

SUMMARY REPORT OF COMMUNITY DIALOGUES on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Implementation in Kenya

COMMUNITY DIALOGUES SUMMARY REPORT

SDGs Kenya Forum - 2020



SDGs KENYA FORUM
For Sustainable Development

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Introduction



Since adoption of the 2030 Agenda by the UN General Assembly in September 2015, the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Kenya have been actively engaging the government, the citizens, the private sector and other stakeholders to ensure that the Agenda is not only understood locally but also that appropriate effort is put to mainstream the commitments into key national development processes. The 2030 Agenda also espouses a set of 17 time-bound and achievable goals, popularly known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which each UN Member State, including Kenya, committed to achieve nationally by the year 2030.

Even though the SDGs are a globally agreed development agenda, the challenge of providing requisite leadership for achievement of most of them is largely a duty and responsibility of individual countries. Further, if the goals will be achieved, the benefit shall be felt more at the community than at any other level. In the unfortunate event that the goals will not be

achieved, again the negative impact shall be felt more at the same level. In regard to these facts, it is only reasonable of any country to concentrate higher level of effort and actions on the SDGs implementation at the community level relative to others.

At the beginning of 2016, the CSOs in Kenya, which had also been previously active throughout in the Post-2015 consultations leading to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, formed a coalition, SDGs Kenya Forum (hereafter also referred to as The Forum), through which to champion implementation of the SDGs at all levels. Among the stakeholders it engages include the government, the private sector, Academia, Media with intensified focus on citizens' active involvement in the SDGs process. Whilst the government is charged with providing leadership in setting favorable policy environment and also effective implementation of the SDGs, successful implementation of the goals on the other hand is dependent on an informed and active citizenry engaged in the process.

To that end, the SDGs Kenya Forum continues to directly engage communities at all levels for increased awareness on the SDGs to enable them play a critical role in the implementation of the goals. The Forum began an ongoing campaign for community awareness on the SDGs in early 2017. The awareness creation has been through consultations at the county level organized jointly by the SDGs Kenya Forum and

county-based stakeholders. The consultations are conducted under the banner of ***Community Dialogues on the Implementation of the SDGs***.



Exclusion and marginalization of vulnerable groups in Kenya is still a challenge. This has continued to create inequalities across development spectrum including education, economic, employment and social life. This goes against the principle of SDGs that seeks to ensure that there is no one left behind. Reducing exclusion and marginalization of vulnerable groups will result in a more equitable, inclusive and sustainable society. This is in line with Kenya's vision 2030, Agenda 4 and sustainable development goals.

The **community dialogues** therefore provide strong, coordinated and accountable forums that are deliberate towards providing space for the voices of marginalized communities including women, youth, poor in slums, person with disabilities and elderly in implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. Thus, this foster increased social accountability of key stakeholders to trigger responsive action for a more inclusive and equitable society.

From 2017 to September 2019, over 20 dialogues were organized reaching an estimated 10 million persons that attend the physical meetings and majority reached through local radio stations. The Forum plans to extend the coverage to all the 47 counties soon. The pace of achieving this target, however, is dependent on the support that will be received from partners as happened with the already covered counties.

SDGs Kenya Forum envisages a situation where majority citizens in each of the 47 counties in Kenya are not only aware of the SDGs but also understand their roles and are actively involved in the process towards their timely achievement. Public participation processes have been identified as a critical entry point to secure citizen awareness on sustainable development leaving no one behind.

This report is a consolidation of salient issues and experiences that emerged during the community dialogues that were held recently in Meru, Isiolo, Kajiado, Taita-Taveta, Nairobi, Makueni, Busia, Siaya, Kericho, Garisa, Narok and Laikipia counties. The purpose of preparing the report is to help decision-makers, both state and non-state, to recognise and appreciate the views of marginalized communities on development; as well as the role these communities perceive they ought to play in the implementation of SDGs.

This report is based on the issues raised by these communities during the dialogues. The analysis of the issues is sensitive to the

5P's (People, Prosperity, Partnerships, Peace and Planet).

1.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMUNITY DIALOGUES

The county dialogues are used as forums for sensitizing and increasing awareness about the SDGs among key stakeholders at the county level including local communities; on what the goals seek to achieve and the roles of the different stakeholders in the process of implementation.



