organizations into our membership. This milestone marks a key development in the Forum’s expansion, demonstrating that our members recognize the value of being part of our community and engaging with us.

Voluntary National Reporting

2024 was an exciting year for both our members and the entire Forum team. Kenya participated reporting at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York, and the SDGs Kenya Forum, as the convener of civil society in Kenya, played a pivotal role in coordinating the creation of the Civil Society Voluntary National Review (VNR) report. This report was annexed to the Government’s report and presented at the HLPF in New York. We are proud to share that over 90 members contributed to the 2024 VNR report, ensuring that civil society’s voices were heard. We deeply appreciate our members for their invaluable contributions and support, which made this achievement possible.

Increased Youth Engagement

2024 saw a surge in youth involvement with the Forum, advancing our core principle of “leave no one behind.” Through initiatives like the Youth Sounding Board under the META project, we were able to engage more young people. The Africa United Nations Youth Delegates (AUNYD) project further empowered us to reach and meaningfully engage youths, providing mentorship and giving them a platform to amplify their voices on various issues. Additionally, more youths were trained on SDGs and given opportunities to participate as present and future change-makers. Our community dialogues also helped extend our reach to counties such as Meru, Narok, Siaya, Makueni, Taita Taveta, Nyeri, and West Pokot, where we raised awareness about the SDGs and engaged local communities.

Membership Renewals

2024 was a highly successful year for the Forum, thanks to the strong support we received from our members through membership subscription payments and annual renewals from existing members. This demonstrates your commitment to the Forum, belief in our vision, and trust in us as the secretariat. We dedicate all the accomplishments of 2024 to our members; without your support, we would not have reached this point. We are excited for further growth and continued engagement in 2025!

2.2 Key Level Highlights 2024

Membership Growth and Engagement:

- Membership increased to 360 organizations, representing all counties in Kenya.
- Launch of “Members’ Day” to enhance engagement and gather member feedback.

Localization and SDG Domestication

- Conducted over 10 community dialogues in Taita Taveta, Makueni, Siaya, Nyeri, Narok, Meru and West Pokot counties.
- Empowered 400+ citizens and marginalized groups to engage in SDG monitoring and policy advocacy.

Youth and Gender Equity

- Trained youth and women in leadership, entrepreneurship, and advocacy.
- Established the European Union Kenya Youth Sounding Board and promoted youth representation at UNGA.
- Advanced Women’s Economic Empowerment (WEE) with policy initiatives and capacity-building workshops.

Data, Research, and Reporting

- Developed the 2024 CSO Voluntary National Review (VNR) report and People’s Scorecard.
- Strengthened Citizen-Generated Data frameworks in partnership with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics.
- Conducted disability data management training and launched gender-disaggregated data frameworks.

Global, Regional, and National Advocacy

- Participated in key forums, including the UNGA, CSW68, and ARFSD10, amplifying Kenya’s voice in global SDG processes.
- Co-chaired the Inter-Agency Technical Working Committee on SDGs.
- Attended and participated in the Africa United nations Youth Delegates Program

Public Engagement and Visibility

- Amplified social media engagement with impactful campaigns and live webinars.
- Successfully executed events like the Women in Data Summit and the Annual Multistakeholder Conference.

Sustainability and Partnerships

- Signed an MoU with KNBS to integrate Citizen-Generated Data into official statistics.
- Strengthened collaborations with FEMNET, UN Women, CMD-Kenya, and grassroots organization.

2.3 Organization Key Pillars: Programme Activities Progress Performance and Achievement

2.3.1 Localization and Domestication of SDGs for ownership

Localization and domestication of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for ownership involves adapting global goals to the specific contexts, needs, and priorities of local communities, regions, and countries. This ensures the SDGs are viewed not as external mandates but as locally relevant initiatives, translated into national and sub-national policies, and aligned with existing development strategies. By engaging local governments, civil society, and other stakeholders, the SDGs become actionable and tailored to local realities, fostering ownership, accountability, and sustainability. Through this process, communities are empowered to participate actively, strengthening development outcomes across all levels.



To support SDG localization in Kenya, the SDGs Kenya Forum, in partnership with various stakeholders, executed numerous impactful initiatives. Under the LNOB project, activities such as community dialogues in Taita Taveta, Makueni, and Siaya counties, capacity-building workshops on social accountability and community-led monitoring, and youth-focused dialogues emphasized inclusive participation and local solutions. These activities enhanced citizens' and marginalized groups' capacity to engage with SDGs, advocate for their rights, and contribute to policy discourse. Similarly, the project "Strengthening CSOs and Grassroots Communities' Capacity for SDG Monitoring, Tracking, Reporting, and Advocacy in Kenya" supported VNR dialogues in Nyeri, Makueni, and Kilifi counties. These dialogues provided a platform for over 400 participants to voice their perspectives and influence national SDG agendas while leveraging technology through X Space webinars to enhance knowledge sharing and peer learning among youth and women.

The Forum also implemented the "Citizen-Centered Policy Making and Pursuance of SDGs in Political Parties" project in collaboration with the Centre for Multi-Party Democracy (CMD-Kenya) and the Parliamentary Caucus on SDGs and Business. This project aimed to align political parties' policy frameworks with SDG priorities by training stakeholders in Nairobi, Meru, Narok, and West Pokot counties on community engagement, policy gap analysis, and budgeting processes. To ensure sustainability, multi-stakeholder Local Steering Groups were established to facilitate SDG implementation and localization. Community dialogues allowed citizens to highlight issues and propose solutions, fostering inclusion in policymaking.



In the African Youth Delegate Project (AUNYD), the Forum partnered with CRISP and organizations from East Africa to enhance youth representation at the global level. Two Kenyan delegates joined the 2024 United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), part of a cohort of 12 youth from the Global South. The project capacitated youth through workshops, skills training, and regional meetings, fostering regional collaboration and innovative learning. It also amplified youth voices in UN processes, supported national outreach campaigns, and promoted awareness about the UN system. This initiative increased the visibility of East African youth while fostering meaningful participation in global development discussions.



Annual National Multi-stakeholders conference 9th – 11th December 2024

The urgency to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has never been more pressing. While significant progress has been made since the adoption of the SDGs in 2015, many challenges persist, particularly in achieving equitable and sustainable development at local, national, and global levels.

The theme of the Annual National Multi-stakeholders Conference discussions centred on identifying **innovative solutions and strategies** to leapfrog SDG implementation in the remaining years leading up to 2030. This captures the key insights and actionable solutions shared by experts, stakeholders, and participants during the conference, which aim to catalyze action and fast-track progress across the SDGs.



The conference, held at **Pridelnn Paradise, Mombasa County**, from **9th to 11th December 2024**, brought together participants from diverse counties, including Turkana, Makueni, Narok, Embu, Taita Taveta, Kwale, Kitui, Wajir, Nyandarua, Mombasa, Homabay, Samburu, and Nairobi, as well as international representation from Uganda. Attendees included representatives from key organizations such as the **State Department of Foreign Affairs, UNA Uganda, Gender Department, Council of Governors (COG), Agriculture Food Authority, UN Women, National Youth Council (NYC), Media Council of Kenya, UNDP, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), UN Coordinator's Office, ODM, UDA Secretariat, and the Centre for Multiparty Democracy Kenya.**



A central theme throughout the three-day conference was the **importance of localizing the SDGs** within national contexts. Participants emphasized the need for countries to adapt global frameworks to local realities, drawing on examples from Finland and Uganda. **Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs)** were highlighted as essential tools for aligning national policies with localized efforts, ensuring that every community contributes to and benefits from SDG progress. By engaging local governments and communities in SDG action, countries can tailor solutions to address unique challenges, empowering communities to take ownership of the process.



This achievement was attributed to the **Inter-Agency Technical Working Committee (IATWC)**, the highest national advisory body chaired by the State Department for Economic Planning and co-chaired by the SDGs Kenya Forum. Their leadership and collaborative efforts have been instrumental in driving progress and fostering multi-stakeholder engagement.

The multi-stakeholder conference culminated in the **SDGs Awards**, a recognition of outstanding performance by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Parliament. **The SDGs Awards Program 2023** celebrated the remarkable contributions of individuals and organizations that have demonstrated exceptional commitment to advancing the SDGs. This initiative not only honored excellence but also inspired continued dedication to achieving the 2030 Agenda.



This conference underscored the critical role of collaboration, innovation, and localization in driving sustainable development. The insights and strategies shared during the event provide a roadmap for accelerating SDG implementation as we approach 2030, ensuring that no one is left behind.



2.3.2 Gender Equity

2.3.2.1 META Project Achievements

In 2024, the Meaningful Engagement Transformative Action (META) project, implemented by the SDGs Kenya Forum in collaboration with The African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF), and the European Union Delegation to Kenya, achieved notable milestones through

strategic consortium and stakeholder engagement. The project began with consortium partners' inception meetings which provided a platform to refine action plans, strategies, and the results framework indicators, ensuring alignment with project objectives. Additionally, the Forum and partners facilitated regional civil society organization (CSO) inception meetings, which mapped and selected CSO representatives to participate in project activities. These meetings introduced consortium partners, outlined the project's scope, and built CSOs' understanding of the META project's deliverables and operations across Kenya.



A key accomplishment of the project was the establishment and [launch of the European Union Kenya Youth Sounding Board \(YSB\)](#), which officially unveiled fifteen (15) young people aged 18 to 30 years representing diverse backgrounds, experiences, ethnicities and regional economic blocs in Kenya. The YSB will serve as a platform for youth to engage in inclusive dialogue on the EU-Kenya partnership and advice on program implementation.



Another highlight was the development of the [Inclusive Dialogue Mechanism \(IDM\)](#), which aims to strengthen dialogue between the European Delegation to Kenya and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). The IDM comprises of 100 organisations representative of all the 47 counties in Kenya and each of the regional economic blocs in Kenya working with diverse stakeholders. A notable achievement of the IDM was the first dialogue on Digitalisation which took place in December 2024 where members of the Mechanism shared their recommendations and insights on the EU's initiatives on digitalisation in Kenya.

A steering committee comprising of representatives of the META Consortium, the YSB and the IDM will facilitate the dialogues and guide the mechanism during the project period. Through these efforts, the META project advanced inclusive dialogue, youth engagement, and regional CSO participation, strengthening collaboration and alignment with sustainable development priorities.

2.3.2.2 BMGF Project Achievements

Between January and December 2024, the SDGs Kenya Forum, in collaboration with eight implementing partners, made remarkable progress in advancing sustainable development goals across Kitui, Kajiado, Nairobi City, Nakuru, Kilifi, Kisumu, Kakamega, and Samburu counties. The Forum actively influenced national policy and SDG integration, contributing to the drafting of the Medium-Term Plan IV and co-chairing the Inter-Agency Technical Working Committee on SDGs. This leadership ensured robust representation of civil society organizations (CSOs) in policy discussions. It also drove the implementation of Generation Equality Forum (GEF) commitments by developing an M&E Framework and the GEF Dashboard, a critical tool for tracking progress on key indicators across five priority commitments.



Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) remained a central focus, with significant milestones including the development of the WEE Advocacy Strategy in Nairobi County, and implementation of policies in Kajiado County, where KES 100 million was allocated for women credit initiatives. The Forum also participated in validating the National Policy on WEE, further advancing national and county-level gender equality goals. Capacity-building initiatives co-hosted with partners like KNBS and UN Women enhanced the skills of 14 CSOs in data validation and empowered over 131 women in Bomet with financial literacy and entrepreneurship training. Programs like the Young Women Leadership Café in Kisumu and mentorship initiatives in Bomet strengthened young women's participation in leadership and economic activities.

Data and evidence for gender equality were prioritized through the launch of the Kenya Statistical Quality Assurance Framework (KeSQAF), gender data gap analyses, and quality assurance processes for CSO-generated data. These efforts supported the production of key reports, including the 2024 Voluntary National Review (VNR) and the Beijing Platform for Action +30 Report. Community dialogues and advocacy efforts reached over 500 participants in counties such as Kitui, Samburu, and Bomet, addressing harmful practices and promoting gender-sensitive declarations like the Kisima Declaration against FGM. The Forum's partnerships with organizations like KNBS, UN Women, and Aga Khan University facilitated gender-responsive initiatives, while participation in global forums such as UNGA, CSW68, and the World Data Summit amplified gender and SDG priorities at international levels.

The Forum also contributed to policy and strategic frameworks, supporting the development of WEE bills and strategies in counties like Samburu and Kajiado. The Samburu County Gender Policy is now in its final approval stages, while the WEE Policy in Kajiado County has been approved, with a draft WEE Bill undergoing public participation. Efforts to strengthen the young feminist movement across all eight counties fostered mentorship, entrepreneurship training, and capacity-building initiatives, leveraging digital platforms to expand

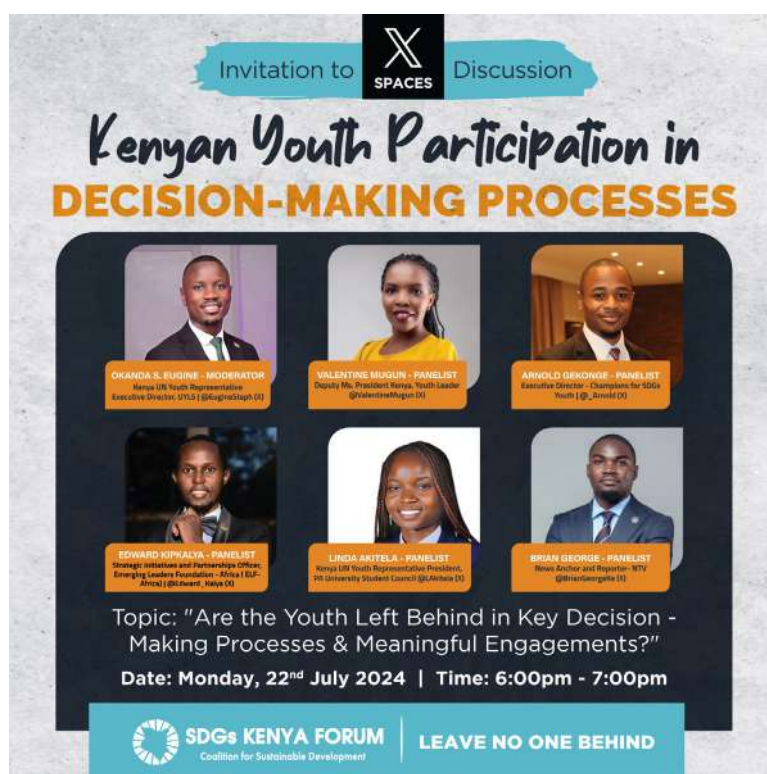
opportunities for young women. Through these comprehensive activities, the Forum integrated gender priorities, GEF commitments, and WEE initiatives into critical government planning documents like County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) and Annual Development Plans (ADPs). By reinforcing CSO engagement in structures such as the GEF Steering Committee and facilitating the rollout of the GEF Dashboard, the Forum ensured a sustainable impact on gender and development priorities.

2.3.3 Accountability

The project “Strengthening CSOs and Grassroots Communities’ Capacity for SDG Monitoring, Tracking, Reporting, and Advocacy in Kenya” facilitated impactful community and national dialogues aimed at enhancing citizen engagement in the SDG implementation process. These dialogues, held in Nyeri, Makueni, and Kilifi Counties, brought together over 400 participants, including marginalized groups, local government officials, and civil society representatives. The discussions emphasized the importance of integrating grassroots perspectives into national and international SDG frameworks. Participants were sensitized on SDG processes and fundamental human rights, creating platforms for collective discourse, public engagement, and political advocacy. Insights from these forums were incorporated into the 2024 CSO Voluntary National Review (VNR) process, ensuring local experiences and challenges are reflected in Kenya’s progress assessments.



Technology-driven initiatives further bolstered the project's objectives, including the innovative X Space webinars targeting youth and women. The youth-focused platform empowered 45 participants to exchange ideas, share best practices, and discuss actionable strategies for meaningful engagement in SDG decision-making processes. These sessions enhanced young people's understanding of their role in advancing the SDGs and highlighted their contributions to shaping the Pact of the Future. The interactive format fostered peer-to-peer learning and capacity building, ensuring that youth voices are heard in governance and advocacy.



In addition to dialogues, the project strengthened community capacities through targeted workshops and resources. Training sessions for 47 participants improved disability data management in alignment with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), promoting inclusive planning and advocacy. Workshops in Taita Taveta, Siaya, and Makueni Counties equipped 213 participants with skills in social accountability, budget monitoring, and governance. Furthermore, tools like a factsheet on land and corruption and Makueni County's Integrated Development Plan Indicator Handbook were developed, supporting evidence-based policy advocacy and SDG progress tracking at the local level. These initiatives collectively advanced grassroots and national efforts to achieve sustainable development goals in Kenya.



2.3.4 Global, Regional and National Advocacy

1. **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68):** Participated in national steering committee meetings, contributing to the development of Kenya's Country Position Paper and progress report on previous commitments. BMGF implementing partners, including FEMNET, GROOTS Kenya, Equality Now, Polycom Girls, FIDA Kenya, CREAM, and Akili Dada, played key roles in the National Gender Sector Working Group. These partners collaborated with the State Department of Gender to draft the Country Position Paper and provided support to representatives who traveled to New York for CSW68. Side events were organized during the session, focusing on gender equality and women's empowerment.
2. **Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD10):** Preparatory meetings with CSOs, FEMNET, and the Africa Regional Women's Major Group focused on the five goals under review (Goals 1, 2, 13, 16, and 17). Key outputs included the development of key messages, a position paper, and a shadow report exploring the nexus between climate change and education. Co-hosted side events on climate and education with FEMNET, climate financing with the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), and "The Future We Want" in collaboration with the UN Civil Society Conference organizing committee.
3. **United Nations Civil Society Conference (UNCSC):** Hosted in Nairobi, the conference engaged over 2,000 global participants to discuss SDG priorities ahead of the Summit of the Future. Key outcomes included the "Impact for the Future Package," summarizing actionable recommendations for sustainable development and fostering stakeholder engagement.





- 4. People's Assembly in Kibra:** Organized alongside the UNCSC, the assembly amplified marginalized communities' voices on SDG implementation challenges. Participants from informal settlements, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and local officials discussed grassroots solutions, which were integrated into the Summit of the Future processes.



- 5. 2024 CSO VNR Report Launch:** The report highlighted Kenya's progress in SDG implementation, with a focus on marginalized groups' perspectives. Over 150 participants, including government officials and UN agencies, attended the launch, and the report was annexed to Kenya's National VNR submission.



6. High-Level Political Forum (HLPF): Kenya's participation in the HLPF emphasized SDGs related to poverty (Goal 1), hunger (Goal 2), climate action (Goal 13), and partnerships (Goal 17). The event showcased Kenya's best practices and challenges, promoting global cooperation for the 2030 Agenda.

During the HLPF, the SDGs Kenya Forum was actively involved in multiple high-profile events and side sessions that aligned with our strategic priorities

Kenya presented its third voluntary national review at the High-Level Political Forum. Kenya's VNR report was presented alongside the Civil Society Organizations' report. Progress and Challenges According to the VNR report, Kenya has registered mixed results across the 17 SDGs. Of the 168 indicators tracked, 60% showed positive progress, 12% stalled, 17% regressed, and progress on 11% was indiscernible due to data limitations. Significant progress was noted in SDGs

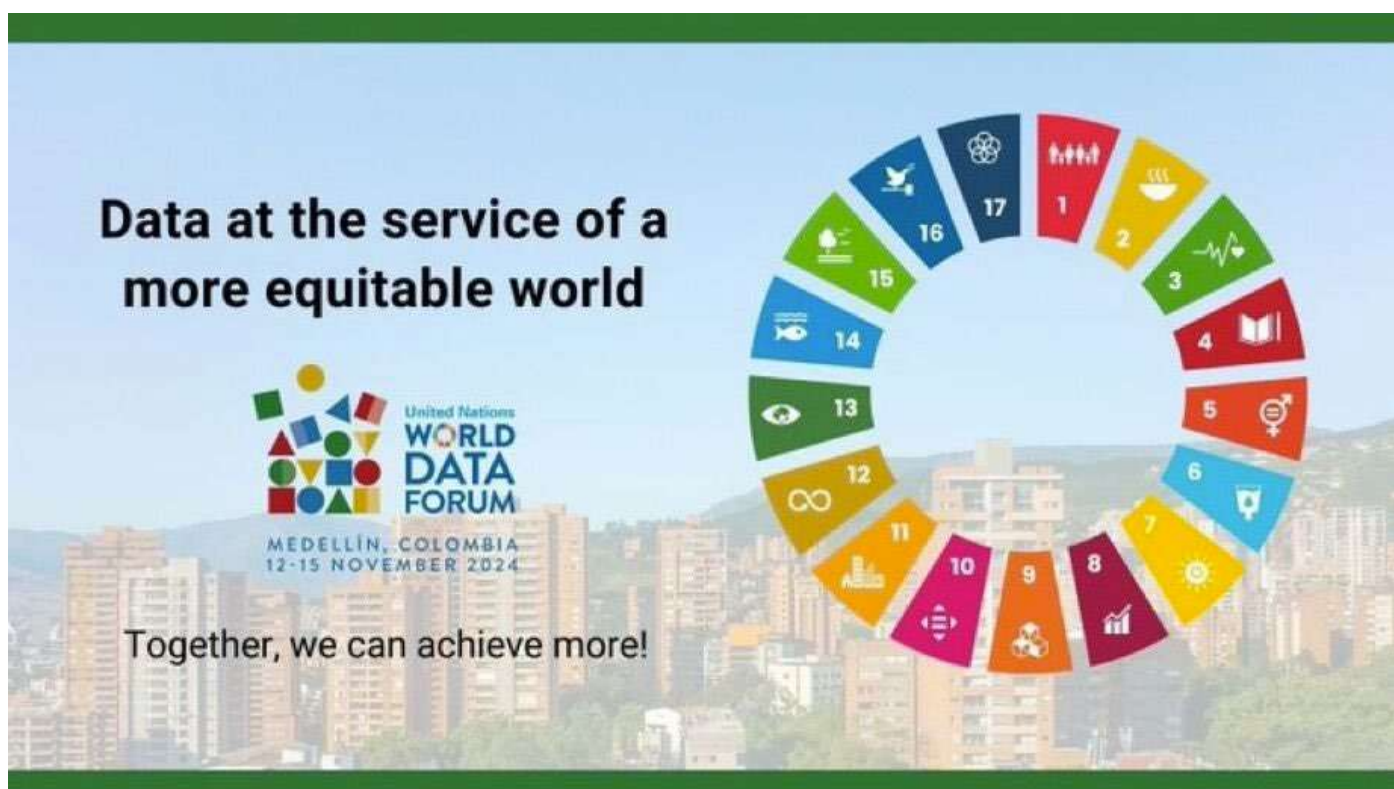
related to health (SDG 3), education (SDG 4), gender equality (SDG 5), clean water and sanitation (SDG 6), affordable and clean energy (SDG 7), decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11), climate action (SDG 13), life on land (SDG 15), and partnerships for the goals (SDG 17). However, SDGs focusing on no poverty (SDG 1), industry, innovation, and infrastructure (SDG 9), responsible consumption and production (SDG 12), and peace, justice, and strong institutions (SDG 16) showed slower progress. The least progress was observed in reducing inequalities (SDG 10), zero hunger (SDG 2), and life below water (SDG 14).



