



ANNUAL PROGRESS AND PERFORMANCE

REPORT
2025



SDGs KENYA FORUM
Coalition for Sustainable Development

ANNUAL PROGRESS AND PERFORMANCE
REPORT 2025

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By

Secretariat



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Preliminary Section

01



FORWARD

a) Executive Director

Dear Members, Partners, and Stakeholders,

As we reflect on the year 2025, I am proud to present this Annual Report as a testament to our collective commitment to advancing sustainable development in Kenya. This year has been one of reflection, renewal, and renewed commitment to advancing Kenya's sustainable development agenda at a time when the urgency to act has never been greater.

As we marked the final stretch toward 2030, our collective work has been guided by a simple but powerful question: *How do we accelerate progress, leave no one behind, and ensure accountability at all levels?* Throughout 2025, the SDGs Kenya Forum remained steadfast in its role as a convener, advocate, and catalyst for inclusive, evidence-based, and people-centered sustainable development. The SDGs Kenya Forum continued to play its core role as a convener, advocate, and accountability platform bringing together civil society, government institutions, development partners, the private sector, and communities to ensure that no one is left behind. At a time when global and national development pathways are facing significant fiscal, political, and social pressures, our work remained anchored in people-centered development, data-driven advocacy, and inclusive participation.

In 2025, we continued to strengthen coordination among civil society organizations, government institutions, development partners, the private sector, youth, women, and grassroots movements. Through strategic convenings, policy dialogues, and



joint advocacy initiatives, we amplified civil society voices and promoted meaningful multi-stakeholder engagement in national and sub-national development processes.

This year, we **co-hosted the 6th edition of the Annual Multi-Stakeholders Conference**, a flagship convening that brought together government representatives, the United Nations, the private sector, media, development partners, and civil society organizations to review progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. The conference provided a critical platform for dialogue, accountability, and collective action toward the 2030 Agenda. During this convening, we also **launched the #Raceto2030 campaign**, renewing commitment, mobilizing stakeholders, and accelerating coordinated action to fast-track SDG implementation.

In 2025, we strengthened civic engagement and accountability mechanisms by amplifying citizen voices in national and county-level SDG processes. Through policy dialogues,

community engagements, and multi-stakeholder forums, we supported meaningful participation in development planning, budgeting, and monitoring.

Our engagements, including national dialogues and thematic forums, provided critical spaces for reflection on Kenya's progress, gaps, and opportunities in SDG implementation. These platforms reinforced the importance of transparency, inclusive governance, and evidence-based decision-making.

Partnerships remained at the heart of our work. We deepened collaborations with government agencies, UN bodies, development partners, and grassroots organizations to strengthen coordination and coherence in the SDGs delivery. We also invested in capacity strengthening equipping civil society actors, youth leaders, and the media with skills and tools to engage more effectively in sustainable development advocacy and reporting. Recognizing the power of data and communication, we prioritized knowledge sharing, storytelling, and digital engagement to demystify the SDGs and make development conversations more accessible to the public.

We remained intentional about youth leadership as a catalyst for sustainable development. Through youth-focused initiatives, peer learning platforms, and leadership programs, young people continued to shape policy conversations and drive innovative solutions at local, national, and regional levels. Their energy and ideas reaffirm our belief that the future of sustainable development must be youth-led and intergenerational.

Through the **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** currently being implemented between the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) and the SDGs Kenya Forum, we successfully supported the design and launch of the Kenya Strategy for the Development of Statistics II (KSDS II), as well as the launch of the Economic

Value of Unpaid Domestic and Care Work in Kenya 2025. These milestones strengthened collaboration between government and civil society, advanced evidence-based planning, and elevated the visibility of unpaid care work within national development and statistical frameworks.

As we look to the future, the work ahead demands bold leadership, innovative partnerships, and unwavering solidarity. The #RaceTo2030 campaign will continue to guide our collective efforts, reminding us that the promise of the SDGs can only be realized through deliberate action, shared responsibility, and sustained political will.

On behalf of the SDGs Kenya Forum, I extend my sincere appreciation to our members, partners, donors, government counterparts, and communities for your trust, collaboration, and commitment throughout 2025. Together, we have laid a stronger foundation for accelerated action and together, we will continue the race towards a more just, inclusive, and sustainable Kenya.

Let us move forward with urgency, unity, and hope.

Florence Syevuo

b) Board Co-Chair

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it is my honor to present this message in the 2025 Annual Report of the SDGs Kenya Forum.

The year 2025 has been a defining period in our collective journey towards the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals. As we move steadily closer to 2030, the role of strong governance, strategic leadership, and accountable partnerships has become increasingly critical. The Board is proud of the Forum's continued ability to provide principled leadership, foster collaboration, and remain a credible voice for civil society in Kenya's sustainable development landscape.

For the first time, the Board convened a CEOs' Dinner, bringing together 30 chief executives for a high-level and candid dialogue on organizational sustainability and resilience. At a time of tightening resources, the convening created a trusted space for CEOs to reflect on sustainability models, austerity measures, and adaptive strategies needed to navigate the current donor landscape. The discussion enabled leaders to openly share expectations, identify emerging opportunities, and explore innovative areas to tap into in order to ensure their organizations remain resilient and afloat.

Additionally, through the board, the Forum convened the **CSOs Data Commons**, a strategic platform that brought together civil society organizations (CSOs) to engage on the use and value of Citizen-Generated Data (CGD). The platform created a space for CSOs to share experiences, strengthen collaboration, and explore how citizen-generated data can complement official statistics, enhance accountability, and inform evidence-based advocacy and programming.

Throughout the year, the Board worked closely with the Secretariat to provide oversight, strategic direction, and fiduciary stewardship. We ensured that the Forum remained aligned to its mission while responding effectively to



emerging national and global development priorities. This included strengthening institutional systems, promoting transparency and accountability, and supporting initiatives that enhance the Forum's long-term sustainability.

The Board also commends the Secretariat for deepening multi-stakeholder engagement, amplifying the voices of youth, women, and marginalized communities, and promoting evidence-informed advocacy. The Forum's growing influence across policy spaces, media platforms, and grassroots initiatives is a testament to the strength of its membership and partnerships.

As we look ahead, the Board remains committed to supporting the Secretariat in driving strategic innovation, resource mobilization, and institutional resilience. The remaining years to 2030 demand bold decisions, adaptive leadership, and sustained collaboration across all sectors of society.

On behalf of the Board, I extend our sincere appreciation to the Executive Director and Secretariat team, our members, partners, donors, and stakeholders for their dedication and trust throughout 2025. Together, we will continue to strengthen accountability, accelerate progress, and uphold the promise of the SDGs for current and future generations.

c) Executive Summary

The 2025 Annual Report of the SDGs Kenya Forum captures a year defined by urgency, collective action, and renewed commitment to accelerating the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Kenya. As the country advances through the final stretch toward 2030, the Forum continued to play a pivotal role as a convener, advocate, and accountability partner bringing together civil society, government, development partners, the private sector, media, and citizens to drive inclusive and people-centered sustainable development.

Throughout 2025, the SDGs Kenya Forum focused on strengthening coordination, amplifying civil society voices, and influencing policy processes at national and sub-national levels. Guided by its mandate to promote accountability and leave no one behind, the Forum supported meaningful engagement in planning, budgeting, implementation, and reporting processes linked to the SDGs. This included sustained participation in national dialogues, policy forums, and monitoring mechanisms aimed at closing persistent development gaps.

A major highlight of the year was the rollout of the **#RaceTo2030 campaign**, a flagship initiative designed to mobilize accelerated action in the remaining years of the SDG timeline. The campaign was **pre-launched during the SDGs Flag Day**, signalling a national call to action and reinforcing public ownership of the SDGs.

Through an active MoU between The Forum and the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), the Forum also strengthened its role in advancing

data-driven advocacy. By promoting the use of evidence, citizen-generated data, and inclusive monitoring approaches, the Forum enhanced the quality of civil society engagement in decision-making spaces.

Youth and media engagement remained central to the Forum's strategy in 2025. Through targeted trainings, the Youth Pre-Conference, peer-to-peer learning, and strategic media partnerships, the Forum supported young people and journalists to champion SDG narratives, accountability, and public awareness. These efforts expanded the visibility of the SDGs and fostered informed public discourse at national and grassroots levels.

Institutionally, the SDGs Kenya Forum continued to strengthen governance, systems, and partnerships to ensure sustainability and impact. The Board of Directors provided strategic oversight, while the Secretariat focused on operational excellence, resource mobilization, and partnership development. This institutional resilience positioned the Forum to respond effectively to emerging development priorities while maintaining alignment with its long-term strategic objectives.

