

2025

# KENYA CSO'S SDGs IMPLEMENTATION POSITION PAPER



**SDGs KENYA FORUM**

Coalition for Sustainable Development

2025 KENYA CSO'S SDGs IMPLEMENTATION POSITION PAPER

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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As of 2024, Kenya has made significant strides in advancing key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goals 3, 5, 8, 14, and 17, as detailed in the 2024 Voluntary National Review. These achievements reflect sustained policy commitment, targeted investments,

and enhanced stakeholder collaboration. Kenya has recorded notable improvements in maternal and child health indicators. Maternal mortality rates have declined due to expanded access to antenatal services, skilled birth attendance, and enhanced immunization coverage. The rollout of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in pilot counties has enhanced affordability and access to essential health services. Additionally, the expansion of community health promoter programs and continued investment in primary healthcare infrastructure have strengthened preventive and curative care, including the management of non-communicable diseases.


Substantial progress has been made in promoting gender equality. There has been a significant increase in the number of women holding leadership and elective positions, supported by legal reforms and affirmative action. Harmful practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM) and gender-based violence (GBV) have shown a downward trend, attributed to community education, legal enforcement, and the establishment of GBV response centers. Gender parity in education has improved, and more counties have mainstreamed gender-responsive budgeting in their County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs).

The economy demonstrated resilience and recovery following global disruptions, supported by digital innovation, infrastructure development, and financial inclusion programs. Youth employment and enterprise development have been bolstered through platforms like Ajira Digital and national skills development programs. Investments in agriculture, especially climate-smart practices targeting women and youth, have improved productivity and household incomes. Social protection programs have expanded, particularly among vulnerable groups including persons with disabilities.

Progress under SDG 14 remains limited. Kenya continues to face challenges in marine resource conservation and sustainable use of ocean ecosystems. Coastal communities, heavily reliant on marine biodiversity for livelihoods, remain vulnerable due to overfishing, pollution, and climate-related risks. While policy frameworks exist, implementation and enforcement mechanisms are weak, and resource allocation to the sector remains low. The VNR notes this as a priority area requiring urgent attention, particularly in enhancing marine data systems and ecosystem protection.

Kenya has significantly strengthened multi-stakeholder partnerships and development





cooperation. The VNR process itself reflected inclusive participation from national and county governments, civil society, academia, private sector, and development partners. Digital tools have enhanced SDG monitoring and reporting, while initiatives such as the UN's SDG localization program have empowered 17 counties to align their planning and budgeting processes with the 2030 Agenda. Kenya also continues to benefit from health impact bonds, climate financing, and south-south knowledge exchanges to accelerate progress.


Kenya continues to advance the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) amidst growing external shocks such as global conflicts, climate change, pandemics, and shifting geopolitical dynamics. These external factors have disrupted supply chains, strained public health systems, and

intensified food insecurity, particularly in marginalised and arid regions. Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) have played a crucial role in complementing government efforts by delivering emergency support, promoting resilience, and advocating for inclusive and people-centred responses.

The 2024 CSOs Voluntary National Review (VNR) presented key recommendations, many of which have begun to influence national and county policies. These include: strengthening multi-stakeholder coordination, improving data systems through community-generated evidence, enhancing domestic resource mobilization, promoting gender and social inclusion, and localizing the SDGs through community-led development. However, significant gaps remain in enforcement, financing, digital infrastructure, and equitable policy implementation.

In the last one (1) year, Kenya has recoded notable strides in 60% of national SDG indicators, signaling solid progress across multiple fronts, even as challenges persist in areas like SDGs 2, 10, and 14. Despite reductions in urban poverty, rural poverty remains high - nearly 40%. Social protection programs have expanded but have yet to achieve full coverage of the most vulnerable. Improvements in nutrition and agricultural outputs continue, yet food insecurity remains stubborn in marginalized regions, indicating inconsistent access and production shortfalls. Kenya has reduced maternal and child mortality through universal access to antenatal care, immunization, sanitation, and community health promoters – reinforced. Educational attainment has improved with higher enrolment and completion rates, particularly for girls, supported by infrastructure development and school programs. Gender parity in education and governance has increased. Legal reforms, reduced incidences of FGM/GBV, and gender budgeting uptake in county plans all demonstrate progress.

Water and sanitation service coverage has expanded, notably in urban sanitation systems, while rural water projects are ongoing to close remaining gaps, while household electrification surpassed 75%, and investments in renewables, including geothermal, have surged. Kenya maintained strong growth, supported by digital entrepreneurship (e.g. Ajira



Digital), SME empowerment, and climate-savvy agriculture initiatives. However, income inequality persists, especially between regions and demographics. Limited progress on redistributive policies signals the need for more targeted intervention. Urban infrastructure growth in water, sanitation, and housing has improved services, although informal settlements still challenge inclusion and safety. Ambitious reforestation targets (15B trees by 2032), climate-sensitive curriculum, and policy instruments showcase commitment to climate resilience. Marine conservation remains weak. Coastal livelihoods are stressed due to overfishing, pollution, and limited marine policy enforcement - identified as a lagging goal. Afforestation and land restoration efforts continue, supported by ecosystem-based agriculture and community forestry, reflecting positive land-use trends. Governance reforms, digitalization of services, and strengthened legal frameworks have improved institutional accountability, though spatial disparities remain.

On SDG 3 (Health), CSOs like VSO Kenya, CDSK, GROOTS Kenya and RCK have strengthened access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH), mental health, and disability-inclusive services. Despite progress, challenges persist - such as workforce shortages, inadequate health financing, and poor infrastructure. On SDG 5 (Gender Equality), CSOs are tackling gender-based violence, access to sanitary health, and the digital gender divide. Yet, harmful cultural practices, weak enforcement, and limited economic empowerment of women remain widespread. Under SDG 8 (Decent Work), CSOs are supporting youth and

Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) through vocational training and employment placement, but structural issues such as underemployment, informality, and financial exclusion persist. SDG 14 (Life Below Water) is addressed through marine conservation and sustainable aquaculture initiatives, though governance gaps, pollution, and IUU fishing continue to threaten marine ecosystems.

CSOs have been vital in promoting SDG 17 (Partnerships) by facilitating citizen engagement, knowledge exchange, advocacy, and capacity building. They have generated disaggregated, citizen-led data for SDG monitoring and contributed to shadow reporting and policy dialogue. Kenya's enabling policy environment - supported by institutions like the SDGs Coordination Directorate, KNBS, CoG, and SDGs Kenya Forum - has allowed for progress in aligning national and county plans with SDG targets. Nonetheless, more structured engagement and financing support for CSOs are needed.

Looking ahead, Kenya must prioritize deeper SDG localization, inclusive partnerships, sustainable financing, stronger data ecosystems, and policy coherence. CSOs remain indispensable in ensuring that implementation of the 2030 Agenda remains rights-based, inclusive, and community-driven.

## 1.0 Introduction


The 2025 CSOs Position Paper on the Implementation of the SDGs in Kenya offers a civil society-led assessment of Kenya's progress and challenges in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It highlights the compounded impact of global conflicts, climate change, pandemics, and economic instability on Kenya's development trajectory, particularly affecting vulnerable communities. The paper also documents CSOs' contributions across five (5) SDGs—3, 5, 8, 14 and 17—through service delivery, advocacy, data generation, and grassroots mobilization. While acknowledging institutional efforts by government and county actors to align policies with the SDGs, the report underscores persistent gaps in financing, inclusion, data systems, and policy enforcement. It concludes with practical, community-driven recommendations aimed at accelerating equitable, rights-based, and localized

## 2.0 Impact of External Factors on SDGs Implementation in Kenya

Kenya's progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is being shaped not only by domestic dynamics but also by external factors beyond its control. Global conflicts, climate change, pandemics, international trade disruptions, and geopolitical tensions continue to test Kenya's economic resilience, environmental sustainability, and social protection systems. The Government of Kenya, in partnership with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), has made strides to cushion the country against these shocks through a range of policy, diplomatic, and programmatic responses.

Over the past year, Kenya's SDG investments have faced headwinds from declining aid, rising debt, and global environmental shocks. In response, Kenya has embraced innovative digital and impact financing strategies in health, gender equality, and economic empowerment. Yet SDG 14 remains critically underfunded, and macroeconomic vulnerabilities threaten service continuity. Sustained partnerships, domestic revenue mobilization, and strategic prioritization will be central to maintaining and expanding progress amid evolving global challenges.

Since mid2024, Kenya's health financing has been severely pressured. The halving of Official Development Assistance (ODA) has constrained the financing of key health



programs - including HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB, maternal and child health - resulting in interruptions in essential drugs and nutrition support. The Social Health Insurance scheme implementation has faced a number of bottlenecks, diverting funds from health budgets, deepening risks of service disruptions. Additionally, Kenya's rising debt and declining donor funds limit budget space for pay equity, childcare, and women-owned enterprise support.

Kenya's economy slowed to approximately 4% Q3 growth in 2024 from 6%, influenced by high taxation, global trade pressures, and contractionary monetary policy. Further, Global coral bleaching spanning 2023–25 has significantly degraded marine ecosystems. This environmental shock adversely affects Kenyan coastal livelihoods and marine biodiversity, yet public investment in marine conservation remains minimal. Despite Nairobi's climate advocacy, insufficient localized funding and weak enforcement mean that losses in fish stocks and coastal incomes remain largely unchecked.

