

REPORT 2023

"SDGs at Midpoint:
Accelerating SDGs
Implementation Through
BETA and Enhanced
Collaborations and
Partnerships"



































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ABBREVIATIONS

LNOB - Leave No One Behind

CSOs - Civil Society Organizations

IATWC - Inter Agency Technical Working Committee

UNRCO - United Nations Resident Coordinator Office

VLR - Voluntary Local Reviews

HLPF - High Level Political Forum

UNGA - United Nations General Assembly

ECOSOC - The United Nations Economic and Social Council

NTEP - National Type Evaluation Programme

ICRHK - International Centre for Reproductive Health-Kenya



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1. MESSAGE FROM

THE BOARD

With great pleasure and a sense of accomplishment, members of the board and co-chairs of the Coalition for Sustainable development (SDGs Kenya Forum) present this 2023 Annual Report. This document captures significant strides made and CSOs contributions towards achievement of SDG commitments, harvested through collaborative multi-stakeholder partnerships towards advancing sustainable development goals (SDGs) in Kenya. The year marked mid-point in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in the face of unprecedented challenges, our organization and its membership remained steadfast in its mission to catalyse collective actions for positive change, ensuring that no one is left behind. We embarked on diverse initiatives on localization, ensuring gender equality, strengthening accountability, data, research and evidencebased policies and decision making, capacity building and effective communication, advocacy in high-level regional & global engagements and peer to peer learning, all aimed at contributing meaningfully to the realization of the SDGs in Kenya. As we move forward in the remaining 6 years, our organization is poised to continue execute its mandate as a convenor of CSOs, advancing its impactful work in providing a platform for collective efforts on SDGs. As leadership whose mandate is providing oversight to the secretariat, we are committed to fostering partnerships, leveraging data for informed decision-making, and actively participating in various platforms to contribute to a more sustainable and equitable future for all Kenyans by 2030.



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2. MESSAGE FROM THE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



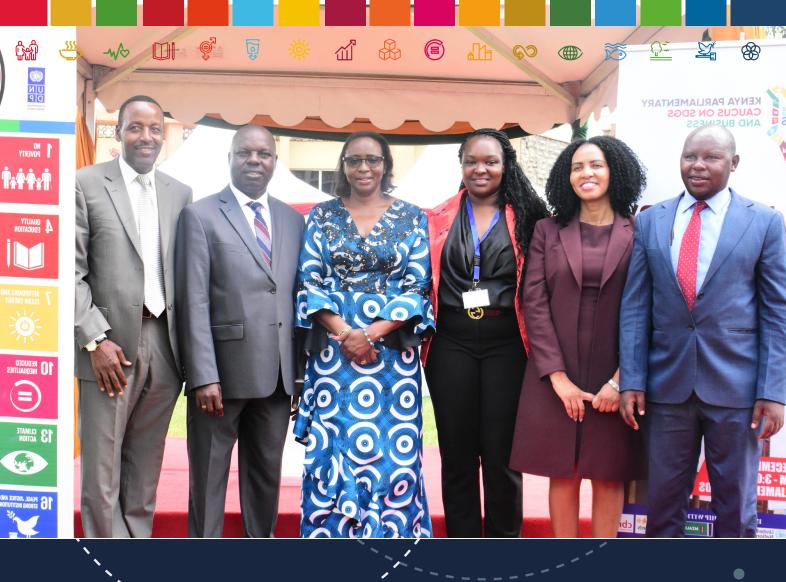
This 2023 annual progress report provides a comprehensive overview of our key achievements, partnerships forged, and the impact generated throughout the year. Our team navigated the intricacies of various challenges, sustained visibility in various platforms, collaborated with diverse stakeholders, and implemented initiatives that resonated with our collective commitments as CSOs to advancing key principals such as leaving no one behind (LNOB), inclusivity, gender equality, accountability, and sustainability.

As you delve into the pages that follow, you will discover the tangible outcomes and outputs of our collective efforts and commitment to fostering positive change in Kenya by 2030. From powerful

community SDG dialogues, training sessions empowering Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in SDGs reporting to our active participation in regional and global summits.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our members, development partners, supporters, key SDGs stakeholders and the dedicated individuals who have believed in the mandate of Coalition for Sustainable Development (SDGs Kenya Forum). Your unwavering contributions were instrumental in turning our collective vision into reality.

As we reflect on the past year, we also look forward to 2024 with optimism and determination to significantly contribute to the National and local Voluntary reviews and reporting. Cognizant that the challenges ahead require more collaborative and innovative solutions, and we are eager to continue our collective journey as one strong accountability platform, building on the momentum created in 2023.



3.

INTER-AGENCY TECHNICAL
WORKING COMMITTEE ON SDGs



Kenya is increasingly recognized regionally and globally for effective multiple stakeholder partnerships geared towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development at the national and county levels. This achievement is attributed to the Inter-Agency Technical Working Committee (IATWC), the highest national advisory body chaired by the state department for economic planning, co-chaired by SDGs Kenya Forum and KEPSA. It is mandated with technical backstopping, implementation, tracking, monitoring, and reporting progress of achieving SDGs in Kenya. Established in 2016, the committee whose membership constitutes representation form National & Sub-national governments, Civil Society, Private sector, UN System, Media, Academia, Youth and Citizens has provided oversight on specific aspects of the SDGs, aligning national policies and strategies with the global goals.