The content and thematic structure of the community dialogues have maintained the same objectives in all the counties where they have been held. The specific objectives are:

1. To create awareness and share experiences with communities about the SDGs especially as apply to their daily lives;
2. To create awareness to the communities about their roles as citizens in the implementation of the SDGs at the local level;
3. To trigger self-motivated community actions for accelerated implementation of the SDGs at the local level.
4. Provide an opportunity to understand the community needs, expectations and solutions (either internal or external) to issues directly affecting them.

The community dialogue meetings draw people from different sectors of the community including the youth, the elderly, women & men, people with disabilities and the community leadership. This creates an opportunity for exchanging perspectives, viewpoints and development solutions.

2.0 THE COMMUNITY DIALOGUES

The community dialogues were initially conceived as a method of 'unpacking' the Global development agenda taking it to the local communities in a language they can relate to. Citizens discuss and exchange ideas on development processes and what needs to be done to accelerate the pace towards achievement of the SDGs at the local level. The dialogues are set to afford every participant opportunity to express freely on what they think should be of highest priority to them in planning for development and what one thinks could be done differently to achieve faster development at the community level. Through this approach, the dialogues have helped in demystifying the SDGs as a terminology and simplifying the goals to a point of easily describing them in own words even in vernacular languages and Kiswahili.

In the different county dialogues already conducted, there have been differing priority issues, experiences and ideas raised from one county to another. The dialogues are

not a panacea for all the issues, problems and challenges facing communities rather the occasions present an opportunity to express their views on local development. The dialogues are also meant to provoke and challenge participants to engage more actively in local development processes from a point of information.

3.0 PARTNERSHIPS



In organizing the dialogues, the SDGs Kenya Forum has been working in partnership with different stakeholders including its members. Among those who have facilitated the dialogues are State Department of Planning SDGs Unit, Council of Governors-SDGs Unit, SDGs County Champions and County officers. A more elaborate list of partners can be viewed on <https://sdgkenyaforum.org/>. All the members of the SDGs Kenya Forum continue providing support to this process in various ways, including through capacity building and financial support.

The National Treasury and State Planning (at national level) as well as County governments of respective counties (at sub-national level) where the dialogues have

been held have also been supportive. The National SDGs Unit at the State department of Planning has particularly been instrumental in helping coordinate involvement and building partnerships between the Forum, other government ministries and agencies. Through its support, the Forum has been able to interact with county governments including the Council of Governors.

At the county level, the Forum partners with its affiliate members to organize the community dialogues. Partnerships at this level involve the grassroots organizations mobilizing communities for the meetings, facilitating the meetings, translating where needed, and connecting the Forum to the local leadership. Different counties have different grassroots-based civil society organisations; so organisations across the counties really differ. What is common among most of them, though, is the fact that all the organisations work at the lowest administrative levels— that is the ward, location and even village level. In the already conducted dialogues, the key partners who co organized and facilitated the events were VSO Kenya, PACJA, GIZ, GROOTs Kenya, HelpAge, CARITAS Kenya, Development Initiatives, EDAN, ILEPA, Kenya Land Alliance, Citizen Network for Rural Development and Islamic Relief among others.

Besides the grassroots organisations, the dialogues have also attracted the participation of some county government and national government agencies based at the county level. Other stakeholders who have graced the dialogues include elected

leaders of respective counties and private sector operatives such as the local traders' associations. The community dialogues have targeted local media stations in the different counties that have hosted the Forum to further create awareness through the vernacular radio stations as part of the community dialogues. This strategy has enabled the Forum to reach a wider audience estimated at 10 million so far.

5.0 EMERGING ISSUES AND CHALLENGES UNDERLYING THE SDGs IMPLEMENTATION

Who is likely to be left behind?

The dialogues have since established concerns among communities about systematic extant marginalization against some segments of society which unfairly denies the affected groups equal opportunity and right to development. The affected groups across the board include Persons with Disabilities (PWD), the elderly, orphans, widows, youth, women (due to social & cultural norms), pastoralists leading nomadic lifestyles, indigenous groups, street families, prisoners, migrant workers; flower farm workers; among others.



The reasons behind marginalization vary from one community to another. Common ones across counties include cultural biases; ignorance to minority rights; lack of representation of affected groups in decision-making places; deliberate discrimination; living with disabilities; lack of data, among others. Where whole communities are faced with shared and difficult challenges that affect development in general, these marginalized groups are affected even much harder than the rest.

In the light of this challenge, a key recommendation from the dialogues is a proposal to duty bearers in government to create and maintain an updated database on populations most likely to be marginalized, where they are found, and also to document their circumstances. With this information available, it is possible to inclusively plan for appropriate action and mainstreaming their interests within all development processes including the SDGs.