The Russia - Ukraine war significantly disrupted global grain and fertilizer supply chains, affecting food security in Kenya. Rising global fuel prices led to inflation, increasing the cost of living and production across sectors. Conflicts in the Horn of Africa, Sudan, and DR Congo have contributed to regional instability, refugee inflows, and security challenges.


Prolonged droughts and erratic rainfall have intensified food insecurity, water scarcity, and displacement in ASAL counties. Flooding (e.g. El Niño effects) has caused

loss of lives, infrastructure damage, and disruption of livelihoods. Climate change is affecting biodiversity, marine ecosystems, and increasing the frequency of vector-borne diseases. Towards this, CSOs such have provided climate education, early warning systems, and promoted community-led adaptation. Grassroots organisations support climate justice advocacy, especially for marginalised communities impacted by extractive industries and deforestation.

Shifts in global alliances (e.g., China-Africa relations, US-Africa trade policies) have influenced infrastructure financing, aid flows, and foreign direct investment. Rising global interest rates and global financial tightening have increased the cost of debt servicing for Kenya. Global digital politics and data sovereignty debates impact Kenya's digital economy and regulatory frameworks. On this, CSOs have advocated for inclusive trade policies, debt transparency, and technology governance that upholds digital rights and equity. They are also providing policy alternatives on how Kenya can respond to shifting global dynamics while protecting public interest.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed gaps in Kenya's healthcare systems, disrupted education, and led to loss of income for millions. It also slowed down implementation of health-related SDGs and exposed supply chain vulnerabilities in pharmaceuticals and PPE. CSOs played a critical role in health awareness campaigns, emergency response, and mental health services during and after the pandemic. They continue to monitor the post-COVID recovery process, ensuring it is inclusive, particularly for women, youth, and informal workers.





External shocks such as global conflicts, climate change, and geopolitical tensions are increasingly shaping Kenya's development trajectory. The Government of Kenya has made commendable efforts to cushion the impacts, but partnership with CSOs remains central to ensuring resilience, accountability, and inclusive recovery. A whole-of-society approach is essential to navigate the complex global environment and keep Kenya on track toward achieving the SDGs by 2030.


### 3.0 Implementation of Recommendations from 2024 CSOs VNR

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The 2024 CSOs Voluntary National Report (VNR) in Kenya served as a landmark shadow report by civil society actors, complementing the official government-led VNR presented at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). The CSOs' report offered an independent, people-centred assessment of Kenya's progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), highlighting gaps, grassroots realities, and community-driven recommendations.

In the post-2024 period, several key recommendations from the CSOs VNR have influenced government policies, development planning, and multi-stakeholder partnerships. Some of the key themes include:

1. *Strengthen Multi-Stakeholder Coordination and Institutional Engagement: The government, through the SDGs Coordination Directorate (State Department for Economic Planning), initiated regular Multi-Stakeholder Engagement Forums at national and sub-national levels. Several counties (e.g., Makueni, Kisumu, Laikipia) have integrated CSO SDG platforms into county planning processes. CSOs now sit on select SDG Technical Working Groups, enhancing inclusivity in planning and reporting.*
2. *Improve Access to and Use of Disaggregated, Citizen-Generated Data: KNBS and development partners piloted data collaboration frameworks with CSOs under the Inclusive Data Charter. Initiatives like the SDG Data Compact and Open SDG Hub have incorporated civil society data sets. CSOs have supported data training at county levels, e.g., the SDG 16+ Data Toolkit by grassroots organisations. However,*



*formal validation and integration of CSO data remains limited, coupled with weak digital infrastructure among many grassroots CSOs limits data contribution.*

- 3. Enhance Domestic Resource Mobilization and Financing for SDGs: The National Treasury has begun tagging SDG-related expenditures in public budgets with technical support from UNDP and CSOs. The launch of the Kenya SDG Financing Strategy (2024–2028) incorporates CSO inputs on equity, tax justice, and social sector prioritization. However, limited public budget transparency and community involvement in budget monitoring, while unpredictable donor financing affecting CSO programming.*
- 4. Localize the SDGs and Promote Community-Led Development: County governments aligned the 3rd Generation County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) with SDG targets, supported by CSOs like the SDGs Kenya Forum. Community-driven innovations (e.g., water harvesting, youth-led agribusiness) supported by CSOs have been documented as scalable models. However, county governments need more technical support and political will to fully localize SDGs, while there is uneven distribution of CSO presence and resources across counties.*
- 5. Promote Inclusion, Equity, and Human Rights in SDG Implementation: National SDG reporting now includes gender, disability, and youth disaggregation in key sectors such as health and education. CSOs have expanded rights-based programming and pushed for implementation of laws such as the PWDs Act, Gender Equality frameworks, and Climate Justice charters. However, persistent inequalities and exclusion, especially for informal workers, stateless persons, and persons with disabilities, coupled with gaps in enforcement of protective legal frameworks.*
- 6. Strengthen Knowledge Sharing, Learning, and Policy Influence: CSOs have created thematic learning hubs and published SDG policy briefs and case studies, some of which have informed policy discussions. The SDGs Kenya Forum's knowledge management portal has improved CSO visibility and access to tools and research. Key gaps include: Limited uptake of CSO knowledge products in high-level policy, and language and technological barriers to accessing knowledge by grassroots communities.*

## 4.0 Progress in Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals

An in-depth review of progress, challenges, and opportunities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 follow below.

### 4.3.1 SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being)


This goal aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, at all ages. Health and well-being are important at every stage of one's life, starting from the beginning. This goal addresses all major health priorities: Reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health; communicable and non-communicable diseases; universal health coverage; and access for all to safe, effective, quality and affordable medicines and vaccines.

In the last 1 year, Kenya has reduced maternal and child mortality through universal access to antenatal care, immunization, sanitation, and community health promoters – reinforced.

Non-state actors have put in place efforts that have collectively strengthened universal health coverage, equitable service delivery, and resilience in the face of health crises, directly contributing to the achievement of SDG 3.

The VSO Kenya has been very instrumental in implementing key initiatives in Health. It works in ensuring that citizens are empowered enough to demand for quality inclusive services. It works with young people on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) – this owes to the fact that youth and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) are still excluded from seeking health services including reproductive-related services due to the operating environment in health centres, especially the attitude of care providers, who are not sensitive to the needs of these groups of members of the society. The VSO Kenya has put efforts towards improving the attitude of health care providers and this has led to an increase in number of your people seeking SRHR services.






Through the Youth Led Volunteers for Development Model and community-driven approaches, VSO Kenya has been strengthening access to SRHR, maternal and adolescent health, and mental health services across Kenya. This has been realized through capacity building of county health teams, health care workers, and community health promoters. The organization has trained 272 Community Health Promoters (CHPs) on gender, disability, and social inclusion, improving health equity and responsiveness. Further, strategic interventions such as Citizen-Generated Data (CGD), intersectionality community scorecards, and inclusive budget advocacy have led to increased local funding for RMNCAH and SGBV services in counties – such as Kilifi, Turkana and Makueni. Facility level dialogues between service users and service providers in six (6) health facilities, coupled with improved youth-friendly infrastructure have improved access to youth-friendly health services provision. The VSO's support for young people with compounded vulnerabilities such as adolescents with disabilities, young people from rural and informal settlements and young mothers ensures their meaningful participation in health policy, planning, and monitoring. Furthermore, implementation of digital innovations and inclusive communication tools have enhanced awareness, civic engagement, and youth-led accountability. In addition, VSO has also been part of RMNCAH/AYP Technical Working Groups championing inclusivity and intersectionality. It has also worked with schools to disseminate the adolescent guides and sensitize young people about their SRHR and life skills.

The Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) has been implementing a comprehensive

program aimed at empowering women and girls. RCK's interventions are designed to address the unique health and well-being challenges faced by refugee and vulnerable women and girls in Kenya, integrating health, empowerment, and protection strategies. The organization provides technical support to courts, police, and survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), as well as to gender desks and community structures, and especially for the girls within the camps.

The RCK has established strong referral pathways for survivors to access medical, police, and legal services, ensuring a holistic approach to SGBV response. RCK supports Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) activities, with a special emphasis on Menstrual Health Management (MHM) and sex education at both county and national levels. The organization raises awareness and provides education through radio talk shows, campaigns, and distribution of materials related to SGBV and health rights. Further, RCK supports the economic empowerment of SGBV and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) survivors, as well as other vulnerable women, through training and support for income-generating activities. Economic independence is closely linked to improved health outcomes, as it enables women to access healthcare and make informed choices about their well-being. The organization trains refugee women and girls as leaders and Brand Ambassadors, empowering them to advocate for their rights and those of their communities. RCK's advocacy efforts focus on eliminating harmful cultural practices, promoting gender equity, and ensuring women's voices are heard in decision-making processes.



Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, through the ChemiChemi ya Mazingira BORA, offers interventions on safeguarding good health and wellbeing through advocating for growing and consumption of climate resilient crops such as traditional crops and consumption of sunflower oil. To the group, planting of trees lead to good health – communities’ breath clean air, free from pollution and microplastics that are inhaled by the trees that in turn exhale oxygen that is clean air. The group works in collaboration with the County Government of Machakos.