In addition, 2025 was marked by strengthened partnerships and expanded advocacy at national, regional, and global levels. The Forum formalized strategic collaborations through the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the **County Government of Homa Bay** and the **Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)**, reinforcing sub-national engagement and advancing green growth and sustainable development priorities.







The Forum also convened several **Goal Group meetings with its members**, providing structured spaces for coordination, peer learning, and collective action across thematic SDG areas. These engagements enhanced member alignment, deepened technical discussions, and strengthened collective advocacy positions.

A key focus of the year was the continued strengthening of the Forum's **National, Regional, and Global Advocacy pillar**. At the regional level, the Forum actively participated in the **Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD)**, where it not only attended but also **hosted a side event**, amplifying civil society perspectives and Kenya's development priorities within continental SDG discussions. Globally, the Forum maintained a strong presence in high-level policy spaces, including the **High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)**,

Tokyo International Conference for African Development (TICAD 9), **The 4th Financing for Development (FFD)** and **COP 30 in Brazil**. These engagements enhanced the visibility of Kenyan civil society, facilitated knowledge exchange, and strengthened linkages between local realities and global policy commitments.

In conclusion, 2025 marked a critical year of consolidation and acceleration for the SDGs Kenya Forum. The progress documented in this report reflects the power of collaboration, accountability, and sustained advocacy across all levels. As Kenya advances toward 2030, the Forum remains firmly committed to driving the **#RaceTo2030** agenda—working with all stakeholders to translate global commitments into tangible, equitable outcomes for all people, everywhere.

Key Highlights of 2025

02

Membership Growth and Engagement:

- Membership increased to 380 organizations, representing all counties in Kenya.
- Conducted monthly goal group meetings to enhance engagement and gather member feedback.

Localization and SDG Domestication:

- Conducted 4 community dialogues in Makueni, Homabay, Laikipia and Uasin Gishu Counties while advancing the National Care Policy.
- Empowered 40+ citizens and community-based organizations to engage in SDGs social accountability.

Gender:

- Supported initiatives that popularized, disseminated, and raised awareness on existing gender data and care policies for localization and adoption at the county level.

Youth:

- Convened the National Inception Dialogue on Youth Leadership and Policy Advocacy, with support from the Irish Embassy in Kenya
- Pre- Launched the #Raceto2030 Campaign.
- Convened the Peer-to-peer learning
- Workshop on **UN Reforms Implications & 2030 Agenda.**
- Convened the fourth Youth Pre-conference.

Data, Research, and Reporting

- Supported the National Statistical Office (KNBS) to improve the availability and quality of gender data and measurements for informed policymaking and accountability.
- Co-convened the Gender Statistics Technical Working Committee and key stakeholders for gender statistics during the development of a new gender sector statistics plan (GSSP) for improvement of gender statistics in collaboration with UN Women and KNBS.
- Spearheaded the development of the CSOs Data Commons Platform – a secure, centralized, and collaboratively governed digital ecosystem for CSO data.
- Supported the development of a national gender indicators framework.

Global, Regional, and National Advocacy

- Participated in key forums, including the Africa Regional Forum for Sustainable Development (ARFSD), the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), TICAD, and COP30, amplifying Kenya's voice in global SDG processes.
- Co-Chaired the Inter-Agency Technical Working Committee on SDGs.

Public Engagement and Visibility

- Amplified social media engagement with impactful campaigns including the #Raceto2030 campaign and live webinars.
- Successfully executed events like the Annual Multistakeholder Conference and the EU-CSOs High Level Forum.
- Conducted a two-day media training on SDGs Reporting.

Sustainability and Partnerships

- Signed an MoU with the Global Green Growth Initiative (GGGI) and Homabay County.
- Strengthened collaborations with, KNBS, UN Women, members and grassroots organizations.

Annual Progress Performance and Achievement

03



a) Membership

The Forum's current membership stands at 398 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 2025 alone, membership has grown by 38 organizations, and we anticipate receiving additional membership requests in the remaining weeks of the year. 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).

The Membership Desk has adopted several strategies to strengthen member engagement and grow the Forum's membership. One key approach is organizing Goal Group meetings and full membership gatherings. These events bring members together, creating space for networking, knowledge-sharing, and collaboration among those working on related thematic areas. They also provide an opportunity for members to interact with the Secretariat, share their experiences, and suggest improvements to ensure they receive maximum value from their membership.

In addition, the Forum maintains regular communication with members through email, social media, and phone calls, providing updates on Forum initiatives and SDG-related developments. A designated membership liaison further supports members by responding to inquiries and linking them with the appropriate desks for additional assistance.

Membership Highlights for 2025

In 2025, we continued to grow, welcoming 38 new organizations into our membership. This milestone reflects a significant step in the Forum's expansion and underscores the value our community offers to members who choose to engage with us.

Goal Group Meetings

To support growth, strengthen our platform, and enhance coordination and networking among members, the Forum successfully convened several goal group meetings throughout 2025. We began the year on a strong note by hosting meetings for SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) in February.



In March, we brought together members working on SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), followed by a combined session on SDGs 3, 5, and 8 in April. We concluded the year with a comprehensive goal group meeting that engaged members across all 17 SDGs.



These sessions were designed to bring together members working on the same SDG focus areas to identify strategic priorities for 2025, explore collaboration and partnership opportunities, and outline areas for joint action. Through this collaborative process, members jointly developed and submitted the 2025 CSO position paper. Our final gathering of the year took place in October 2025, bringing together all members across the 17 SDGs. Key outcomes included coordinated joint activities for the last quarter of the year and planning for partnerships and collaborations in 2026.

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 2025 to our members; without your support, we would not have reached this point. We are excited for further growth and continued engagement in 2026!

Increased Members Engagement

Our members continue to be our top priority when inviting participants to all our meetings and training workshops. In 2025, we have held training sessions in Nairobi and various other counties, and our members have been actively involved in every meeting.

Membership Renewals

2025 was a highly successful year for the Forum; thanks to the strong support we received from our members through membership subscription

b) Localization and Domestication of SDGs for ownership

The Localization and Domestication of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) pillar focuses on translating global development commitments into local action, ownership, and accountability. The pillar seeks to strengthen the capacity of county governments, civil society organizations (CSOs), and grassroots communities to integrate SDG principles and targets into local development plans, policies, and monitoring frameworks.

Through this pillar, the organization promotes inclusive participation, ensuring that local priorities and citizen voices—especially those of women, youth, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups—inform SDG implementation and reporting processes. By bridging the gap between national strategies and community

realities, the pillar contributes to context-specific solutions, data-driven decision-making, and sustainable local development outcomes aligned with Kenya’s Vision 2030 and global SDG agenda.

In 2025 the Forum conducted several activities under this pillar including;



Community Dialogues

This year’s Community Dialogues centered on amplifying the voices of vulnerable and marginalized groups, including women, youth, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and indigenous communities in Makueni, Homabay, Laikipia and Usain Gishu. The dialogues provided citizens with a safe and inclusive platform to share their perspectives on SDG 5 Gender Equality and

Women’s Economic Empowerment, highlighting persistent barriers to progress. Discussions also emphasized the disproportionate burden of unpaid care and domestic work borne by women and girls, underscoring the need for policies and actions that recognize, reduce, redistribute, reward, and represent care work as a key step toward achieving gender equality and social justice.



Inclusive Structured Dialogues

In partnership with The African Women’s Development and Communication Network (FEMNET) and Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF), the Forum continued to support and enhance structured engagement between CSOs, the European Union (EU) Youth Sounding Board in Kenya and the European Union Delegation to Kenya, contributing to more coordinated and inclusive dialogue. During the year, two thematic dialogues on Human-Centred Digitalisation and Green Trade generated CSOs and youth recommendations, which were submitted to the EU and informed ongoing investment priorities and project design in Kenya.

County Development Index (CDI)

Kenya’s county development landscape reflects a country progressing steadily but unevenly across nine interconnected pillars: Fiscal Management and Public Finance, Economic Performance

and Livelihoods, Human Capital Development, Essential Infrastructure and Connectivity, Governance and Institutional Capacity, Social Protection and Inclusion, Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience, Peace, Security and Social Cohesion, and Digital Transformation and Innovation. Together, these pillars illustrate how counties are navigating the opportunities and constraints of devolved governance, and how structural variations in geography, economic foundations, demographic patterns, and administrative capacity continue to influence development trajectories. The data reveal that while some counties have achieved high levels of resilience, productivity and service delivery, others remain constrained by structural deprivation, fiscal fragility, and limited institutional reach. Thus, the County Development Index (CDI) update presents a nuanced picture of Kenya’s development trajectory under devolution—one marked by steady national progress alongside persistent inter-county disparities.