The High-Level Political Forum was a critical platform for SDGs Kenya Forum to showcase its commitment to sustainable development, engage with global stakeholders, and contribute to the in-depth review of five specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The event further provided a unique opportunity for the SDGs Kenya Forum to engage in discussions, share experiences, and strategize on accelerating SDG achievements amidst current global challenges. Notably, our Executive Director, Florence Syevuo, made significant contributions in several EVENTS sessions, including “Exploring Synergies and Trade,” “Consequences of Inequality in Achieving Agenda 2030 and the Pact for the Future,” and “Leave No One Behind.” These sessions highlighted the importance of inclusive and innovative approaches to addressing inequalities and ensuring that no one is left behind in our quest for sustainable development.

7. World Data Summit, Colombia:

During the fifth United Nations World Data Forum in Medellín, Colombia, the SDGs Kenya Forum joined global development and data community enthusiasts. On November 11 and 12, the Global Partnership took the opportunity to gather partners and network members for several convenings, learning exchanges, networking, and discussions on innovation, challenges, and the future of data and AI in development. These events united hundreds of experts, practitioners, and data advocates to engage on the power of data and partnerships. Here’s a look back at the highlights:



Citizen Data Learning Exchange workshop

In collaboration with Colombia's National Administrative Department of Statistics, the Presidential Agency for International Cooperation of Colombia (APC), the International Civil Society Centre (ICSC), and the Collaborative on Citizen Data at the Pontifical Bolivarian University.

Bringing together representatives from National Statistical Offices, government ministries, academic institutions, civil society, and international organizations, the workshop highlighted

the importance of citizen data in complementing traditional data sources. Participants shared knowledge, and engaged in meaningful discussions about best practices, the Copenhagen Framework for Citizen Data, and potential pathways for further collaboration.

The workshop's discussions delved into real-world challenges, such as engaging citizens in data processes, amplifying diverse voices, and establishing actionable frameworks for collaboration across sectors. The energy and commitment from participants underscored the momentum behind citizen data as a critical element in fulfilling the Leave No One Behind agenda.



Make Inclusive Data the Norm (MIDN) workshop

The South-South exchange continued between Colombia, Ghana, and Kenya in the second edition of the Make Inclusive Data the Norm (MIDN) learning exchange workshops. This discussion focused on the importance of inclusive data as a foundation for sustainable development building upon the first edition held in Nairobi in April, 2024. Representatives from each country shared insights on their approaches on advancing disaggregated data, citizen engagement, and advocacy for inclusive policies.



The power of partnerships for measuring inclusive development and implementing inclusive AI

In the spirit of collaboration, the Global Partnership and APC Colombia co-hosted a partner lunch and panel discussion on November 12, focusing on the power of data through partnerships. This session brought together funders, government development agencies, and data practitioners to discuss inclusive development metrics, the ethical application of AI in data processes, and the role of partnership in driving data-driven solutions.

8. Beijing + 30:

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA) of 1995 is a visionary agenda for the empowerment of women. It was developed at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. To date, the BPfA remains the most comprehensive global policy framework and blueprint for action, guidance and inspiration to realize gender equality and the human rights of women and girls, everywhere.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action covers 12 critical areas of concern that are as relevant today as 25 years ago: poverty; education and training; health; violence; armed conflict; economy; power and decision-making; institutional mechanisms; human rights; media; environment; and the girl child. For each critical area of concern, strategic objectives are identified, as well as a detailed catalogue of related actions to be taken by Governments and other stakeholders, at national, regional and international level.

As we approach the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, there is a new sense of real urgency, a recognition that we are at a turning point for women's rights, a recognition that realizing gender equality, the empowerment of

women and the human rights of women and girls must be a pressing and central task.

Conducted a civil society consultation with girls and young women, women's rights organizations (WROs), feminist movements, and key stakeholders. It is against this backdrop that Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW) and the Coalition For Sustainable Development (SDGs Kenya Forum) conducted a civil society consultation with girls and young women, women's rights organizations (WROs), feminist movements, and key stakeholders on 28th October 2024 at Swiss Bel Inn Hotel, Nairobi to assess progress implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) in Kenya to identify gaps and strategize for the future. The consultative meeting aimed to reinforce the commitment to the Beijing Process and to ensure that women's rights remain at the forefront of global and national agendas.



The specific objectives of the meetings were as follows:

- To evaluate the progress made in women's rights in Kenya since the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action.
- To discuss ongoing barriers to gender equality and women's empowerment in Kenya.
- To foster partnerships among WROs, government bodies, and PBOs to amplify advocacy efforts in Kenya.
- To create actionable recommendations and strategies for future advocacy and implementation of the Beijing commitments.

The Forum also participated in the EAC and Africa regional CSO and youth consultations -hosted by FEMNET in collaboration with the African Union (AUC) in Addis Ababa Ethiopia. These served as powerful collective advocacy meetings, where the outcome was a joint statement highlighting areas of progress, challenges/gaps, lessons learnt and key recommendations for implementation of the commitments across the 12 critical areas. This statement was presented to the interministerial meeting that was reviewing progress African countries are making and the Kenyan Government report was one of these used as case studies during the review process.

Beijing+30 Africa Regional CSO & Youth Consultations Side Event



HOPE NANKUNDA
RAISING TEENAGERS



HELLEN APILA
SDGS KENYA FORUM



HABENE BETTY
GYW ADVOCATE



MERCY JELIMO
CREAW

#PassingTheBaton
Strengthening Cross
Generational Mentorship
for Accelerating Beijing+30
Commitments



PHENNY OGEMBO
MODERATOR

DATE	TIME	VENUE	Online
31st October	14:00 – 15:30hrs EAT	Inter Luxury Hotel Addis Ababa 5th Floor Sekela Hall	https://rb.gy/hbue61






www.polycomgirls.or.ke



9. KNBS Workshop:

The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) is the custodian of official statistical information in Kenya. Among its functions is establishing standards and ensuring the quality of the statistics being disseminated for use for tracking progress, making decisions, monitoring programmes and informing policy among others.

CGD Technical working committee: To streamline the CGD activities, KNBS in collaboration with stakeholders set up a Technical Working Committee (TWC) on CGD, a collaborative platform that brings together diverse stakeholders to share knowledge, expertise, and resources related to CGD.

In March 2024, KNBS in collaboration with PARIS21 and SDG Kenya Forum organized a workshop to adopt the Terms of Reference (TORs) of the TWC and revised the criteria to make sure that the data is of high quality. After

adopting the TORs and finalizing the review of the quality criteria for validating CGD, the way forward of the workshop then was to hold a workshop in April to validate CGD data from about ten CSOs for use in the 2024 VNR reporting.

The workshop to Validate Citizen Generated Data was intended to promote improvement of data quality for filling existing data gaps through use of alternative data sources such as Citizen Generated Data (CGD) from among them Civil Society Organization's (CSOs). A 3-day workshop to build the capacity of the CSOs and validate their datasets, involved presentations by KNBS and interactive group discussions to review the data presentations on data status. This took place from 23rd to 25th June 2024 preferably in Nakuru County.

Development of KSDS11: The Forum participated in stakeholder workshops on unpacking the National Statistical System

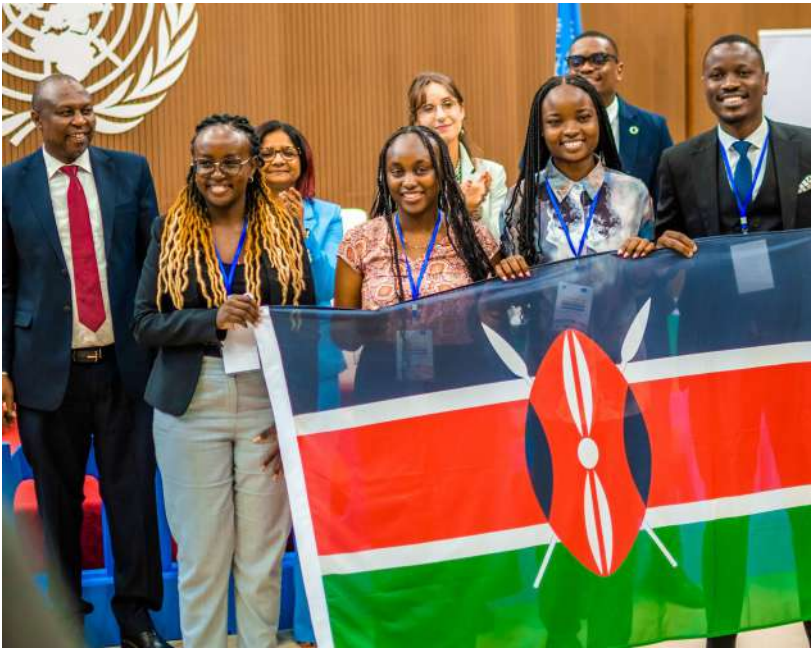
and Priority Areas for the second Kenya Strategy for development of statistics (KSDS 11). The stakeholders discussed the highlights of the review of implementation of KSDS1 and recommendations. Also reviewed and provided inputs into the new strategic direction-objectives, strategies and costed action plans for the various goals. For instance, KSDS II goals and expected outcomes might include:

GOAL	EXPECTED OUTCOMES
1. An entrenched data culture for national development	Greater uptake and use of official statistics in the NSS
2. Enabling institutional and organizational development	Enabling environment for statistical production and management
3. Enhanced data systems and processes to achieve data maturity	Increased access and satisfied users with a wide range of statistical products and services

10. AUNYD Project Closure:

INTRODUCTION

The Africa United Nations Youth Delegates Program concluded successfully in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in early December, marking the end of an impactful journey that spanned several countries and milestones. This initiative brought together mentors, delegates, and coordinators from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Sudan, South Sudan, and Ethiopia, with a shared vision of amplifying youth voices in global decision-making processes. The program aimed to strengthen youth participation in addressing critical issues such as unemployment, peace and security, and meaningful engagement in decision-making platforms.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The program journey began with national Educational Assessments across the participating countries, laying the groundwork for identifying key challenges and opportunities for youth. This was followed by a series of regional trainings designed to prepare the delegates for active representation on global stages such as the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and the Summit of the Future.

