



SDGs KENYA FORUM
Coalition for Sustainable Development

“ **There is no planet B. We have to
take care of the one we have** ”

Spotlight Newsletter | April- Jun, 2023

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"Climate change is real. We need to agree on how to get emergency liquidity, and reform the international financial institutions." **President William Samoei Ruto**



"Governments should allow for incentives that promote startups that will promote domestic financial growth but also open pathways to invest beyond borders." **Mrs. Jamila Ben Baba CEO Laham Industry**



"Empowering women is not a momentary act; it's a lifelong commitment. Let's champion their rights, nurture their potential, and keep moving forward together." **Hellen Apila Gender Lead, SDGs Kenya Forum**



"As we find ourselves more than the halfway mark of the Agenda 2030 implementation, emerging evidence and prevailing trends suggest that Africa may face challenges in attaining the goals by 2030. This calls for a crucial moment of reflection." **Benson Kimani, United Nations Development Programme-Kenya**



"To ensure accountability and effective data collection, the Forum and its partners are developing an operational dashboard to track indicators related to GEF commitments. Together, we can use data to measure impact and drive change." **Festus Odingo Research and Data Lead, SDGs Kenya Forum**



"Tracking achievements on gender equality and women's empowerment is crucial. We are using alternative data sources to fill gaps and monitor progress towards SDG 5." **Mary Mumo Gender Office, SDGs Kenya Forum**



"KNBS collaborates with non-state entities that produce evidence to address the high demand for evidence to track Sustainable Development Goals. The agency subjects the available data to the CGD quality criteria to qualify their fitness for official reporting. KNBS is always open, willing and able to collaborate to strengthen the quality of data in the country." **Mr. Macdonald George Obudho Director General, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics**



"While it is essential to have access to economical and adequate resources for data production, we must also be cognizant of the expenses involved in the process to prevent the problem of generating inaccurate results due to insufficient investment." **Dennis Njuge MEL & Research-Manager, GROOTs Kenya**





**Stay focused
and never lose
sight of your
goals**





SDG Kenya Forum Annual General Assembly 2023 Statement.

The SDGs Kenya Forum would like to extend its sincere gratitude to all members who participated in the 2023 Annual General Assembly on Friday, 14 April, 2023 in Nairobi, both in person and virtually. THANK YOU to everyone for onboarding your expertise and experience around the table and engaging in such fruitful, constructive and open exchanges throughout the continuous engagement. We acknowledge that a lot of progress was achieved across the various agendas and the dialogue of sustainability is deepening with each goal and thematic group in accordance with transparency and accountability.

The Forum's governance structure was successfully adopted during the AGA as it sought to offer members a more active role in its activities, while ensuring they receive wholesome benefits for their devotion in the SDGs implementation processes. Elections were conducted from the nominated membership organizations whereby a Goal Group Committee, Co-Chairs and Trustees were elected to form the Board of Directors.

Reflection- Elections and Governance

CONGRATULATIONS to our newly elected Co-Chairs: Memory Kachambwa from FEMNET, Patience Nyange from AMWIK and George Awalla from VSO Kenya. The leadership was in consensus that one Co-chair from the Forum's previous leadership would be retained for purposes of institutional memory, consistency and aiding in decision-making purposes with Memory Kachambwa being selected to fill the position and the previous Co-chair George Awalla being re-elected as Co Chair by the Goal Group Committee.

Patience Nyange was elected as the new incoming Co-Chair , making it a total of three (3) Co-Chairs. Ms.Nyange is the Executive Director of the Association of Media Women(AMWIK), a Media expert and Global Advocate for Women & Girls Rights. We are excited and confident that her expertise and experience will be a valuable asset to our organization.

As we begin this new chapter, the Board is excited to collaborate with the new Goal Groups Leads Organizations. A detailed report of the Annual General Assembly will be shared with you in due course, so be sure to keep an eye out for it.

A huge and special thank you to the outgoing Co-Chair, Dr. Elizabeth Wala who offered her unwavering support, resources, commitment and dedication to the Forum. Her wealth of experience, expertise, knowledge, and skills were integral in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals with her guidance and insights being instrumental in driving the Forum's vision forward. We are truly grateful and wish her the best of luck in her endeavors!

