MAPPING GENDER AND SDG

Table of Contents

Acronyms

BPA	Beijing Platform for Action
CIDP	County Integrated Development Plan
CF	Cooperation Framework
COG	Council of Governors
CSO	Civil-society organization
GRB	Gender responsive budgeting
IDRC	International Development Research Centre of Canada
INGO	International non-government organization
KM	Knowledge management
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
MTP	Medium-term plan
NGEC	National Gender Equality Commission
NGO	Non-government organization
NISR	National Institute of Statistics Rwanda
RGB	Rwanda Governance Board
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
VNR	Voluntary National Review

MAPPING GENDER SYNERGIES

WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

Executive Summary

The Mapping Gender Synergies workshop was organized on 8 October 2019 by the SDGs Kenya Forum and Ms. Gloria Novovic (University of Guelph), with the support of the International Development Research Centre of Canada (IDRC). This half-day workshop gathered gender experts, advocates and practitioners from the national Government, United Nations (UN) agencies, development partners, and international and national civil society organizations (CSOs). The workshop aimed at bringing together actors working on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls who are either directly or indirectly engaged in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Agenda 2030).

This participatory workshop provided a platform to:
- Discuss preliminary findings stemming from on-on-one interviews and focus group discussions with gender and/or development experts
- Discuss and analyze findings from the SDGs Kenya Forum baseline study on integrating gender equality principles (especially SDG5) in national and county development plans in 3 counties across Kenya
- Share good practices of working towards realization of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, especially SDGs within institutions and in terms of broader stakeholder engagement
- Identify bottlenecks of Agenda 2030 domestication more broadly, and CSO engagement more specifically
- Jointly analyze SDG processes of integrated planning, monitoring and reporting on gender equality efforts
- Pinpointing potential synergies and opportunities for joint pursuits of the gender equality agenda in Kenya.

Workshop deliberations stemmed from plenary discussions, group activities, as well as the questions and answer session following the brief overview of research findings. Participants agreed on the following core conclusions:
- Kenya has made significant strides towards the domestication of Agenda 2030 in national processes of the Government, civil society, development partners, and UN agencies. The challenge is now ensuring the same awareness and coordination gets translated to county levels.
- SDG coordination mechanisms of various sub-sectors should be better integrated to ensure synergies. This is especially the case for some of the recent debates around gender data and analytics, multisectoral engagement, and innovative partnerships. Clear coordination mechanisms between KNBS, the Department of Planning, the SDGs Kenya Forum, One UN and other groups engaged in SDG implementation are needed.

- Further efforts are needed to systematize Government and CSO experience of gender mainstreaming on the county level in relation to gender training, gender responsive budgeting (GRB) and sector-specific gender policies. Currently, the lack of gender policy at the national level means there is no guiding framework for the same at county level. This has led to different approaches on gender policy(ies) development and lack of clear approach to priorities, formula or standard to guide GRB in the counties.
- The national gender machineries in Kenya needs strengthening in terms of
    (i)   budget allocation, staffing and resources, which would allow
    (ii)   greater synergies with county-level governments,
    (iii)   independence from donor-driven agendas,
    (iv)   further integration into national processes of strategic planning.
- Development partners should invest in strengthening the women's movement in Kenya, recognizing the importance of grassroots organizations, the need for core funding, as well as flexible and continuous funding required for transformative shifts of gender dynamics in Kenya. Lack of proper, sustained funding means that the women's rights agenda is currently driven as a project function by mainstream NGOs and main International NGOs further creating a void and weakening the movement
- Gender data and studies should be disseminated across the development sector to build synergies in terms of gender data collection but also effective analysis of collected data and its strategic utilization for programme elaboration and policy influence.
- Civil society and the national Government should include humanitarian programming among its development priorities to ensure the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and strategic integration of humanitarian and development programming on county levels.

Introduction

In September 2019, UN Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Agenda 2030). This development framework is expected to guide global development efforts for the period of 2016-2030. This is the first global document of its nature, having been elaborated based on the input of over five million people across 88 countries, in what was the world's largest consultative process. In line with other global and regional frameworks, Agenda 2030 highlights the importance of country-led development efforts and synergies among the public, private, and third sectors, as well as international actors. This is especially important for efforts striving towards gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls given the crosscutting nature of this work and key linkages between underlying gender inequality issues.

To understand personal experiences of contextualizing Agenda 2030's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), identify good practices and common bottlenecks, the SDGs Kenya Forum and Gloria Novovic (University of Guelph) organized a workshop gathering stakeholders working at the nexus of SDGs implementation and gender equality in Kenya. The overall aim of the workshop was to provide an inclusive forum for discussions on strengthening relationships among actors working towards gender equality in Uganda. This half-day workshop gathered experts from
   (i)   the national gender machineries;
   (ii)   (ii) international and local civil society;
   (iii)   (iii) UN agencies; and
   (iv)   (iv) development partners.