Advancing the Implementation of the Public Benefit Organisations (PBO) Act

SDGs Kenya Forum and the Meaningful Engagement Transformative Action (META) Steering Committee achieved significant progress in advancing the implementation of the Public Benefit Organisations (PBO) Act through coordinated national engagements. Key achievements included: a draft implementation roadmap, a central SharePoint repository, a Joint Communiqué on the urgent need to operationalise the PBO Act; and the establishment of the PBO

Implementation Working Group. Further, a 3-day PBO Regulations Review Workshop resulted in a consolidated CSO memorandum, which informed national public participation forums and ensured CSO perspectives were integrated into the draft regulations. We extend our appreciation to the Consortium Partners; FEMNET and WECF, supported by the EU Delegation to Kenya. We also acknowledge the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), Kenya Platform for Climate Governance (KPCG), and the UN Association of Finland (UNA Finland), who co-supported in the PBO Act Implementation process.



Financial Support to Third Parties

SDGs Kenya Forum and partners, FEMNET and WECF, extended its impact to the grassroots through a sub-granting mechanism, which attracted over 400 applications from across Kenya. Following a competitive and transparent selection process, 16 outstanding community-based organisations were supported, including women-

led and youth-led organisations, as well as those working with or led by persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and ethnic minorities. This milestone underscores the role of our partners and SDGs Kenya Forum in strengthening the skills, knowledge, and resources of Kenyan civil society to advance shared development priorities, promote effective governance, and deliver tangible impact at the community level.



c) Gender Equality

Overview:

The SDGs Kenya Forum’s anchor investment’s goal is to accelerate SDG 5 implementation, with the objective to enhance gender equality and women empowerment in Kenya. With support from the GATES Foundation, the primary aim of this year’s investment was to advance gender equality initiatives and outcomes in Kenya, with a specific focus on data uptake and accountability

Some of the achievements in 2025 include the following:

Supported initiatives that popularized, disseminated, and raised awareness on existing gender data and care policies for localization and adoption at county level.

Community dialogues:

Conducted 04 county level trainings and community dialogues on gender policies, focused on the National Care Policy, Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) frameworks, and Women in Leadership (WIL). These engagements have raised understanding of SDG5 and gender commitments on achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls as a catalyst for

building momentum around inclusive governance and accountability.

Capacity Building on Gender Policies:

Capacity-building trainings were conducted on key gender policies-including the National Care Policy, Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE), and Women in Leadership (WIL)-across Makueni, Homa Bay, Laikipia, and Uasin Gishu counties. These engagements deepened participants' understanding of SDG 5 and national gender commitments aimed at achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls. The trainings served as a catalyst for building momentum around inclusive governance, social accountability, and gender-responsive policy implementation at the county level.





Gender Budget analysis studies

In 2025, the Forum undertook a Gender Budget Analysis Study to assess the extent to which county budgets integrate gender-responsive planning and resource allocation in alignment with SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and Kenya's gender policy frameworks. The study focused on selected counties, examining the adequacy, equity, and effectiveness of budget allocations toward key sectors impacting women, youth, and marginalized groups. The findings revealed that while counties have made commendable progress in mainstreaming gender in development planning, budget allocations for gender priorities remain low and unevenly distributed across sectors. Limited technical capacity for gender-responsive budgeting, weak data systems, and inadequate accountability mechanisms were identified as key challenges. The study provides actionable recommendations to strengthen gender-responsive budgeting, including enhanced capacity building for county officials, establishment of gender budget tracking mechanisms, and improved collaboration between government, CSOs, and oversight bodies. The evidence generated will inform ongoing advocacy for equitable resource allocation and strengthen the Forum's work on inclusive governance and accountability in line with the localization of SDG

5.

Under the EU-funded *Meaningful Engagement – Transformative Action (META)* initiative, SDGs Kenya Forum, in partnership with FEMNET, WECF and the EU Delegation to Kenya, supported a Gender Budget Analysis for FY 2024/25 led by Budget Talk Global. The study reviewed national and county budgets across 37 MDAs and 12 counties to assess how gender equality commitments are translated into public financing.

The analysis found that while budgets are gender-relevant in policy, they remain largely gender-neutral in execution due to high debt servicing, recurrent-heavy spending, weak gender budget tagging, and limited sex- and disability-disaggregated reporting. As a result, funding for sectors critical to women, youth and persons with disabilities such as water, ECDE, climate adaptation, digital inclusion and MSME support was constrained. The report provides practical recommendations to strengthen Gender Responsive Budgeting by protecting gender-responsive programmes, improving data and accountability, and financing access-enabling services that reduce inequality.

he Urgent Action Fund (UAF), through its financial support, played a critical role in enabling the

Forum to design, initiate, and implement a range of strategic initiatives aimed at advancing gender equality and promoting women's rights across the country. This support strengthened the Forum's capacity to expand its reach, respond to emerging needs, and drive impactful actions that contributed to more inclusive and equitable outcomes for women and girls.

In the first 3 months of 2025, SDGs Kenya Forum convened a consultative meeting, bringing

together key stakeholders, including government representatives, civil society organizations (CSOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), gender-based violence (GBV) survivors, women of all ages, and girls. The meeting was held in partnership with CREAM, offering a vital platform for Women's Rights Organizations, women with disabilities, young women, and women political leaders to engage in constructive dialogue on the state of women's rights in Kenya.



Further to this, The Forum hosted two virtual sessions and one in-person meeting with members of the SDG 5 Goal Group. These engagements raised awareness about the Beijing+30 review process and served as the foundation for drafting a CSO Shadow Report and policy brief which was completed in March 2025. The Forum and CREAM worked with a consultant to collect

feedback from over 15 WROs, primarily members of the SDG 5 Goal Group, via an online survey. We also consulted with CSOs within the 17 groups to align their efforts with the 12 critical areas of focus of the Beijing Declaration, ensuring that their contributions to the shadow report are both impactful and relevant. Our ongoing goal group discussions continue to drive positive change.



The consultant utilized this feedback to create a comprehensive CSO Shadow Report and Policy Brief/Position Paper. These documents provide valuable insights and recommendations that will inform future policy and advocacy efforts. The Policy Brief/Position Paper developed was presented to KEWOPA in February 2025, as well as during an Intergenerational Dialogue with grassroots women on the Beijing+30 process. The discussion provided valuable insights into the journey of the Beijing Platform for Action, highlighting the urgent need for actionable, grassroots-level change. While Kenya has made significant strides in establishing progressive gender equality policies, there remain notable gaps in their implementation, particularly at the community level. The dialogue emphasized that the commitments outlined in the Beijing Platform must go beyond policy and lead to tangible, real-world improvements for women and girls across the country.

The SDGs Kenya Forum and Hummingbird Grassroots Centre further hosted a powerful Grassroots Women Intergenerational Dialogue dubbed 'Beijing Eastlands Edition'. This session brought together women from different generations to reflect on gender equality, GBV, and the progress made since the Beijing Platform for Action 30 years ago. Discussions during the intergenerational dialogue highlighted several systemic barriers to gender equality, including unpaid care work, economic marginalization, and political exclusion, which continue to hinder women's full participation in society. The community leaders in attendance, shared personal testimonies about the ongoing struggle for women's leadership, especially in male-dominated political spaces. Mental health challenges were also a major concern, with participants noting the stigma surrounding mental health issues for both men and women. There is a pressing need for gender-sensitive mental health services and

improved societal responses to these challenges. The rising cases of gender-based violence (GBV) and femicide also received significant attention, with participants calling for stronger enforcement of legal frameworks and better support for survivors, especially regarding emotional and financial abuse. Key recommendations included

localized advocacy for gender equality, improved economic empowerment through access to loans and recognition of unpaid care work, enhanced reproductive health access, gender-responsive mental health services, and stronger legal reforms to combat GBV.



Our work also Raised awareness on GBV in schools using Murals and talking boxes in Nairobi County In a powerful initiative to raise awareness around Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), vibrant murals were painted at Bidii Comprehensive School and Dagoretti Mixed Secondary School. These schools hosted a significant event aimed at addressing GBV while celebrating the achievements of Beijing Plus 30. The event brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including the Office of the Women Representative

Nairobi County, Ministry of Education officials, and representatives from Dagoretti North MP's office, along with students (ages 8-15), teachers, and PTA members. The primary objective was to raise awareness of GBV, highlight the importance of the Beijing Platform for Action, and celebrate the progress made in addressing gender inequality, particularly for girls. Hon. Beatrice Elachi's Office representatives and Hon. Esther Passaris were key speakers, sharing valuable insights on GBV prevention, gender equality, and the challenges of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).