Thank you, Dr. Elizabeth Wala for your invaluable contributions to the SDGs Kenya Forum's mandate and vision for the Agenda 2030 in Kenya. You have left a lasting impact on our organization, and we will always be grateful for your service and dedication.

CONGRATULATIONS to the Goal Group Committee made up of 34 members drawn from each of the 17 SDGs. We are confident that your collaboration with the secretariat and leadership will bring value, direction and positive impact in the Forum and to our great Nation. Once again welcome and congratulations.

The Journey Ahead - Launched our new Strategic Plan

We successfully launched our 2023-2027 Strategic Plan with the theme "Kenya Positively Transformed for the People and the Planet." The plan encapsulates a results-based management tool that provides a road map of the Forum's priorities for the next five (5) years. Key strategic issues were identified for effective service delivery to achieve its goals and aspirations including;

1. 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

We hope these key thematic pillars will strengthen institutional frameworks, advocacy and visibility. Once again, we express our heartfelt gratitude to all members for your support and participation in the Annual General Assembly. We remain committed to our mission of promoting sustainable development goals and look forward to another productive year ahead.

Florence Syevuo & The Secretariat, The SDG Kenya Forum-Coalition for Sustainable Development.



The image is a composite of two parts. The left part features a Zoom registration QR code with the text "Zoom Registration" above it, set against a colorful geometric background. The right part is a large teal banner for the "SDGs KENYA FORUM Coalition for Sustainable Development Annual General Assembly 2023". The banner includes the forum's logo at the top, a row of 17 SDG icons, and social media handles for Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, LinkedIn, and YouTube, along with the website URL "www.sdgkenyaforum.org". The hashtag "#TwendeKaziNaSDGs #LeaveNoKenyanBehind" is also displayed.

Global Lending System is unfair, punitive and biased

President William Ruto has expressed his criticism of the global lending system, calling it “unfair, punitive, and biased.” In an interview during a summit in Paris aimed at addressing poverty and climate change in developing nations, President Ruto highlighted the significant interest rate disparities between poorer and wealthier countries. He emphasized that poorer nations often face interest rates up to eight times higher than wealthier nations due to the perception of risk associated with their economies.

However, President Ruto made it clear that Kenya is not seeking handouts but rather desires an equitable system. He stated that Africans should not be viewed solely as victims of climate change who are constantly in need of assistance, but rather as active participants in finding solutions. President Ruto expressed his preference for attracting private investment over relying solely on development aid.

Additionally, the President called for reforms within international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. President Ruto also advocated for a reassessment of debt management for developing nations and proposed the implementation of international taxes on shipping, aviation, and financial transactions. Kenya currently spends \$10 billion annually to service its debt, and President Ruto believes that redirecting these funds towards national development would have a significant and immediate impact. To address the debt issue, President Ruto suggested converting the debt owed to international lenders into a long-term loan facility with a grace period. This approach would enable Kenya to manage its debt responsibly while simultaneously pursuing sustainable development goals.

President Emmanuel Macron, speaking at the summit, stressed the need for a global financial system that allows countries to combat poverty and protect the planet without making trade-offs. However, Western nations’ failure to meet their commitment of providing \$100 billion in annual aid to developing countries for climate change adaptation and mitigation has strained trust ahead of the upcoming COP28 climate summit in Dubai. Ruto as well expressed his desire for a united response to climate change, highlighting that it is not solely the responsibility of wealthier nations to bear the burden. He emphasized the urgency of addressing climate change collectively and avoiding a blame game that hinders progress. In conclusion, President Ruto’s candid remarks shed light on the disparities within the global lending system and its impact on developing nations. His focus on attracting private investment, debt restructuring, and international tax implementation aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By emphasizing the need for equitable participation and united action against climate change, President Ruto demonstrates his commitment to pursuing sustainable development while holding both developed and developing nations accountable for addressing global challenges.

Watch the press briefing: <https://youtu.be/YLgbtWwpUZo>





WORLD DATA FORUM

Effects of Cost on Data Quality



#LeaveNoDataBehind #UNDataForum

Side Event



Effects of Cost on Data Quality: Unlocking the Power of Citizen-Generated Data: Reflecting on Past Discourse and Recommendations

The SDGs Kenya Forum, in collaboration with data actors, dubbed as the Data Users, Suppliers, and Producers Platform (DUSPP) organised a side event on the Effects of Cost on Data Quality during the World Data Forum.