The workshop presented preliminary research findings from (i) Gloria Novovic's doctoral research on SDG domestication on a national level and (ii) SDGs Kenya Forum study examining SDG integration in three counties across the country. Participants were offered a platform to discuss the findings, raise other areas of concern, as well as engage in group activities aimed at mapping out gender and SDG efforts in Kenya and further areas of collaboration.

Plenary discussions regarded the nature of SDG global mechanisms and their usefulness for domestic development priorities, as well as the role of different development stakeholders working in the area of gender mainstreaming and women's rights. CSO coordination for SDG efforts, cross-sectoral synergies, constructive working groups with Government and UN counterparts on different gender-specific challenges of Agenda 2030 have all been listed as good practices. Areas of further improvement are particularly linked to the localization of Agenda 2030 as well as gender more broadly to county levels, as well as clearer integration of Government-UN-CSO frameworks for SDG domestication. Finally, group activities (i) mapped out the presence of actors working on gender equality, and (ii) identified institutional requirements from diverse sets of actors to allow for further synergies.

The present report will provide an overview of core debates enabled by the Mapping Gender Synergies workshop. This will include:

- An overview of findings presented Gloria Novovic (University of Guelph) and Catherine Nyambura (SDGs Kenya Forum)
- Issues raised during the plenary discussion on SDGs and gender in Kenya
- Results of the group exercise mapping gender equality actors in Uganda
- Insights from the group exercise listing institutional requirements for further collaboration among actors pursuing gender equality in Uganda
- Recommendations compendium
- Annex I: Workshop Agenda
- Annex II: List of workshop Participants
- Acknowledgements.

Research findings

Domestication of Agenda 2030 in Kenya

Kenya has played an important role in the elaboration of Agenda 2030, with Ambassador Macharia Kamau co-facilitating the post 2015 Development Agenda (2014-2015) and the General Assembly Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (2012-2014). As such, high-level political buy-in for Agenda 2030 is not lacking, which is corroborated by the fact that Agenda 2030 is integrated into the core national development frameworks. Given the robust participation of the African block in the SDG elaboration more broadly, and Kenyan engagement more specifically, it is unsurprising that SDGs essentially align with Kenya's Vision 2030 that preceded it, and which offers guiding principles for subsequent frameworks of strategic prioritization. The Big Four Agenda, although lacking explicit and direct connections with specific SDG targets, does encompass SDG commitments, which are more clearly referred to in the medium-term plan (MTP) III.

In this sense, global commitments of Sustainable Development Goals, along with regional ones – including but not limited to the African Union's Agenda 2063 and East Africa Community's Vision 2050, are all streamlined into the national interpretation of said priorities, embodied by the Big 4 Agenda and more practically spelled out in medium-term plans. On their end, medium-term plans are expected to trickle down to sector-specific strategies and county integrated development plans (CIDPs). The coordination needed to ensure these polices are enacted in institutional priorities, social service provision, and development programming has been identified as one of the key areas of focus for all actors.

Civil society engagement in these processes of SDG domestication has been robust, with NGOs coordinated through the SDGs Kenya Forum, which counts over 130 members, organized around the 17 SDGs. Swift CSO coordination around strategic and technical aspects of SDG integration has been welcomed by the Government, thus widening the space for CSO interventions in Kenya and strengthening relationships between the Government and CSO sector more broadly.

National SDG coordination is led by the SDG Coordination division of the State Department for Planning (Ministry of National Treasury and Planning), which liaises with focal points in all line

ministries and county governments. To solidify the coordination of SDGs on county levels, Council of Governors (COG) has established an SDG secretariat that deals directly with the Governors, as well as existing structures on county levels. Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) has mobilized around Agenda 2030 to bolster the availability and use of gender data, forming a national gender data working group, led by the KNBS Department of Gender Statistics.

Within these broader frameworks and coordination structures, gender is one of the core cross-cutting areas, expected to be integrated in development efforts as a specific set of efforts (spearheaded by the State Department of Gender and essentially touching on SDG 5 targets) as well as throughout all other economic, social, and political pillars (linking to gender-specific targets of other 10 SDGs). To further strengthen gender mainstreaming throughout SDG efforts, the Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs and the Council of Governors have adopted a framework for consultation and coordination on gender matters linking national and county efforts. CSOs are increasingly working on the county-level, in order to map out devolution mechanisms, advocate for gender-specific items within county budgets, and gender-responsive service provision.