The key contributions of the IATWC to the Forums mandate in 2023 include, but are not limited to: Documentation of good practices,

Participation at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF2023) and disseminated the feedback on SDGs Country Position Paper, County level voluntary report and the CSOs Position paper to the media and the public. Jointly convened the 2023 Annual National SDGs Multi-stakeholders' Conference Resources, held under the theme "SDGs at Midpoint: Accelerating SDGs Implementation through BETA and Enhanced Collaborations and Recognition of performance Partnerships". through SDGs Awards SDGs Awards Program 2023.docx - to outstanding Civil Society organizations (CSOs) and Parliament. Capacity Building for both CSOs and governments on SDGs tracking and reporting; and championing the acceleration of the SDGs in the Decade Of Action (DoA) campaign. Open day event held at parliament 2023 Final Reports was themed "Partnerships towards realizing Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development Goals", leveraging on Parliamentarians as drivers of policy and legislative action. Open day SDGs Parliament



MEMBERSHIP REPORT AND GOAL GROUPS ACHIEVEMENTS

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4. MEMBERSHIP REPORT AND GOAL GROUPS ACHIEVEMENTS



Many factors have significantly contributed to the growth and strengthened Coalition for Sustainable Development, commonly referred to as "SDG Kenya Forum" - For Sustainable Development as an inclusive membership platform on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2023, The Forum continued to provide spaces for structured and coordinated civil society engagement with governments, private sector, academia, parliament, and development partners. In a bid to strengthen the governance of the Forum, the secretariate organized the Annual general meeting (AGM), Concept note-AGM 2023.docx , launched our Strategic Plan (2022-2027) and facilitated the nominations and election of new officer bearers-including the governance Board members & co-chairs and SDGs Goal Group Leads Committee. Over the last 12-month period, the membership has also grown and become more diverse across the 17 SDGs and the secretariat has now acquired its own independent office. For more information refer to the annual general assembly 2023 report. Some of the goal groups were able to convene their network members and conducted review of their respective SDGs, for instance, CSOs capacity in Voluntary National Reviews and reporting has been strengthened and are monitoring progress on SDG 6-water and sanitation in Kenya. Convened by the SDG 6 Goal group lead Kenya Water and Sanitation Network (KEWASNET-a Member of the Forum), the SDGs Kenya Forum contributed to the 9th edition of CSOs Report "the voice" launch, through a Keynote speech on SDGs implementation nexus with water and sanitation initiatives. The Voice offers a thorough coverage of the landscape of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Water Resources Management (WRM) CSOs and Social Enterprises (SEs) in Kenya by emphasizing significant takeaways and lessons from establishing and managing programs.





5.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

OF 2023 ACHIEVEMENTS

5. KEY HIGHLIGHTS

OF 2023 ACHIEVEMENTS

This section outlines a brief highlight of the Forum's major accomplishments in 2023, the SDGs Kenya Forum has growth stronger as a dynamic non-profit organization committed to advancing sustainable development goals (SDGs) through comprehensive advocacy, training, and collaborative initiatives. Over the past year, our organization has actively engaged in various National, regional, and global forums and events, contributing significantly to the discourse on sustainable development. Collectively with members and partners, we achieved the following:

Impactful Projects and Initiatives:

Our projects and initiatives have addressed both immediate needs and contributed to the long-term sustainability agenda. Across our five thematic pillars: Gender and Inequality, Data and Research, Accountability, Localization and Ownership, and National, Regional, and Global Advocacy. We successfully implemented activities spanning climate change, data-driven interventions, education, youth and women empowerment, inclusion of persons with disabilities, social equity, and human rights. Through dialogues and campaigns, we ensured the voices of marginalized groups were heard, leaving no one behind.













Capacity Building and Advocacy:

Organized and conducted Comprehensive Capacity Building sessions on SDGs reporting and Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) / Voluntary Local Reviews (VLR). Virtual preparatory meetings were convened with multi-stakeholders, culminating in the development of a comprehensive Civil Society Organizations (CSO) position paper.

High-Level Political Forum (HLPF):

Participated in HLPF2023, hosted side events, actively engaged in parallel and main events, and disseminated vital information to our members. Mobilized members to participate actively in discussions and events.



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GEF Advocacy and Intergenerational Dialogues:

Hosted GEF advocacy events, fostering intergenerational dialogue with over 100 grassroots women from all 18 constituencies of Nairobi engaging with 30 women members of Parliament, Senate, and County assembly. Participated in the Women Deliver Conference in Kigali, Rwanda, providing a platform for collaboration and learning.







Ninth Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD-9):

Actively participated in the 9th session of ARFSD



in Niamey, Niger, contributing to the follow-up, review, and catalysation of actions to achieve SDGs. Collaborated with FEMNET to develop resource products, including a social media toolkit and key messages.

Citizen-Generated Data and Partnerships:

Convened capacity building sessions to discuss various data values chain components with CSOs in partnership with KNBS. The Forum also convened data producers to establish a technical working committee on citizen-generated data, developing a Terms of Reference for launch in September. Established a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics.





...data quality often carries heavy costs in terms of financial, productivity, missed opportunities and by extension reputational damage. On the other hand, erroneous decisions made from bad data (poor data) are not only inconvenient but also extremely













Monitoring and Tracking Progress:

Developed a GEF Dashboard to monitor 20 gender-related indicators not tracked in the global indicators' framework covering 5 commitments of the 12 commitments. Supported the development of Kenya's 2023 SDGs indicators framework, contributing to a 70% success rate in achieving 162 indicators, up from 144 out of 231.

Empowering Youth for Tomorrow:

Youth empowerment remains central to our work, with initiatives ensuring their active participation in global discussions on sustainable development. By providing tools, skills, and opportunities, we are shaping a future where the youth are key contributors to sustainable development.





Global Engagement:

Participated in the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact in Paris, advocating for a surge of solidarity to combat poverty and climate change simultaneously.





THE STRATEGIC PLAN MISSION, VISION, VALUES REAFFIRMATION



6. THE STRATEGIC PLAN MISSION,

VISION, VALUES REAFFIRMATION

We successfully launched our 2023-2027 Strategic Plan with the theme "Kenya Positively Transformed for the People and the Planet." This being a results-based management tool that provides a road map of the Forum's priorities for the next five (5) years. The Mission: Kenya Positively Transformed for the People and the Planet Vision: To promote a participatory and accountable approach towards the implementation of SDGs in Kenya through advocacy and awareness

creation, coordination, joint implementation, policy influencing, monitoring and reporting.