Prosperity

Though communities at different dialogues expressed shared concern of high prevalence of poverty in their respective counties they at the same time acknowledged that their counties are not poor and that they are in fact endowed with vast resources and opportunities that should make them wealthy if well harnessed and the principle of equity applies. Key of the mentioned resources is the human capital. All counties believe their populations have a diversity of skills,

knowledge and abilities that, if well tapped, could turn around fortunes of a county.

Examples of resources as cited per county are:

1. *Narok County*: opportunity for investment in solar and wind energy; good soil for wheat farming; land; tourism opportunities; rich culture; pastoralism; gold; geothermal power; red stone; livestock; abundance of natural resources
2. *Garissa County*: Tana River; arable land; wind; sand; solar energy; livestock production; diverse wildlife population
3. *Laikipia County*: cattle ranches; women are being registered in the land registers and; high life expectancy due to the clean air in Laikipia; check other resources
4. *Makueni County*: plenty of land; fertile soil; water bodies- if well taken care of; good climate for horticulture and fruits; plenty of sunshine for collection of solar energy; plenty of sand; dedicated farmers; Athi River
5. *Taita-Taveta*: Wildlife national parks; minerals; arable land; cattle ranches
6. *Kericho*: Favourable agricultural climate; large arable land; huge tea plantations
7. *Kisumu*: Lake Victoria, the port of Kisumu

Analysis of individual reports based on specific county dialogues point to two scenarios regarding issues raised by participants, (a) existence of cross-cutting issues in all counties (b) issues specific to some counties or counties sharing many characteristics.

For example, counties in arid and semi-arid areas seem to have many common development challenges. There also seems to be many similarities of issues raised by people in counties that have fair climatic conditions. In all, however, the nature of issues raised at the dialogues is largely what underlies the slow progress in community development or even undermines it altogether. Evidently, there are a number of setbacks that will certainly affect achievement of the SDGs, left unaddressed. Some of these, though not all, are as discussed below:



a) Cross-cutting issues

Cross-cutting issues generally affect all counties regardless of their locality, climatic conditions or any other natural circumstances. Some of them (without any order) are:

Poor state of infrastructure and public amenities

The issue of missing, poor state or inadequate infrastructure and basic public facilities has kept coming up in all the dialogues. The range of needs referred here

includes mainly roads, functional health facilities, electricity and schools. The poor state or unavailability of these has been cited as a contributor to sluggish development at the community level in nearly all the visited counties.

According to communities, improved or provision of infrastructure is a major political campaign promise during each national election processes but very little is done about the promise once candidates for various leadership posts are elected. The issue only emerges in the following election, yet again as mere promise.

Unemployment

The challenge of unemployment especially among the youth keeps huge proportion of population under poverty. Participants in many dialogues associated incidences of rising insecurity, substance abuse and gender-based violence at the community level with idleness among the youthful population. There is scarcity of opportunity for honest economic activities that young people may engage for livelihood. Faced with the challenge of descent life and society pressure on the one hand to excel, and lack of opportunity to achieve these on the other, young people are easily getting enticed to dangerous criminal activities to get means to achieve their dreams. Planning on the implementation of the

SDGs should address the issue of job creation using available resources in the counties.

Corruption and governance



All dialogues raised concern about high prevalence of corruption as debilitating to development in their respective counties. The challenge was more associated with access to services from public institutions and offices. Even though participants appreciated the idea of devolved governance under Kenya's new constitution, they also observed that it has magnified the challenge of corruption as counties are now perceived as the new centers of corruption.

Corrupt dealings that lead to loss of public resources to dishonest individuals were cited as barrier to community development¹.

¹ Examples include recent high profile arrests for implicated individuals as the former Cabinet Secretary and Permanent Secretary for the National Treasury, Managing Director of the Pyrethrum Board of Kenya; in 2017, Sh2.450 billion was

dished out to six contractors for the renovation and construction of eight county stadiums (including Kipchoge Keino Stadium, Moi International Sports Stadium, Nyayo National Stadium, Kinoru Stadium,

Additionally, lack of completed projects and unpaid suppliers (evidenced by high number of pending bills) compounds this problem. Even though communities' evidence about high prevalence of corruption is anecdotal, the office of the government Auditor General corroborates these perceptions almost in all its annual reports that paint corruption and theft of public funds at both national and county government levels as probably the biggest challenge to development.