Challenges of SDG localization

Across different sectors, Agenda 2030 is better understood, considered, and integrated by actors working on national (as opposed to county or local) and high-level (as opposed to issue-specific) issues. As such, sensitization on county levels, as well as the inclusion of CSOs not normally a part of high-level national planning processes emerges as one of the core areas of improvement. Divisions among urban/rural lines, economic resources, levels of education and other socio-economic markers characterize the gender equality movement in Kenya as well.

Secondly, coordination mechanisms around SDGs are clear within specific development spaces, but it is unclear how these different frameworks coalesce into a single coordination mechanism. For example, the Government prepares Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) as well as national progress reports on annual basis. United Nations will be reporting on SDGs as they move from the system of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) to Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (CFs). Civil society is coordinated through various working groups led by the SDGs Forum Kenya. However, continuous, predictable, and actionable coordination mechanisms that would link these processes should be strengthened. Currently, the frameworks align only in the occasion of VNRs, but more frequent internal reviews that embody the whole of society approach should be ensured. Further capacity is needed at the central government level to support these processes, and to ensure actors are aware of various forums for knowledge and experience exchange vis-à-vis SDG integration.

Next, given the technical nature of numerous SDG indicators and the compounded nature of SDG targets, the Agenda 2030 has largely been utilized by organizations building on overarching principles of Leaving No One Behind or a very specific set of targets, leading to the understanding of SDGs as a rather technical platform in which numerous CSOs (particularly smaller ones working on the grassroots level) do not closely engage. Clearer information on how SDG policy level

commitments can be integrated into programmatic efforts of a diverse set of actors would be helpful.

Challenges of localizing gender-specific SDG commitments largely reflect broader limitations of gender mainstreaming in the development sector. SDGs, however, highlight the importance of sustainable, long-lasting and transformative change of gender inequality dynamics. This transformative change, however, requires more fundamental changes of development processes. Short-term project cycles are perceived as one of the major hindrances of gender equality work, as development actors are not incentivized to design processes targeting root causes of gender norms, given that these are difficult to effectively address within a two-year project cycle. Similarly, proving impact of development programming targeting issues of structural gender dynamics is not always easy to reconcile with largely quantitative performance indicators and log-frames to which gender equality actors are subjected. Furthermore, funding for organizations directly targeting gender equality is diminishing, which follows an already alarming trend of decreased core funding for CSOs.

Opportunities of CSO engagement

All actors have recognized the importance of engaging CSOs in SDG localization. Given the devolved mandate of county governments for some of the core service provision functions, CSO engagement is highlighted on the local level in particular. Overall, CSOs are trusted actors on local and county levels, thus able to help with SDG sensitization to bolster accountability of local and national authorities for SDG implementation. Given their understanding of local contexts and priority issues for specific population groups, CSOs can also play a key role in informing Government and county policies and service provision. Furthermore, given the instability of development actors, local CSOs represent trustworthy actors able to ensure sustainable structures around SDGs and enable an effective shift from project to program work. Lastly, while there are significant efforts to produce gender statistics, implementation challenges to roll out new indicators and properly train enumerators working across 47 counties emerges as an evident challenge. CSO engagement, thus, around citizen-generated data as well as analysis of official statistics has been highlighted as an additional area of improvement.

To effectively engage CSO actors in Kenya working towards gender equality, development partners highlighted the need for clear mandates of CSOs and continuity of focus on specific gender issues, as well as robust CSO structures that show institutional ability to manage large budgets, human resources, as well as continuity of leadership. Strong focus on policy advocacy has been listed as one of the important areas of work for CSOs. Specifically, understanding Government and international policy processes emerges as particularly relevant, as less contentious and more streamlined advocacy strategies tend to result in more actionable recommendations and effective impact on policy actors.

Particularly in Kenya, which boasts the presence of many regional actors, leveraging opportunities for cross-country learning remains an important and insufficiently leveraged opportunity. For practical reasons, many CSO actors identify themselves as either regional or

national entities, thus creating two separate forums of SDG engagement. Breaking down these silos would enable innovative approaches and evidence-based advocacy.

Lastly, with increased momentum around gender-data, actors from various sectors have suggested the importance for CSO actors to engage in systematic analysis and data dissemination, to ensure that studies are not only conducted but also that findings are effectively translated to various regional, national, and local realities and communicated to target audiences. This role is of importance given limited resource allocation for the national gender machinery, particularly the State Department of Gender and the National Gender Equality Commission (NGEC). Creating knowledge exchange platforms to avoid duplication of efforts around gender assessments, studies, and policy analyses would contribute to the enabling environment for more strategic engagement around Agenda 2030, but also highlight opportunities for innovative partnerships, helping to mobilize the private sector, media, and academia for a truly inclusive stakeholder engagement approach.