World Data Forum that was held from 24th to 27th April 2023 brought together experts and users from diverse sectors, aiming to mobilize political and financial support for data-driven sustainable development. As part of this significant event, the DUSPP side event made a valuable contribution to the ongoing conversation by focusing on the crucial aspects of data quality and availability.

During the side event, the challenges faced by actors in the data ecosystem were discussed. It was acknowledged that data quality often carries significant costs, both financial and in terms of missed opportunities and reputational damage. Erroneous decisions made from poor data can be extremely costly as well. In light of these challenges, organizations still recognised the need to explore means to collect quality data that directly contributes to establishing impact in people's lives. These Data include Citizen Generated Data.

Citizen Generated Data (CGD), referring to data collected or contributed by individuals or groups who are not traditional data experts, has proven increasingly valuable in various domains. It offers real-time information, local perspectives, and ground-level insights that complement official data sources. However, challenges such as data quality, representativeness, privacy, and ethics need careful attention to ensure reliability and validity of CGD.

Most of the panelists agreed that the causes of poor data quality in CGD were as follows; low coverage due to budget constraints, lack of coordination among Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and the absence of standard quality assurance criteria. Donor-driven time constraints also hindered efforts to synergize and align outcomes, targets, and indicators. Part of solutions to these challenges is the effort made by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) who have developed the Kenya Standard Quality Assurance Framework (KESQAF) which intends to address these concerns and provide a national framework for sampling, ensuring accessible and affordable data of high quality.

Dissemination of data to different categories of people, disability inclusion, metadata creation for gender data, and hidden costs within the data ecosystem were among other challenges raised. To mitigate these challenges, it was emphasized that data value should extend beyond dissemination, and the audience and method of dissemination should be considered during the research design stage. Collaboration, knowledge exchange, maximizing the benefits of data, and simplifying the national indicators framework were recommended measures.

Moving forward, it is crucial to create spaces for CSOs to share experiences, support each other, and produce quality data for reporting and development efforts. Data openness, avoiding duplication, maintaining appropriate costs to ensure quality, and supporting grassroots data collection are key considerations. By maximizing the usage and impact of data, incentivizing data use among decision-makers, and guiding policy-makers, the power of CGD can be fully harnessed in Kenya's journey towards sustainable development. [Click here to listen in to the side event:](#)



Rosemary Bowen
KNBS Senior Manager



Chryspin Afifu
ICRW Gender & Web Specialist



Dennis Njuge
GROOTS-Kenya M&I & Research Manager



Dr. Paul Mungai
PARIS 21 National Consultant



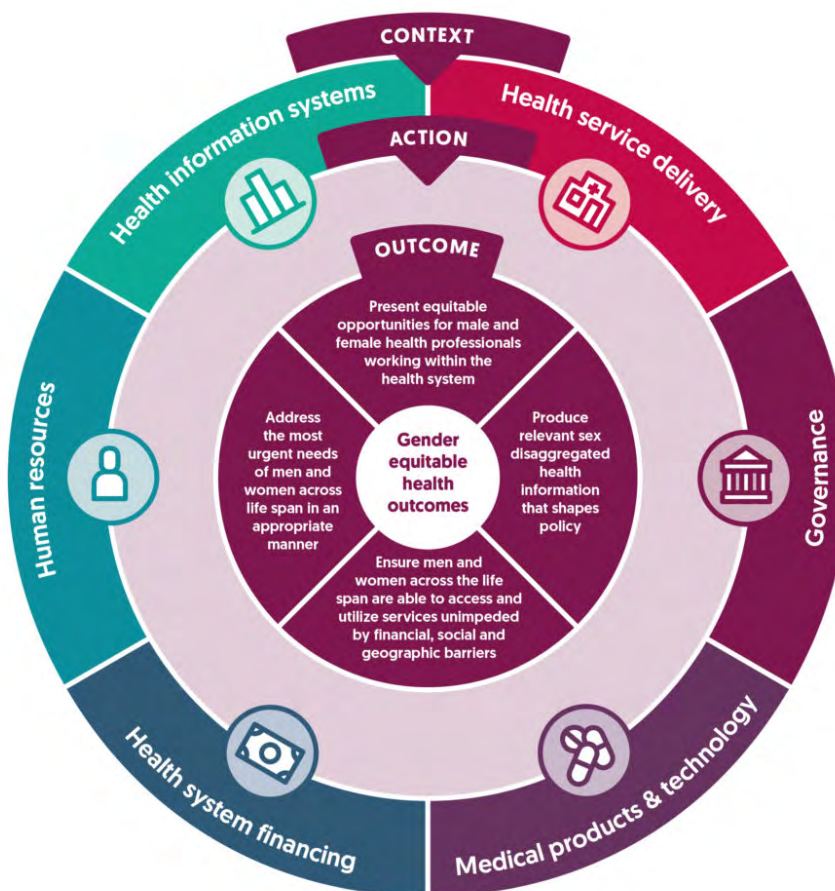
Al Kags
Open Institute Executive Director