Participants shared the view that the government needs to do a lot more to control theft of public resources as the vice continues to deny communities opportunity for development. To address this, communities need to be empowered more in monitoring of how money is spent on agreed projects; ensuring everyone involved in corruption is not involved in government jobs; enhancing transparency in procurement processes; meting severe punishment for those found culpable in the vice of stealing public resources.

Public Participation - "Citizen apathy" to development processes

There has been shared appreciation at the dialogues that Public participation is now a guaranteed process in Kenya. The constitution 2010 in various chapters and clauses require that public participation be undertaken at all levels of government

before government officials and body make official decisions.



However, the dialogues affirmed that it is important to point out that public participation is still viewed as a new process in Kenya and is seen as a complex and not so well understood concept and process. Participants expressed concerns that the processes in majority of the counties are often unstructured and undertaken in a tokenism way. On the other hand, there is little capacity building targeting citizens to enable them engage in the process from an informed, structured and meaningful way as stipulated in the County Manifestos.

Communities raised a number of similar experiences including county officials taking advantage of public participation processes due to low or lack of awareness among the public on the importance and necessary steps for effective participation. In some situations, information on the meeting agenda at hand that requires public participation is scanty or unavailable till the

among others) that remain incomplete with a majority being abandoned.

day of the seating thus rendering citizen at a disadvantage. Poor communication to the public by the responsible offices on public participation was cited as a major challenge that has contributed to systematically leaving behind marginalized groups.

There is also apathy among the public arising from the perception that their views or contributions to public forums on development are ignored or underrated when reaching final decisions. There is also the issue of budgets, that is, what gets discussed by the public is very different from what gets into the county budget. The final budget is decided upon by MCA's whose focus is on things that will help them get re-elected. In the end the public participation simply seems to pose as an advantage to a certain group of elites and not citizen driven, in the view of all the communities who participated in the dialogues.

These noted factors, among others, need to be investigated further and urgently addressed to encourage substantive public participation in development processes at the community level leaving no one behind.

Gender-driven inequalities



The power relations subject between different genders was continuously brought up in all dialogues. The tilt of power against women and girls is evident as is manifested through numerous cases of gender-based violence, denial of rights to property ownership by women especially land, early marriages of underage girls and denial of the right to education, female genital mutilations, gender inequalities in leadership positions in the county, and a general lack of women voice in development processes. Even though the nature of manifestations of this challenge may vary from county to county, it was a shared concern in nearly all the counties.

Communities need to continuously be sensitized more on gender equality, gender rights and other rights that guarantee both women and men equal treatment as is stipulated in the constitution. It is also to a community's advantage to embrace gender equality as it allows everyone to unleash their full potential to contribute to development.

Leadership challenges

At the different community dialogues, participants raised a whole range of issues to do with leadership at the county. On a positive note, communities acknowledged with appreciation where some leaders are trying hard and achieving good results in the best interest of their people. For example, they pointed to the inspiring leadership of the county government of Makueni as relates to the innovative county health plan for all the county population and also the fruit processing plant. There is also the

County government of Laikipia and its effort on advancing agriculture as business opportunity for its people. The efficient application of public resources as conducted in by the county government of Kakamega was lauded too.

However, communities described leadership (especially at county assembly level) variably, including lacking in political goodwill, uncooperative, lethargic, inaccessible, un-consultative, predisposed to nepotism, discriminative, corrupt, among others. Frequent wrangles by leaders especially at the county level were pointed as slowing down development. The issues raised on the challenge of leadership varied from county to county and even from one speaker to another. The bottom line, however, is that communities are largely dissatisfied with the way they are governed especially by many of their elected leaders.

Poverty

The challenge of poverty seems to be a big obstacle to development in all the counties. According to a report by the National Council for Population and Development (NCPD), The State of Kenya Population 2017, the population of Kenya living below the poverty line stands at 32%. Different counties contribute varying proportions to the national poverty burden. Some have higher and others lower prevalence to the national percentage. Poverty is worst felt by

those left farthest behind which include women with disabilities, the elderly, teen mothers, and persons living with HIV & AIDS. Despite decline in the poverty index as reported by the World Bank in 2018², it probably is the single biggest obstacle that communities seem to be grappling with as expressed by the participants at the different community dialogues. Those harder hit are mainly the marginalized groups including women, persons with disabilities, youth, orphans and the elderly. However other groups are indiscriminately affected too.