TheCheshireDisabilityServicesKenya(CDSK) has been implementing the Intersectional Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Advocacy Programme, under its Socio-Inclusion and Economic Empowerment Pillar. The programme focuses on promoting intersectional health equity and justice, specifically advocating for and with young people with disabilities and compounded vulnerabilities. Through this programme, CDSK meaningfully engages young people, actively assesses the Availability, Accessibility, Acceptability, and Quality (AAAQ) of health service delivery across various facilities, with particular emphasis on youth-friendly services and access to quality SRHR for all. By administering intersectional community scorecards, this has effectively held health facilities accountable, prompting the establishment of youth-friendly centres or introducing youth friendly services and enhanced maternal health wings. These improvements have resulted in an increase in antenatal clinic (ANC) attendance, contributing to the reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality rates.


Beyond service delivery assessments, CDSK empowers young people with disabilities in budget advocacy, enabling their meaningful participation in the scrutiny of county planning and budgetary documents such as the Annual Development Plan (ADP), County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP), and County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP).

Youth advocates have been instrumental in developing memorandums that are presented to county assemblies, ensuring their voices are integrated into county budgets and plans. This engagement has led to tangible outcomes, including increased allocations and resources for health facilities such as Manyuanda Health Centre in Seme Sub-County and Kombewa Sub-County Hospital in Seme-Kisumu County.

As a result of this concerted advocacy, the Ministry of Health (MOH) and County Health Management Teams (CHMTs) have formally incorporated youth voices in discussions on Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) indicators. Consequently, Kisumu County’s MOH has integrated Adolescent and Youth Health Service Guidelines into its service charters, ensuring that young people’s health needs are systematically addressed.

Additionally, CDSK’s collaboration with the county MOH in reviewing RMNCAH indicators has led to significant advancements, including the development of a comprehensive template for mapping pregnant women for ANC reach, a vital tool for Community Health Promoters. Furthermore, this partnership has facilitated the provision of ambulance services for emergency obstetric care, helping prevent neonatal deaths in Kisumu County.





Through sustained advocacy, strategic partnerships, and youth engagement, CDSK continues to champion health equity and justice, ensuring that young people with disabilities and compounded vulnerabilities have access to quality, inclusive, and responsive health services.

## Challenges

1. *Severe skilled medical workforce Shortages: Kenya has about 1 doctor per 16,000–10,000 people, well below WHO’s recommendation of 1:1,000. This is further coupled by high attrition due to poor working conditions and ongoing strikes disrupt services.*
2. *Inadequate Infrastructure and Equipment: Rural healthcare facilities often lack beds, essential equipment, reliable electricity, and water, while urban–rural disparities remain stark despite some recent improvements.*
3. *Insufficient Health Financing: National health budget averages only 4–6% of GDP, short of the Abuja Declaration’s 15% target. Heavy reliance on outofpocket payments - Kenyans spend close to KShs. 150 billion annually, with only 25% covered by insurance – despite the inherent challenges in SHA implementation.*
4. *Weak Supply Chain and Information Systems: Delays in payments to suppliers like KEMSA lead to frequent medicine stock-outs; Lack of interoperable electronic health records causes inefficient duplication of tests.*
5. *Community Health Support Gaps: Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) often lack stipends, tools, and effective referral systems. Few CHVs receive formal training or compensation, making services unreliable.*
6. *Financial and Implementation Challenges in SHA: Universal Health Coverage (UHC) initiatives are underfunded and mired in systemic inefficiencies and delays. The Social Health Insurance Fund faces operational setbacks like claims delays and low enrollment.*
7. *Donor Aid Volatility: Sudden disruptions to donor funding (e.g., PEPFAR delays) have led to medicine shortages and clinic closures, affecting many Kenyans with HIV. Health clinics face ARV and supply shortages in warehouses due to funding freezes.*
8. *Governance and Accountability Weaknesses: Mismanagement, corruption, and delayed disbursement from counties hinder delivery. Malpractice like absenteeism, informal charges, and drug theft is widespread.*
9. *Emerging Disease Burden and Health Risks: Rising non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes and hypertension burden the system. Climate-driven outbreaks and mental health challenges require new community-level responses.*

## Recommendations


1. *Scale up Human Resource Health: Improve recruitment, staffing, working conditions, and continuous training.*
2. *Strengthen infrastructure: Invest in rural facility upgrades and reliable utilities.*
3. *Reform financing: Expand pooled insurance, reduce out-of-pocket burden, ensure timely payments.*
4. *Improve logistics: Enhance Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (KEMSA) efficiency and integrate electronic data systems.*
5. *Empower CHVs: Build referral pathways, supply tools and stipends, provide training.*
6. *Optimize UHC rollout: Expand SHIF while addressing enrollment and processing delays.*
7. *Enhance governance: Increase transparency, accountability, and anti-corruption mechanisms.*
8. *Engage donors strategically: Secure sustainable agreements and improve national ownership.*

### 4.3.2 SDG 5 (Gender Equality)

The Government of Kenya (GOK) acknowledges the importance of gender equality in development. It has a progressive constitution that promotes gender equality and women's empowerment through the expanded bill of rights. Several policies have been developed for gender mainstreaming. Tremendous progress has been made towards achieving gender equality in Kenya.

The SGBV is a widespread problem that affects women and girls in all their diversities and is a serious violation of human rights not just in Kenya but throughout the world. Kenya has a good legal framework on gender and GBV. The Government has established the following legal framework to address GBV issues. The Constitution of Kenya, 2010, guarantees the right to life (Article 26), guarantees equality and freedom from non-discrimination (Article 27), dignity (Article 28), and security of the person (Article 29). the Penal Code; Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2003, which amended the Penal Code to enhance sentences on sexual violence; the Criminal Procedure Code; and the Sexual Offences Act 2006, which among other things broadens the definition of sexual offences; the Sexual Offences (Amendment)





Act, 2011 which strengthened the 2006 Act; the Sexual Offences Regulations 2008; the Counter Trafficking in Persons Act (2011) and the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Act 2011. The government has set up a technical working group on gender-based violence including femicide.

However, the impact of these laws is hampered by inadequate enforcement and gaps in various respects.

Despite the frameworks being in place, significant gaps exist in enforcement and there is need for capacity building for state and non-state actors on implementation. The RCK has mainstreamed non-discrimination in all its programs, including those with disabilities and other vulnerabilities.

The SDGs Kenya Forum has implemented interventions that have significantly influenced and supported the development, approval, adoption, and implementation of gender policies, and WEE initiatives, at both levels of government (the national government and the targeted counties). The interventions have increased participation and involvement of Women Rights Organizations (WROs), CSOs and grass roots women in the WEE activities. These have enhanced women and girls' participation in decision making – including advocating for inclusivity in policies and plans.


The Forum undertook the 2023/24 National and County Budget Analysis. As part of this analysis, three (3) County (Kisumu, Siaya and Nandi) budgets were also analyzed. Four (4) reports were produced, accompanied by four (4) policy briefs.

The forum has continuously been involved in raising citizen's awareness on 2030 agenda for SDGs through Leave No One behind Dialogues so as to foster localization and also working collectively with diverse stakeholders to drive accountability on 2030 agenda. At the global and regional spaces, the Forum has been conducting structured advocacy initiatives in the sustainable development processes.

Through the JASIRI Program, GROOTS Kenya has directly supported over 45,000 survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), including cases of early marriage and harmful cultural practices. We operate three fully functional rescue shelters that provide holistic care—emergency accommodation, psychosocial support, legal aid, and medical services. This impact has been made possible by a network of over 1,000 trained grassroots GBV responders, who have been fully equipped to handle GBV response and rescue, and by the strong linkages created with key stakeholders to ensure coordinated and timely support to survivors.

GROOTS Kenya legal empowerment approach has enabled survivors to access justice, resulting in landmark court rulings and convictions of perpetrators. Beyond rescue, GROOTS Kenya prioritizes dignified reintegration—facilitating education, technical/vocational training, and access to business grants or loans, empowering survivors to rebuild economically independent lives.

Cheshire Disability Services Kenya works to ensure children and youth with disability lead a quality and dignified life within the 33 Counties out of the 47 in Kenya. CDSK designs projects and programmes with



Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) lense to ensure no one in the community is left behind in the projects/programmes timeline and beyond. While upholding the principle of Do No Harm (DNH), CDSK extends its services or support to some few non targeted primary actors but who are in dire need after carefully conducting a needs and vulnerability assessment that is participatory in nature.

In high-prevalence GBV areas, GROOTS Kenya has led efforts to rescue girls at risk of FGM and early marriage, ensuring immediate safety and long-term protection. Beyond rescue, GROOTS Kenya provides:

Education continuation and vocational training; in-kind startup grants to reduce vulnerability; pairing survivors with grassroots mentors; and formation of community watch groups to uphold accountability and safeguard against re-exposure to harmful practices.


Further, through the Grassroots Public Budget Academies, over 500 GROOTS champions have been trained in public financial management, gender-responsive budgeting, and civic accountability. More than 5,000 grassroots groups have received training on leadership and advocacy. As a result: Women now serve on PTAs (parents and teachers associations), public boards, and technical working groups. These milestones are steadily redefining perceptions of who is seen as capable of leadership at the community level and at the same time ensuring inclusion and representation of

diverse community priorities and aspirations.