Moderator- Festus Odingo
SDGs Kenya Forum Data and Research



Reviewing the county Gender and development policy and deciding the way forward: Gender Stakeholders Meeting



The Gender Stakeholders Meeting took place on 17th April 2023 at Legacy Hotel in Nakuru. The event, hosted by GROOTS, aimed to review the county's Gender and Development Policy and determine the way forward. Key individuals and organizations present included CSOs, the private sector represented by Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI), SDfG, SGBV Technical Working Groups, the Police Gender Desk and radio yetu, the Ministry of Health, and Egerton University.

During the event, several important lessons and messages emerged. Nakuru's County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) proposed various gender programs, including capacity strengthening for gender focal points, addressing social and cultural norms promoting gender-based violence, socio-economic empowerment through dissemination tools and training manuals for the Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) strategy, and capacity building for women in AGPO, financial literacy, leadership, and decision making. Mentorship for boys and girls and the recognition of linguistic and cultural diversity were also emphasized.

However, concerns were raised regarding the need to include mental health and psychosocial support, financial literacy and inclusion for persons with disabilities, the development of a childcare policy, and ensuring that both men and women have a voice in resource allocation. Institutional and information barriers in areas such as education, finances, and leadership were also highlighted.

In light of these discussions, recommendations were put forward, emphasizing the importance of investing in gender issues, establishing gender planning, budgeting, and monitoring and evaluation frameworks, aligning county dialogues and regulations with the constitution, and creating an inclusive and equitable society.

Reflecting on the event, one participant remarked, "The Gender Stakeholders Meeting has shed light on the pressing issues and potential solutions for gender equality in Nakuru County. It is crucial that we invest in these issues and align our efforts to create an inclusive society that upholds the rights and voices of all individuals."

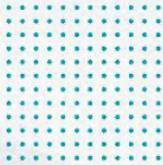
“

Plant a **seed**
today, reap a
better world
tomorrow..

”



02



UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

UNHA II: The Second Public Dialogue

Theme:

“A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective stakeholder partnership: achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in times of global crises”

Keynote Speakers:



Hon. Zacharia M. Njeru

Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development



Maimunah Mohd Sharif

Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat

Host:



Prof. Stephen Gitahi Kiama

University of Nairobi Vice Chancellor

Dialogue Sub-theme Speakers:

Prosperity and Finance



Hon. Maina-Karobia Mwangi

MP EALA

Urban Crisis Recovery



Bastian Schulz

Country Director, FES Kenya

Localization of SDGs



Anthony Okoth

Country Director, Habitat for Humanity

Urban Climate Action



Arch. Florence Nyole

President AAK

Join Us!

Monday, 22 May 2023

University of Nairobi, Manu Chandaria Auditorium

09:00H – 13:00H



Towards 2nd UN-Habitat Assembly: A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective stakeholder partnership: achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in times of global crises

Declaration;

We support the position taken under the adequate housing draft resolution of bringing human settlements back as the core mandate of UNHABITAT. We propose to develop a robust monitoring framework to track, report and follow up on the resolutions of the public dialogues. In line with the four action areas, we recommend to the Global Stakeholders Forum that;