Program Pillars: progress and achievements.

The five key strategic pillars for effective programme delivery to achieve our collective goals and aspirations include.

- Localization and Domestication of SDGs for ownership and sustainability
- 2. Gender Equality
- 3. Accountability
- 4. Global Regional and national Advocacy
- 5. Data, Research and Reporting

This section provides a detailed description of each program or project the Forum undertook during the reporting period and the contributions of each program to specific strategic objectives.

Localization and Ownership achievements

In 2023, by engaging local governments, communities, and civil society organizations, the Forum and its members /partners contributed to localization of SDGs using participatory approaches that sought to promote ownership, inclusivity, and sustainability in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These approache encouraged active participation and collaboration with the citizens at the local level, fostering a bottom-up public participatory process that considers the unique characteristics of each local context while working towards the overarching global goals.

In that regard, the Forum and implementing partners conducted several community dialogues in 14 counties including Machakos, Mombasa, Meru-Meru County Community Dialogue Report.docx , Taita Taveta, Makueni-LNOB 2023 Report.docx Kilifi-Community Dialogue, Kajiado, Nairobi-local Community Dialogues, Kisumu, Samburu, Bomet, Nakuru, Kakamega, and Kitui and convened 01 national dialogue-in Nairobi Reports 2023. The main results of these dialogues included increased awareness, knowledge, and public participation of citizens in the SDGs processes, and local solutions developed to address localy identified challenges-Open Communique on strengthening public participation in Kenya.docx. They also provide a platform for amplifying the voices of marginalized groups in the communities to ensure they are heard and counted, thus leaving no one behind.

In collaboration with the Centre for Multiparty Democracy (CMD-Kenya) organized the fifth People's Dialogue Festival (PDF) at the Nairobi National Museum, under the theme "Competition and Collaboration in Democratic Development". This brings citizens from all walks of life and leaders to voluntarily meet and have focused dialogue on governance reforms, socio-economic issues, and to safeguard democratic gains. Jan - March Newsletter_2023__Compressed_27c67c00.pdf (sdgkenyaforum.org). on 8th March 2023, Mr. Ole Thonke, the Ambassador of Royal Danish Embassy in Nairobi, officially launched the SDGs village. He expressed gratitude to all participants, workshops organizers, and supporters, emphasizing that SDGs require action, not mere rhetoric. In achieving SDGs, everyone must be involved, while duty bearers like the head of state have the highest responsibility for implementation. The private sector's role is vital in financing and delivering SDGs. Despite challenges, stakeholders remain committed to Agenda 2030, seeking solutions to push SDGs forward.

We also strengthened collaboration with Kenya Parliamentary Caucus on SDGs and Business, the Forum supported the SDGs Open Day in Parliament, Open day SDGs Parliament an event that provided a platform for the Parliamentarians to interact and engage with various stakeholders championing SDGs in Kenya, thus enhancing partnerships 2023 Final Reports This was also an opportunity for creating awareness and sensitizing the Members of parliament on the Agenda 2030, as well as reflecting on the important role Parliamentarians play in achieving the sustainable development Goals.

Supported the Council of Governors to carry out a validation workshop on Voluntary Sub-National Reviews (VSRs), aimed at assessing the progress of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the County level, the County level voluntary report was presented at the 2023 HLPF, in New York.

Forum and implementing partners also played a pivotal role through the Sector Technical working groups (STWGs) and contributed to the mainstreaming of SDGs into the national policies, Medium Term Plan 4 and the 3rd Generation County Integrated Development Plans CIDPs, as well as alignment with the Africa Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 among others. In Kisumu County, KEFEADO reviewed the finance bill and developed CSOs Finance bill submissions the partner supported grassroots women, to participate in the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP), Annual Development Plan (ADP), and Financial Estimates and Budgets processes at the county level. In Nakuru County, Groots Kenya supported 10 women from Nakuru County and 16 from Kakamega County to participate in the development of the county Integrated Development Plan and Annual Development Plan, their advocacy efforts resulted in GEF Commitment number 4 included in the Nakuru CIDP 2023-27 and ADP.

Data and Research achievements

Our dedication to evidence-based approaches is evident in our embrace of advocacy for data-driven decision-making. In 2023, we registered progress towards strengthening Citizen Generated Data (CGD) and creation of synergy between Data Producers and Users. We invested resources in strengthening our members' capacity in data collection, analysis, and interpretation, we collaborated with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) and conducted training workshops on the data ecosystem, Citizen Generated Data, National Indicator Framework, and Voluntary National Reviews reporting processes.

Strengthened collaborations and partnership with KNBS, and supported the review and updating of the Kenya National 2023 SDGs indicators framework and supported production of data that saw indicators covering 162 indicators (70%) success rate up from 144 out of 231 indicators. And the development of the cross-indicator reference between the National indicators Framework and the SDGs Country's Profile and report detailing the recommendations to the government.

Successfully launched the Nnational Technical Working Committee on Citizen-Generated Data (TWCoCGD) and operational guidelines-Terms of Reference elements) and a clear roadmap for advancing citizengenerated data initiatives in Kenya. This was achieved in collaboration with UN Women, GROOTS Kenya and KNBS, at a breakfast meeting that brought together 94 stakeholders and participants who included the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs), Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), and Women's Rights Organizations (WROs), development partners, entities within the National Statistical System (MDAs, and County governments), UN representatives, players in the data ecosystem (media, private sector), data institutions, and individuals with a vested interest in data utilization and provision were present.