Localization of Agenda 2030 in Kenya

Baseline study overview

The SDGs Kenya forum is a consortium of CSOs in Kenya coordinating action around implementation, review and follow up of Agenda 2030. The SDGs Kenya forum is implementing a three-year project entitled "Strengthening the SDGs Kenya Forum as an Accountability Platform for Gender and Development" that aims to engage decision-makers in SDG efforts, and ensure Government accountability for SDG commitments in general and SDG 5 in particular. As a part of this project, the SDGs Kenya Forum conducted a baseline study on the integration of SDG 5 commitments in national policies and county-level efforts. The desk review of policy alignment included the Kenya Vision 2030, the Big 4 Agenda, MTP III, while the county-cases selected included Bomet, Kisumu and Kilifi. However, the project is implemented in Bomet, Kajiado, Kilifi, Kisumu, Kitui and Nakuru counties.

The main objective of the study was to
  (i)   assess how gender issues have been integrated into core national and county-level development policies,
  (ii)   examine how these national policies are translated to county-level plans and priorities, and
  (iii)   analyze the effectiveness of accountability mechanisms and institutional processes to effectively implement SDG 5 in counties.

Main findings

The study revealed that gender equality, as a concept, is effectively recognized in Kenya's core policy frameworks, given its integration in the country's 2010 constitution. However, effective translation of these constitutional commitments is still insufficient, which is demonstrated by the fact that the Parliament is yet to enact the article 81 (b), the so-called 2/3 gender principle mandating that "Not more than two thirds of the members of elective or appointive bodies shall be of the same gender." This lack of political commitment translates to the county levels, as 25

out of 47 counties failed to form governments where women account for at least a third of representatives.

Another symptom of insufficient prioritization of actionable gender policies is that of the Gender Policy, dating back to the year 2000, despite numerous efforts since 2011 onwards to update it. As a result, none of the sampled counties boasted a gender policy, given the lack of a national benchmark in which such county policies would be embedded. As such, it is important to trace national and county policy processes in order to identify the most appropriate point of focus. Given that the Big Four Agenda and the SDGs are integrated into MTPs (currently MTP III) and respective CIDPs, efforts on the county level should be around CIDPs, which represent the most malleable frameworks that are also the most direct links between development prioritization and effective service delivery and programming. As of now, this is an evident gap, as none of the six sampled counties have allocated resources towards gender mainstreaming in county programming. Moreover, tracking progress on gender efforts on county levels is challenging given that statistical information at this level is limited, with the exceptions of specific sectors of health and education.

Baseline study recommendations
The baseline study resulted in a few recommendations.
- Government should invest in partnerships and collaboration platforms that bring together women's rights organizations, development partners, and specific Government entities.
- Investments are needed in the area of capacity development, particularly targeted at effective implementers on national and county levels, in order to demystify gender-equality commitments and translate them to effective programmatic changes.
- Commitment of the political leadership on both national and county levels is also crucial, to ensure that policy commitments are followed through in the implementation stage.
- Gender-responsive indicators must be integrated from national to county-level programming, to allow monitoring and evaluation of gender efforts.

Further areas of synergies on gender equality in Kenya

Data stemming from the two studies has been largely validated, with participants from various development sectors engaging in discussions on areas that particularly warrant attention to enable SDG and gender integration in the remaining 10 years of Agenda 2030.

Transforming development mechanisms for transformative gender change

Civil society actors re-iterated the need for a fundamental shifts of development funding to allow for transformative changes needed to effectively address gender inequality in Kenya. Flexible and predictable funding that recognizes the value of movement building is effectively a requisite for gender transformative work. Given the overall strength of the civil society sector in Kenya, women's rights organizations boast significant capacity in both advocacy and programming areas but further efforts are needed to ensure sustainability of these efforts, as well as to create space for greater collaboration within the women's movement and between these actors and the rest of the development community.

Strengthening Government ownership of the national gender machineries

Similarly, effective national and international investments in the national gender machinery are imperative at this stage. The mandate of NGEC is often misunderstood, as actors erroneously perceive it as a normative agency, due to its financial limitations to monitor all gender equality integration across each of the 47 counties. Similarly, the State Department of Gender is a relatively new institution, with its current formation dating to only 2016 as well as limited funding for its functions. Particularly on county levels, these functions tend to be diluted in broader agendas for youth, gender, and even culture.

Finally, the national gender machinery is largely funded by development partners, which has two negative consequences.
- For one, this signals insufficient Government prioritization of gender equality efforts, and thus insufficient Government ownership for efforts of these institutions.
- Secondly, this dynamic seems to corroborate the already problematic idea that the gender equality agenda in Kenya is donor-driven and representative of Western and non-autochthonous values and visions. Countering claims that "gender" is a Western concept is particularly difficult when resources for these efforts for the most part derive from foreign-based institutions.