GROOTS Kenya has further spearheaded the development and adoption of GBV policies in Kitui, Laikipia, and Kakamega counties laying the groundwork for institutionalized prevention and response systems. The organization has also trained key responders across the GBV referral chain - police officers, healthcare workers, legal officers, and counselors to deliver coordinated, survivor-centered services. The sustained advocacy has contributed to the establishment of Policare Centers, offering one-stop support for survivors. Tools like memoranda, petitions, and community scorecards are used to ensure policy implementation and government accountability.

Gender Based Violence in informal settlements often go unnoticed unless there is death. There are cases of adolescent girls who have been raped by their caregivers and some by motorbike operators. In 2019, Polycom Girls gathered data from 2000 adolescent girls. Data from the Talking Boxes tool - that is used to collect anonymous notes – found that sexual harassment is the third most reported by 564 girls of the total 3,021 entries - this translates to 19%. Sexual assault and rape were reported at 22% of the total entries given. This is just a small fraction of the girls who reported cases in Kibera alone.

Generally, cases of SBV have been on the increase, mostly in informal settlements, given the living conditions of the inhabitants. Polycom Girls has addressed numerous cases of sexual violations committed by motorbike operators in Kibera slums. The prevalence of such incidents is exacerbated by the low-income levels in informal settlements.



Through its life-skills program, Polycom Girls established that many girls' resorts to trading sex for essential commodities like water and sanitary towels.

Accessing piped water in informal settlements remains nearly impossible. Water points - typically managed by men - have become hotspots for daily sexual violations and harassment against young girls and women seeking this basic necessity. Additionally, sanitary towels are often considered a luxury by household breadwinners, who prioritize food over menstrual hygiene. Many girls' resort to unhygienic alternatives, such as torn mattresses, forcing them to miss school during their periods—severely impacting their education. In some cases, men exploit these girls by demanding sex in exchange for sanitary products, further exacerbating the issue of teen pregnancy.

As a mitigation measure, Polycom Girls runs a Pad Factory, employing women to produce free sanitary towels that have are distributed across 50 project schools to over 2000 adolescent girls. However, this is a small fraction of the total adolescent girls in Kibera. This initiative has helped keep many girls in school, and calls for the Government's free sanitary towel program to be expanded to include private schools in informal settlements.

Polycom Girls has also conducted sensitization workshops for male water vendors on sexual harassment and gender-based violence at water points. The project successfully cultivated male champions as agents of change within Kibera's water distribution system. Notably, there has been a significant reduction in violations at one previously notorious water point. On the other hand, RCK supports the economic empowerment of SGBV, Female


Genital Mutilation (FGM) survivors and other vulnerable women by helping them undertake income-generating initiatives and providing entrepreneurial trainings.

The VSO Kenya has been empowering communities on their rights including rights for women and girls, creating awareness on harmful cultural practices like child marriage and the reporting procedures. Through its membership to the Girls Not Brides Kenya, VSO has been working to eliminate the increasing cases of child marriage in several counties, especially in the North eastern part of Kenya and other parts such as Narok and Migori.

Most adolescents and young girls within the informal settlements especially girls with disabilities face a myriad of challenges from SGBV to other inhuman practices inflicted on them. To ensure gender equity and empowerment, CDSK has established SRHR advocacy safe spaces tailored for adolescent and young girls with disabilities from informal settlements, including Kibera, Mukuru kwa Njenga, and Nyallenda. These spaces provide a platform for young girls to share lived experiences, foster psychosocial support, and engage in skills development initiatives.

In partnership with Afya Research Africa, CDSK has empowered young girls with disabilities and their caregivers through sanitary towel production training. This initiative has eased the economic burden faced by most girls from the informal settlements, during menstruation by supplementing their ability to afford sanitary towels. Besides, these sessions have boosted self-esteem and contributed to an intervention addressing psychosocial challenges experienced during menstruation.





Through empowerment gained from safe spaces, young girls understand their gender rights, including SRHR, and are actively raising their voices in various policy discussions. By equipping them with the tools, knowledge, and platforms necessary to engage in decision-making processes.

## Challenges

1. *Gender-Based Violence (GBV): High prevalence of GBV, including domestic violence, sexual assault, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and child marriage. Weak enforcement of GBV laws, inadequate survivor support systems, and underreporting due to stigma and fear. Some cultural practices still justify or normalize violence against women and girls.*
2. *Limited Economic Empowerment of Women: Women face unequal access to productive assets (land, credit, and capital). Concentration of women in informal, low-wage sectors with minimal protections. Gender wage gap remains significant; unpaid care work disproportionately falls on women.*
3. *Political Underrepresentation: Despite the two-thirds gender rule in the Constitution, women's representation in elected and appointed positions remains below the threshold. Political violence, discrimination, and lack of campaign financing deter women's participation in leadership.*
4. *Limited Access to Education for Girls: Teenage pregnancies, poverty, menstrual hygiene challenges, and early marriages lead to high dropout rates among girls, especially in arid and rural areas. Gender-insensitive school environments and lack of gender-responsive policies affect girls' performance and retention.*
5. *Inequitable Access to Health Services: Inadequate access to quality maternal health and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services. High adolescent pregnancy rates and unmet need for contraception, particularly among rural and poor populations. Cultural taboos limit access to accurate sexual health information.*
6. *Harmful Cultural and Traditional Practices: Persistent FGM, widow inheritance, early and forced marriage, and gender stereotyping continue to undermine women's and girls' rights. Deep-rooted patriarchal norms hinder gender-transformative approaches.*
7. *Legal and Policy Gaps in Enforcement: While Kenya has progressive laws (e.g., Constitution 2010, Sexual Offences Act), enforcement is inconsistent or weak. Legal pluralism (statutory, customary, and religious laws) often results in conflicting interpretations and practices. Women often lack access to justice due to high legal costs, limited awareness, and societal intimidation.*
8. *Digital Gender Divide: Fewer women and girls have access to digital technology and the internet. Digital literacy programs and online safety mechanisms are insufficient. Online GBV (cyberbullying, harassment) deters women's online participation.*

9. *Inadequate Support for Gender-Responsive Budgeting: National and county-level budgets rarely prioritize gender equity. Lack of sex-disaggregated data and limited capacity in public institutions hampers effective planning and monitoring.*
10. *Marginalization of Vulnerable Groups: Women and girls with disabilities, LGBTQ+ individuals, widows, and elderly women face intersectional discrimination. Services and programs are rarely inclusive of diverse gender identities and special needs.*
11. *Under-resourcing of local GBV response systems: While policy frameworks exist, many counties lack adequate funding to operationalize shelters, train responders, or run prevention programs.*
12. *Deep-rooted cultural norms and stigma: Survivors of GBV still face community stigma, which deters reporting and reintegration. Social acceptance of harmful practices like FGM remains a barrier in some communities.*
13. *Limited political/civic space and funding for grassroots women leaders: Even as more women take up leadership roles, access to campaign financing, mentorship, and institutional support remains minimal.*
14. *Lack of data on rural and informal GBV cases: National data often fails to reflect the scale and nuance of GBV experienced by grassroots women, limiting evidence-based policymaking.*

## Recommendations

1. *Strengthen implementation and accountability of gender laws and policies.*
2. *Promote women's economic inclusion through access to assets, skills, and financial services.*
3. *Increase funding for GBV prevention, response, and survivor support.*
4. *Expand gender-responsive education and SRHR services.*
5. *Empower grassroots women's movements and amplify voices of marginalized groups.*

### 4.3.3 SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)

SDG 8 aims to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Kenya has had a challenge of youth burge – more than 29% of Kenyans are between 14 and 34 years. Even though Kenya maintained strong growth, supported by digital entrepreneurship (e.g. Ajira Digital), SME empowerment, and climate-savvy agriculture initiatives, the country is yet to address the challenges posed by the increasing youth unemployment.

The Civil society organization has also contributed to achievement of this goal through several interventions as outlined below:

The CDSK has been supporting youths with disability in 33 Counties of Kenya to access employment as self, waged or salaried by sponsoring the youth with disability access education or skills at vocational training colleges, offering training on Disability mainstreaming to the instructors, forming inclusion clubs at the vocational colleges level. The youths are then supported through internships such as placement. These opportunities offer youth with disability with skills, knowledge attitude and practices suitable for gain employment. There are few who are retained as staff within the various places that they were placed.

GROOTS Kenya is committed to ensuring that young people - especially grassroots women and girls—are not left behind in the pursuit of sustained, inclusive, and

sustainable economic growth, as envisioned in Sustainable Development Goal 8 (SDG 8). Through the Jiinue Growth Program (JGP) Consortium, GROOTS Kenya has provided comprehensive training to over 30,000 youth entrepreneurs in: Group Dynamics and leadership; Life Skills and Financial Literacy; and Enterprise Development and MSME growth.


This training is tailored to the realities of the informal and care economies - where most Kenyan youth, especially young women, are economically active but underpaid and undervalued. The model helps youth move from survival-level 'hustles' to viable, scalable businesses - creating a pipeline of grassroots entrepreneurs contributing to local economic development and poverty reduction.

Through the Digital and Experiential Learning, in 2024, 633 youth entrepreneurs were trained in digital marketing and branding using tools like Canva and Google Business Profiles, increasing their competitiveness in the digital economy. Over 400 youth participated in exposure visits to leading farms, TVET institutions, and industry actors, expanding their market linkages, mentorship access, and innovation capacity.