This will strengthen the Data Users and producer's platform to respond to data queries and review data received from non state actors, as well as updating the Kenya Statistical Quality Assurance Framework

Research studies conducted in 2023 contributed to evidence needed to ensure policies and interventions remain relevant, effective, efficient, and responsive to evolving community needs. The annual budget reviews were conducted to track Gender Responsive budgets and WEE and GEF initiatives in place. The <u>national</u>



budget analysis study for 2022/2023 established that county plans (Siaya, Nandi, Kisumu) are exhaustive and encompassing gender equality programmes and projects. FIDA Kenya conducted a Review of Kilifi County annual development plans, county budget to establish extent to gender responsiveness. Polycom Development conducted a review on the Nairobi County Finance and Budgets appropriations document for FY 2023/24 with the aim of tracking the gender responsiveness of the budget and support to WEE initiatives set for implementation. The plans are ambitious in terms of the proposed programmes as well as adequate in budgeting.

To address challenges in data production and usage within the SDGs framework the Forum conducted a comprehensive mapping of the SDGs data ecosystem in Kenya. <u>Data Ecosystems Mapping Study-FINAL REPORT RCL.docx.</u> The primary goals were to identify data producers, both official and

non-official, understand the tools and methodologies employed across the data value chain, and draw recommendations based on the findings.

In order to track progress the Forum developed a County Development Index (CDI) Power to the People: Devolution, Citizen Ownership and Sustainable Development-draft that exploits the levels of devolution in Kenya hence facilitating the streamlining of County Planning, Policy, Budgeting, and service delivery. This was a tool for evaluating county performance and expenditure efficiency. This index will facilitate continuous performance reviews, initiate healthy competition among counties, and provide insights into the reasons behind performance variations. This report was presented at the annual multi-stakeholders' conference, a platform for peer-topeer learning among counties, enabling them to share experiences, lessons learned, and success stories in local development efforts.



Gender Equality

The SDGs Kenya Forum has continued to champion for the documentation of progress and milestones realized in the implementation of SDG 5 through evidence-based advocacy.

The Frum and implementing partners engaged the county budget and Economic Forums and Gender Focal Points in the development of Women Economic Empowerment Bills; for enhanced funding for Generation Equality Forum (GEF) commitments and Women Economic Empowerment (WEE) initiatives. As a result, Women Economic Empowerment policies and Bills are in place in Kajiado county that has an approved Women Economic Empowerment policy (WEE) and a draft bill-WEE Act is now at the public participation stage. Bomet County Assembly to review and advocate for the effective implementation of the existing county Policy on Sexual and Gender Based Violence. Kitui county has a strong Women economic Empowerment policy and its bill, and Kitui Gender policy in place for implementation. Nakuru

county-Gender and Development Policy and relevant Act drafts at the Governor's desk awaiting approval and enactment. Nairobi county partners have developed a model <u>safeguarding Policy</u> on sexual harassment in schools and are advocating for its adoption by the county government. <u>Samburu County</u> has a draft Gender Policy whose approval is in the pipeline, an approved <u>Women Economic Empowerment Strategy</u> (2020-2025) and the current Samburu Women's representative committed to see the WEE strategy implemented in the county.

Gender Responsive Budgets are in place at both levels of government. There is progress in increasing the % of county annual budgets allocated to SDG5 targets and indicators regarding GEF and WEE at the national level and in the 08 target counties. Bomet County budget allocated to the Department of Youth, Gender, Culture, and Sports for the fiscal year 2023/2024 ADP 2023-2024 represents 1% of the total county budget estimates. Kilifi County, budget Review revealed the Gender direct allocation represents a 2.7% proportion, there is opportunity to ensure increased allocation and greater mainstreaming of gender implementations into the County's operations through Public Participation. Samburu County, the ADP plans 2020-2021- had doubled the budget allocations in 2022-2023 for gender and women's empowerment. Kitui county, GEF commitments have been successfully incorporated into the Annual Development Plan for the fiscal year 2022/2023 with allocations from the county budget designated for a establishment of a GBV Rescue Centre and for GBV programming Final supplementary budget 2023/2024.

In line with international trends, the SDGs Kenya Forum collaborated with KNBS and UN-Women on promoting the uptake and use of gender data to inform evidence-based policy decisions by policymakers at the national and county levels. The three partners organized a training workshop for 45 Middle Level Policy makers from 14 counties to build their capacity on the uptake

and use of gender data. The outcome of the training workshop was enhanced greater understanding on the significance of gender statistics in policymaking and planning. Mid-Level Policy makers training Concept Note-UNW-Training of Mid-Level Policymakers Technicians (2).docx

The Forum also collaborated with UN women through the Women Count programme and KNBSjointly convened and trained 20 Women Rights Organizations (WROs) and 20 media journalists and news editors, on gender data uptake and use with the aim of increasing the use of data in storytelling and public information sharing. It was designed to empower Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and media professionals on the use of gender data for advocacy. The workshop's primary goal was to bridge the gender data gap by equipping participants with the essential knowledge and skills needed to harness the power of gender data for more effective advocacy initiatives. This interactive training program was customized to boost the capacity of CSOs and media practitioners to integrate gender data-driven advocacy approaches into their work. By doing so, we aim to bolster their impact, promote transparency, and drive evidencebased policymaking. Training programme.doc

Global, Regional and National Advocacy

The Forum and Implementing partners held advocacy engagements within regional and global policy making, reviews and reporting processes.

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April-Jun_Newsletter_2023__Compressed_5294225b. pdf (sdgkenyaforum.org))

The 9th session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD9) held in Niamey, Niger from 27th February to Friday 3rd March 2023. Representatives from the Forum actively engaged in developing a Social media toolkit, Key messages in partnership with FEMNET and as panellists speakers and in the formulation of joint statements for the Women's major group, during the plenary and parallel sessions where an in-depth review was undertaken of progress made in the implementation of five selected Sustainable Development Goals, namely Goals 6 (clean water and sanitation); 7 (affordable and clean energy); 9 (industry, innovation, and infrastructure); 11 (sustainable cities and communities); and 17 (partnerships for the Goals) and the corresponding goals of the Africa Agenda 2063.

At the 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67: The Forum collaborated with the state department for gender and contributed to the development of the County Position paper pre-CSW67, collaborated with implementing partners (Polycom and CREAW)-hosted side events during CSW in new York, and Participated in the national dissemination of the action plan to implement the Kenya communique and outcomes during the post CSW67 national stakeholders forum, led by the State department for Gender and Affirmative action.