1. Regional Training 1:

Held in South Sudan, this session focused on foundational skills, introducing delegates to the program’s mandates and fostering cross-border collaboration.

2. Regional Training 2:

Conducted in Kenya, this training emphasized practical strategies for advocacy and diplomacy, preparing delegates to navigate complex global discussions.

3. Regional Training 3:

Held in Tanzania, this session was designed to refine the delegates’ representation skills and enhance their readiness for global engagements.

Throughout these phases, delegates also conducted outreach campaigns in their respective countries, promoting youth inclusion in decision-making processes and creating opportunities for broader youth engagement.



KEY FOCUS AREAS

The program’s core mandates included:

- **Youth Unemployment:**
Addressing barriers to employment and advocating for policies that support youth-driven economic opportunities.
- **Youth, Peace, and Security:**
Strengthening the role of young people in peacebuilding processes and ensuring their voices are integral to national and regional security dialogues.
- **Meaningful Youth Engagement in Decision-Making:**
Creating pathways for youth representation in governance and policy-making at all levels.

These mandates served as a framework for the delegates’ contributions, both during their participation in global forums and in their localized outreach efforts.



PROGRAM OUTCOMES

The culmination of the program in Addis Ababa provided a platform to reflect on achievements and set the stage for post-project initiatives. Key outcomes included:

- **Global Representation:**
Delegates showcased exemplary participation at UNGA and the Summit of the Future, effectively voicing regional priorities on a global stage.
- **Local Outreach:**
Each country's team conducted impactful campaigns, creating awareness about youth involvement in policy-making and fostering partnerships with stakeholders.
- **Localized Pact Development:**
The end-of-project discussions emphasized the need to adapt the program's pact to suit national contexts, ensuring relevance and sustainability of the initiatives.

WAY FORWARD

As the program transitions to its next phase, focus will be placed on:

- Sustaining the momentum of youth-led advocacy in global and local spaces.
- Strengthening partnerships between delegates, mentors, and policymakers to drive actionable change.
- Monitoring the progress of country teams' post-UNGA activities and ensuring alignment with the program's overarching goals.

CONCLUSION

The Africa United Nations Youth Delegates Program has been a transformative journey, equipping young leaders with the tools and platforms to influence meaningful change. As the program concludes, the legacy of collaboration, representation, and action will continue to inspire efforts toward addressing critical challenges and amplifying youth voices in decision-making processes.

11. The Hamburg Sustainability Conference:





The Hamburg Sustainability Conference (HSC) serves as a catalyst for global change, dedicated to building partnerships and developing innovative solutions to address today's most pressing challenges. With a clear mission to drive sustainable change and accelerate the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the HSC provides a platform where ideas and visions are transformed into concrete actions that lead to measurable outcomes. The SDGs Kenya Forum was privileged to attend the HSC conference and the Annual conference of the sustainable development council.

The first HSC took place on October 7–8, 2024 at the City Hall and the Chamber of Commerce in the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg. It brought together global leaders from politics, business, science, and civil society, all united in taking decisive steps toward achieving the UN SDGs. Through vibrant dialogue, trust-building, and solution-oriented collaboration, the HSC focused on addressing some of today's most pressing global challenges while fostering impactful, long-term partnerships. Across three key forums, five hubs, and over 60 sessions, participants explored ways to reshape international financial systems, increase investments in sustainable development, and

harness innovation for transformative change. Together, they rethought, reorganized, and took concrete actions to create a sustainable future for all.

United Nations General Assembly 2024-Summit of the Future

The SDGs Kenya Forum was privileged to participate in the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly that marked a crucial milestone in the global effort to accelerate progress towards the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The highly anticipated Summit of the Future, held during UNGA, underscored the urgent need for enhanced international cooperation to address pressing challenges such as climate change, poverty and inequality, while also tackling the impacts of ongoing conflicts and global health crises.

The fifth edition of the Global People's Assembly (GPA) kicked off at the Church Center of the United Nations in New York on 22 September 2024, with over 400 activists and civil society leaders uniting to address critical global challenges such as economic justice, climate change, and gender equality. The assembly brought together voices from across the globe, building on the momentum of 30 regional and constituency-level gatherings and thousands of community actions worldwide. Another iconic activity was the UN Department of Global Communications held its flagship SDG Media Zone during the high-level week 23-27 September, with impactful in-depth interviews and dialogues on global issues that matter to people everywhere.



2.3.5 Data, Research and Reporting

Under the Data, Research, and Reporting pillar, the SDGs Kenya Forum seeks to enhance the availability and use of timely, accurate, and properly disaggregated data to drive evidence-based decision-making and reporting on SDG progress. Through partnerships and advocacy, the Forum works to improve data collection, encourage data use, and strengthen the overall data ecosystem. The Forum aims to ensure that both government and non-state actors can make informed decisions that support the achievement of SDGs at national and county levels. The focus is on addressing data gaps, particularly in areas where disaggregated data is lacking, promoting the use of this data for policy and planning, and fostering partnerships across various stakeholders to build a sustainable data ecosystem. The three key areas of focus are: addressing data gaps, encouraging data use, and strengthening the data ecosystem, including through the promotion of Citizen Generated Data (CGD).

To adequately and effectively address these gaps, the SDGs Kenya Forum has been implementing four key strategies. First, it has been promoting the knowledge of Citizen Generated Data (CGD) by building the capacity of both state and non-state actors through partnerships with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, UN Women, Paris 21, and other partners. Second, the Forum has collaborated with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics to focus on strengthening data production and utilization. Third, the Forum has focused on documenting and disseminating best practices and research reports, promoting knowledge sharing across different stakeholders to ensure that evidence-based decision-making is widespread. Lastly, the Forum has continuously monitored, evaluated, and reported on the progress of SDG implementation through coordinating the development of the CSOs voluntary national review, people's scorecard and community dialogue reports to ensure that commitments are tracked effectively, and that data plays a critical role in informing policy decisions at both national and county levels.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **2024 CSO Voluntary National Review and People’s Scorecard:** The Forum brought together CSOs in Kenya early in 2024 for training and capacity building on how to report their contributions towards SDGs, and then put together these submissions into the [2024 CSO VNR Report](#). CSO VNR report with the people’s scorecard annexed details the progress of the implementation of SDGs in Kenya from the perspectives of the civil society. The 2024 CSO VNR was annexed to the Kenya government’s 2024 VNR ([Kenya Voluntary National Review 2024](#)).
- **CGD Capacity Building and Data Validation for CSOs KNBS and UN Women:** Working to promote the production of sufficient data for monitoring the progress of the implementation of SDGs nationally and at the county level as outlined in its strategic plan, the SDGs Kenya Forum convened 12 CSOs drawn from different sectors for capacity building on the quality framework and criteria for the production and validation of their data. In collaboration with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) and UN Women, the CSOs were adequately trained on [Kenya Statistical Quality Assurance Framework](#) and how to use the quality criteria in the framework to produce high-quality data that can supplement official statistics for SDGs monitoring and reporting.
- **Development of Gender Indicators in the MTP IV National Indicator Framework to Update the National SDGs Gender Factsheet:** One of the key achievements under the Data, Research, and SDGs Reporting pillar is the development of gender indicators within the MTP IV National Indicator Framework, which was instrumental in updating the National SDGs Gender Factsheet, an event/workshop that was conducted with collaboration with UN Women, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action, the University of Nairobi, and National Gender and Equality Commission. Fitting within its reporting dimension, the workshop aligns with the Forum’s focus on monitoring and reporting the implementation of SDGs as it enhanced the availability of gender-disaggregated data, providing a more accurate picture of gender equality progress and ensuring that gender-focused SDG reporting is aligned with national development priorities.
- **Disability Data Management Training:** In collaboration with United Disabled Persons of Kenya (UDPK), the other contribution that has been made towards this pillar during the year is the Disability Data Management Systems Training, which was held from 10th to 11th July 2024. This training aimed to enhance the capacity of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working with persons with disabilities (PWDs) to collect, manage, analyse, and utilize disability data effectively. It addressed the critical need for accurate and comprehensive disability data to inform advocacy, program development, and policy formulation. The training equipped participants with practical skills aligned with both national and international standards, ensuring that CSOs are better positioned to serve the needs of PWDs and contribute to inclusive development. This initiative further supports the Forum’s commitment to leaving no one behind by improving the quality and availability of disability data in Kenya.

▪ **Development of a National and County Factsheet on Corruption and Land Issues:** Under the Amplifying Voices of Marginalized Groups in SDGs Implementation project (Leave No One Behind), the development of a National and County Factsheet on Corruption and Land Issues has been a significant contribution toward this pillar. The data factsheet focused on addressing the issues of land governance and corruption, particularly as they affect marginalized communities in Siaya, Makueni, and Taita Taveta counties. By collecting and analysing data from key sources such as the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), the National Land Commission, and Citizen Generated Data (CGD), the factsheet serves as a foundational tool for community dialogues, informing policy recommendations, and empowering advocacy efforts. This effort has contributed to promoting transparency, fairness, and inclusivity, ensuring that the voices of marginalized groups are heard and considered in national and county-level governance processes.

▪ **Memorandum of Understanding between Kenya National Bureau of Statistics and SDGs Kenya Forum:** As detailed in the following report ([Forum and KNBS MoU Signing Ceremony Report \(1\)](#)), the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the SDGs Kenya Forum and the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) is a significant milestone for advancing the Forum's work in data, research, and SDGs reporting. This collaboration is pivotal as it formalizes the partnership between key players in Kenya's data ecosystem, fostering a more inclusive and robust approach to data collection, validation, and dissemination. The MoU enables the integration of Citizen-Generated Data (CGD) into official statistics, bridging critical data gaps, particularly from marginalized and hard-to-reach communities. This is essential for enhancing the comprehensiveness and accuracy of national SDG reporting.