A key highlight of the event was the official unveiling of the SDGs Murals which visually represents the commitment to fighting GBV through the SDGs. In addition to this, students at both schools were supported with lunch and sanitary dignity kits. The event also saw the introduction of talking boxes, providing students with a safe space to share their thoughts and experiences on tackling GBV in their communities. The event successfully sparked meaningful dialogue on GBV, empowering

students to engage in solutions and fostering a greater sense of community involvement in combating gender violence. The SDGs Mural and talking boxes are powerful tools for continued awareness and action, ensuring the conversation around GBV remains ongoing in the schools. This event marks an important step forward in promoting gender equality and empowering the next generation to take a stand against GBV.



d) Global, Regional and National Advocacy

The Forum’s strategic objective is to strengthen global and regional engagements for enhanced advocacy, collaboration, and partnerships

At the national level, the Forum played a central convening and coordinating role by organizing and facilitating SDG Goal Group meetings that brought together diverse CSOs working across thematic SDG areas. These forums provided structured spaces for dialogue, strategic alignment, and collective analysis of emerging policy issues, implementation gaps, and accountability priorities. Through these engagements, member organizations were able to sharpen their advocacy messaging, harmonize interventions, and develop unified positions anchored in evidence and lived community realities.

The outcomes of these Goal Group engagements were instrumental in strengthening CSO participation in regional and global policy processes. Collectively developed **CSO position papers** were produced and validated for key multilateral platforms, including the **Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD)**, the **High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)**, **Hamburg Sustainable Conference** and the **Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)**. These position papers articulated shared priorities, highlighted implementation challenges, and proposed actionable recommendations to accelerate SDG progress, ensuring that Kenyan civil society perspectives were coherently and credibly represented.

In addition, the Forum coordinated the development of a **CSO Shadow Report and Policy Brief for the Beijing+30 Review**, capturing grassroots realities, gender equality gaps, and progress on women’s rights and empowerment in Kenya. These outputs were presented at a **CSO-led side event during the**

69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69), providing a global platform to amplify Kenyan civil society voices and influence international discourse on gender equality and the SDGs.

Regionally, the Forum strengthened its footprint at the **Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable**

Development, where it not only supported CSO participation but also convened and hosted a **side event** that showcased civil society-led accountability initiatives and cross-country learning. This engagement reinforced the Forum's role as a bridge between national experiences and continental policy conversations.









Globally, the Forum sustained active engagement in high-level processes, including the **High-Level Political Forum, TICAD, and COP 30 in Brazil**. Through coordinated advocacy, side events, and strategic partnerships, the Forum contributed to global dialogues on sustainable development, climate action, financing, and inclusive governance—ensuring that local and national perspectives informed global commitments and frameworks.

Overall, the strengthened coordination among CSOs and increased representation across national, regional, and global platforms in 2025 enhanced the credibility, visibility, and impact of civil society advocacy. These efforts reinforced collective accountability, promoted policy coherence, and positioned the SDGs Kenya Forum as a key actor in advancing inclusive, people-centered, and action-oriented SDG implementation as the country accelerates toward 2030.

Annual High-Level EU-Kenya CSO Forum

To culminate the year on a high note, the META Consortium; FEMNET, SDGs Kenya Forum and WECF hosted the Annual High-Level EU–CSO Forum, held on 13th November 2025; a flagship event showcasing dialogue, collaboration, and shared purpose. The Forum brought together a diverse mix of voices including high-level representatives from the Government of Kenya, including the Principal Secretary, State Department for Interior, the Presidential Advisor on Women’s Rights and the Director General from the State Department for Economic Planning; the EU Delegation to Kenya representatives, including the EU Ambassador to Kenya; Civil Society Organisations across the regional blocs in Kenya and the EU Youth Sounding Board. Participants reflected on collective achievements, exchanged lessons, and charted pathways for deeper cooperation. More than just a meeting, the Forum symbolized the growing strength of the EU–Kenya partnership and the central role of civil society in advancing sustainable, inclusive development.





Annual Multi-Stakeholder's Conference and SDGs Awards

The Inter-Agency Technical Working Committee (IATWC) convened the 2025 Annual Multi-Stakeholder Conference and SDGs Awards under the theme "Race to 2030: Partnerships and Collaboration; and Innovative Financing." The conference brought together over 150 participants from national and county governments, the private sector, civil society, the UN system, academia, the media, youth representatives, Parliament, and other key actors.



DAY ONE:





DAY TWO:





DAY THREE:





The gathering provided a critical platform to galvanize collective action in the final five years toward 2030. It reflected on Kenya’s SDGs trajectory, showcased county-level innovations, highlighted global best practices, and facilitated the co-creation of transformative solutions aligned with national priorities, financing reforms, and the principle of Leaving No One Behind (LNOB).

The conference culminated in the 2025 SDGs Awards Gala, which celebrated outstanding contributions and exemplary practices in SDG implementation across government institutions, county governments, civil society organizations, youth groups, academia, the media, and the private sector.

GALA DINNER & SDGs AWARDS:





e) Data Research and Reporting

Overview: With the objective of increasing access to timely, accurate and disaggregated data for evidence-based decision making and quality reporting, Coalition for Sustainable

Development “the Forum” is utilizing data to make informed decisions and create impact, while supporting partners to find value and meaning in data across the entire data value chain in order for them to demonstrate their commitment to sustainability, and contribute meaningfully to county, national, regional and global development objectives through evidence.





Co-convened the Gender Statistics Technical Working Committee and key stakeholders for gender statistics during the development of a new gender sector statistics plan (GSSP) for improvement of gender statistics in collaboration with UN Women and KNBS.

The result was identification and prioritization of gender indicators to be included in the next county’s statistical abstracts. Homabay and Laikipia counties successfully produced and disseminated their CSAs.

Supported the development of a national gender indicators framework: Focused on creating a standardized framework for gender indicators, crucial for consistent data collection and analysis. Convened 03 technical meetings with representatives from 04 counties of Laikipia, Uasin Gishu, Makueni, Machakos and Homabay.

CSOs Data Commons Platform: To advance evidence-based advocacy and coordination among Kenya’s civil society organizations (CSOs), the Forum, in collaboration with the Open Institute, spearheaded the development of the CSOs Data Commons Platform – a secure, centralized, and collaboratively governed digital ecosystem for CSO data.





The platform is envisioned as a trusted and transparent space where organizations can pool and share non-sensitive development data to enhance understanding of community needs, track progress on the SDGs, and strengthen accountability. By fostering a culture of data sharing and collaboration, the CSOs Data Commons will enable organizations to co-create evidence, coordinate interventions, and generate

actionable insights that inform advocacy and policy engagement.

Ultimately, this initiative lays the foundation for a resilient civil society data infrastructure, ensuring that collective evidence and local knowledge drive more inclusive and data-driven development across Kenya.

f) Youth Engagements:

With support from UNA Finland, the SDGs Kenya Forum deepened its commitment to youth empowerment, inclusive participation, and intergenerational dialogue within Kenya's sustainable development landscape. Throughout the year, the Forum implemented diverse youth-centered engagements in both virtual and in-person to strengthen youth involvement in policy processes, leadership development, innovation, and SDG accountability. These activities reaffirmed the Forum's role as a national convener that champions youth as active partners in driving Kenya's #RaceTo2030.

Digital Youth Engagement Session – Strengthening Virtual Inclusion

The year began with a strong emphasis on digital engagement and accessible youth participation. During the first quarter, the Forum hosted a national virtual discussion titled **“Youth Involvement in Accelerating the SDGs,”** bringing together youth-led organizations, students, activists, and community advocates from across the country.

The session focused on practical strategies for strengthening youth participation in planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the SDGs. Young participants shared insights on local challenges, emerging opportunities, and ways to strengthen collaboration with government and civil society. The conversation revealed increasing youth demand for policy literacy, county-level engagement spaces, and mentorship structures to translate ideas into action.

As part of ongoing efforts to ensure gender-responsive youth engagement, the Forum also convened a virtual dialogue ahead of International Women's Day 2025. This session amplified women's voices, highlighted lived experiences of inequality, and positioned women—especially

young women as central actors in sustainable development. The Forum used digital tools to facilitate an inclusive virtual environment, reaffirming its commitment to ensuring that youth and women remain visible and heard within national development discourse.