Systematizing knowledge on and supporting processes of gender-responsive budgeting on county level

Despite a wealth of isolated good practices in different counties, gender-responsive budgeting remains a crucial yet an unclear strategy for gender mainstreaming on county levels. Actors such as SDGs Kenya Forum and Oxfam have shared experience of working on gender-responsive budgeting both from top-down (by targeting county political leadership) and bottom-up (by building expertise of county bureaucrats and supporting women's mobilization around CIDPs).

Grounding the efforts on a demand driven approach to drive gender responsive budgeting which nurtures a robust ecosystem and ensures sustainability.

Participants highlighted the need for systematic collection of lessons resulting from gender-responsive budgeting programs in order to

    (i)   scale up good practices

    (ii)   create competition among counties hoping to attract development funding.

Investing in gender training on institutional and county levels

Gender mainstreaming commitments have been set in place since the 1994 Beijing Platform for Action (BPA) which calls for the integration of gender commitments in all development work. That said, significant gaps persist at both institutional and county levels, even in relation to basic concepts of gender and affirmative action. Civil society representatives always find themselves pausing programme implementation at county levels to build fundamental understanding of gender concepts among county experts from different sectors.

In this regard, continuous training on gender concepts emerges as a rather traditional, but much needed, investment to allow for policies to effectively trickle down to the implementation stage.

Systematizing collaboration on gender statistics

Overall, SDGs have had a positive effect on the national debate around gender statistics, with KNBS coordinating with CSOs and other development actors in order to integrate SDG gender-specific indicators as well as bolster gender data collection at national and county levels. Given limited statistical capacity on the county level, it is important to continue the discussion around CSO- and citizen- generated data to supplement KNBS efforts.

The core area of contention regards methodology, which must be approved by KNBS for data to be considered official. Working on systematizing the process in which CSOs' methodology is approved by KNBS, but also to coordinate data collection efforts on gender equality in Kenya, is imperative. Analyzing existing systems set in place in the region, such as in Rwanda where the Rwanda Governance Board and the National Institute for Statistics Rwanda have official process for research approvals and licenses, represents an interesting opportunity. Another area of work, however, includes sensitization of civil society around gender-related indicators and the availability of gender datasets that can be employed for gender analyses. Lastly, civil society, UN agencies, development partners, but also academia should all be engaged in data validation, analysis, and knowledge translation components of the work KNBS is conducting vis-à-vis gender data.

### Integrating SDGs for the humanitarian-development-peace nexus

Gender mainstreaming is largely analyzed in development contexts, thus leaving out humanitarian contexts in which issues of, for example, gender-based violence, teenage pregnancy, discriminatory service delivery etc. are particularly prevalent. Government ownership for service provision is particularly lacking, which raises issues of sustainability. As a result, insufficient attention is often paid to the integration of development targets with realities of

humanitarian issues related to refugees from neighboring countries and preparedness and readiness for natural disasters. UN agencies and INGOs active in this area are moving from implementation focus to that of capacity strengthening of Government but also non-government actors, supporting first responders and insisting on community-led initiatives. However, further attention is needed to ensure gender equality efforts encompass humanitarian efforts, as these are directly linked to relevant policy frameworks and budget allocation. Like in other areas, more systematic collection of good practices and cross-comparison across counties would be particularly beneficial, given the similarity of humanitarian challenges faced by different counties across the country.

Mapping gender and SDG efforts in Kenya

Workshop participants engaged in a collaborative mapping on actors engaged in various processes of gender-specific SDG integration. The proposed cycle of SDG integration was slightly amended to correspond to Figure 1 and include areas of (i) policy and frameworks; (ii) gender programming and M&E; (iii) multi-stakeholder coordination; (iv) gender data and analytics (v) knowledge management (KM) and policy influence. As such, these categories were conceptualized in a circular shape, with each area impacted by and impacting the others.

Figure 1: SDG integration cycle
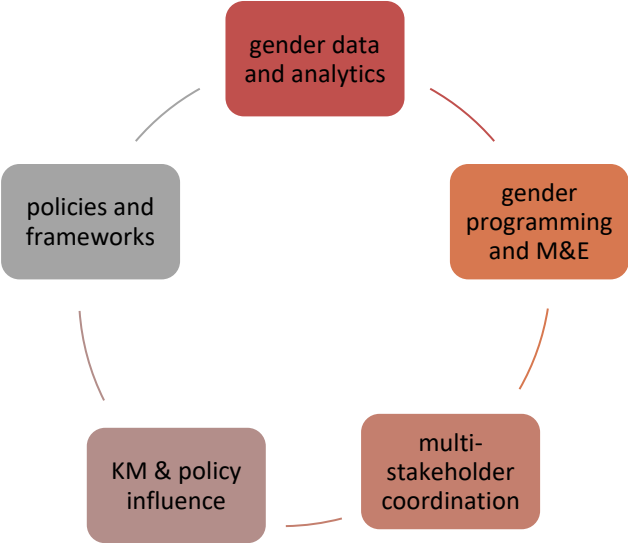
Data collection and gender analysis