During the High Level Political Forum: HLPF2023, the Forum hosted pre-HLPF awareness and sensitization sessions for effective participation of CSOs and all interested stakeholders and collaborated with the Inter Agency technical working committee (IATWC) and Council of Governors (CoG) in the development of the Country position paper, the County/sub national-voluntary report, and the CSO position paper. The Forum also participated at the HLPF in New York, engaging and speaking in various government

and CSO organized parallel and side events. The Forum and IATWC-Kenya Delegation hosted a post HLPF media debriefing breakfast meeting to <u>report</u> back and inform the public on the outcomes of the HLPF

The <u>second UN Habitat Assembly</u>: The Forum actively participated and engaged at the Un Habitat Assembly, held in Nairobi Kenya under the theme: "A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective stakeholder partnership: achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in times of global crises". The secretariat and implementing partners GROOTS Kenya, Polycom Development supported participation of 25 grassroots champions who contributed to discussions and development of a joint communique that highlighted CSOs supporting the proposal for adequate



housing draft resolution to bring human settlements back as the core mandate of UN HABITAT. They also proposed to develop a robust monitoring framework to track, report and follow up on the resolutions of the public dialogues and aligned recommendations to the four action areas, to be picked up by the Global Stakeholders Forum.

Actively participated in the 78th Session of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) https://sdgs.un.org/UNSDGimplementation and the SDGs Future summit, convened for leaders from around the globe gathered in New York. They discussed and addressed pressing global issues, the assembly

served as a platform for countries to voice their concerns, propose solutions, and work collaboratively towards resolutions. With only 7 years remaining to meet the agenda 2030, we are at the mid-point of implementation; however, the world has experienced numerous setbacks to the much progress made so far. World Leaders Adopted a Political Declaration Reaffirming Commitment to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals, as Summit Commences

The Forum and 5 implementing partners: GROOTS Kenya, KEFEADO, Akili Dada, WRA, and CREAW jointly facilitated 16 grassroots women champions and secretariat to participate at the <u>Women Deliver</u>

<u>Conference</u> in Kigali, Rwanda,. It served as an interactive and empowering space where advocates from all corners of the world convened to lead workshops, engage in discussions, and network, all with a shared focus on key issues. This significant event from July 17th to July 20th, 2023. The advocates came from various regions and backgrounds during in-person, virtual, and hybrid events, facilitated robust discussions and knowledge exchange on girls' and women's rights issues.

Peer to peer Learning initiatives: African wide Multi Stakeholder Conference on SDGs held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 27th-29th November 2023, where the Forum shared work on Localization of SDGs in Kenya.

Accountability

The Forum supported the development of Kenya's 2023 SDGs indicators framework and supported production of data that saw indicators covering 162 indicators (70%) success rate up from 144 out of 231 indicators.

Organized and conducted CSO training on SDGs reporting and VNR/VLR in preparation for the annual reviews at HLPF, convened pre-HLPF virtual preparatory meetings with multi-stakeholders and developed a CSO position paper.

The Forum is a co-chair of the SDGs national Inter agency technical working committee, whose mandate is to track, monitor and report on SDGs implementation in Kenya. There was more visibility and participation of women rights organizations (WROs) in the annual multi-stakeholder forum, the Forum invited BMGF IPs to speak at a side event on the nexus between Gender and acceleration of SDGs, panellists shared best practices in bridging the gender gap: Position Paper on Gender-MST conference 2023

In Nairobi County, Polycom Development, in Nairobi

County, attended and participate in high level events organized at local level <u>SDG Festivals and presented a communique</u> from informal settlements Grassroot Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

The Forum also partnered with United Nations Associations (UNAs)-UNA Uganda, UNA Tanzania, with support from UNA Finland, hosted a hybrid workshop, titled "Disability Inclusion and Accessibility of Communication". The workshop participants recognized that People with Disabilities (PWDs) face unique challenges in accessing information and developed a communique with key asks and recommendations that address key issue of accessibility of information for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). Link to communique Final Open Communique to Key Decision-Makers in Kenya copy

The Forum has advanced youth participation in UN processes, in partnership with CRISP, the Forum participated at the East Africa Regional UNGA-Youth delegates trainings and development of the regional and country advocacy mandates, facilitated 02 youth delegates who presented Kenyan youth at the 2023 UN General assembly (UNGA) participate 10 youth fellows under the African UNGA Youth delegates who conducted 08 outreach campaigns (events) in various counties Kenya (See Reports)

SDGs Kenya Forum collaborated with Champions for SDGs Youth, the University of Nairobi Students Association, Art Affair and Mt. Kenya University and hosted 02 National SDGs Youth Pre-Conferences 2023 at Nairobi University and Mt. Kenya University for youth dialogue that reached 180 young people, vulnerable groups most left behind. The platform enabled youth to have meaningful and impactful engagements, networking, peer to peer learning, and sharing of information, experiences, lessons learnt and best practices in development matters. Mini reports and pre-conference highlights Mini reports and Mt. Kenya University report Narrative report

The 2023 Annual National SDGs Multistakeholders' Conference Resources, was held under the theme "SDGs Midpoint: Accelerating **SDGs** at Implementation through **BETA** and Enhanced Collaborations and Partnerships". Hosted in collaboration with Inter-Agency Technical Working Committee (IATWC), attended a total of 137 participants, with 60 females and 77 males, 03 Members of Parliament, Civil Society organizations and youth engaging in the discussions and deliberations. Participants were from various sectors-national and county government, private sector, UN system, Parliament, Civil Society, Academia, representatives media, youth and from Tanzania, Uganda, and Finland. Through a series of Panel discussions, presentations, and dialogues, touching on topics spanning across various thematic focus areas i.e data, leave no one behind, youth, gender, health, SDGs financing, County experiences and peer to peer learning and knowledge sharing AMC Report BO.BR.docx. SDGs Awards SDGs Awards Program 2023.docx - for outstanding Civil Society organizations (CSOs) and Parliament actors.