These early virtual engagements set a strong tone for the year, embedding youth insights into forthcoming national convenings and establishing digital participation as a core method of engagement.

International Youth Day 2025 – “Local Youth Actions for the SDGs and Beyond”

On **12th August 2025**, the SDGs Kenya Forum marked **International Youth Day (IYD)** with an interactive virtual webinar themed *“Local Youth Actions for the SDGs and Beyond.”* The event brought together a diverse group of young change-makers and development partners to explore how youth-led initiatives are shaping Kenya's sustainability journey.

The webinar highlighted youth-led solutions in climate action, digital innovation, education, peacebuilding, social justice, and economic empowerment. Speakers emphasized the power of local innovation and the importance of youth-driven accountability mechanisms. Youth participants demonstrated how creativity, advocacy, and collaboration are transforming their communities—reinforcing the message that young people are not passive beneficiaries but active drivers of change.

The communications team ensured enhanced visibility through vibrant digital posters, hashtag coordination, and real-time social media engagement across all major platforms. The campaign strategically leveraged hashtags such as #YouthForSDGs and #RaceTo2030, helping to elevate youth narratives at national, regional, and global levels.

The Forum's storytelling approach highlighted youth impact stories, celebrated resilience, and

drew connections between local actions and global SDG frameworks. This online experience reaffirmed the Forum's commitment to amplifying youth voices and strengthening youth-led advocacy.

Young Diplomats Fellowship Summer School 2025

On **15th–16th September 2025**, the SDGs Kenya Forum partnered with the **International Relations Society of Kenya (IRSK)** and **Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS)** to co-host the **Young Diplomats Fellowship Summer School 2025**—a two-day leadership and capacity-building program in Nairobi.

The fellowship brought together 20 outstanding young leaders from diverse disciplines for an immersive learning experience under the theme *"Empowering Kenyan Youth for a Sustainable Future."* The program focused on preparing young diplomats and policy influencers to engage with global governance systems, multilateral processes, and international development frameworks.

Participants explored:

- The evolving landscape of diplomacy
- Digital diplomacy and global communications
- Climate diplomacy and environmental governance
- Peacebuilding and civic engagement
- Regional cooperation and development leadership

The program broadened participants' understanding of career pathways within diplomacy and global affairs, helping them reimagine diplomacy as a tool for innovation, inclusion, and social transformation. It also responded to Kenya's shifting youth political consciousness, shaped by digital activism, social justice movements, and rising civic participation during 2024–2025.

DAY ONE:





DAY TWO:





TEAM BUILDING:





SDGs Flag Day & Pre-Launch of the #RaceTo2030 Campaign

On **25th September 2025**, the SDGs Kenya Forum joined civil society partners, youth networks, academia, private sector actors, county representatives, and development institutions across the country to commemorate **SDGs Flag Day**, marking ten years since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. This milestone offered a timely moment for collective reflection on national progress, ongoing challenges, and the renewed determination required as Kenya enters the final five-year stretch toward 2030. The day's significance was amplified further as it also served as the official **pre-launch of the "Race to 2030" Campaign**, a national mobilization effort designed to accelerate SDG implementation through enhanced collaboration, innovation, accountability, and youth-led action.

The event generated meaningful dialogue on Kenya's SDG journey, igniting conversations on where the country stands, the gaps that persist, and the urgency of action required at national and county levels. Speakers emphasized that with just five years remaining, the pace of implementation must increase dramatically to ensure that progress is equitable, inclusive, and sustainable. The discussions also situated Kenya's efforts within global momentum by aligning the day's messaging with the **UN Pact for the Future**, underscoring commitments to intergenerational equity, multilateral cooperation, and transformative solutions. A strong emphasis was placed on the central role of young people, who make up the majority of Kenya's population, highlighting their importance as catalysts for innovation, accountability, and county-level localization of the SDGs.

From a communications standpoint, the Forum played an instrumental role in amplifying visibility and public engagement throughout the event. The communications team developed creative digital branding materials—including posters, social media cards, and campaign visuals that strengthened the event’s identity and recognizability across platforms. During the celebrations, the team coordinated real-time coverage across Twitter (X), Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and WhatsApp, capturing key messages, reflections, and highlights as they unfolded. Through compelling visual storytelling, short videos, impact quotes, and simplified infographics, the team ensured that the conversations resonated well beyond the physical event space.

The coordinated communication strategy led to significant online traction, with conversations under **#SDGsFlagDay** and **#RaceTo2030** trending nationally and drawing engagement from local, regional, and global audiences. Following the

event, the team produced narrative summaries and digital recaps that extended the dialogue on SDG localization, the Pact for the Future, and Kenya’s pathway to 2030. These efforts collectively strengthened momentum leading into the Annual Multi-Stakeholder Conference, reinforcing the SDGs Kenya Forum’s role as a national convener and advocate for people-centered, evidence-driven development.

Through this dynamic and highly participatory observance of SDGs Flag Day, the Forum helped reposition the 2030 Agenda as an urgent, shared responsibility. The pre-launch of the Race to 2030 Campaign provided renewed direction and energy for stakeholders across sectors. As Kenya continues to accelerate efforts toward the SDGs, the Forum remains committed to mobilizing its networks, amplifying citizen voices, and fostering the inclusive partnerships required to ensure meaningful, measurable impact by 2030.







National Inception Dialogue on Strengthening Youth Leadership and Policy Advocacy in Kenya

In October, the SDGs Kenya Forum successfully convened the National Inception Dialogue on Youth Leadership and Policy Advocacy, with support from the Irish Embassy in Kenya. The Dialogue brought together an influential mix of partners, including the National Youth Council (NYC), Centre for Regional and International Strategic Partnerships (CRISP), United Disabled Persons of Kenya (UDPK), the Africa Diaspora Network in Japan, youth-led organizations, grassroots leaders, policy practitioners, and emerging young advocates. This diverse representation ensured that the consultation reflected Kenya's demographic realities and the lived experiences of youth from different social, economic, and geographic backgrounds.

Across the day's conversations, participants explored Kenya's current youth participation landscape and co-developed a nationally anchored workplan to strengthen youth leadership across governance structures. The Dialogue also contextualized Kenya's efforts within global policy frameworks, including the UN Security Council Resolution 2250 (YPS), the ILO Recommendation 205, and key action areas of the

UN Pact for the Future (specifically Action Areas 17, 20, and 22). Discussions emphasized the importance of aligning youth-led policy advocacy with global commitments on peacebuilding, digital governance, intergenerational equity, and inclusive decision-making.

A major output of the meeting was the establishment of **three thematic Working Groups** designed to translate youth priorities into concrete policy products and implementation roadmaps:

1. **Governance and Civic Participation** – focusing on rights-based participation, civic education, and access to decision-making arenas.
2. **Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS)** – strengthening youth-led peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and community resilience.
3. **Employment, AI, and Economic Inclusion** – addressing future-of-work transitions, digital governance, and equitable economic participation.

These Working Groups received strong commitments from partners to provide technical assistance, mentorship, research support, policy guidance, and facilitated access to government and county decision-making spaces. Stakeholders also affirmed the importance of youth-led monitoring and accountability, ensuring that participation translates into influence, not tokenism. The powerful rallying call that shaped the communications narrative of the day, *“Anything for us, without us, is against us”* captured the spirit of shared commitment to authentic, inclusive governance. By rooting the program at both national and county levels, the initiative ensures that policy advocacy is grounded in the everyday realities of young people.

The Dialogue built on three years of AUNYD regional collaborations and reinforced Kenya’s role as a leader in youth governance in East Africa. The commitments, structures, and partnerships established during this inaugural meeting will guide a 12-month national process aimed at producing the National Youth Governance and Participation Mandate, a Youth Action Toolkit, and an Updated Kenya Youth Policies Position Paper. These outputs will form the backbone of a new generation of youth-centered reforms that connect global instruments to local advocacy and implementation.





Through this Dialogue, the SDGs Kenya Forum reaffirmed its dedication to strengthening youth-driven governance and ensuring that policy processes in Kenya reflect the voices, expertise, and leadership of its young people. As the AUNYD Kenya Track begins its journey, the groundwork laid during the National Inception Dialogue sets a strong foundation for transformative youth participation in the Race to 2030.