Additionally, the MoU strengthens data partnerships by ensuring that the Forum, in collaboration with KNBS, can implement frameworks to improve data literacy, build the capacity of stakeholders, and promote the use of data in evidence-based policy and decision-making. By establishing structured joint activities and leveraging shared expertise, the MoU supports the Forum's goal of ensuring that data informs development agendas at both national and county levels, while amplifying the voices of the most vulnerable groups in Kenya.



▪ **Women in Data Summit:** Co-hosted by the Office of the Women Rights Advisor to the President and GROOTS Kenya, the Women in Data Summit addressed critical gender data gaps and strengthened the use and production of gender-disaggregated data in Kenya. The summit facilitated discussions on the importance of comprehensive and disaggregated gender data across sectors such as health, education, economic empowerment, and gender-based violence. It promoted collaboration among government, civil society, and development partners to enhance the gender data ecosystem and emphasized the need for sustainable financing and capacity building to ensure the continuous collection and effective use of gender data in policy development and decision-making.





- Technical Working Committee on Citizen Generated Data (CGD) Engagement on the Second Kenya Strategy for Development of Statistics (KSDS II):** The other significant achievement has been the Forum's engagement in the development of the Second Kenya Strategy for the Development of Statistics (KSDS II). This strategy, spearheaded by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), aims to address existing data gaps in the national socioeconomic database and improve the coverage, timeliness, and reliability of national statistics. The Forum has actively participated in fostering the use of Citizen-Generated Data (CGD), which KNBS is leveraging to close gaps, especially in tracking progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other national and sub-national development agendas. Through the Kenya Statistical Quality Assurance Framework (KeSQAf), the Forum has supported efforts to ensure that CGD meets the necessary quality standards for national reporting. Being a co-chair of the Technical Working Committee on CGD, the Forum significantly contributed to the design of the second Kenya Strategy for Development Statistics (II).
- Gender Statistics:** contributed to the consultative discussions hosted by KNBS on development of national guidelines to improve the [quality of statistical](#) products with emphasis on gender statistics, supported by the Sweden Mission to Kenya.
- Citizen Generated Data (CGD)** reviewed the [Quality Criteria for Validating CGD in Kenya](#), co-hosted with KNBS, PARIS21 and the Forum, brought together members of the CGD technical collaboration with data producers and users from the Government and Non-State actors revised the criteria, and most of the CSOs participated with support of the Forum.

2.3.6 Public Communication and Engagement.

The year 2024 was marked by notable progress in enhancing the SDGs Kenya Forum's visibility, public engagement, and outreach, thanks to a robust communications strategy. Key milestones included significant growth on social media platforms, expanded media presence, and the successful execution of high-profile events such as regional trainings, the Multistakeholder Youth Conference, and the Outlook Conference under the Africa United Nations Youth Delegates Program. With continuous efforts to amplify the Forum's voice in national and international SDG conversations, the communications team played a pivotal role in placing the organization in a prime position for future advocacy and partnerships.

2.3.6.1 Amplifying Visibility and Public Engagement

The SDGs Kenya Forum made remarkable strides in enhancing its public visibility throughout 2024. By strategically leveraging social media platforms, newsletters, and mainstream media, the Forum significantly increased its reach. The communications team ensured the organization's work was highlighted during global SDG events, including the [High-Level Political Forum \(HLPF\)](#) and [United Nations General Assembly \(UNGA\)](#). These efforts not only amplified the Forum's presence but also drove engagement from key stakeholders and partners, positioning it as a leader in sustainable development advocacy.

2.3.6.2 Growth in social media and Digital Footprint

In 2024, the Forum experienced exponential growth across its social media platforms, engaging a broader audience on [X \(Formerly Twitter\)](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#). These platforms were utilized to share key updates, live events, and impactful stories related to the SDGs, particularly through virtual engagements such as webinars and the HLPF discussions.

Social media helped amplify campaigns like the Decade of Action, the National Regional and Global Advocacy which were instrumental in driving the SDG 2030 Agenda. The release of quarterly newsletters also played a crucial role in maintaining regular communication with stakeholders, providing in-depth reports on progress and upcoming activities.

Through social media platforms, we conducted virtual dialogues including [The Youth Occupying the Global Spaces](#), [Meaningful Youth Engagement Dialogue](#), [Women Breaking Barriers](#) and Beijing + 30.

The SDGs Kenya Forum has also significantly boosted its online presence through its official website. Throughout 2024, we shared impactful blog posts that have been instrumental in raising awareness and driving engagement around key issues. Notable blog posts include "[Empowering Youth Voices](#)", which highlighted our work with youth leaders and their role in shaping global policies, "[Strengthening Data Partnerships](#)", which underscored the importance of robust data collaborations for SDG progress, and "[Adoption of the Pact for the Future to the African Youth](#)", which detailed the significance of the Pact and how it resonates with young people across the continent.

2.3.6.3 Collaboration with Mainstream Media

Mainstream media partnerships were a critical component of the Forum's communication efforts in 2024. Engaging with news outlets helped raise awareness around key initiatives, including the [Launch of the CSOs VNR Report](#), Media coverage of the signing of the [MoU with KNBS](#) and the [Annual Multi-Stakeholder's Conference](#) in December also helped elevate the Forum's visibility and reach a broader audience. This strategic media engagement ensured that the Forum remained at the forefront of SDG-related discussions throughout the year.

Under the communications department, the SDGs Kenya Forum organized a successful [Media Training Workshop on SDGs Reporting](#). This event brought together journalists and communication specialists to enhance their skills in reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a special focus on marginalized communities. The workshop aimed to equip media practitioners with the tools necessary to report accurately on SDG-related issues, particularly in highlighting the challenges and progress of underserved populations.

2.3.6.4 Key Events and Programmatic Support

The Communications Team played a pivotal role in providing essential support for a range of high-profile events organized by the Forum in 2024. Their efforts were integral to the success of key activities, including the preparation and execution of the third Regional Training of the Africa United Nations Youth Delegates Program, which served as a vital platform for empowering young leaders from across the continent. Additionally, the team lent its expertise to the Outlook Conference held in December in Ethiopia, ensuring the event's messaging and outreach were impactful and aligned with the Forum's mission. Under the Africa United Nations Youth Delegates Program, the Communications Team also coordinated and supported outreach campaigns that addressed critical issues, including youth unemployment, meaningful youth engagement in decision-making processes, and youth peace and security. These campaigns amplified the voices of young people while fostering awareness and collaboration across communities.



The team's efforts extended to the planning and execution of the Annual Multistakeholder Conference in December, which featured the prestigious SDG Awards. Their work in this area helped to recognize and celebrate outstanding contributions to sustainable development while elevating the Forum's visibility and influence. Throughout the year, the Communications Team consistently demonstrated their commitment to strengthening the Forum's initiatives, promoting its objectives, and amplifying its impact at local, regional, and international levels.

A significant milestone in 2024 was the launch of the Hackathon Call for Applications and the subsequent Bootcamp in November, both designed as innovative platforms to harness youth-driven technological solutions for climate change adaptation. The initiative provided young innovators with a unique opportunity to showcase their creativity, technical skills, and passion for addressing one of the most pressing global challenges of our time. By centering the event around climate resilience and adaptation, the Forum highlighted the critical role of technology and youth innovation in driving sustainable solutions and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Hackathon and Bootcamp were not just about generating ideas but also about building capacity and fostering collaboration among young leaders, technologists, and experts. Participants engaged in a series of hands-on sessions, peer learning opportunities, and mentorship experiences that equipped them with the tools and knowledge to transform their ideas into actionable solutions.



These events underscored the Forum's leadership in advocating for the SDGs, demonstrating its ability to create impactful spaces where innovation meets action. Moreover, the Hackathon and Bootcamp served to strengthen the Forum's partnerships with key stakeholders, including government bodies, private sector players, and civil society organizations, thereby reinforcing a shared commitment to addressing climate change and achieving sustainable development through inclusive and transformative approaches.

2.3.6.5 Communications Strategy and Future Planning

One of the key achievements in 2024 was the development of a comprehensive [communications strategy](#) for the SDGs Kenya Forum. This strategy outlines a structured approach to enhance the organization's visibility, streamline messaging, and ensure consistent engagement across platforms. The strategy is expected to further elevate the Forum's voice in the sustainable development space, with a particular focus on digital engagement, media relations, and stakeholder collaboration. As the Forum continues to grow its impact, this strategy will be instrumental in driving its mission to advance the 2030 Agenda.

2.3.7 Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL)

Between January and December 2026, the SDGs Kenya Forum implemented a series of strategic information activities aimed at enhancing project management, accountability, and impact measurement. The Forum consistently documented and reported on monthly and quarterly

project performance for the secretariat, ensuring detailed and timely communication of progress. It also played a crucial role in tracking and validating Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) results frameworks for varied projects, promoting data-driven decision-making. Collaborative efforts extended to proposal development and validation processes, including crafting new theories of change, results frameworks, and logical frameworks for innovative projects. Additionally, the Forum developed and customized data collection, reporting, and dissemination instruments tailored to project-specific needs, advancing precision and uniformity in data handling.

Capacity building formed a cornerstone of these activities, as the Forum conducted Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) clinics for secretariat staff, members, and implementing partners under the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). The Forum developed and maintained a digital database

management information system using Kobo Collect, streamlining data operations. Policy development efforts culminated in a comprehensive Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Policy to guide project evaluations. In collaboration with stakeholders, the Forum organized key events, including the BMGF Project Implementing Partners Review Meeting, field monitoring and supervision sessions, and the Endline Evaluation. It also supported the development of the Makueni County Integrated CIDP and SDGs Indicator Framework. By updating risk management and mitigation registers and facilitating the BMGF Project Closeout Workshops at national and county levels, the Forum ensured a seamless project lifecycle. Collectively, these initiatives demonstrated the Forum's commitment to advancing the SDGs agenda through robust strategic information systems and capacity enhancement.