IMPACT AND OUTCOMES:



7. IMPACT AND OUTCOMES:

The forum has progressively become a strong platform for CSOs collective engagement with key stakeholders, advocacy and communications, accountability for Gender and development and on SDGs implementation, monitoring, and reporting in Kenya, regionally and at global levels.

The Partnership and Collaboration between the Forum and eight prominent organizations, namely KEFEADO, WEL, Groots Kenya, WRA, Akili Dada, Polycom Development, FIDA, and CREAW, has been a pivotal force of influence across 09 diverse counties in Kenya: Bomet, Kitui, Kajiado, Kakamega, Kilifi, Kisumu, Nairobi, Nakuru, and Samburu.

This collective effort has been instrumental in fostering comprehensive advocacy initiatives that have influences and shaped Gender Responsive Policies within the jurisdictions of their respective counties. The multifaceted approach adopted by the partners encompasses a range of strategic activities, including but not limited to Community Dialogue, Civic and Economics Education, and mobilization of the Citizens to take part in Public Participation.

effort, tangible outcomes have been achieved, with the enactment of gender responsive policies. The meticulous implementation of initiatives has not only galvanized communities but has also propelled the advancement of policies through the intricate stages of reviews and approvals within the legislative houses of the participating counties.

As a direct

The partnership's impact is far-reaching, extending beyond mere collaboration to become a catalyst for positive change. By strategically implementing activities that engage the community and policy makers at various levels, these organizations have succeeded in not only initiating development of relevant policies but also ensuring their progression through the legislative pipeline. This comprehensive approach has undoubtedly contributed to the realization of gender-responsive policies, marking a significant stride towards fostering inclusive and equitable societies within the partnered counties.

In essence, the collaborative efforts of the Forum with women rights organizations (WROs) KEFEADO, WEL, Groots Kenya, WRA, Akili Dada, Polycom Development, FIDA, and CREAW, spanning across Bomet, Kitui, Kajiado, Kakamega, Kilifi, Kisumu, Nairobi, Nakuru, and Samburu, exemplify a paradigm of effective collective advocacy and engagement. The success achieved through this partnership serves as a testament to the transformative power of concerted action in the pursuit of meaningful societal change.





8. FINANCIAL OUTLOOK:

The Forum appreciates the finance support received from various development partners that facilitated the achievement of the above outcomes. In compliance with the organization policies, we are pleased to share with our members and key stakeholders a summary of existing partnerships and projects



ONOR AND FUNDING PARTNERS

9. DONOR AND FUNDING PARTNERS:

SDG KENYA FORUM DONORS AND FUNDING PARTNERS **Project Title** Period **Donor** 1. Bill and Melinda Advancing SDG5 through the SDGs Kenya 2022 - 2024 Gates Foundation **Forum** 2. Strengthening the mandate of the IATWC 2022 - 2023 German on SDG implementation Development Cooperation - GIZ 3. **UNA** Finland 2022 - 2026 Accelerate SDG Implementation in East Africa 4. **Urgent Action Fund** Advocacy and Alliance Building 2022 - 2023 East Africa 5. **CRTSP** Delegates Program (AUNYD) 2023 - 2024 6. International Civil Amplifying Voices of Marginalized 2023 - 2024 Society Centre Groups in SDGs Implementation 7. Plan International Partnership on SDG5 2023 - 2024 8. **CREAW** 2022 - 2023 Deliver for Good Campaign 9. Generation Equality End violence against women & girls 2022 - 2023 Forum 10. Centre for Citizen Centered policy making and 2023 - 2024 pursuance of SDGs in Kenya Multiparty Democracy Kenya 11. **Membership** SDG Kenya Forum (Membership) 2021-

PARTNERS























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10. MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E):

The Forum's M&E is a systematic and ongoing assessment of its activities, outputs, and outcomes to ensure that goals are being achieved, and overall performance is in line with the set objectives. These processes are crucial for enhancing accountability, improving decision-making, and demonstrating the Forum's impact. The process has phases from **Project** Conception, Target Setting and Allocation, Activity and **Progress** Monitoring, Project Evaluations



for Adaptation, Adoption or Trajection Redirection.

In summary, effective monitoring and evaluation processes in the Forum involve systematic data collection, analysis, and feedback mechanisms to ensure achievement of its objectives and making a positive impact. Regular reporting, stakeholder involvement, and a commitment to learning and improvement have contributed to the overall success of the Forum.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are measurable metrics that the Forum uses to evaluate Progress in reaching specific Set Project Objectives. When measuring KPIs against set targets, it involves comparing the actual performance against the planned goals.

The forum consultatively with the respective project donors set objectives that are desired to be achieved through implementation. These objectives are then populated into a Results Framework for easier tracking, of achievement of targets as effective and manageable as possible. The KPIs are then tracked through periodic reports created by responsible officers within the Forum and an update to the master Results Framework effected in comparison to the achieved progress.

The Forum acknowledges that the success of KPIs depends on setting realistic and measurable targets, collecting accurate data, and using the information gained to inform decision-making and improvements. It thus operates in collaboration with all implementing partners through all the project phases and performs regular reviews and capacity enhancement to ensure effectiveness.



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11. CAPACITY BUILDING

AND SUSTAINABILITY:

The Forum has actively pursued initiatives to enhance organizational capacity, recognizing the critical role of its personnel, invested in comprehensive training programs for necessary skills and knowledge in the following areas: Project management, Results based monitoring and evaluation, Gender data for policy and decision making, and SEAH policies (in partnership with UNWOMEN),

The training on leadership development, and on emotional intelligence focused on individuals' ability to recognize,

understand, and manage their own emotions as well as those of others. Encompassed key components such as self-awareness, self-regulation, motivation, empathy, and social skills. Staffengagedinactivities and discussions aimed at developing practical skills for navigating interpersonal relationships, fostering effective communication, and enhancing overall well-being. The training included real-world

applications, making it a valuable tool for personal and professional development.