Fourth Annual National Youth Pre-Conference on SDGs

To strengthen youth inclusion in SDG implementation, monitoring, and reporting in Kenya, the SDGs Kenya Forum convened the **Fourth Annual National SDGs Multi-Stakeholder Youth Pre-Conference**. This year’s convening brought together over 100 young people from across the country, representing diverse socio-economic backgrounds, counties, lived realities, and intersecting identities – including youth with disabilities, grassroots youth leaders, young professionals, students, and activists. By intentionally incorporating marginalized and underrepresented groups, the Forum reaffirmed its commitment to the principle of *leaving no one behind* and ensuring that youth engagement is not symbolic but genuinely inclusive.

The Pre-Conference provided a vibrant and interactive space where young people could engage in dialogue, exchange knowledge, and co-create solutions to accelerate progress on the SDGs. Through thematic sessions and facilitated discussions, participants examined persistent challenges affecting youth-led SDG action – such as unemployment, digital inequalities, climate vulnerabilities, governance gaps, and barriers to meaningful participation. They also identified opportunities for youth leadership in localizing the SDGs, bridging implementation gaps at county and national levels, and enhancing accountability mechanisms. The recommendations that emerged were deeply grounded in lived experiences and community-level insights, positioning youth as key actors in shaping Kenya’s sustainable development trajectory.





Crucially, the outcomes of the Youth Pre-Conference were formally integrated into the agenda and deliberations of the Annual National Multi-Stakeholder Conference on the SDGs, ensuring that youth voices influenced national priorities, commitments, and pathways for acceleration. By elevating youth perspectives into the broader national dialogue, the Pre-Conference played a pivotal role in strengthening Kenya's collective action and reinforcing the urgency of the **Race to 2030**.

Peer to Peer learning:

The **UN Reforms Implications & 2030 Agenda: 10th Anniversary Youth Workshop** brought together young leaders from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Finland to reflect on the next decade of global development and what the evolving landscape of UN reforms means for youth participation, accountability, and SDG delivery. Held in the spirit of marking ten years of SDG implementation, the workshop came at a critical time when global inequalities, climate pressures, geopolitical tensions, and slow SDG progress continue to shape the global agenda. With Africa being the youngest continent, discussions centered on how the reform agenda creates both opportunities and challenges for meaningful youth engagement, and why youth leadership is essential for the next phase of SDG acceleration.

For African youth, these reforms open new entry points for engagement in peacebuilding, development planning, digital governance, and policy advocacy spaces where young people have historically been underrepresented. Her insights reinforced the idea that the reformed multilateral system must not only include youth but actively empower them.

A key highlight of the workshop was the vibrant peer-to-peer learning session, where young participants exchanged experiences, challenges,

and best practices from their respective countries. The conversations were dynamic and deeply reflective, focusing on barriers to youth participation in governance, the need to localize global commitments, strategies for enhancing accountability, and the importance of cross-border youth collaboration. These interactions reaffirmed that youth are not merely recipients of development plans—they are active creators of solutions and critical drivers of transformation in their communities.

The workshop concluded with national reflection sessions, where country teams consolidated insights from the discussions and identified practical best practices that can strengthen youth contributions to SDG monitoring and advocacy at home. These reflections will inform local programming, policy engagement, and capacity-building efforts, ensuring that the outcomes of the workshop translate into tangible action on the ground.

Overall, the **UN Reforms Implications & 2030 Agenda: 10th Anniversary Youth Workshop** reaffirmed that youth participation is essential to the future of sustainable development and global governance. At a time when the UN is doubling down on inclusive reforms and when SDG progress remains uneven, young people continue to position themselves as co-creators of the solutions needed to drive change. Youth-led dialogue, global insights, and collective action defined the spirit of the workshop, demonstrating that the next phase of SDG delivery must be shaped not only for young people—but with them.



Youth-Led Research by the Youth Sounding Board

The Youth Sounding Board, under the META Action, strengthened evidence-based engagement by conducting research on key youth issues and translating findings into accessible knowledge products that informed dialogue, learning, and advocacy. Through targeted and collaborative research, the Youth Sounding Board led three studies:

- a) Challenges and Opportunities for Youth in Kenya's Green Transition:**
Perspectives from Youth in the E-Mobility Sector
- b) Fostering Civic Engagement:**
Predictors of Youth Engagement in Electoral Processes in Kenya
- c) Kenyan Youth Perceptions on the Role and Impact of the EU Mission in Kenya**

These studies elevated youth voices and contributed to informed discussions on sustainability, democratic participation, and the EU–Kenya partnership.

g) SDGs Social Accountability and Reporting Toolkit

In 2025, the organization successfully developed the SDGs Social Accountability and Reporting Toolkit – a flagship knowledge product designed to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs), grassroots groups, and community champions to effectively monitor, track, and report progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at both national and county levels. The Toolkit provides practical tools, guidelines, and methodologies that enable communities to generate and use citizen-driven data, engage with policymakers, and advocate for inclusive and accountable SDG implementation. It bridges the gap between national reporting frameworks and local realities by translating complex SDG indicators into user-friendly, action-oriented tools that can be applied by community actors with varying technical capacities.





DAY TWO:



DAY THREE:



Developed through a participatory and consultative process, the Toolkit incorporates insights from CSOs, SDG and Gender Champions, and county stakeholders across Makueni, Homa Bay, Laikipia, and Uasin Gishu counties among others. This inclusive approach ensured that the content is context-relevant, gender-responsive, and aligned with Kenya's development priorities and the global 2030 Agenda. The Toolkit is now being used to pilot citizen-led SDG monitoring and reporting initiatives at the county level, promoting grassroots accountability and strengthening the link between data, dialogue, and decision-making. It stands as a key resource for empowering citizens to make their voices count in Kenya's sustainable development journey and to hold duty bearers accountable for inclusive and transparent SDG delivery. 35 CSOs, WROs and SDG community Champions from across the 14 select counties were trained to use the social accountability tools.

Increased Citizen Engagement and Capacity: Strengthened the capacity of SDG champions and citizens to engage in community dialogues, civic education, and monitoring of SDGs. Facilitated the champions from Homa Bay, Makueni and Taita Taveta counties to roll out the citizen engagements using social accountability tools.

h) Communication and Visibility.

In 2025, the Communications Unit of the SDGs Kenya Forum continued to play a central role in advancing the organization's mission to accelerate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across Kenya. Our work went beyond disseminating information; it strategically positioned the Forum as a thought leader and trusted partner in SDG advocacy, policy dialogue, and stakeholder engagement. Through a mix of traditional and digital communications, we strengthened visibility, amplified impact,

and fostered collaborations with government institutions, development partners, civil society organizations, youth networks, and the media. The year was marked by proactive efforts to integrate storytelling, data, and multimedia content into our communications, ensuring that the Forum's activities, milestones, and achievements were effectively communicated to both national and regional audiences. These efforts not only raised awareness of the SDGs but also encouraged participation, dialogue, and accountability among stakeholders.

The Communications Unit's work in 2025 was guided by strategic objectives aimed at enhancing visibility, engagement, and impact. Primarily, the Unit sought to strengthen the SDGs Kenya Forum's brand recognition and credibility among stakeholders, ensuring a consistent, professional, and authoritative presence in all communications. Additionally, the Unit aimed to make SDG-related information, progress updates, and data widely accessible, enabling stakeholders to make informed decisions and participate meaningfully in SDG initiatives. Supporting advocacy and policy dialogue was another key objective, achieved through campaigns, media engagements, and targeted messaging that highlighted critical SDG priorities. Furthermore, the Unit prioritized strong online engagement and digital presence, facilitating interaction with diverse audiences while promoting transparency and knowledge sharing. Finally, all communications efforts were measured and monitored to ensure effectiveness, relevance, and alignment with the Forum's overarching strategic goals.

Key Strategies and Activities Implemented

Throughout 2025, the Communications Unit implemented a comprehensive and multi-pronged strategy encompassing brand management, media engagement, digital communications, stakeholder outreach, and advocacy campaigns. In terms of **brand management**, we successfully implemented the SDGs Kenya Forum Brand Book, which provided clear guidelines for visual identity,

messaging, and editorial tone. This initiative ensured that all communications, from printed materials to social media posts, maintained a consistent and professional appearance, reinforcing the Forum's credibility and authority.