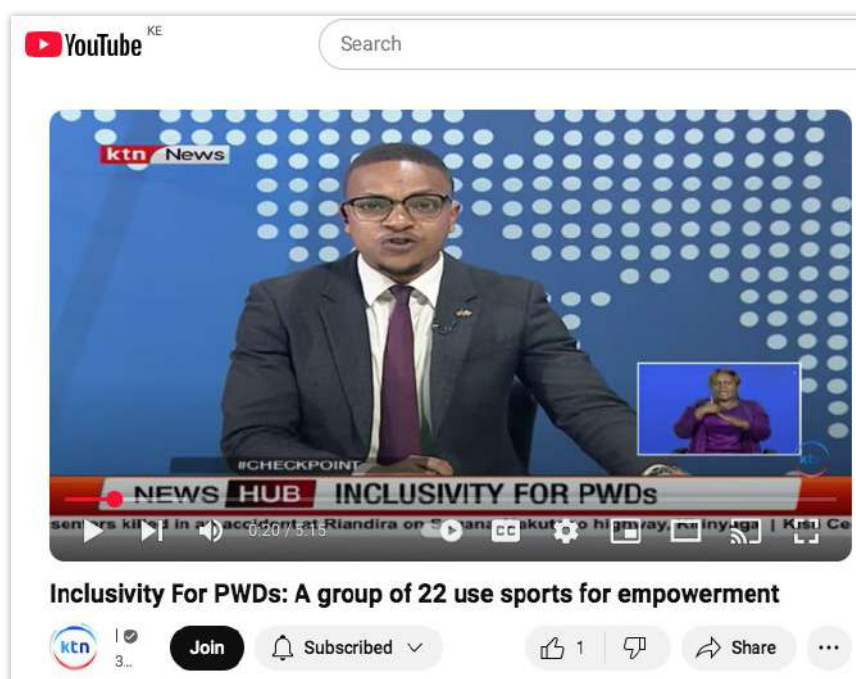
2.3.8 Strengthening Knowledge Management

- **Peer-to-Peer Learning Workshop on SDG Data:** A two-day hybrid workshop brought together 40 participants from Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, including CSOs, international organizations, and local stakeholders. The workshop improved skills in data collection, analysis, and interpretation, fostering collaboration and enhancing CSOs' capacity for Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).
- **Strengthening Youth Advocacy Through Peer-to-Peer Learning:** In 2024, a two-day SDGs Peer-to-Peer Learning Workshop served as a cornerstone for fostering collaboration and advancing youth advocacy for sustainable development. This impactful event brought together representatives from Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, with essential support from UNA Finland. The workshop provided a dynamic platform for participants to exchange experiences, share best practices, and tackle pressing questions on youth empowerment in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A key highlight was empowering young people to take the lead in driving sustainable development at both national and regional levels. The interactive sessions and discussions on Day 1 set the stage for actionable strategies to strengthen advocacy efforts across borders. This initiative underscored the importance of regional collaboration in addressing common challenges and amplifying youth voices. It also reinforced the pivotal role of partnerships in ensuring the inclusion of young people in decision-making processes and SDG implementation.
- **Field Visit to Mua:** Participants visited the Greening Mua Environmental Initiatives (GMEI) to learn about community-led afforestation, agroforestry, and climate resilience efforts. Knowledge exchange focused on forest restoration and water tracking systems, strengthening partnerships between Kenyan and Finnish organizations.

- **Media Coverage:**

Standard Media Group featured a story on the impact of paravolley sports in empowering persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Kisumu County. The story amplified advocacy for disability rights, reaching a broad audience through mainstream media.

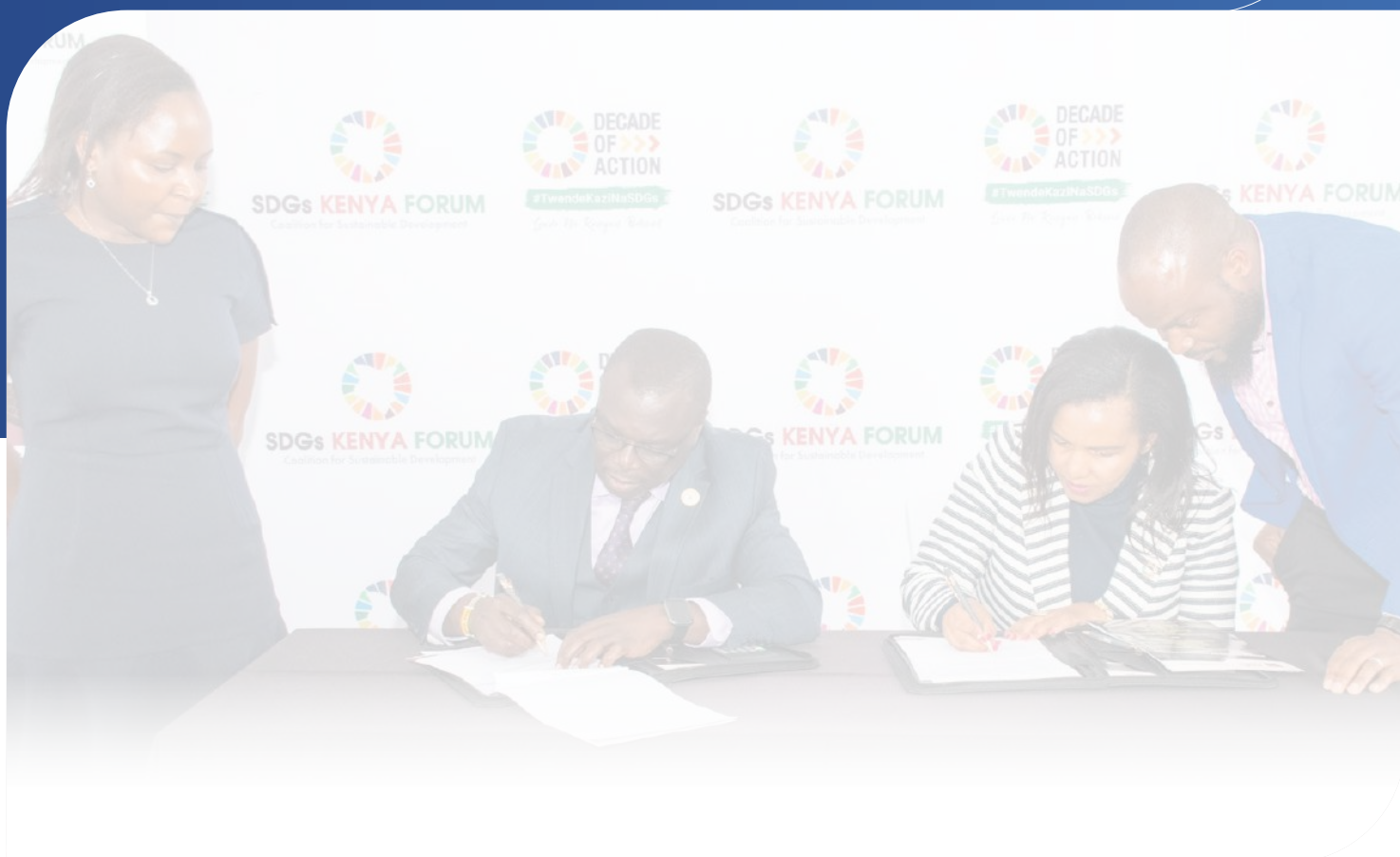
[Media coverage link](#)



- **Global Peer Learning:** Representatives from Kenya participated in LNOB's annual meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark, exchanging insights and strategies for citizen data and SDG implementation.

3.0

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK 2024



3.0 FINANCIAL OUTLOOK 2024

The SDGs Kenya Forum extends its gratitude to the invaluable financial support received from our esteemed **development partners**. Their unwavering commitment and generosity have been instrumental in driving the successful achievement of the outcomes highlighted in this report. These partnerships have not only provided the necessary resources but have also fostered collaboration, innovation, and shared purpose in our collective journey toward sustainable development.

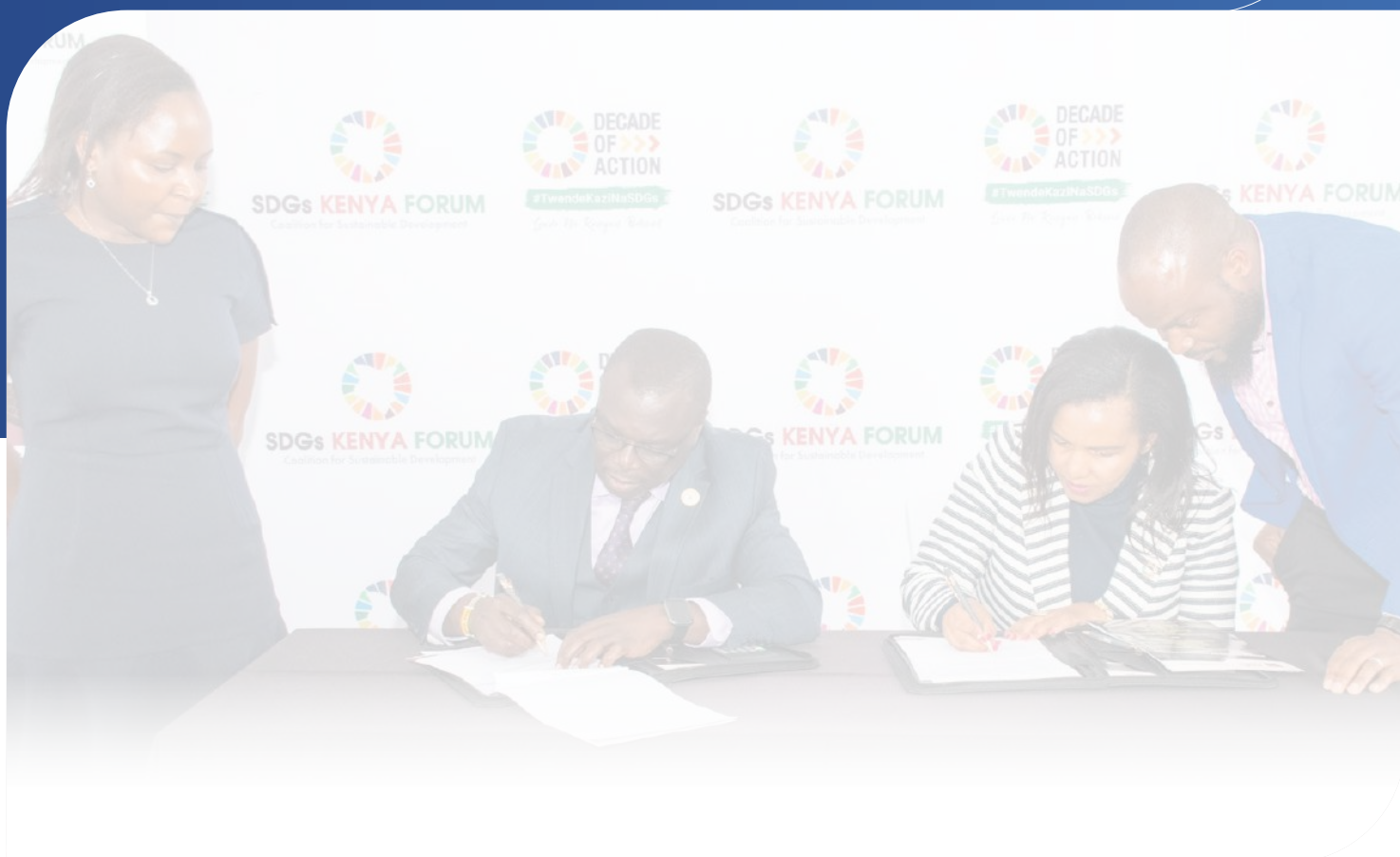
In line with our organizational policies and commitment to transparency, we are delighted to share with our members, stakeholders, and the broader community a comprehensive summary of our existing partnerships and ongoing projects. These collaborations span a wide range of initiatives, from capacity-building and advocacy to grassroots implementation, each contributing uniquely to the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Kenya.