Data collection on gender-specific issues in Kenya is not scarce, as it is often encompassed by existing mechanisms such as that of UNDAF, VNRs, censuses etc. One issue is that the KNBS role is not devolved, which strengthens coherence of statistical initiatives but unequal implementation of KNBS directives, especially where county-level capacity is lacking. As previously noted, the systematization of the existing gender data is needed to (i) improve processes of knowledge dissemination and (ii) identify gaps in gender data. A crucial area of opportunity is county administrative data, which should be employed for more sophisticated studies on county-level gender dynamics. Lastly, CSO engagement around citizen-generated data is needed to provide greater clarity on who the facilitators are and how these structures can be further leveraged.

On the analysis side, further investment is needed. Analysis and knowledge translation resulting from gender statistics is the role of the State Department of Gender, given their role of policy elaboration and normative shifts. As it stands, there are no formal institutional linkages between gender data collection and studies and analyses on different gender issues in Kenya.

While resources for gender statistics are increasing, Kenya deals with budget deficits for service provision, even for what are understood as basic needs, which suggests the importance of development partners' support for areas around data and learning. Additional issues are related to the political nature of specific elements of gender data, which is also where further mobilization of other sectors such as development partners, media, and academia is needed. Academia is also considered an important actor, one that could support the creation and maintenance of a knowledge repository platform for gender data and analysis in Kenya.

Gender Programming and M&E

Gender programming is considered rather strong in Kenya, although challenges include reconciling transformative and innovative programming and rather traditional and change-resistant systems of monitoring and evaluation. Additionally, increased emphasis is placed on linking programmatic outputs with policy-related strategic impact on the ground. This represents methodological issues as monitoring and evaluation systems tend to focus on programmatic efforts and thus speak to narrower program-specific targets and not wider policy commitments. This is especially the case with SDGs, where small CSOs find themselves trying to reconcile district-level issue-specific outputs with broad national gender targets of SDGs.

Multi-stakeholder engagement and coordination

Multi-stakeholder engagement that goes beyond traditional development partners is an area of improvement SDGs have underlined. This is the case with the media, which is being increasingly integrated, for example by Oxfam and SDGs Kenya Forum, who have recognized the need for continuous engagement of media and investments in long-term relationships and capacity development of journalists. Some media houses have also showed initiative in the area of gender equality. For example, Deutsche-Welle has projects of gender training for journalists around the

country, having recognized the importance of informed reporting around gender issues to avoid sensationalism and androcentric bias.

Another area of opportunity includes investing in women caucuses and gender committees on county and district levels. Supporting the mobilization of informal groups is an area that yields results, and one that should be better understood as a tool of popular engagement. Kilifi, for example, stands as a good practice given that the county has allocated 200 million towards gender-specific efforts thanks to the mobilization of women's groups. Learning from such cases and scaling good practices is needed across the board.

One of the main challenges in this arena is that of capacity. Understanding county-specific political dynamics and bureaucratic processes is a time- and resource-consuming process given the variety of Kenya's counties, but it is a task that should not be ignored. Participants agreed that it is the role of women's organizations to reach out to intervene in these mechanisms and effectively negotiate for space within them.

Knowledge management and policy advocacy

While policy advocacy is recognized as "the main business of the civil society" participants agreed that further efforts should be placed on knowledge management, especially knowledge sharing. Despite CSOs being effectively mandated to work on policy advocacy, these activities are more challenging from a practical viewpoint, considering that advocacy is rarely a linear process that can be neatly adapted to policy cycle. Nonetheless, development practitioners believe in its importance, despite continuous donor prioritization for "tangible issues" and "proof of impact" which cannot always be shown even after significant efforts to develop strategies, coordinate, build rapport with political elites, work with the media, develop technical credibility on policy issues etc. Given the shrinking donor space for gender-related issues, advocacy efforts are the most at risk.

Lastly, policy advocacy should not be seen in a vacuum, as gender training, for example, directly impacts policy arenas given that many decision-makers lack basic understanding of gender concepts. Institutional structures are also not always conducive for gender transformative work, which is why advocacy aimed at gender equality might not always take the same form as advocacy on issues less structural in nature. Gender specialists have, however, recognized the importance of understanding existing policy processes and mobilizing according to the official timelines and processes. For example, gender specialists engage in the elaboration of the annual development plans. One of the main windows for policy opportunity at the current stage are CIDPs, which is where the mobilization of the electorate can offer powerful tools for negotiation.