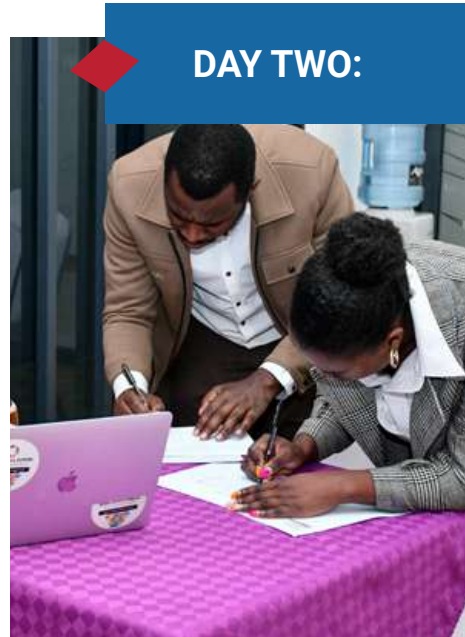
Our **digital communications strategy** focused on cultivating a strong online presence through social media platforms including Twitter/X, LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram. Regular content updates, including infographics, videos, data visualizations, and stories of impact, were shared to engage stakeholders, raise awareness, and drive interaction. Social media became a critical tool for amplifying our campaigns, highlighting SDG progress, and engaging with youth, policymakers, civil society, and partners in real time.

The Unit prioritized **media engagement**, producing media advisories, press statements, and feature articles that highlighted the Forum's activities, policy milestones, and SDG-related research findings. These efforts resulted in over 25 media features across print, online, and broadcast outlets, reinforcing the Forum's visibility and authority as a trusted SDG actor. In addition, we developed **communication plans for different campaigns and initiatives**, ensuring that messaging was tailored, targeted, and impactful across diverse audiences. Here's a **brief, Twitter-ready add-on** that fits smoothly:

Further to this, we **trained 15 journalists on SDGs reporting**, strengthening media capacity to track, report, and amplify progress toward the #SDGs with accuracy and accountability.

DAY ONE:





Stakeholder engagement remained central to our communications work. We conducted multiple webinars throughout the year to engage partners, youth networks, government officials, and civil society actors, creating interactive platforms for knowledge sharing, dialogue, and capacity building. We also disseminated quarterly newsletters that provided updates on the Forum's activities, SDG progress, and opportunities for collaboration, reaching over a thousand subscribers and stakeholders. Through these channels, the Forum was able to foster continuous engagement, feedback, and consultation, strengthening partnerships and stakeholder participation in SDG implementation.

The Unit also executed **strategic advocacy campaigns** aligned with key SDG milestones, including SDG Flag Day, National SDG Forums, and youth empowerment initiatives. Storytelling, multimedia content, and data-driven messaging were leveraged to showcase impact, highlight success stories, and raise awareness of gaps and opportunities in SDG implementation. These campaigns not only promoted public engagement but also enhanced the Forum's influence in policy dialogue and resource mobilization.

Key Achievements – 2025

In 2025, the Communications Unit recorded significant achievements across multiple areas. In **brand management**, the implementation of the Brand Book standardized visual identity and messaging, ensuring consistent branding across all campaigns, publications, and events. **Digital engagement** saw notable growth, with social media followers increasing by 45% and engagement metrics showing active participation through likes, comments, shares, and retweets. Our strong **media presence** resulted in extensive coverage in print, broadcast, and online outlets, positioning the Forum as a thought leader in SDG advocacy.

The Forum's **stakeholder engagement initiatives**, including webinars, consultations, and workshops, reached over 500 participants,

fostering knowledge sharing and collaborative action on SDG priorities. Quarterly newsletters were successfully disseminated, keeping partners and stakeholders informed of Forum activities and opportunities for engagement. Additionally, our **advocacy campaigns** effectively highlighted SDG Flag Day, National SDG Forums, and youth-focused initiatives, leveraging storytelling and data to amplify impact. The Communications Unit also produced a range of publications and resources, including media advisories, press statements, knowledge briefs, and social media toolkits, which enhanced visibility and facilitated effective communication with partners, donors, and the general public.

Impact Metrics

The Communications Unit closely monitored communications outputs and outcomes to assess effectiveness. Across digital platforms, our content reached more individuals, with engagement levels reflecting active audience participation. Website traffic increased, indicating strong interest in SDG resources and knowledge products. Media coverage included more than 20 features across key national outlets, reinforcing the Forum's authority and credibility. Our events, webinars, and stakeholder consultations engaged over 500 participants, facilitating dialogue and knowledge exchange. Feedback collected from stakeholders indicated that 92% reported increased awareness and understanding of SDG initiatives due to the Forum's communications efforts, highlighting the tangible impact of strategic messaging, advocacy, and stakeholder engagement.

Way Forward – 2026

Looking ahead, the Communications Unit will focus on further enhancing strategic and innovative communications to support the Forum's mandate. Plans include expanding multimedia storytelling through videos, podcasts, and interactive infographics to communicate complex

SDG data in an engaging manner. Emphasis will also be placed on data-driven communications to showcase progress, gaps, and opportunities, strengthening advocacy and policy dialogue. We will continue to cultivate strong media partnerships and expand digital outreach to reach broader and more diverse audiences. Stakeholder engagement will remain a priority, with targeted campaigns for youth, policymakers, civil society, and development partners. Finally, a comprehensive communications monitoring and evaluation framework will be implemented to better capture impact, inform strategy, and continuously improve the effectiveness of messaging, campaigns, and engagement initiatives.

Conclusion

In 2025, the Communications Unit successfully strengthened the Forum's visibility, credibility, and influence through strategic communications, media engagement, stakeholder outreach, and advocacy campaigns. By integrating newsletters, media advisories, press statements, webinars, strong online presence, and targeted campaigns, the Unit ensured that SDG information, progress, and impact were effectively communicated to all stakeholders. The achievements of 2025 reflect a robust communications approach that supports policy influence, resource mobilization, and public engagement. Building on these successes, the Unit is well-positioned to continue driving innovative, inclusive, and data-driven communications that advance the SDGs in Kenya and beyond.

i) Strengthening Institutional Capacity, Systems, and Sustainability

In 2025, the SDGs Kenya Forum prioritized strengthening its institutional systems, knowledge

management, communications, and governance structures to ensure a resilient Secretariat and an empowered membership capable of effectively coordinating, advocating, and delivering on the SDGs.

Strengthening Knowledge Management, Learning, and Visibility

The Forum contributed to strengthened knowledge management and information sharing across all levels by producing and disseminating high-quality content throughout the year. This included the development of quarterly newsletters, blog posts, and SDG-focused communication products linked to key advocacy moments such as CSW69, ARFSD, HLPF, and International Women's Day. Four quarterly newsletters, six blog posts, and regular social media engagements were produced and disseminated, reaching over 100 participants across engagements and enhancing institutional visibility and learning.

These efforts contributed to strengthening the Forum's brand reputation and positioning it as a credible SDG coordination and advocacy platform, while also supporting resource mobilization efforts. Outputs included updated website content, media interviews, digital flyers, video clips, webinars, and X Space engagements aligned with the Decade of Action and broader SDG discourse.

Institutional Systems and Enabling Work Environment

The Forum continued to enhance its internal policy frameworks and operational systems, including digital platforms, financial management, and human resource management processes. These improvements supported a more enabling work environment, strengthened accountability, and enhanced operational efficiency across the Secretariat.

Capacity Development for Staff, Board, and Governance Structures

Institutional capacity strengthening remained a core focus in 2025. The Forum supported staff and Board capacity development through targeted trainings, quarterly, biannual, and annual meetings. 2 staff annual planning and progress review meetings were successfully held in March and October, supported by individual and institutional workplans. These engagements strengthened strategic alignment, performance monitoring, and collective accountability within the Secretariat and governance structures.

Membership Capacity Strengthening and Coordination

The Forum enhanced the capacity of SDG goal groups and member organizations on SDG implementation, monitoring, tracking, and reporting, as well as engagement with national, sub-national, regional, and global policy frameworks. Goal group meetings were convened, engaging 34 participants, and included preparatory meetings for ARFSD and HLPF. These engagements culminated in the development of CSO analytical reports and position papers, ensuring coordinated and evidence-based civil society input into regional and global SDG review processes.

Communications, Community Engagement, and Outreach

The Forum contributed to the review and development of a comprehensive Communications Strategy, providing technical inputs and participating in structured discussions to strengthen strategic messaging and outreach. Digital content creation and dissemination across social media platforms enhanced online engagement, while participation in media engagements during ARFSD, HLPF, and UNGA amplified civil society voices.

Technical support was also provided for community engagement and outreach through online webinars, Twitter/X chats, and thematic dialogues. Key engagements included CSW69 and International Women's Day webinars, as well as pre-ARFSD and HLPF preparatory sessions. Additionally, the Forum contributed content for quarterly newsletters and the Annual Report, strengthening documentation and institutional memory.