- a. Under Urban Climate Action and Environmental Protection; we commit to work towards strengthened stakeholder partnerships in the implementation of the Kenya National Climate Change Action Plan, Climate Resilience for the Urban Poor Initiative and related instruments, with focus on locally-led climate action initiatives that include cleaning and protecting water ways and marine ecosystem, recycling solid waste, urban agriculture and enhancing greenery in the urban landscape
- b. Under Urban crisis recovery; we note the importance of 'just' housing and infrastructure solutions to accelerate the recovery pathways and commit to strengthen stakeholder participation and partnerships in the inclusive and just delivery of programmes such as Urban Resilience Programme, KISIP, KUSPII, KAHP, Just Cities, Nairobi We Want etc
- c. Under the localization of the SDGs and Multi-level governance; we appreciate the need to accelerate actions at local level adopting the principle of 'bottom up- top down-and convergence of ideas' by stimulating adoption of models that promote habitability of human settlements and innovation in service delivery and enhancing monitoring and knowledge exchange through the SDG Forum
- d. Under the prosperity and finance, we acknowledge that at the heart of prosperity is transparent and accountable leadership and governance and at the heart of sustainable development is humanization and at the heart of policy is DATA , and we will endeavour to collectively promote an environment of transparent and responsible leadership whose decision-making is based on grounded knowledge and actions inspire confidence amongst investors. We submit these recommendations to the Global Stakeholder Forum (GSF) sitting at the UN Complex on 03-04 June 2023

Climate change crisis is an SDGs crisis

Africa and the global south are the most affected regions by climate change and injustices. The great irony however is that they're the least contributors in emissions and all levels of human activities that contribute to climate change.



During the COP 27 in Egypt last year, their demand for 'Loss and damage' was granted. This operates on the concept of "polluter pays basis" whereby the most industrialized countries compensate the least industrialized countries for their contribution in climate change through CO2 emissions release to the atmosphere, which has resulted in a climate crisis, the funds are meant to be utilized in adaptation and mitigation. Until now this has not been honored and there's no efforts towards this. The climate change victims like the Maasai, Turkana and Samburu pastoralists in Kenya who experienced the greatest drought in history which led to loss of livestock hence livelihood and other communities whose flooding was so adverse that their homes were destroyed and many more are yet to be compensated.

It's evident that due to climate change humans have been exposed to poverty SDGs 1, hunger SDGs 2, health SDGs 3 issues, decreased overall wellbeing including lack of access to education SDGs 4 for school going children, lack of access to clean water and sanitation SDGs 6, increased inequalities SDGs 10 and many other deprivations.

So what next for the global South and Africa? Will we wait for empty promises forever? Will we be attending COPs with grievances and be coming home with continued accumulation of promises every year? Even as we wait for demands to be met, it's time we acted through efforts of mitigation and adaptation. It is high time we embrace locally tailored climate solutions, push the governments to prioritize climate change on the policies, let the regional communities, civil society communities and all stakeholders, ACT, NOW!

Achieving Gender Equality: Generation Equality Forum's Accountability Mechanisms

Under the leadership of the former President Uhuru Kenyatta, Kenya emerged as a frontrunner in the Action Coalition on Gender Based Violence. During the Generation Equality Forum held in Paris in June 2021, President Kenyatta put forth 12 tangible actions on ending all forms of GBV and FGM by 2026 [#KenyaGEFCommitments] Towards this, SDG Kenya Forum and its partners are establishing a dashboard that aims to track and monitor Kenya's commitments to the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) and its implications for promoting #GenderEquality in the country.

The growing appetite for data in tracking achievements on gender equality and women empowerment and living to the realities of engaging the use of alternative data source to complete data gaps within the national statistical system to track progress of SDG 5, the Forum took the initiative to track five of the twelve commitments under the four action areas on a pilot basis. Thus, for ease of data collection and accountability, there was need for creation of an operational dashboard for tracking of indicators feeding into accomplishment of the commitments.