Planet

In different counties, there are ongoing negative environmental activities which affect entire communities regardless of who is involved in the activities. They include deforestation, charcoal burning, overgrazing, sand harvesting, uncontrolled irrigation using water from natural water bodies, overgrazing, farming on river banks,

² The proportion of Kenyans living on less than the international poverty line (US\$1.90 per day in 2011 PPP) declined from 46.8% in 2005/06 to 36.1% in 2015/16 (17th edition of the Kenya Economic Update: Kenya

economic update: policy options to advance the Big 4 - unleashing Kenya's private sector to drive inclusive growth and accelerate poverty reduction)

encroachment on forests for livelihoods, disposal of untreated effluence into rivers and natural water bodies, etc.

These human activities negatively affect the environment in different ways with varying impacts in places they are happening. The activities are associated with changing weather patterns where rains are irregular, unpredictable, limited or with heavy floods when they come. Droughts are becoming more frequent and severe in many counties as Makueni, Laikipia and Garissa, for example. This is affecting livelihoods of many families and endangering livestock and wild animals alike.

In Laikipia and Makueni Counties, participants noted that some of the activities that earn the community's daily incomes include sand mining. They observed that while that is the case, sand mining has resulted to drying up of rivers, soil erosion and disfigured landscapes - all contributing to land degradation.

In Nairobi, the incidence of polluted rivers and Nairobi Dam was cited as having adversely affected the environment to a point where the rivers traversing the county and the Dam are as of now huge health risks to Nairobi residents and people using the water downstream for farming, fishing and domestic purposes.

In Narok, the issue of drying of the Mara River emerged. Communities think human activities upstream, especially in Mau Forest are responsible. This is threatening to destroy wildlife habitats and downstream ecosystems including affecting the world

famous annual wild animal migration between Masai Mara National Park in Kenya and Serengeti in Tanzania.

Even though the national government and county governments are working on controlling the negative activities on the environment, the fact that issues are still reported by communities as a concern suggests the need to step up the effort. Communities recommended that there is need to do a lot more to protect the environment from human degradation in order to prevent increasing cycles of droughts, air and water pollution.



The participants proposed better regulatory mechanisms of all these activities to preserve the environment while affording communities descent livelihoods at the same time.

b) County-specific issues

There are also county-specific issues that affect development as has emerged from the dialogues. Such issues also seem shared by some counties with some similar characteristics. They include some discussed below:

Peace

Communities acknowledged that for meaningful development to take place, stability and peace within a community and with its neighbors is necessary. In nearly all dialogues, participants noted varying degrees of insecurity including some cases of armed conflicts. Communities experiencing relative peace are also most likely the ones recording better socio-economic progress, even though other factors still matter.

Communities living along border lines with other communities seem more prone to the incidence of social conflicts with their neighbors. This emerged from dialogues in Garissa, Laikipia and Narok, for example. In these cases, the conflict is usually about diminishing resources such as water and pasture for their animals. In Taita-Taveta, there were reported cases of community conflicts between farmers and pastoralists over grazing lands and water. Communities in urban centers (from discussions in Nairobi and Busia) also experience insecurity especially due to relatively high rates of unemployment among the youth.

Unless the issues that trigger conflicts and/or insecurity between/within communities are addressed, they will continue threatening general development of the affected communities and will also affect achievement of the SDGs.

Low literacy levels

Concerns about low literacy levels among communities emerged in dialogues in Narok and Garissa Counties. It was noted as responsible for inhibiting effective

participation of communities in development processes leading to slow-paced development or undesirable projects of no priority to them. The two counties represent communities whose lifestyle is nomadic, a challenge that is possibly shared by other counties with similar experiences. Connect this to those left behind especially those with disabilities.

Economic marginalization

At the dialogues in Garissa, it emerged that people who practice crop farming feel unrecognized in development processes by both the national and county governments. Similar concern was also raised in Narok. This could be based on the assumption that since the main economic activity in the vast north-eastern Kenya and pastoralist communities is livestock keeping, and that the climatic conditions are unfavorable for crop farming, then any crop farming happening in the area could be insignificantly little.

This situation may by extension suggest that the problem could exist in other counties which have one major economic activity that towers over the others to a point of eclipsing them. Groups practicing minor economic activities in such circumstances could be struggling to be heard or noticed during development processes at the community level.

Land challenges

Communities that still maintain the tradition of communal land ownership reported land grabbing as a crisis that they are facing. They cited situations where communal land is transferred to individuals reducing whole

clans and families to landlessness. This emerged in discussions at Narok, Kajiado and Garissa Counties, whose majority of residents practice communal land ownership.