Policy elaboration and gender equality frameworks

Policy elaboration on gender issues is often CSO-led in Kenya and underwritten by development partners. Committees tend to be inclusive of a wide range of actors. As it stands, however, development partners are hesitant to fund work on policy elaboration given the insufficiently clear understanding of what policies are in place and what gaps are effectively hindering the

function of existing gender structures. An important area of intervention, as it has been outlined, is that of CIDPs. Counties are more approachable for many development actors, and the leverage of the communities, as effective electorates, are clearer in the case of county governments.

Transparency around policy implementation is an area of concern for many participants. Evaluation of Government programs that implement given policies is not systematic and data from such evaluations is often lacking. Quarterly internal reports should be shared with the public or at the very least be made available to civil society actors upon request.

Identifying requirements for gender and SDG synergies

Aligning SDGs with programmatic efforts

Some of the core challenges in integrating gender and SDG work on a national level is linked to the objectively broad scope of gender efforts and the Agenda 2030 framework. Alignment of actors, against national priorities and SDG commitments, thus, emerges as a laborious yet a crucial task. Each actor should engage in an institutional mapping exercise to draw clear connections between the organization's work and specific SDG targets and even indicators. In the second stage and across sub-sectors, such information should be gleaned to ensure a clearer mapping process. Some of this work has been done within the SDGs Kenya forum, for example, where member CSOs are grouped according to the SDG(s) towards which they are working.

More deliberate linkages should be ensured between policies (Agenda 2030 and MTP III on national and CIDP at county levels) and institutional programming. This means that explicit mentions should be made in relation to the way a given programme is contributing to a specific SDG target. These issues should be discussed in national technical working groups organized in each of the 47 counties. What is missing, then, is the effective mobilization around the work of COG to ensure county technical working groups are effectively integrating SDGs, including those on gender.

Improving knowledge sharing mechanisms around gender and SDGs

A resource center for gender and SDGs data is needed and it should be provided jointly by the State Department of Gender and United Nations and/or a specific academic institution. The University of Nairobi does have a gender data repository. However, few development actors are aware of such repository, which is why many studies are not included and the platform is under-utilized. Further efforts should be made to improve such a platform in order to optimize the use of scarce resources allocated towards gender data. Such a repository would allow donors to avoid duplicating efforts in terms of funding, smaller NGOs to avoid costly baseline studies, and the other actors to effectively employ existing knowledge for advocacy and programme planning.

Capacity development for effective engagement in policy arenas

Insufficient investment in capacity development around policy formulation and implementation leads to essentially separate processes of policy advocacy, policy elaboration, policy

implementation, and policy evaluation. Civil society effectively operates around different project cycles and donor commitments, making it harder to integrate into the daily work of national or local governments. As such, CSOs should be supported to effectively engage in these policy spaces, as well as follow up on effective implementation of gender-related policies.

Devolution should be employed to devise mechanisms to track and cross-compare policy elaboration and more importantly policy implementation across counties to promote learning as well as competition among political streams in different counties. Coordination of civil society would therefore be needed to agree on the "big block items" that require the most urgent action and to follow up on county levels.

Recommendations steaming from workshop proceedings

Findings outlined in the previous sections reflect the insight and considerations of a wide range of actors working on the gender equality agenda in Uganda, as well as broader development efforts in the country. Building on all of this feedback, a compendium of recommendations is outlined below. Table 1 lists recommendations applicable to all actors, while Table 2 shows different recommendations for various categories.

Table 1 Workshop recommendations applicable to all development stakeholders

Recommendations (all stakeholders):
Support the existing coordination structures for SDG implementation to ensure predictability of the meetings and clarify agenda items in order to strengthen multi-stakeholder engagement
Map out institutional priorities against SDGs and MTP III in elaboration and sector strategies to draw clear connections between institutional efforts, national priorities, and contribution to global objectives
Identify actors with compatible mandates and strategically map out areas of potential synergies within national and international forums
Engage organizations and communities that face the greatest obstacles in participating in national central SDG processes (e.g. grassroots organizations, village-level women's groups)
Engage in discussions on alternative ways to achieve SDGs in the light of decreasing ODA, particularly in relation to strategies for private-sector engagement
Work together to shift narratives around gender equality to favor inclusive, home-grown ideas that benefit the whole of society
Employ interlinkages across 17 SDGs to identify additional partnerships and synergies among existing platforms and programmes
Engage academia in data collection, analysis, and validation, as well as in projects related to data dissemination, building on their expertise in the area of gender and development