A Dashboard, GEF dashboard, had been proposed to enable effective tracing of the the above commitments spread across twenty (20) indicators. The Gender Indicators dashboard will provide a platform for reporting, analysis, and policy engagement on indicator performance under the above commitments. As such, this stakeholder workshop will be useful in the following overall objectives,

- 1) Firming up on the indicators in the PIRS,
- 2) Giving inputs on the UI/UX elements of the dashboard
- 3) Providing data needed to populate the dashboard

To accomplish the above call, there is critical need to further engage with SDG 5 stakeholders who are working on the topics of GBV as well as representative from State and Non-state actors to identify, harmonize, define these indicators, and populate them with data (official and non-official). The FORUM Convened a workshop, in Semara Hotel, lasted 3 days between 05th and 7th of June 2023. Stakeholders from Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Health, State Department for Gender, National Gender Equality Commission, Anti-FGM Board, The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), Judiciary, National Treasury and SDG Kenya Forum/CSOs Consultants were present thus ensuring the overall success of the meeting. All the set objectives were sufficiently facilitated and achieved by the responsible parties paving way to a more informed and stakeholder-embraced development of the Dashboard.

There presented a need for further deliberations on the same and thus a proposal for another convening of the stakeholders to go through the entire set of proposed indicators and map them to their respective defined sources for Data Quality and reporting purposes. Further, given the pending finalization and population due to time scope constraints, it was unanimously agreed that Development of the Dashboard will be continued by the consultants, a convening of a similar nature to be called, by the Forum, soon and a subsequent launch of the Finalized Dashboard.





We all have an individual and **shared duty** to **protect** and **care** for the environment in which we live



Aligning Finance with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Achieving the SDGs requires substantial financial resources, and innovative approaches to finance are crucial to mobilize the necessary capital. In this article, we explore the role of finance in advancing the SDGs and highlight various strategies and initiatives that contribute to their implementation.

It is important to note that the SDGs require substantial investments to meet its ambitious targets. Traditional sources of funding, such as government budgets and official development assistance, are insufficient to bridge this financing gap. Private sector capital plays a vital role in complementing public resources. Aligning finance with the SDGs not only mobilizes additional funds but also leverages the expertise and efficiency of the private sector to drive sustainable development.

The key to achieving the SDGs is in sustainable finance. This involves financial activities that integrate environmental, social, and governance (ESG) considerations into investment decisions. It also involves directing capital towards projects and companies that generate positive social and environmental impacts while ensuring financial returns. By channeling investments into sectors aligned with the SDGs, sustainable finance contributes to poverty reduction, climate action, gender equality, and other critical development areas which in turn helps in achieving the SDGs.

A blended approach to raising finance should be implemented if we are to realize the SDGs. Blended finance combines public and private capital to fund sustainable development projects. This approach addresses market failures and mitigates risks, enabling private investors to participate in projects that might otherwise be deemed too risky or unprofitable. Blended finance mechanisms, such as public-private partnerships (PPPs), provide innovative financing solutions for infrastructure development, healthcare, education, and other sectors. By leveraging the strengths of both sectors, blended finance drives investment in SDG-related initiatives, unlocking new opportunities for sustainable growth.

Moreover, green bonds are also a way of working towards achieving the SDGs. These are fixed-income instruments specifically designed to finance projects with positive environmental benefits. These bonds provide investors with an opportunity to support renewable energy, climate change mitigation, clean transportation, and other green initiatives. When investments in green bonds increase it contributes to the achievement of the SDGs.

In conclusion, Finance plays a pivotal role in mobilizing the resources needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Sustainable finance, blended finance and green bonds are some of the key strategies that align financial flows with the SDGs. These approaches not only provide financial capital but also drive positive social and environmental impacts. By integrating ESG considerations into investment decisions, measuring impact, and promoting transparency, the finance sector can become a powerful force for sustainable development. Collaboration between governments, financial institutions, and businesses is essential to harness the potential of finance in advancing the SDGs and creating a more equitable and sustainable world.

This blog was written by Nicholas Odaga | Grants Assistant

Making informed Decisions with Disaggregated Data In Kenya



Gender Data Users Workshop

Data series dissemination part one | Hybrid

Location: Nairobi, Kenya | Date: Wednesday 29th March | Time: 8:00 A.M-4:30P.M

#LeaveNoDataBehind | #Data4Gender



Scan / Click



Upcoming workshop



Data is essential in informing decision-making and policy formulation, disaggregated data which is data broken down into subcategories ensures that the decision made is meaningful and inclusive of all the needs and priorities of the groups most likely to be left behind. Hellen Apila, Gender lead at the Coalition for Sustainable Development (SDGs Kenya Forum), explains "Kenya's commitment to Agenda 2030 sets out a historic and unprecedented ambition to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls by 2030, which is a vital priority in Sustainable Development Goal five, including 51 gender-related targets in 10 other SDGs". Agenda 2030 commits to addressing core issues of gender equality and women's empowerment, such as eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls, eradicating discriminatory laws and constraints on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, recognizing and valuing unpaid care and domestic work, and increasing women's participation in decision-making. Hellen Apila, Gender Lead at The SDGs Kenya Forum Miss Apila says SDGs Kenya Forum works to build strong collaborations and partnerships with multiple stakeholders to strengthen public participation mechanisms by making citizens aware of their roles and responsibilities.