Housing and sanitation

At Kibra, Nairobi, participants raised the issue of poor housing and sanitation as exposing communities to all manner of health risks and diseases at all times. They also cited lack of safe and sufficient water for domestic use including the challenge of poor drainage systems that put to risk the health of individual families and also whole communities. The challenge of poor housing or affordable housing as experienced in Kibra is likely a shared problem in other urban areas in different counties.

Human-wildlife conflict

Communities bordering wildlife habitats voiced up concern about frequent attacks by wild animals and counter attacks by humans and the vice-versa. The issue emerged in the dialogues held in Taita-Taveta County which is home to Tsavo National Park. It also surfaced up in Kajiado and Narok which are home to the Mara National Park as well as in Laikipia which has a number of wildlife conservancies and game parks.

A lot needs to be done to help protect both wildlife and communities from each other so that communities may reap the full benefit of living next to wildlife protected zones instead of perceiving it as fateful and unfortunate experience.

4.0 MAIN DIALOGUES OUTCOMES

The dialogues presented a mutual opportunity between the organizers and grassroots communities to interact and share experiences generally on development. Communities got opportunity to learn more on the SDGs and what they can do to ensure the goals are achieved at the grassroots level.



However, the one day within which the dialogues are conducted per county is not sufficient to address all the matters that communities consider important to them in general and also on SDGs in particular. Besides, only a small section of the population in each county is reached through the dialogues. More strategies therefore need to be deployed to reach nearly everyone in each county on the information about the goals.

The key outcomes were:

1. At every dialogue event the SDGs Kenya Forum and the local county participants agreed to form county-specific SDGs Forum where interested organisations may continue engaging

the county stakeholders for accelerated development and also achievement of the SDGs.

2. Participants agreed that more such events need to take place within communities in all parts of a county for increased public awareness and public participation.
3. SDGs Kenya Forum and communities/county-specific SDGs Forum shall step up information sharing on the SDGs and joint engagement with other stakeholders at the county level.



5.0 KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Achievement of all national development goals is possible as they are based on well considered plans and policies. The same is true about the SDGs, which are now a domesticated national development agenda. If the development goals are to be achieved, including the SDGs, it can only happen at the community level where the intended beneficiaries live. However, to achieve broader development goals and the SDGs requires an enabling environment that includes supportive policy framework, responsive leadership and political goodwill.

The county dialogues conducted so far point to many underlying issues that need attention because, unattended, they are an

obstacle and are likely to undermine all the effort on development including achievement of the SDGs by 2030. In this regard, the following key recommendations from the community dialogues may be considered to help accelerate the SDGs process and development in general not just in the counties but also nationally:

1. Establish and address all underlying issues and challenges that undermine development and the SDGs including the ones raised by communities in this report. Each county should try and make own effort to achieve this. The national government should try and lead the process.
2. Make deliberate effort on public education and awareness on the importance of effective participation in all community development processes. This includes availing them with necessary and timely information on any issue that they are expected to provide opinion.
3. Embrace inclusivity in all development processes of all the different groups in communities at all levels. To achieve this, county need clearly outlined approaches that guarantee inclusivity
4. Quickly conduct further sensitization of communities about the SDGs in all the remaining counties for increased awareness and effective participation in development processes.

6.0 CONCLUSION

The government of Kenya is leading the process of implementation of the SDGs with a multi stakeholder approach that has brought together within its wider development national agenda. Four years since adoption of 2030 Agenda, the government has reported through the Kenya Voluntary National Review (VNR) of 2017 and under took a biennial national status SDGs report in 2019. The that it is on course to achieving some SDGs but also challenged on some others.

Achievement of the SDGs, just like all other development goals, shall depend on the policy environment within which the goals are being implemented. A policy environment that allows space to all stakeholders to participate effectively to development processes also hastens the pace to realization of development objectives.

The issues and views raised by communities in their own understanding during the dialogues should therefore help the government and other stakeholders to possibly undertake farther investigation to

establish their extent and any other serious issues including how such may affect development at the community level. Leaving these issues unattended is compromising the commitment to achieve the SDGs. The government and other stakeholders need to put in place measures to address these issues to guarantee success on the effort to achieve the SDGs by of before 2030.

The SDGs Kenya Forum and other involved civil society organizations in Kenya on their part shall continue playing the critical role of creating awareness for effective citizen engagement and building citizen capacity to work closely with both the county and national government for the achievement of the SDGs.



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