Through the Jasiri Program, GROOTS Kenya directly supports adolescent girls and young women who are survivors of, or at risk of, gender-based violence (GBV) - many of whom face acute economic exclusion. In 2024, more than 400 survivors enrolled in technical and vocational training (TVET) through accredited institutions and community-based master artisans; 2,169 survivors were trained on financial literacy, while 819 received business coaching and startup support.

All skilling programs are embedded in grassroots self-help groups and guided by over grassroots champions. To ensure sustainability, youth and women-led groups are formed, offering platforms for table banking, peer learning,





mentorship, and collective advocacy. These groups serve as economic and civic empowerment hubs, directly supporting SDG 8.9 by fostering community-based, inclusive economic models that also build social cohesion and resilience.

GROOTS Kenya has been supporting entrepreneurship, innovation, and access to finance through practical business training and SACCO services; by creating inclusive pathways to employment and entrepreneurship for women and youth, especially in underserved rural areas; by delivering holistic, life-changing training programs that bridge youth from informal survival to formal income generation; by developing sustainable, community-driven economic models rooted in grassroots leadership and resilience.

On Inclusive Financial Access for Youth Entrepreneurs, under the Jiinue Growth Program, GROOTS Kenya supported 5,140 young entrepreneurs - many of them first-time business owners - with not only technical assistance but tailored loan products. These young people, previously locked out of formal credit due to lack of collateral, gained access to capital to launch or scale their enterprises. Through the Jasiri Program, GROOTS Kenya supported 1,270 adolescent girls and young women - survivors or those at risk of gender-based violence (GBV)- with start-up grants following completion of vocational and business training. These grants represent more than economic opportunity—they are pathways to dignity, safety, and autonomy. Beneficiaries have launched salons, tailoring shops, food vending businesses, and other small enterprises. Many are now

mentoring others, creating a ripple effect of economic and social resilience within their communities.

GROOTS Kenya's Access to Markets Program provided loans to 1,825 grassroots women farmers, enabling them to invest in climate-resilient agricultural practices across horticulture, dairy, and poultry value chains. This access to capital has: Boosted household incomes; improved food security; and elevated women's leadership and visibility in local agricultural economies

## Challenges

1. *High Youth Unemployment and Underemployment: Over 70% of unemployed Kenyans are under 35 years. Many youth work in low-productivity informal jobs with poor wages and limited benefits. Skill mismatch between education outputs and labor market needs exacerbates the issue.*
2. *Dominance of the Informal Sector: Approximately 83% of jobs are in the informal economy, often lacking social protection, contracts, or fair working conditions. Informal enterprises face limited access to credit, markets, and training opportunities.*
3. *Slow Industrialization and Manufacturing Growth: Kenya's manufacturing sector contributes less than 8% of GDP, below Vision 2030 targets. High cost of energy, unreliable infrastructure, and weak linkages to regional/global value chains hinder competitiveness.*
4. *Low Labour Productivity: Labour productivity in Kenya remains low, especially in agriculture and informal services. Limited access to technology, skills upgrading, and innovation stifles productivity growth.*
5. *Inadequate Access to Finance: SMEs, especially youth- and women-owned enterprises, face barriers to credit due to collateral requirements and high interest rates. Informal lenders are often predatory, leading to debt cycles.*
6. *Infrastructure Gaps: Inadequate transport networks, electricity supply, internet penetration, and logistics increase the cost of doing business. Regional disparities affect rural economic participation.:*
7. *Tax Burden and Business Climate Challenges: Complex tax regimes and unpredictability in policy deter investment. Bureaucracy, corruption, and regulatory inefficiencies negatively affect ease of doing business.*
8. *Economic Inequality and Regional Disparities: Economic growth is uneven across counties, with urban areas benefiting more than rural and arid/semi-arid regions. Wealth concentration exacerbates poverty and social exclusion.*
9. *Climate Change and Environmental Degradation: Agriculture, a key employer, is vulnerable to droughts and floods, reducing incomes and jobs. Environmental risks reduce long-term growth potential and threaten livelihoods.*
10. *External Shocks and Macroeconomic Instability: High public debt (over 65% of GDP) strains fiscal space and crowds out development spending. Currency volatility, inflation, and dependency on commodity exports expose the economy to global shocks.*
11. *Gendered socio-cultural norms that limit young women's mobility, decision-making power, and participation in training or economic activities - especially in rural settings.*
12. *Fragmented skilling and financing ecosystems that fail to connect training with*



*enterprise development, markets, and long-term mentorship, particularly for youth in informal economies.*

13. *Low public investment in care infrastructure and youth skilling programs, especially those designed for informal and community-based work.*
14. *Insufficient data and visibility on the contributions and needs of grassroots youth—especially adolescent girls and young women - leading to poor targeting in national employment and economic development policies.*

## **Recommendations**

1. *Sign and ratify the ILO Convention (C190) to address issues of workplace Sexual harassment, gender-based violence and discrimination.*
2. *Recognize and remunerate care and informal work through public policy and social protection programs including national care policies, targeted subsidies, and protections for women in informal enterprises.*
3. *Invest in community-led skilling and financing models such as grassroots SACCOs, self-help group mentorship, and mastercraft-based training proven to be accessible, sustainable, and grounded in local realities.*
4. *Develop inclusive financing products that serve survivors of GBV, young women without collateral, leveraging technology and group guarantees, as demonstrated by the GROOTS SACCO.*
5. *Strengthen referral systems and social services that enable survivors of GBV to safely transition into training and work, ensuring holistic support (mental health, legal, housing, etc.).*
6. *Institutionalize partnerships with grassroots women's movements in the design, implementation, and monitoring of national skilling and youth employment strategies, to ensure relevance and impact.*
7. *Invest in youth skills development and apprenticeship programs.*
8. *Expand social protection and formalization incentives for informal workers.*
9. *Prioritize industrial policy reforms to boost manufacturing and value addition.*
10. *Strengthen rural infrastructure to unlock inclusive growth.*
11. *Improve access to affordable finance, especially for women and youth-led enterprises.*
12. *Implement climate-smart economic policies to build resilience.*
13. *Ratify the C189.*

#### 4.3.4 SDG 14 (Life Below Water)

Goal 14 recognizes the critical role that oceans, seas, and marine resources play in supporting life on Earth. It emphasizes the need to: Protect and restore the health, productivity, and resilience of marine ecosystems; support food security, alleviate poverty in coastal communities, and safeguard the overall well-being of the planet while promoting sustainable use of marine resources for present and future generations.

Kenya's blue economy comprises the sustainable use of ocean, sea, lake, and river resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs, while preserving the health of aquatic ecosystems. With over 600 km of coastline and vast inland water bodies (notably Lake Victoria, Lake Turkana, and Lake Naivasha), Kenya's blue economy holds vast potential in fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, marine transport, and biotechnology. In line with Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life Below Water), Kenya aims to conserve and sustainably use marine and coastal ecosystems, minimize marine pollution, and end overfishing.


Kenya's blue economy presents an opportunity to accelerate sustainable development while safeguarding marine ecosystems. Realizing this potential requires coordinated investment in governance, infrastructure, conservation, and human capital. If well harnessed, the blue economy can be a major pillar for economic transformation, decent jobs, and ecological resilience.

GROOTS Kenya is a key implementing partner of the Regenerative Seascapes (ReSea) Project in Kilifi County. This strategic contribution focuses on strengthening grassroots women's participation in marine conservation, catalyzing nature-based value chains, and elevating women's voice in coastal governance. By intentionally

positioning women at the centre of marine ecosystem restoration, GROOTS Kenya is reframing conservation - not as an exclusive, protective effort, but as a community-owned, livelihood-driven agenda.

GROOTS Kenya contributes to this Goal through grassroots-led, women-powered environmental stewardship. They mobilized 28 grassroots women's groups across Kilifi North, Malindi, and Magarini constituencies. Facilitated beach clean-ups, marine debris collection, and training on waste segregation and processing. Introduced innovative recycling models, where collected waste—especially plastics—is transformed into marketable products such as: Household items; handcrafted goods; and eco-construction materials. This approach





addresses marine pollution at source and shore, while linking waste management to economic opportunity. Women are now earning income by upcycling marine waste, shifting their roles from passive observers to active stewards and innovators in the blue economy.

Additionally, community sensitization efforts led by these groups are educating the wider population on sustainable waste practices - recycling, reuse, and litter control - creating a culture of accountability and ecosystem care.

Beyond pollution control, the ReSea Project has positioned women at the forefront of marine ecosystem restoration and climate adaptation. These interventions are designed to restore marine habitats, support biodiversity, and build the climate resilience of coastal communities. Women are actively applying these skills—leading restoration initiatives and diversifying household income through sustainable fisheries and conservation-linked enterprises.

Critically, GROOTS Kenya supports community dialogues and policy engagements, ensuring grassroots women are recognized as key actors in seascape governance. Women now engage directly

with local leaders and marine regulatory bodies, influencing decision-making processes on: Fisheries co-management; marine zoning; and community access rights. This inclusive governance approach enhances the long-term sustainability of marine ecosystems while embedding equity and voice into conservation structures.

Through the ReSea Project, GROOTS Kenya demonstrates a holistic model for implementing SDG 14 by:

Reducing marine pollution through community-driven waste recovery, recycling, and education; restoring marine ecosystems via grassroots engagement in reforestation, sustainable fishing, and biodiversity monitoring; creating livelihood pathways within the blue economy - especially for women previously excluded from marine-based value chains; and building resilience against climate-related shocks in vulnerable coastal regions. These interventions link environmental protection with economic empowerment, proving that when grassroots women lead, marine ecosystems are not only protected—they are regenerated, governed inclusively, and leveraged for sustainable growth.