Furthermore, the organization has implemented mentorship programs and skill-building workshops to foster professional growth among its staff. In tandem with these efforts, the Forum has developed robust performance appraisal systems to identify and nurture talent within the organization.

Beyond immediate capacity-building, the Forum has strategically planned initiatives to ensure its long-term sustainability. This includes the development of succession plans, the establishment of partnerships with universities and educational institutions for deployment of interns and trainees for hands on skills development.

The implementation of knowledge management systems to retain and share institutional knowledge. By prioritizing staff training, professional development, and long-term sustainability measures, the Forum demonstrates a commitment to building a resilient and capable organization prepared for continued success in its mission and objectives.





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12. CHALLENGES FACED AND LESSONS LEARNED:

The Forum and its members including implementing partners invested time in identification and discussion of challenges encountered during the year. Some of the persistent challenges such as data gaps and limited financial resources still exist with limited innovative strategies and policies adopted to overcome the challenges.

There is intricacy of the national and county budgeting processes and how Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) can actively participate. CSOs have a narrow window of opportunity in

January and February for securing public funding for specific public agendas and the importance of lobbying for government to open wider window for CSOs involvement.

The Forum, its members and implementing partners have gained insights that will inform changes made to strategies or programs in 2024 based on lessons learned in 2023. Mid-way to the deadline for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, more than half of the world is being left behind, so who are we leaving behind and why. Evidence in 2023 also revealed that globally hunger has returned to 2005 levels, bridging gender inequality could take 300 years and nearly 600 million people will still experience extreme poverty in 2030. A Reduction in the budget for the oversight National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) in 2023 sends mixed signals regarding government's commitment to bridge the GEF funding gap.



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13. FUTURE PLANS AND GOALS:

Looking Ahead: with only six years to the 2030 target and evidence suggesting we are off track, the road to achieving the SDGs may be challenging. However, through optimism, determination, and collective commitment, we will navigate hurdles and drive change. By developing innovative solutions and strategies for financing and implementing SDGs, we aim to build a world where no one is left behind. In the spirit of shared commitment and continuous improvement, let this annual report inspire us to reach even greater heights in the coming years. Sustainable development is a collective journey, and we at the Forum are confident that, together, we will create a lasting impact on the lives of those we serve at all levels. We appreciate the contributions of our committed members, partners, key stakeholders, and communities for being an integral part of achieving our collective mission.



APPENDIX:



Additional supporting documents, such as detailed program reports, survey results, or media engagement are provided in the links within this report.

2023 SDGS AWARDS FINALISTS

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS & NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Category one: SDG 5 Gender Equality

Sub Category one: Community Based Organization [CBO]

Winner and Rationale

Criteria: Community Based Organizations that have remarkable creativity, originality and uniqueness of approach in implementation, tracking and monitoring SDG 5 targets and indicators; and the technique's capability for scalability and localization.

Community Based Organizations (CBO)

Nominees under this category are the following:

- 2nd runners up Homa Bay Paralegal and Networking (Not present-Plan International to receive)
- 1st runners up Pamoja Community-Based Organization

The winner in this category is **Inuka Community Developers Network**

(Not present-Polycom Development project to receive the award;)

Commended for the following interventions which stand out amongst many:

Equipping women with the necessary skills, resources, and support networks to enhance their economic independence. Through fostering entrepreneurship and facilitating access to economic opportunities, and contributing to sustainable livelihoods.

Sub Category two: Women Rights Organization (WROs

| Sub Category two: Wom- |
|------------------------|
| en Rights Organization |
| (MPOc) |

Winner and Rationale

Criteria: Women Rights Organization that have remarkable creativity, originality and uniqueness of approach in implementation, tracking and monitoring SDG 5 targets and indicators; and the technique's capability for scalability and localization.

Civil Society Organization

Nominees under this category are the following:

Wom(WROg) ts Organiza-

2nd runners up Daring Eagles

1st runners up Healthwise Foundation

The WINNER in this category is **Akili Dada, an incubator** nurturing the next generation of African women leaders.

Commended for the following interventions which stand out amongst many:

Akili Dada has been instrumental in cultivating and sustaining transformational leadership among girls and young women from underserved and low-income backgrounds. By addressing the pressing demand for increased representation of young African women in leadership roles, Akili Dada remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering positive and impactful change.

Category two: SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation

| SDG 6 Clean Water and | Winner and Rationale |
|---|--|
| Sanitation | |
| Criteria: Civil Society Organization that is innovative and creative in SDGs processes, and who actively contributed to the development of the 2023 CSO position papers published during the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD) and the 2023 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). | |
| Civil Society Organiza- tion | Nominees under this category are the following: |
| | 2nd runners up Kenya Water and Sanitation Civil Society Network (KEWASNET) |
| | 1st runners up Hami Imani Africa |
| | The WINNER in this category is Rural Women Network is an inclusive platform of women with an aim to empower the grassroot rural women smallholder agricultural producers in Kenya. |
| | Commended for the following interventions which stand out amongst many: |
| | Strengthening the participation of grass- roots women smallholder farmers in local, national and global debates on food and agriculture and to better understand global policy frameworks which impact on them. |
| | |

Category Three: Goal 7 Affordable and Clean Energy

| Goal 7 Affordable and Clean Energy | Winner and Rationale |
|--|--|
| Criteria: Civil Society Organization that is innovative and creative in SDGs processes, and have actively contributed to the development of the 2023 CSO position papers published during the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD) and the 2023 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). | |
| Civil Society Organization | • 2nd runners up Sustainable Energy Access Forum- Kenya (SEAF-K) • 1st runners up Ogiek People's Development Programme The WINNER in this category 'Grassroots Organisation Operating Together in Sisterhood' (GROOTS-Kenya) is a national movement of grassroots women-led community-based groups (CBOs)and Self Help Groups (SHGs) in Kenya. Commended for the following interventions which stand out amongst many: Promoting the use of fireless cookers: leading to |
| | Promoting the use of freless cookers, leading to reduced fuel consumption and cooking time. Promotion of agroforestry practices and planting of fruit trees: We raise awareness and provide support to grassroots farmers to adopt agroforestry practices, which help reduce pressure on our forests and improve environmental sustainability. |
| | |

Category Four: Goal 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure

Goal 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure

Winner and Rationale

Criteria: Civil Society Organization that is innovative and creative in SDGs processes, and who actively contributed to the development of the 2023 CSO position papers published during the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD) and the 2023 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).