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting

Robust monitoring and reporting mechanisms underpinned implementation throughout the year. Monthly activity reports, back-to-office reports, and summarized updates were consistently prepared and uploaded to the SharePoint system. The Forum produced and submitted 12 monthly update reports to the Gates Foundation and actively participated in bi-monthly donor calls.

Bi-annual and annual reports were prepared for internal use and donors, including UAF and the Gates Foundation, alongside the Phase 2 project closure report. Regular staff meetings, bi-annual reviews, and annual workplan monitoring sessions supported continuous learning, adaptive management, and effective tracking of progress against planned activities.

Overall Result

Through these integrated interventions, the Forum strengthened its institutional capacity, improved systems and processes, enhanced staff and member competencies, and reinforced its visibility and credibility as a national SDG coordination platform. These efforts laid a strong foundation for sustainability, effective partnerships, and accelerated delivery in the final stretch toward the 2030 Agenda.

j) Financial Outlook 2025

The SDGs Kenya Forum gratefully acknowledges the financial and technical support provided by our development partners during the reporting period. Their continued confidence in our mandate and mission has been central to the successful implementation of the programmes and the attainment of the results outlined in this Annual Report. These partnerships extend beyond resource mobilization, fostering strategic collaboration, innovation, and shared accountability in advancing sustainable development in Kenya.

In line with our organizational policies and commitment to transparency and good

governance, this report presents a consolidated overview of the Forum’s active partnerships and ongoing initiatives. The collaborations highlighted herein span a broad range of thematic areas, including capacity strengthening, policy engagement, advocacy, and community-level implementation, each contributing meaningfully to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

By documenting and showcasing these partnerships, the Forum seeks to demonstrate the collective progress achieved during the year while reinforcing the importance of sustained collaboration and investment. Together with our partners, we remain committed to driving inclusive, equitable, and sustainable development outcomes, affirming that coordinated action and shared purpose are essential to delivering lasting impact

SDG Kenya Forum Donors and Funding Partners 2025

	DONOR	PROJECT TITLE	PERIOD
1.	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	Advancing SDG 5 through the SDGs Kenya Forum	2018 - 2026
2.	UNA Finland	Accelerate SDG Implementation in East Africa	2022 - 2026
3.	Urgent Action Fund-Africa	Advocacy and Alliance Building	2022 - 2025
4.	European Union	Meaningful Engagement - Transformative Action (META) Project	2024 - 2027
5.	URAIA Trust	SPARKe	2024 - 2025
6.	Irish Embassy	African United Nations Youth Delegates (AUNYD)	2025 - 2026
7.	Membership	SDG Kenya Forum (Membership)	2021 -

k) Constraints, Lessons Learnt and Opportunities (Challenges and Solutions)

1. Constraints and Challenges

a) Resource and Financing Constraints

The increasing demand for SDGs coordination, capacity building, community dialogues, and policy engagement across counties continued to outpace available financial and human resources. While the Forum successfully leveraged partnerships, limited core and flexible funding constrained the ability to scale promising initiatives, sustain long-term community engagement, and respond rapidly to emerging national and global policy processes.

b) Uneven County-Level Capacities

Significant disparities persist in institutional capacity, technical expertise, and data systems across counties. Some county governments demonstrated strong commitment to SDGs integration and gender-responsive planning, while others faced challenges related to limited technical knowledge, frequent staff turnover, and weak coordination mechanisms. These variations affected the consistency and depth of SDG localization, gender budgeting, and reporting processes.

c) Data Gaps and Weak Accountability Systems

Although progress was made in strengthening gender data systems and citizen-generated data, gaps remain in the availability, quality, and use of disaggregated data at county level. Weak feedback loops between data producers, policy makers, and communities limited the translation of evidence into concrete policy and budget decisions. In addition, limited institutionalization of accountability mechanisms constrained follow-through on citizen priorities raised during dialogues.

d) Policy and Regulatory Uncertainty

Delays in the full operationalization of key regulatory frameworks, including aspects of the Public Benefit Organisations (PBO) Act, created uncertainty for CSOs and affected long-term planning. While advocacy efforts made significant progress, prolonged policy processes sometimes slowed implementation timelines and affected CSO confidence and sustainability.

e) Participation Barriers for Marginalized Groups

Despite deliberate inclusion strategies, structural barriers such as poverty, digital exclusion, unpaid care burdens, and geographic remoteness continued to limit the consistent participation of women, youth, persons with disabilities, and indigenous communities in policy processes. These barriers underscored the need for sustained investment in inclusive and accessible engagement approaches.

2. Lessons Learnt

The Forum's experience in 2025 generated critical insights that will inform future programming and strategic direction.

a) Localization is Most Effective When Anchored in Partnerships

Strong collaboration with county governments, CSOs, community leaders, and development partners proved essential for effective SDG localization. Where partnerships were well-coordinated, initiatives achieved greater ownership, relevance, and sustainability. This reinforced the importance of multi-stakeholder platforms such as goal groups, technical working committees, and structured dialogues.

b) Evidence Strengthens Advocacy and Accountability

Data-driven advocacy – particularly through gender budget analysis, county gender data sheets, and citizen-generated data – enhanced the credibility of CSO engagement and influenced policy discussions. When communities and CSOs are equipped with evidence, advocacy becomes more strategic, focused, and impactful.

c) Meaningful Participation Requires More Than Consultation

The Forum learned that meaningful engagement goes beyond one-off consultations. Continuous feedback mechanisms, follow-up actions, and visible policy responses are critical for sustaining citizen trust and participation. This lesson informed the Forum's emphasis on structured engagement platforms and accountability tracking.

d) Youth and Women Are Powerful Change Agents When Supported

Youth-led and women-led initiatives demonstrated strong innovation, energy, and reach when provided with capacity building, platforms, and mentorship. Investments in youth engagement, women's leadership, and feminist movements yielded high returns in terms of advocacy impact and community mobilization.

e) Coordination Reduces Duplication and Amplifies Impact

Convening spaces such as the Inter-Agency Technical Working Committee (IATWC), META Steering Committee, and SDG goal groups enhanced alignment across actors, reduced duplication of efforts, and strengthened collective messaging at national, regional, and global levels.

3. Opportunities and Way Forward

Building on the lessons learnt, the Forum identified several strategic opportunities to strengthen impact moving forward.

a) Scaling Data and Accountability Innovations

The CSOs Data Commons Platform, gender indicators framework, and county gender data initiatives present opportunities to institutionalize data-driven decision-making and strengthen accountability across sectors. Expanding these tools to more counties will enhance transparency and policy responsiveness.

b) Deepening SDG Localization and County Ownership

There is growing interest among counties to align development plans, budgets, and monitoring frameworks with the SDGs. The Forum is well positioned to support counties through technical assistance, peer learning, and Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs), particularly in the final stretch to 2030.

c) Advancing Policy Reforms and Civic Space

Momentum around the implementation of the PBO Act and broader governance reforms offers an opportunity to strengthen civic space, CSO sustainability, and citizen engagement. Continued advocacy and coalition-building will be critical to ensuring these reforms translate into practice.

d) Strengthening Inclusive Financing and Partnerships

Innovative financing, sub-granting to grassroots organizations, and strategic partnerships with development partners, the private sector, and academia present opportunities to expand reach while promoting locally led solutions.

e) Positioning CSOs for the Race to 2030

With only a few years remaining to achieve the SDGs, there is an urgent opportunity to consolidate gains, amplify CSO voices in national and global processes, and position civil society as a key accountability and implementation partner in Kenya's sustainable development agenda.

Annex

04



4.0 Annex:

a) 2025 Outstanding Photographs













b) 2025 Spotlight Newsletters.



1. Q1 Newsletter: https://sdgkenyaforum.org/content/uploads/documents/Q1_NEWSLETTER_-_SKF_2025_b7c8d034.pdf



2. ARFSD Newsletter: https://sdgkenyaforum.org/content/uploads/documents/ARFSD_NEWSLETTER_-_APRIL_2025_28542b2a.pdf



3. Q2 Newsletter: https://sdgkenyaforum.org/content/uploads/documents/Q2_Newsletter_-_SKF_July_2025_8c2b52b6.pdf



4. Q3 Newsletter: [https://sdgkenyaforum.org/content/uploads/documents/Q3_Newsletter_-_Jul_to_Sept_\(SKF\)_2025_\(2\)_compressed_dda9e9dc.pdf](https://sdgkenyaforum.org/content/uploads/documents/Q3_Newsletter_-_Jul_to_Sept_(SKF)_2025_(2)_compressed_dda9e9dc.pdf)

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Secretariat





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