## Challenges

1. *Overfishing and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing: Marine and inland fish stocks are under severe pressure due to overfishing and inadequate enforcement of fishing regulations.*
2. *Marine Pollution and Habitat Degradation: Plastic waste, sewage, and agricultural runoff pollute oceans and lakes, damaging coral reefs, mangroves, and breeding*


grounds. Unregulated coastal development and sand harvesting degrade marine ecosystems.

3. *Weak Governance and Institutional Coordination: Fragmented policy frameworks and overlapping mandates among agencies hinder effective blue economy management. Limited decentralization of marine resource governance at county level constrains community engagement.*
4. *Limited Data and Research Capacity: Lack of oceanographic and marine biodiversity data hampers planning and sustainable resource use. Weak monitoring systems result in underreporting of fish stocks and marine health indicators.*
5. *Low Investment in Value Addition and Infrastructure: Fish landing sites, cold storage, and processing facilities are inadequate or poorly maintained. High post-harvest losses reduce income for artisanal fishers and undermine food security.*
6. *Climate Change and Rising Sea Levels: Coral bleaching, sea level rise, and increased ocean temperatures threaten marine life and coastal settlements. Fishing communities face increased vulnerability due to unpredictable weather patterns.*
7. *Youth Unemployment and Skills Gaps: The marine sector is underutilized in creating jobs for youth due to lack of vocational training, technology exposure, and investment in entrepreneurship.*
8. *Women are often excluded from local marine management bodies like Beach Management Units (BMUs), where critical decisions about marine resource use, conservation zones, and fishing regulations are made. This marginalization limits their influence over SDG 14-related actions.*
9. *Many grassroots women involved in the seascape do not have secure rights to access or manage marine spaces, such as fishing zones or coastal conservation areas. This restricts their ability to benefit from marine ecosystems and participate in sustainable use efforts.*
10. *Environmental pressures like coral bleaching, overfishing, and pollution reduce the productivity of coastal waters. These changes disproportionately affect women who depend on small-scale and near-shore marine resources for food and income.*
11. *The absence of gender-disaggregated data in marine sectors means that women's contributions and roles often go unrecognized. Without accurate data, marine policies and budgets fail to reflect women's needs and experiences, making it difficult to design inclusive and equitable strategies for achieving SDG 14.*

## Recommendations

1. *Strengthen Regulation and Surveillance:* Invest in modern marine surveillance technologies (e.g., satellite tracking) to monitor IUU fishing. Enforce licensing, catch limits, and marine protected area regulations, especially within the EEZ.
2. *Promote Community-Based Marine Conservation:* Support co-management arrangements between government, counties, and beach management units (BMUs). Expand locally managed marine areas (LMMAs) to encourage stewardship of marine resources.
3. *Develop Sustainable Aquaculture:* Scale up eco-friendly fish farming practices, especially cage and integrated aquaculture in lakes and reservoirs. Provide incentives for youth and women's cooperatives in aquaculture enterprises.
4. *Invest in Infrastructure and Value Chains:* Upgrade fish landing sites, cold storage, and fish processing centres in coastal and lakeside counties. Promote fish branding, quality standards, and export facilitation to expand markets.
5. *Enhance Marine Research and Data Systems:* Establish marine research institutes and promote collaboration with universities and international partners. Invest in oceanographic surveys, stock assessments, and ecosystem monitoring tools.
6. *Address Marine Pollution:* Ban or regulate single-use plastics in coastal regions and support community-based marine clean-up programmes. Improve waste management infrastructure and introduce polluter-pays policies.
7. *Mainstream Blue Economy in Policy and Education:* Incorporate blue economy subjects into national curriculum and technical training institutes. Develop a national blue economy strategy aligned with Vision 2030 and county development plans.
8. *Governments and development partners must take bold and immediate action to ensure that grassroots women are recognized, equipped, and empowered as key actors in achieving SDG 14 – Life Below Water. The health of our oceans and the sustainability of marine resources depend on inclusive approaches that prioritize both gender equity and environmental stewardship.*
9. *Advocate for gender-inclusive marine governance by actively increasing women's participation in Beach Management Units (BMUs), co-management committees, and local conservation boards. Women must not only be present—they must lead in shaping marine policies and decisions that affect their lives and livelihoods.*
10. *Increased investments in legal empowerment by equipping women with the knowledge and tools to understand and claim their rights under environmental laws and global frameworks like UNCLOS. Accessible legal support will be essential in helping women defend their access to marine and coastal resources.*



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11. *Strengthen women's technical capacities in sustainable fishing, aquaculture, seaweed farming, and marine eco-tourism by delivering practical, hands-on training and providing tools and gears that support sustainable practices and enhance productivity.*
  12. *Regional and international community to support the development of women-led marine enterprises by facilitating cooperative formation, linking women to finance and markets, and encouraging value addition to marine products. Economic empowerment must go hand in hand with conservation.*
  13. *Gender integration in policy advocacy cannot wait. Development partners should work closely with government to ensure marine policies are gender-responsive and driven by data that accurately reflects the roles and needs of women. Gender-disaggregated data must be prioritized in planning, budgeting, and SDG reporting.*
  14. *Raise the voices of women and communities through environmental education campaigns that promote awareness of marine biodiversity, pollution control, and sustainable resource use. Engage women and youth in restoration efforts such as beach cleanups and mangrove conservation to build lasting stewardship.*
  15. *Enhance climate resilience at the grassroots level. Women need support to transition to climate-smart marine livelihoods such as cage fish farming and seaweed cultivation. All partners should facilitate and enhance women's access to early warning systems, disaster preparedness resources, and climate financing.*
  16. *Forge strong partnerships. Partners must collaborate with all stakeholders—government agencies, civil society, grassroots movements, academic institutions, and development partners—to mobilize technical support, funding, and innovation for inclusive marine conservation. Empowering grassroots women is not only a matter of justice—it is essential to the health of our oceans and the future of our planet.*

#### **4.3.5 SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)**

The Goal focuses on strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development. It recognizes that achieving sustainable development requires a collaborative effort between governments, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders. The goal highlights the importance of partnerships and cooperation at the global, regional, and national levels to mobilize resources, share knowledge and expertise, and implement effective strategies for sustainable development.

Kenya has strengthened partnerships: The launch of DigiKen involved EU, UN agencies, GIZ, and private sector. However, shrinking ODA has compelled a pivot to innovative financing instruments like development-impact bonds and catalyzed digital and data


initiatives [jointsdgfund.org](https://jointsdgfund.org). Kenya's participation in global data coalitions underscores its status as a regional leader in SDG-aligned collaboration.

The role of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Implementing the 2030 Agenda has been instrumental across the 17 Goals in the following thematic areas:

## 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



1. *Policy Advocacy and Awareness-Raising:* CSOs have played a critical role in domesticating the SDGs, influencing public policy, and pushing for rights-based, inclusive development. They conduct grassroots sensitisation and build public awareness on SDG themes such as gender equality, climate action, and education.
2. *Monitoring, Accountability, and Citizen Engagement:* CSOs contribute to shadow reporting, social audits, and community scorecards that hold duty-bearers accountable for SDG delivery. They facilitate citizen engagement platforms that amplify voices of vulnerable populations in policy-making.
3. *Service Delivery and Programme Implementation:* Many CSOs implement programmes aligned to the SDGs in education (SDG 4), health (SDG 3), food security (SDG 2), and gender equality (SDG 5), especially in underserved areas. They serve as critical implementing partners for national and donor-funded SDG interventions.
4. *Capacity Building and Empowerment:* CSOs train communities, youth, women, and local leaders on SDG integration, planning, and budget advocacy. Through capacity building, they empower marginalised groups to demand services and participate in development processes.
5. *Knowledge Generation and Data Support:* They support community-based data collection, contribute to citizen-generated data, and conduct research that feeds into SDG reporting and planning. Organisations like the Open Institute, SDGs Kenya Forum and Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO) support data disaggregation and inclusion.
6. *Promoting Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:* CSOs champion inclusive development, ensuring that women, PWDs, youth, indigenous communities, and other vulnerable groups are not left behind. They advocate for intersectional approaches in the implementation of SDGs.

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7. *Partnerships and Networking: Through coalitions such as the SDGs Kenya Forum, CSOs work in synergy to amplify impact, share knowledge, and engage in national, regional, and global SDG platforms.*

Kenya's SDG progress has been driven by an enabling policy environment, institutional coordination, devolution, and active stakeholder engagement. Civil society has played a transformational role as watchdogs, service providers, and development partners ensuring that the 2030 Agenda remains inclusive, participatory, and people centered.