We believe that by showcasing these partnerships, we not only celebrate the progress made but also inspire continued collaboration and investment in our shared vision for a sustainable and equitable future. Together, we are proving that when we unite under a common purpose, transformative change is not just possible—it is inevitable.

SDG Kenya Forum Donors and Funding Partners 2024			
	Donor	Project Title	Period
1.	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	Advancing SDG5 through the SDGs Kenya Forum	2022-2026
2.	UNA Finland	Accelerate SDG Implementation in East Africa	2022-2026
3.	Urgent Action Fund- Africa	Advocacy and Alliance Building	2022-2024
4.	CRISP	African United Nations Youth Delegates Program (AUNYD)	2023-2024
5.	International Civil Society Centre	Amplifying Voices of Marginalized Groups in SDGs Implementation	2023-2024
6.	URAIA Trust	SPARKe	2024
7.	UN SDG Action Campaign	UN Civil Society Conference	2024
8.	Centre for Multiparty Democracy Kenya	Citizen Centered policy making and pursuance of SDGs in Kenya	2023-2024
9.	European Union	META Project	2024-2027
10.	Action 4 SDG	VNR Scorecard	2024
11.	Membership	SDG Kenya Forum (Membership)	2021 -

4.0

PARTNERSHIP, COLLABORATION AND NETWORKING

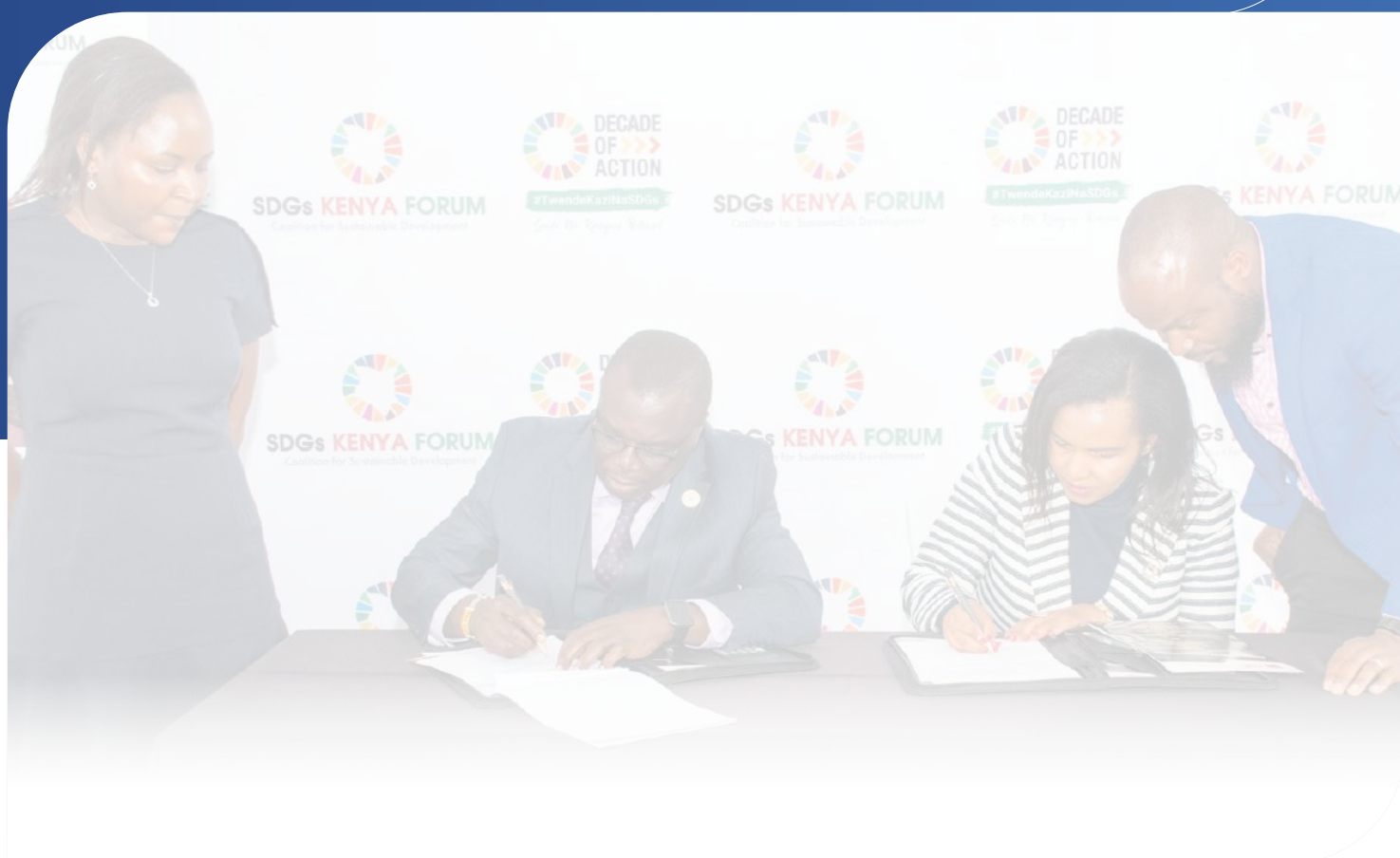


4.0 PARTNERSHIP, COLLABORATION AND NETWORKING

- **Strategic Partnerships and MOUs:** The SDGs Kenya Forum strengthened its collaboration with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) through a formalized Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This partnership integrates Citizen-Generated Data (CGD) into official statistics, addressing critical data gaps and ensuring inclusivity in national SDG reporting. Engagements with global and regional stakeholders, including FEMNET, UN Women, and other CSOs, promoted gender equality and data-driven advocacy.
- **Capacity Building and Inclusive Platforms:** Regional Civil Society Organization (CSO) inception meetings were facilitated to align stakeholders with project goals, particularly the META project. This included mapping and selecting CSOs to participate in activities promoting inclusivity and local development solutions. Establishment of the European Union Kenya Youth Sounding Board (YSB), fostering youth inclusion in policy and decision-making processes.
- **Global Advocacy and Representation:** Active participation in key global forums such as the UN General Assembly (UNGA) and the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68). The Forum co-hosted side events, advocating for gender and development issues on international platforms. Collaboration with CRISP and regional organizations under the African Youth Delegate Project enhanced youth representation in global development dialogues.
- **Gender Equity and Empowerment Initiatives:** Under the Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) initiative, partnerships led to the development and implementation of gender-responsive policies in counties like Kajiado and Samburu. The Kajiado County WEE Policy was approved, with progress on the Samburu County Gender Policy and related legislative frameworks.
- **Knowledge Sharing and Networking Events:** Hosted the Women in Data Summit, in partnership with GROOTS Kenya and other stakeholders, addressing gender data gaps and promoting data-driven gender equality advocacy; Organized multi-stakeholder conferences and outreach events under the Africa United Nations Youth Delegates Program, focusing on youth empowerment and peace-building.
- **Localized SDG Implementation:** Collaborations with CMD-Kenya and the Parliamentary Caucus on SDGs advanced SDG localization efforts, including policy gap analysis and the establishment of Local Steering Groups for county-level SDG initiatives.

5.0

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY AND EXIT STRATEGY



5.0 PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY AND EXIT STRATEGY

a) Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building

To ensure long-term sustainability, the Forum will prioritize institutional strengthening by enhancing the capacity of its secretariat, members, and partners. This includes offering targeted training programs, developing resource mobilization strategies, and implementing knowledge-sharing platforms. Capacity-building initiatives for grassroots organizations, particularly youth and women-led groups, will ensure their continued engagement in SDG implementation even after project closure. The Forum will also focus on strengthening its data management systems, such as the integration of Citizen-Generated Data (CGD) into national frameworks, to ensure that localized data collection and monitoring processes remain functional and impactful beyond the project lifecycle.

b) Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships and Local Ownership

Building on the robust partnerships formed in 2024, the Forum will solidify relationships with key stakeholders, including local governments, CSOs, community champions, and private sector actors. Through formalized agreements like MoUs, stakeholders will share roles and responsibilities for SDG implementation. The establishment of Local Steering Groups will ensure ownership at the county level, fostering continued collaboration on SDG initiatives. The Forum will also scale its efforts to include grassroots advocacy groups and networks, creating mechanisms for communities to lead SDG monitoring and reporting processes independently.

c) Financial Sustainability and Resource Mobilization

The Forum will diversify funding sources by strengthening existing donor relationships, exploring local philanthropic opportunities, and engaging in strategic partnerships with private sector players. A robust fundraising and resource mobilization strategy will be implemented, emphasizing long-term financial independence. Additionally, the Forum will equip county-based organizations with skills in grant writing and financial management, empowering them to secure independent funding for their SDG-related initiatives.

d) Knowledge Management and Continuity

To ensure institutional memory and knowledge continuity, the Forum will develop and maintain repositories of best practices, lessons learned, and success stories from past projects. These resources will be made accessible through online platforms and workshops, ensuring that stakeholders can replicate effective strategies. The establishment of mentorship programs will also allow experienced SDG champions to guide new leaders in carrying forward the agenda.