Civil Society Organization

Nominees under this category are the following:

- 2nd runners up Alliance for Development and Population Services (ADEPS)
- 1st runners up is Youth Agenda

The **WINNER** in this category is **Association of Media Women in Kenya**(**AMWIK**) who are **Commended** for the following

interventions which stand out amongst many:

Through initiatives like story grants, AMWIK empowers journalists to highlight challenges and propose solutions for infrastructure development. Their proactive reporting on SDG-related events not only tracks progress but also holds stakeholders accountable, fostering awareness and contributing to the advancement of SDG 9 in Kenya.

Category Five: SDG11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

| SDG11: Sustainable Cities and Communities | Winner and Rationale |
|--|---|
| Criteria: Civil Society Organization that is innovative and creative in SDGs processes and actively contributed to the development of the 2023 CSO position papers published during the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD) and the 2023 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). | |
| Civil Society Organiza- tion | Nominees under this category are the following: |
| | 2nd runners up Polycom Development Project |
| | 1st runners up is Habitat for Humanity Kenya |
| | |
| | The WINNER in this category is Kijiji Yetu is a non-profit organization that works with Kenya's underserved villages and communities. |
| | Commended for the following interventions which stand out amongst many: |
| | Sparking conversations and involving communities to shape their own future by using the power of digital transformation to unlock the potential of local villages across Kenya. This approach taps into their unique resources and expertise, fueling development and growth. |
| | |

Category Six: GOAL 17: Partnerships for the goals

| GOAL 17: Partnerships for | Winner and Rationale |
|--|---|
| the goals | |
| Criteria: Civil Society Organization that is innovative and creative in SDGs processes and actively contributed to the development of the 2023 CSO position papers published during the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD) and the 2023 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). | |
| Civil Society Organiza- tion | Nominees under this category are: |
| | 2nd runners up Development Initiatives |
| | 1st runners up is African Youth Commission |
| | The WINNER in this category is Coalition Action For Preventive Mental Health. |
| | Who are Commended for the following interventions which stand out amongst many: |
| | Successfully Petitioned the ministry of Finance and Economic Planning to increase community health workers/promoters/volunteers and have them trained on basic psychological first aid skills which is now being implemented under the UHC program. |
| | |

PARLIAMENT-The national Assembly

Category one: Department

| Category: Parliamentary Department | Winner and Rationale |
|---|---|
| Criteria: Parliament Depa of SDGs agenda | rtment which are championing the localization and implementation |
| Parliament Department | Nominees under this category are the following: |
| | 2nd runners up: Directorate of Legal Services (National Assembly) |
| | For Drafting of legislation aimed at actualization of SDGs. |
| | 1st runners up: Directorate of Departmental Committee Services (National Assembly) |
| | For Actualization of attainment of SDGs through legislation, oversight, representation and public engagement as well as budgeting. |
| | The winner is Directorate of Legislative and Procedural Services (National Assembly) |
| | Commended for the following interventions which stand out amongst many: |
| | Supported establishment of the Parliamentary SDGs and Business Caucus, provides technical and operational sup- port for the SDG Caucus and other Caucus on SDGs related issues. |
| | |

County Assemblies to achieve SDGs

| Category two: Organizations that support Parliament and County Assemblies to achieve SDGs | Winner and Rationale | |
|--|---|--|
| Criteria: Parliament Department which are championing the localization and implementation of SDGs agenda | | |
| Parliament Departments | Nominees under this category are the following: | |
| | • 2nd runners up: African Renaissance Trust For | |
| | Providing technical support to the MP SDGs champions in Kenya and Africa Region | |
| | Linkages to SDGs financing with Development partners for MPs | |
| | 1st runners up: Mzalendo Trust For Conducting SDGs rolated trainings on Accountability and log- | |
| | Conducting SDGs related trainings on Accountability and legislative monitoring Supports MPs capacity building on SDGs | |
| | The winner is Centre for Multiparty Democracy (CMD) | |
| | Commended for the following interventions which stand out amongst many: | |
| | Conducted training for 25 SDGs Champions from Kenya in Denmark, supporting establishment of County Assembly SDGs caucus, Hosting annual Citizens Dialogue Festival with SDGs Village, Raised funds for SDGs political Parties project targeting 4 pilot counties for a 3 year period. | |

Category Three: Members of Parliament SDGs champions

| Category three: MP SDGs champions | Winner and Rationale |
|--|---|
| Criteria: Parliament Department which are championing the localization and implementation of SDGs agenda | |
| Parliament Department | Nominees under this category are the following: |
| | The winners are: |
| | Male Member of Parliament |
| | Hon. Dr Gideon Ochanda |
| | Offering strategic leadership as the Chairperson of the SDGs and Business Parliamentary caucus. |
| | Sponsorship of SDGs Bills in Parliament and initiating cross sector and cross party partnerships with Parliament in pushing for legislation, policies, budgets for implementation of SDGs. |
| | Female Member of Parliament |
| | Hon. Beatrice Elachi |
| | Providing strategic leadership as the Vice Chair- person of KEWOPA, oversight legislations, main- streaming gender targets and indicators in line with existing commitments and promoting adop- tion of gender aspirations in SDGs. |
| | |







#TwendeKaziNaSDGs

Leave No Kenyan Behind



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