## 5.0 Means of Implementation

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Kenya's quest for quality life of its citizens as espoused in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been supported by a number of factors, including:

1. *Political Commitment and Policy Alignment: Kenya has demonstrated strong political will through the Kenya Vision 2030, and the MTP IV, which align closely with the SDGs. The SDGs Coordination Directorate, housed in the State Department for Economic Planning, guides national SDG integration.*
2. *Institutional Coordination Structures: Kenya has a multi-stakeholder SDGs Inter-Agency Technical Committee, which brings together government, CSOs, private sector, and development partners. The SDGs National Reporting and Monitoring Framework enables periodic Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and tracking of progress.*
3. *Devolution and County Engagement: The devolved governance structure has enabled SDG localization through County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs). County governments are increasingly integrating SDG targets in planning and budgeting.*
4. *Public-Private Partnerships: Collaboration with the private sector has boosted innovation, financing, and service delivery, especially in health, agriculture, ICT, and energy. Corporate social responsibility (CSR) programmes contribute to SDG 4 (education), SDG 3 (health), and SDG 8 (decent work).*
5. *Digital Transformation and Innovation: Kenya's robust ICT sector has enabled digital solutions in health (e.g., M-TIBA), education (e-learning), financial inclusion (e.g., M-Pesa), and data collection for SDG tracking.*
6. *Youth Engagement and Inclusion: Platforms like the Youth Council, Ajira Digital*

*Programme, and the SDG Kenya Forum have empowered youth to engage in SDG processes. Youth-focused innovations and entrepreneurship initiatives have driven impact in SDG 8, 9, and 13.*

- 7. Development Partner Support: Bilateral and multilateral agencies (e.g., UNDP, World Bank, EU) have provided technical and financial support for policy, data systems, and SDG implementation programmes.*

## 6.0 Institutional Frameworks

Kenya has established a robust and inclusive institutional framework to implement the 2030 Agenda, with key roles played by national government agencies, county governments, and development partners. Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are central actors within this system — serving as watchdogs, knowledge brokers, service providers, and community mobilisers. Sustained support for these institutions and deeper collaboration will be essential to accelerate SDG progress and ensure that no one is left behind.

### **Some of the key institutions include:**

- 1. National Treasury and Economic Planning (NTEP) – SDG Coordination Directorate: This is the lead government institution responsible for coordinating SDG implementation in Kenya. It ensures policy coherence, alignment of national development plans (e.g., Vision 2030, Medium-Term Plans) with the SDGs, and leads Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). The directorate works with stakeholders including government ministries, CSOs, the private sector, and development partners.*
- 2. Inter-Agency Technical Committee on SDGs: A multi-stakeholder platform chaired by NTEP, this committee brings together: Government ministries and agencies, County governments, UN agencies and development partners, CSOs and private sector representatives. It oversees SDG localization, data management, reporting, and sector coordination.*
- 3. Council of Governors (CoG) and County Governments: Through the Devolution Framework, counties play a central role in localizing SDGs via their County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs). The CoG coordinates county efforts, harmonizes approaches, and facilitates inter-county knowledge sharing on SDG implementation.*
- 4. SDGs Kenya Forum (Civil Society Platform): A coalition of over 350 CSOs advocating*

for inclusive and accountable implementation of the SDGs. It supports: Citizen engagement and awareness, Community-generated data, Policy advocacy and shadow reporting, Capacity building of grassroots CSOs. It serves as a formal CSO representative in national SDG coordination mechanisms.

5. *Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS): Responsible for developing and maintaining a national indicator framework for SDG monitoring. Works with CSOs to integrate citizen-generated data and disaggregated data for marginalised groups into SDG reporting.*
6. *Parliamentary Caucus on SDGs and Business: A bipartisan group of Members of Parliament that promotes SDG legislation, financing, and oversight. Works in collaboration with CSOs to influence pro-SDG laws and hold government accountable for progress.*
7. *SDG Champions and Sector Working Groups: These include designated SDG focal points within ministries and counties who coordinate sector-specific implementation and monitoring. CSOs often co-chair or participate in thematic working groups on SDG issues such as health, education, gender, and environment.*

## 7.0 Policy Alignment and Integration

Kenya has institutionalized policy alignment and integration of the SDGs across both national and county levels through development planning, budgeting frameworks, legal reforms, and institutional coordination mechanisms. While challenges such as data gaps and financing remain, Kenya's approach offers a solid foundation for achieving the 2030 Agenda, with increasing support from both state and non-state actors in driving coherence, localization, and inclusive development. CSOs, academia, and private sector actors have provided technical support for policy alignment, especially through policy audits, capacity building, and tracking tools. Platforms like the SDGs Kenya Forum support the integration of community priorities and citizen-generated data into policy frameworks.

### **Mainstreamed the SDGs into national and sub-national development plans**

The Government of Kenya has made substantial progress in aligning its national development planning frameworks with the SDGs since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015. Key approaches include:



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1. *Integration into Vision 2030 and Medium-Term Plans (MTPs):* Kenya's national long-term development blueprint, Vision 2030, and the Third and Fourth Medium-Term Plans (MTP III and IV) have been explicitly aligned with the 17 SDGs. SDG priorities are embedded across sectoral policies, such as in health (Universal Health Coverage), education (CBC and digital learning), gender, and climate action.
  2. *Establishment of Coordination Structures:* The SDGs Coordination Directorate under the State Department for Economic Planning ensures cross-sectoral integration of SDGs. National SDG indicators have been integrated into the National Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (NIMES) and the e-ProMIS platform to enhance tracking of policy outcomes.
  3. *Budgeting and Financing Alignment:* The Program-Based Budgeting (PBB) framework aligns public expenditure with SDG targets. Kenya has also participated in Development Finance Assessments (DFA) to align resource mobilization strategies with SDG implementation.
  4. *Legal and Policy Reforms:* Key legal frameworks such as the Climate Change Act (2016), Children Act (2022), and Social Protection Policy have been reviewed to reflect SDG principles. National policies are increasingly guided by rights-based, inclusive, and gender-responsive approaches aligned with global development goals.

## County-Level Policy Alignment and Integration

Kenya's devolved governance system is critical for localizing and achieving the SDGs at the grassroots level. Counties have progressively aligned their development planning and implementation processes with the SDGs.

1. *Incorporation into County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs):* The CIDP III (2023–2027) preparation process was guided by the SDG localization framework, ensuring integration of relevant SDG targets. Counties use tools such as the SDG County Indicator Handbook and SDG Costing Guidelines developed in collaboration with UNDP and SDGs Kenya Forum.
2. *County Budgeting and Planning:* Counties are aligning their Annual Development Plans (ADPs) and budgets with SDGs through results-based planning and programme-based budgeting (PBB).
3. *Capacity Building and Technical Support:* Through partnerships with the Council of Governors (CoG), UN agencies, and CSOs, counties have received training on SDG alignment and localization. Some counties have established County SDG Units or Focal Points within the County Planning Departments.

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4. *Public Participation and Inclusion: Counties increasingly integrate SDGs through participatory budgeting and public consultations, ensuring community priorities reflect SDG themes such as health, education, sanitation, and environmental sustainability.*
  5. *Synergies Between National and County Levels: Vertical integration of policies has been enhanced through joint planning forums, intergovernmental coordination mechanisms, and inter-agency technical working groups. The Council of Governors (CoG) plays a critical coordination role between national and county levels to ensure coherence in SDG implementation.*


## 8.0 Awareness Creation, Capacity Building and Knowledge Management

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Effective knowledge management (KM) is a cornerstone for informed decision-making, policy formulation, innovation, and continuous learning in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In Kenya, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) play a crucial role in generating, packaging, sharing, and applying knowledge that drives sustainable development at national and local levels. Their efforts ensure that evidence-based practices, lessons learned, and indigenous knowledge inform the country's progress toward the 2030 Agenda.

### Key Contributions of CSOs to Knowledge Management

1. *Generation of Evidence and Knowledge Products: CSOs conduct research, needs assessments, policy analyses, community surveys, and baseline studies that contribute to knowledge on SDG implementation. They produce issue briefs, reports, infographics, and toolkits covering various thematic areas such as gender, climate, health, education, governance, and human rights.*
2. *Knowledge Sharing and Dissemination: CSOs use web platforms, knowledge portals, webinars, community forums, policy dialogues, and conferences to disseminate information and facilitate multi-stakeholder learning. They tailor knowledge for diverse audiences – from policymakers to grassroots communities – ensuring accessibility and usability.*

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3. *Documentation of Best Practices and Lessons Learned: CSOs document successful models, community innovations, and implementation challenges that provide practical insights for replication and scaling up. These are often shared through case studies, learning briefs, and story-based formats that capture qualitative impacts.*
  4. *Capacity Building and Knowledge Transfer: CSOs facilitate trainings, mentorships, and peer learning exchanges to strengthen the knowledge and skills of local actors in SDG-related areas. They build capacities of community-based organisations, youth groups, and county governments on evidence use, data collection, advocacy, and programme design.*
  5. *Knowledge Partnerships and Co-creation: CSOs collaborate with academia, government, development partners, and the private sector to co-create knowledge, conduct joint research, and review policy impacts. They play a convening role in thematic knowledge hubs and technical working groups, aligning sector knowledge with national priorities.*
  6. *Knowledge Storage and Access Platforms: CSOs contribute to and maintain open-access digital repositories, databases, and knowledge management systems for storing and retrieving development knowledge. They advocate for open data and transparency, promoting citizen access to information critical for accountability and participation.*

## 9.0 Stakeholder Engagement and Partnerships

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Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Kenya have been instrumental in mobilizing, engaging, and partnering with diverse stakeholders to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Their approach is rooted in inclusivity, transparency, and rights-based development, aiming to leave no one behind. Through multi-level partnerships, CSOs have created synergies across government, communities, private sector, development agencies, and academia.