Table 2 Workshop recommendations per development actor

Main actor(s)	Recommended action(s)
Civil society	Ensure a more integrated approach to gender equality by leveraging Agenda 2030 to highlight linkages among gender and other development priorities
	Collectively share knowledge on tools for measuring the impact of gender equality efforts that goes beyond counting of input and output
	Boost linkages with regional and global actors to promote policy and programme learning and inform Uganda's SDG localization
	Understand and participate in county- and local-level policy spaces, particularly related to planning and prioritization to advocate for gender mainstreaming
	Mobilize around the elaboration of county integrated development plans and mobilize women's groups to ensure localization of priorities and sustainability of efforts
	Invest in grassroot women's organizations and their capacity to leverage the power of the electorate to advocate for prioritization of gender issues in county and district planning
	Strengthen linkages between citizen-generated data, CSO data and that of official statistics
	Work with KNBS to ensure CSO data can be recognized as official statistics
	Invest in gender training on county and district levels to demystify gender and operationalize high-level commitments of gender mainstreaming
	Record good practices of gender mainstreaming on county levels to allow for scale-up of effective strategies and cross-county learning
	Invest in long-term relationships with media representatives to improve reporting on gender issues and minimize gender bias in media
	Work to integrate gender across development and humanitarian sectors
Academia	Create a repository of gender-related studies and data sets available to all development stakeholders in the country. This data base should be checked for minimum standards of quality, include a search function and notification components
Development partners	Provide flexible funding that is not earmarked by activity to allow for malleable implementation approaches

	Strategically invest in institutional structures of national CSOs by increasing ceilings for M&E but also core costs such as human resources and coordination
	Help to expand the gender agenda to push for innovative action of the Government and allow for more transformative work of civil society organizations
National Government	Allocate resources for gender machineries as well as coordination of gender focal points on national and county levels
	Integrate efforts related to humanitarian settings in the main development agenda to ensure synergies on national and county levels, particularly in relation to gender.
	Strengthen the coordination among KNBS, COG, the State Department of Planning, and the Gender Machinery to allow for continuum between development planning, programming, data collection, and analysis on gender and SDGs
County governments	Ensure CIDPs include both development-focused and humanitarian-specific targets and efforts Streamline efforts and space for gender equality , women and girls empowerment policy making through dedicated ministries and resources
State Dept. of Planning	Ensure more regular meetings and more predictable agendas for technical working group meetings on SDGs
State Dept. of Gender	Invest in clear mechanisms of coordination between gender specialists in Nairobi and gender focal points across counties, and ensure their awareness of SDG targets and integrated indicators
	Invest in gender training for planning and gender focal point persons on county level
KNBS	Formalize processes for approval of data collection methodologies by third parties and ensure data produced under such approvals is included in official statistics.

Annex I: Workshop Agenda

08:30 – 09:00	Registration
9:00 – 9:30	Introduction of workshop goals and participants
10:00 – 10:30	Sharing good practices in the area of gender and partnerships
10:30 – 10:45	Refreshments
10:45 – 11:45	Group activities
11:45 – 12:00	Closing remarks

Annex II: List of participants

Organization	Name	Email
University of Nairobi	Cynthia Akinyi	cynthiaowuor@gmail.com
FAWE Kenya	Teresa Otieno	Terry.otieno@fawe.or.ke
WFP	Coco Heitmann	Coco.heitmann@wfp.org; Judith.otieno@wfp.org
Oxfam	Wairu Kinyori-Gugu	wkinyori@oxfam.org.uk
UNFPA	Loise Alix	alix@unfpa.org
Flone Initiative	Naomi Mwaura	naomi@floneinitiative.org
COVAW	Maurine Khabuchi	Maurine.khabuchi@covaw.or.ke
State Department of Gender	Heidi Mumia	heidimumia@gender.go.ke
KEFEADO	Easter Okech	easterokech@kefeado.org
WEL	Beatrice Kwamboka	Beatrice.kwamboka@wel.or.ke
SDGs Kenya Forum	Florence Syevuo	florence@sdgskenyaforum.org
SDGs Kenya Forum	Olive Kabisa	communications@sdgskenyaforum.org
GDDC	Richard S. Nasong	richard@gddckenya.org
CREAW	Elsie Milimu	Elsie.milimu@creawkenya.org
AMWIR	Yvonne E. Mwende	mwendeyvonne@gmail.com
FIDA Kenya	Elizabeth Gichohi	elizabeth@fidakenya.org
LDRI	Muchiri Nyaggah	muchiri@developlocal.org

Acknowledgements

N.B. In its draft stage, participants and other research stakeholders are welcome to submit questions, comments, and further suggestions. Please send any feedback by email to: Gloria Novovic gnovovic@uoguelph.ca and Catherine Nyambura cathynyamb@gmail.com.