They also coordinate and build a robust platform for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to engage with decision-makers in implementing SDG 5 and all gender targets in the other 16 SDGs. A study Report on the SDG 5 Gender Data Implementation Gap Analysis is a product of a partnership between Plan International Kenya and the SDGs Kenya Forum. International and SDGs Kenya Forum shows promoting gender equality and empowering women, youth, children, and vulnerable members of society are essential in realizing human rights and sustainable development. Elaborating on the report 'Accelerating the Attainment of the Gender Equality Women's Empowerment and Women's Rights in Kenya' Naftali Ng'ang'a of SDG Kenya forum, remarked "The County research for the report took too long in the draft form and the national policies are generalized in nature and should be localized for greater Impact."

The study involved undertaking budget analysis to highlight expenditure levels, costing, fiscal space, and financing for SDG 5 in Kenya for the current budget cycle 2022–2023 with a gender lens. It also involved establishing a trend in allocation and expenditure levels, targeting gender investments. Targeting the national government and a closer look into the three county governments, namely Kisumu, Siaya and Nandi budgets. Ng'ang'a further spoke on what the study hoped to achieve, which was to document progress and milestones realized in the implementation of SDG 5, Identify existing barriers/challenges that prevent the realization of gender equality targets in Kenya. Documenting best practices in the mainstreaming of gender aspects into County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) within sub-national levels of study. Contributing towards influencing the CIDPs, analyzing the adequacy of the existing gender mainstreaming legal in the counties and supportive

strategies to accelerate the realization of SDG 5. According to Ng'ang'a, some of the study findings were that legal, policy and institutional frameworks support gender equality Nationally and in three counties. Naftali Ng'ang'a -SDGs Kenya Forum Kenya has a progressive policy, legal frameworks, and governance structures and with that, men still participate more in the labour force, they earn more than women and have more significant opportunities to participate in the formal economy and political sphere.

These disparities are due in part to unequal gender norms, which are reflected in the social, economic, and political institutions (formal and informal) that shape how women and girls experience gender bias and discrimination throughout their lives at the county level.

However, most counties are in the process of developing gender policies but some counties continue to rely on national legal and policy frameworks. With the contextual nature of gender mainstreaming with a caveat 'not one size fits all', it becomes a challenge in different settings. "Whereas policy development should be participatory in nature, as per the constitution, most of the existing drafts have been prepared without the involvement of all stakeholders. This has had an effect on ownership," says Ng'ang'a. I met with Linet Ouma, an advocate for sexual reproductive health (SRH) in Kenya "In underserved communities where patriarchal customs are like the rule of women and girls get little to no information on sexual reproductive health, neither do they have access to contraceptives they often due to even purchasing power issues" she says Women and girls are not involved in such communities when public educational programs on SHR are organised. They get information from the men who attend and choose to give selective information driven by their biases. "In some of these communities, some women and girls do not have access to skilled health workers during their pregnancy and when giving birth which puts the mothers and babies at risk," explains Miss Ouma. Ouma and her team are working on targeted programming to inform and change the attitudes of both men and women to understand the importance of having the correct information on sexual reproductive health and access to medications. "To successfully track the implementation of the gender targets and indicators under the 2030 Agenda, there is a need to increase the availability, accessibility and use of quality gender data and statistics on critical aspects of gender equality and women's empowerment" says Apila.

First published by www.talkafrica.co.ke on April 11, 2023 written by Sharon Kiburi



LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND



DECADE OF ACTION

#TwendeKaziNaSDGs

Leave No Kenyan Behind



**What we are doing to
the forests of the world
is but a mirror reflection
of what we are doing
to ourselves and to one
another.” – Mahatma Gandhi**