**Key Forms of Stakeholder Engagement and Partnerships have included:**

1. *Government Collaboration: CSOs engage with both national and county governments through structured platforms such as: Inter-Agency Technical Committees on SDGs; County SDG Thematic Working Groups; and public participation forums on budget, policy, and development planning. CSOs contribute to co-creation of laws and policies (e.g., Gender Bills, Climate Policies) and monitor public service delivery.*
2. *Community Engagement: CSOs work directly with grassroots groups (women, youth, persons with disabilities, pastoralists) to amplify local voices in decision-making.*
3. *Private Sector Partnerships: Strategic partnerships have emerged between CSOs and private companies for: Innovation and social enterprise; Job creation and skills development; and Sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, and circular economy initiatives*
4. *Development Partners and UN Agencies: CSOs collaborate with development partners in: Programme implementation and co-funding; Technical assistance and capacity building; and participating in donor coordination forums and sector working groups*
5. *Academic and Research Institutions: CSOs partner with universities and think tanks to conduct: Evidence-based research and policy analysis; SDG monitoring and impact evaluations; and Knowledge sharing and innovation hubs*
6. *Civil Society Networks and Coalitions: Platforms such as the SDGs Kenya Forum, KELIN, Uraia Trust, KEWOPA, and National Taxpayers Association (NTA) facilitate joint advocacy, learning, and collective action. They also represent CSOs in national and global policy dialogues (e.g., Voluntary National Reviews, UN SDG Summits).*

Challenges in Stakeholder Engagement: Inadequate funding and over-reliance on external donors; Limited space for civil society in some policy processes; Fragmentation and competition among CSOs; and Capacity gaps in results-based management and policy engagement at the grassroots level. These could be mitigated through: Enhanced structured multi-stakeholder platforms at national and county levels; expanded funding access for grassroots and community-based organisations; fostering long-term partnerships with government and private sector; investing in CSO capacity building for policy analysis, data management, and

impact tracking; and promoting inclusive civic spaces and legal protections for CSO operations

CSOs in Kenya are critical actors in building inclusive partnerships for sustainable development. Their ability to mobilize communities, advocate for equity, foster accountability, and convene diverse actors makes them indispensable partners in achieving the SDGs. Strengthening these partnerships through enabling policies, adequate financing, and capacity support will further accelerate Kenya's development progress.

## 10.0 Data for SDGs Tracking and Reporting

Accurate, inclusive, and timely data is essential for effective tracking and reporting of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In Kenya, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) have played a key complementary role in bridging data gaps, especially in areas where government data is limited, outdated, or non-disaggregated. Their contributions enhance transparency, promote accountability, and ensure that the realities of marginalised communities are reflected in national and global SDG reporting.

The SDGs Kenya Forum has been promoting the use of data and evidence in the monitoring and implementation of SDGs – working in conjunction with data producers and consumers. It also advocates for policies


and legislation to strengthen commitment, financing, planning and implementation for sustainable development and specifically on SDG 5.

Working with its partners, the Forum developed a citizen social accountability tool to guide effective public participation. The tool integrates a framework for citizen participatory monitoring and evaluation. Through the tool, the Forum members (CSOs) have been able to support their constituents participate in the policy making processes through community dialogues, and the feedback submitted to the relevant policy makers through memoranda. Right holders have been sensitized to prepare memorandums, petitions and position papers.

### Key Roles Played by CSOs in SDG Data Ecosystem include:

1. **Production of Citizen-Generated Data (CGD):** CSOs collect community-level data through participatory tools such as: Surveys, community scorecards, focus group discussions; and Participatory mapping and monitoring. This data reflects local realities and lived experiences, particularly on issues of poverty, health, gender, environment, and governance. For example, *the SDGs Kenya Forum and its member organisations have led initiatives to produce CGD in counties like Kisumu, Kitui, and Turkana.*
2. **Monitoring and Shadow Reporting:** CSOs regularly develop shadow reports or alternative reports on SDG implementation, offering independent assessments that complement official statistics. These reports often highlight gaps in service delivery, policy effectiveness, and budget accountability. *Example: Shadow reports on SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) have been submitted by CSO coalitions such as FEMNET and Haki Yetu.*



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3. **Disaggregated and Inclusive Data Collection:** CSOs collect data disaggregated by gender, age, disability, location, and socio-economic status—filling key gaps in national statistics. They ensure the inclusion of marginalised groups such as persons with disabilities, indigenous communities, informal workers, and youth.
  4. **Capacity Building and Technical Support:** CSOs build the capacity of community-based organisations and county governments in data collection, interpretation, and use for evidence-based decision-making. They also train citizens and community groups on how to use data for advocacy and service monitoring.
  5. **Multi-Stakeholder Data Collaborations:** CSOs participate in national and county-level platforms such as: SDG Data Working Groups led by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS); and Inter-Agency Technical Committees on SDGs. These partnerships promote data harmonization and integration of citizen-generated data into national SDG reports and Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).
  6. **Innovative Data Solutions:** CSOs are leveraging digital platforms, mobile tools, and open data technologies to collect and disseminate real-time data for development monitoring. Some are also working on geo-mapping tools to track SDG service coverage and gaps at local levels.


The CSOs face a number of challenges in SDG Data Engagement. These include: Limited funding and technical capacity to collect large-scale, quality-assured data; weak integration of citizen-generated data into official statistics; fragmented data efforts across CSO actors; and inconsistent government recognition and validation of CSO data contributions. There is need to: Strengthen collaboration between CSOs and KNBS to formalize the use of citizen-generated data in official SDG reporting; invest in CSO capacity for digital data collection, analysis, and visualization; create a national framework for validating and harmonizing alternative data sources; and promote funding and technical support for community-based monitoring and evaluation.

CSOs are playing a transformative role in ensuring data-driven and inclusive SDG implementation in Kenya. By availing citizen-generated, disaggregated, and community-based data, they fill critical information gaps, strengthen accountability, and help ensure that development outcomes are truly equitable and people-centred. With greater collaboration, validation, and support, their contributions can be fully institutionalized in Kenya's SDG data ecosystem.

## 11.0 Key Next steps

As the 2030 deadline for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) draws nearer, Kenya has made significant progress in aligning national and county development strategies with the SDG agenda. However, challenges remain in financing, data availability, inequality, climate resilience, and coordination. The following next steps are recommended to accelerate, localize, and deepen the impact of SDG implementation in Kenya.

1. *Strengthen Data Systems for Decision-Making and Accountability: Invest in data infrastructure to improve availability, disaggregation (by gender, age, disability, location), and real-time access. Integrate citizen-generated data and alternative sources into national and county statistical systems. Strengthen partnerships between KNBS, CSOs, academia, and the private sector to develop a dynamic SDG monitoring ecosystem.*
2. *Enhance Sustainable Financing Mechanisms: Implement the Sustainable Development Financing Strategy to increase domestic resource mobilization and reduce reliance on donor funding. Promote innovative financing mechanisms such as green bonds, diaspora bonds, blended finance, and public-private partnerships (PPPs). Increase budget allocation to priority sectors aligned with SDG targets, especially health, education, WASH, and social protection.*
3. *Deepen Localization of SDGs at County Level: Ensure County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) and Annual Development Plans (ADPs) are fully aligned with SDG priorities. Strengthen county-level SDG coordination units and technical working groups for better planning, implementation, and reporting. Facilitate capacity building for county governments, community-based organisations (CBOs), and local leaders in SDG integration and localization.*
4. *Broaden Stakeholder Engagement and Inclusion: Foster stronger engagement with youth, women, persons with disabilities, indigenous communities, and the informal sector in SDG implementation. Promote multi-stakeholder platforms for dialogue, co-creation, and accountability at national and subnational levels. Institutionalize structured engagement with CSOs and the private sector in both planning and monitoring of SDG progress.*
5. *Accelerate Policy and Legal Reforms: Finalize and implement sectoral policies and laws that directly support SDGs, such as the Social Protection Bill, Climate Change Amendment Bill, and Youth Empowerment frameworks. Align all new and revised national and county policies with SDG principles: equity, sustainability, resilience, and human rights.*

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6. *Prioritize Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action: Scale up nature-based solutions, afforestation, and renewable energy programmes in line with SDG 13 and Kenya's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Strengthen capacity for climate risk reduction, especially in arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs). Ensure environmental considerations are mainstreamed in urban planning, agriculture, and infrastructure development.*
  7. *Promote Communication, Awareness and Behaviour Change: Expand public education and awareness campaigns on the SDGs to drive citizen participation and ownership. Leverage digital media, local languages, youth influencers, and faith-based organisations to communicate the importance of the SDGs. Encourage adoption of SDG-aligned behaviours (e.g. sustainable consumption, gender equality, climate action) at household and community levels.*
  8. *Institutionalize Learning, Monitoring and Adaptive Management: Institutionalize periodic Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and County SDG Progress Reports, with active civil society and community participation. Use learning loops and adaptive management tools to revise programmes based on performance data and stakeholder feedback. Establish an SDG Knowledge Hub to facilitate learning, innovation, and peer exchange across counties and sectors.*
  9. *Kenya stands at a critical juncture in its SDG journey. To achieve the 2030 Agenda, the next phase must focus on deeper localization, stronger partnerships, inclusive data and finance systems, and climate-smart policies. With political will, coordinated action, and citizen engagement, Kenya can deliver a more just, inclusive, and sustainable future for all.*

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