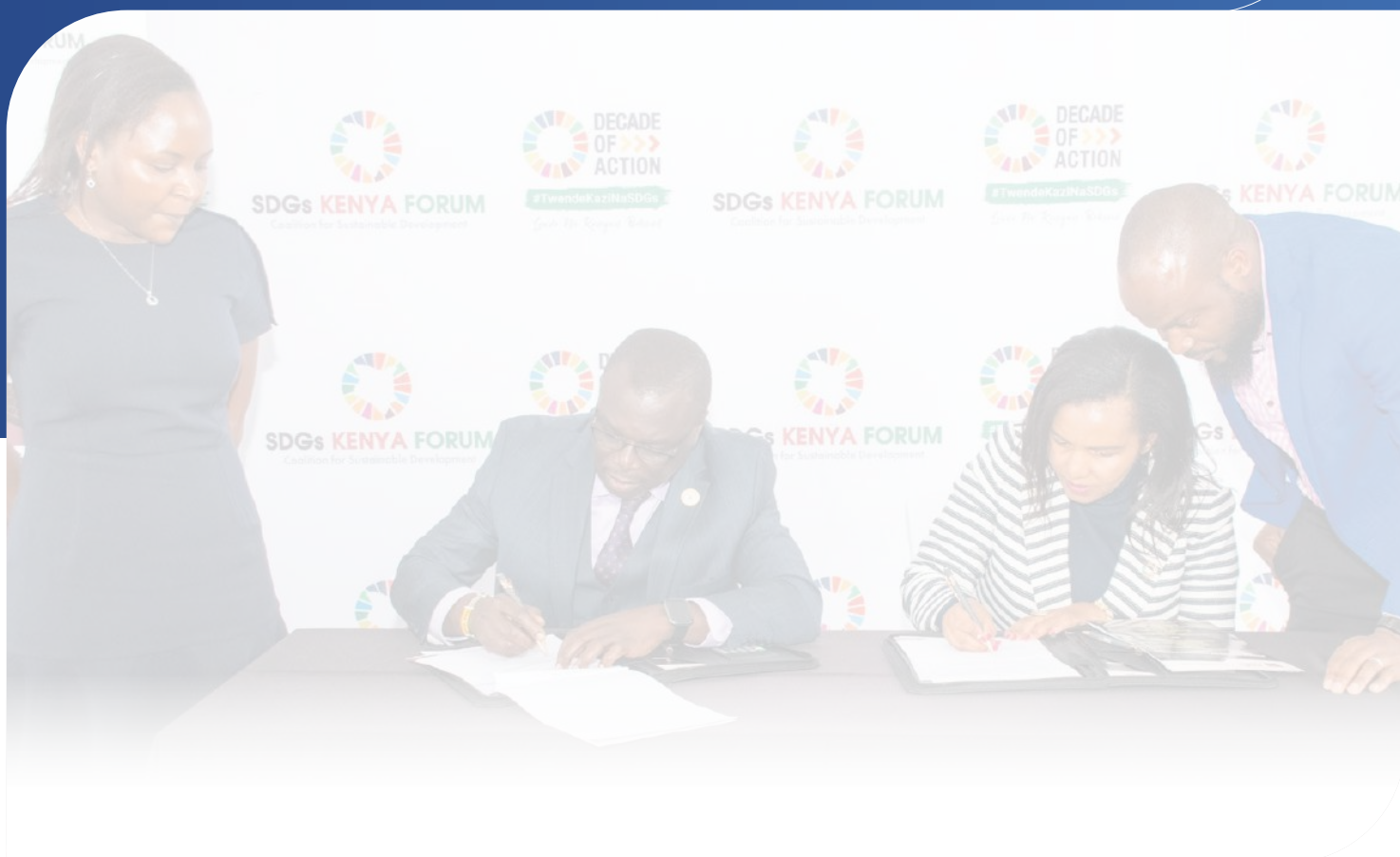
e) Gradual Project Exit and Transitioning

The Forum will implement a phased approach to project exit, transferring responsibilities progressively to local partners and community leaders. By embedding SDG activities within county-level governance frameworks, such as County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) and Annual Development Plans (ADPs), these activities will become institutionalized and financially supported by local governments. Regular progress reviews will ensure that the transition process is seamless and that local actors are equipped to sustain ongoing initiatives.

6.0

CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

(CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS)



6.0 CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES (CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS)

▪ Economic and Financial Challenges:

Unfavorable financial bills and widespread corruption exacerbated economic difficulties, leading to high living costs and limited money circulation. These conditions strained budgets, necessitated co-funding, and reduced the scope of planned activities, ultimately affecting citizens' economic development and livelihoods.

▪ Political Instability:

Prolonged youth-led protests and government reforms disrupted project timelines, forcing a shift to remote work and rescheduling of key activities. These disruptions also limited community-level engagement.

▪ Environmental Barriers:

Floods caused by climate change damaged infrastructure, hindering participant mobility and access to training venues, particularly for persons with disabilities. Collaboration with local organizations was crucial to overcoming these logistical challenges.

▪ Social and Structural Inequities:

Vulnerabilities arising from recurrent droughts, floods, and systemic marginalization underscored the need for sustained advocacy, capacity-building, and targeted interventions in underserved communities.

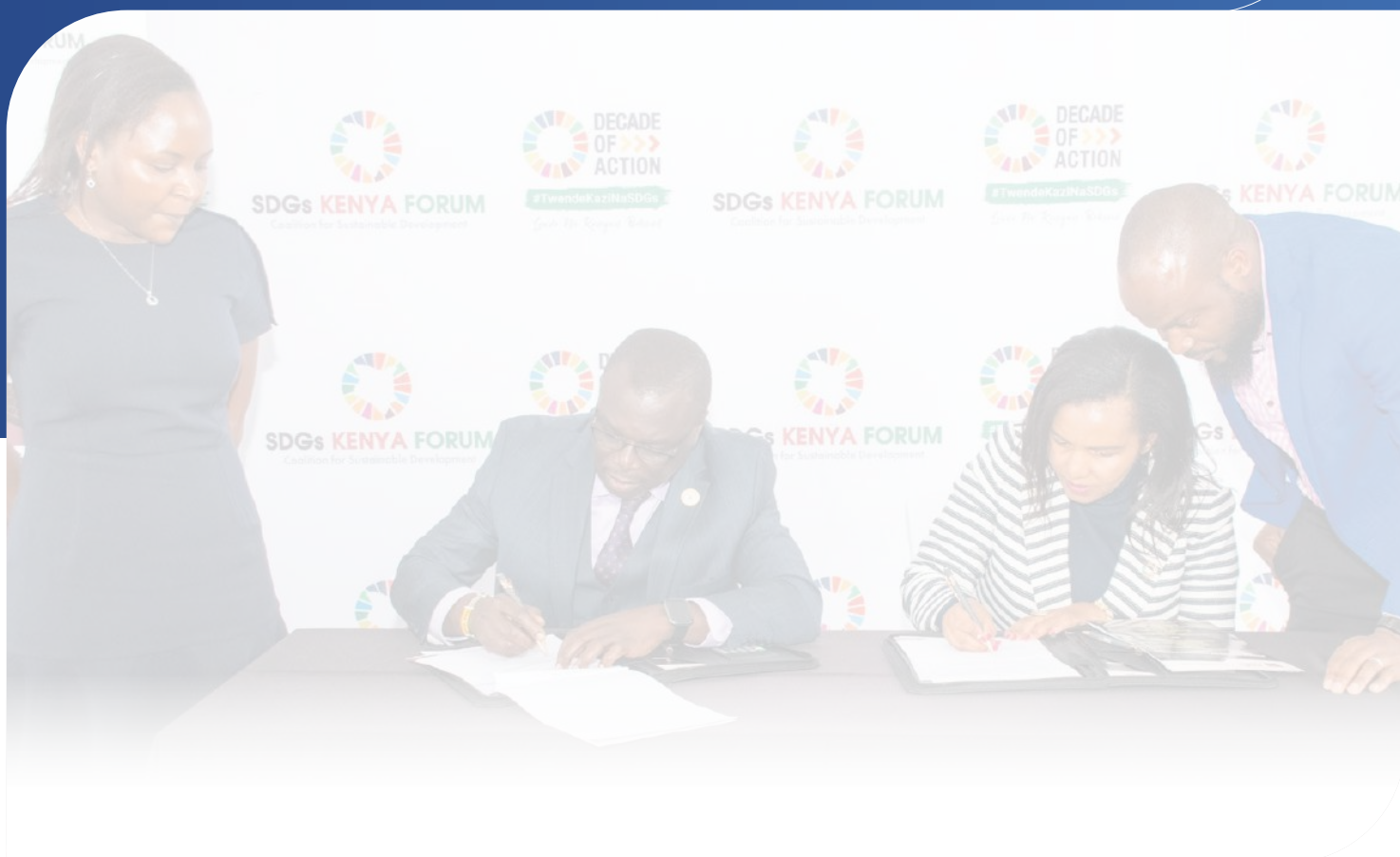
▪ Operational Risks:

Changes in government policies, citizen unrest, and inconsistent governance posed risks to the continuity and momentum of project implementation, emphasizing the need for adaptable strategies and proactive risk management



7.0

LESSON LEARNT AND BEST PRACTICES



7.0 LESSON LEARNT AND BEST PRACTICES

- **Strengthening Partnerships and Collaboration:** Collaborating with partners, communities, and CSOs enhances project sustainability, expands reach, and fosters local ownership of initiatives. Strong partnerships facilitate resource sharing and coordinated efforts. At the outset, establish formal agreements or MOUs with key partners to clearly define roles, expectations, and resource contributions. Schedule regular partnership reviews to address emerging challenges and sustain alignment.
- **Empowering Grassroots Women and Youth:** Capacity building for women, girls, and youth is transformative. Skills in financial literacy, business management, and advocacy lead to increased economic engagement and community participation. Equipping adolescent girls with gender equality knowledge fosters long-term cultural shifts. Tailor capacity-building activities based on specific needs identified through community assessments. Introduce mentorship programs linking trained women and youth with experienced advocates to reinforce learning and foster ongoing support.
- **Leveraging Community Champions and Strengths:** Identifying and empowering local champions enhances advocacy and community mobilization. Community leaders with firsthand knowledge effectively address local challenges and drive sustainability. Introduce an incentive system for champions (e.g., recognition programs, stipends) and provide advanced training to sustain their engagement. Establish clear benchmarks for measuring their influence and effectiveness in the community.
- **Enhancing Stakeholder Engagement in Policy Development:** Including diverse stakeholders in policy validation ensures alignment with community needs and increases acceptance and implementation of policies. Advocacy and sustained engagement with political leaders are critical for advancing policy agendas. Develop a structured stakeholder engagement framework early in the project, detailing timelines, key roles, and feedback mechanisms. Conduct joint policy advocacy workshops involving both policymakers and community representatives to build shared ownership.
- **Adapting Interactive and Inclusive Methods for Training and Dialogue:** Using participatory methods such as group discussions and role-playing enhances engagement and retention during community dialogues. Engaging men in patriarchal settings like Samburu County is essential for tackling sensitive issues like gender equality and mental health. Design training materials that are culturally sensitive and tailored to the community context. Pilot these methods in smaller groups first, gathering feedback to refine approaches for broader rollout.

ANNEX:

- a) [Kenyan Government VNR Report 2024](#)
- b) [CSOs VNR Report 2024](#)
- c) [2024 Spotlight Newsletter](#)
 - [Q1 Newsletter](#)
 - [Q2 Newsletter](#)
 - [HLPF Newsletter](#)
 - [Leave No One Behind Newsletter](#)
- d) Key Workshop, Conferences and Meetings.
 - ❖ [Launch of the 2024 CSOs VNR Report](#)
 - ❖ [Women in Data Summit](#)
 - ❖ [Strengthening Data Partnerships for a Sustainable Future](#)

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Solutions to Leapfrog SDGs Implementation in the last Stretch to 2030





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