



“ We the People Act for SDGs ”

The Global Week of Action, 2021 Newsletter



"Empowerment and Inclusion are two entities that go hand in hand. The process is incomplete when you only tackle one." **Teddy Nyale, School Captain Alliance Boys High School.**



"We must question the five pillars of economic development by removing systematic oppressive structures and replacing them with structures that promote the accomplishment of women's rights, women's empowerment, and gender equality." **Memory Kachambwa, Executive Director (Ex-Officio) African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET).**



"We will continue to play the role of ensuring that the voice of children, especially girls and young women, including those living with disabilities is heard where it matters and when it matters to them; playing our part to fulfill the promise of the 2030 global goals" **Kate Maina-Vorley Country Director, Plan International.**



"The Multi-stakeholder Inter-Agency Technical Committee the highest organ of SDGs decision-making process requires proper financing to facilitate implementation of the annual plans by all stakeholders if Kenya is to Leave No One Behind" **Florence Syevuo, Country Coordinator SDG Kenya Forum.**



"Empowering and amplifying the voices of the most vulnerable and marginalized at the grassroots level should be the standard practice for any National government's development program as a technique to leave no Kenyan behind." **Titus Musyoka, Chairman and founder, Ahadi Achievers Empowerment CBO.**



"During the election cycle, everybody says they can fix the economy even when they have been the contributors of bringing the economy on its knees." **Hon. Martha Karua, 2013 Presidential Candidate, Consummate politician, Advocate for social justice.**



"Civil society is an important aspect of democratization process as it provides a vital link between citizens and the state, and it provides a conducive environment to enhance community cohesion and decision-making.....In the next People Dialogue Festival, we will endeavor to create an SDGs village to bring all stakeholders together. " **Ole Thonke Ambassador of Denmark to Kenya, Somalia, the Seychelles and Eritrea.**

The Global Week to #Act4SDGs is an annual mobilization moment that aims to inspire collective action from organizations and individuals with an overall target of 1 billion actions by 2030 in support of the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2021, the Week was held during 17-28 September, but the action continues throughout the year. In Kenya, the pandemic has shown how interconnected we all are, and how threats that touch us all require mutual action and solidarity. Also evident is the profound power of individuals, leaders, and organizations. A good number of Kenyans have done the right things, from wearing masks to working from home, which have collectively constrained the spread of the virus. They demonstrate how actions add up and will take us past the turning point and on to transformation. They showed how each one of us can start a butterfly effect, where individual actions ripple outward to influence the world in achieving the SDGs. People all around the world are mobilizing and joining in solidarity to raise their voices and show there is hope beyond the pandemic, and to seize this once-in-a-generation opportunity to reimagine and create a better future. One that is more equal, more active on climate change, that works to end poverty and ensure access to healthcare.





“Nothing brings people
together like good **Food**”



Drought Declared National Disaster in Kenya

The effects of climate change, such as catastrophic floods and droughts, are endangering the stability of the world's food supply systems. In Kenya, we are already facing these challenges. On 8th September, President Uhuru Kenyatta declared drought as a national disaster that has ravaged 10 of 47 counties. Similarly, hundreds of animals have been driven from their natural habitats into private farms in search of water and grazing land as a result of the drought.

On addressing the drought issue, the President met leaders from the drought-stricken northern Kenya at State House. Part of these leaders included 85 leaders from the arid and semi-arid lands. These were five governors, cabinet Secretaries, chief administrative secretaries, principal secretaries, MPs and senators. Some of their deliberations necessitated immediate effort to address adaptation to climate consequences. Through presidential directives, the National Treasury and the Ministry of Interior were advised to spearhead government efforts to assist affected households including water and relief food distribution as well as livestock. Climate change is a threat multiplier for hungry and undernourished people. Combined with conflict, it destroys livelihoods, drives displacement, widens inequalities, and undermines sustainable development including the SDG of zero hunger by 2030. Countries with high levels of hunger like Kenya are often also highly vulnerable to climate change and have a low capacity to adapt.



Food wasted in Kenya could feed the majority of drought-stricken people.

According to the Food Waste Index Report 2021, issued in March 2021 by UNEP, about 576,410 tonnes of food are wasted in Kenya each year. The report showed every Kenyan throws away an average of 99 kilograms of food every year. Food that can feed the current Kenyans who are ravaged by drought. As a result, these food losses worsen the situation for fighting climate change, we must improve food security or nutrition. Ending hunger and undernutrition in a changing climate demands large-scale action from the government, organizations, and individuals. Such a type of climate action can increase agricultural sustainability and bring socio-economic and development co-benefits that contribute to poverty eradication and more resilient livelihoods for the vulnerable populations.



“ Every Kenyan throws away an average of 99 kilograms of food every year.





“Women and men are affected **differently** by the impacts of climate change.”

Women Empowerment

Women and men are affected differently by the impacts of climate change across societies, particularly in developing Nations like Kenya. To demystify the effects of climate change on women the SDGs Kenya Forum in partnership with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) organized a one-day online dissemination webinar for a study on “Accelerating the attainment of the goals on gender equality, women empowerment and women’s rights”, with a focus on SDGs 5, 8 and 13. The findings of the study were as follows:

- Despite the existence of various national, regional and global commitments and
- frameworks, the universal rights of women are far from becoming a reality and thus
- women risk being left behind.
- Overall progress to advance women’s human rights and empowerment across the globe has been slow and uneven.
- Women and girls across the world are yet to effectively participate in social, economic,
- and political processes.
- The contribution of women and girls to development in the private and public space is still undervalued, underpaid and in most cases unaccounted for.
- In Africa, Kenya is a shining star in having progressive and vibrant policies, institutional
- and legislative frameworks for advancing women empowerment, gender equality and
- women and girls’ human rights.
- The Kenya Medium Term Plan has mainstreamed the SDGs and conducted two evaluations in 2017 and 2020 (The Voluntary National Reports) on the SDGs.
- To reduce persistent gender inequalities, the Kenyan government developed a legal, policy and institutional frameworks that address the inequalities between men and women.
- Although mixed progress is being reported, there is a persistent gender inequality gap in most spheres of life in Kenya. The most notable gaps are in access to commercial credit, access to economic opportunities, land ownership and asymmetry in decision making and political power.

All participants agreed that Kenya has achieved progress toward gender equality and women’s empowerment when compared to its regional peers. But more work and programmatic actions still needed to be done especially with respect to the empowerment of grassroots women at community levels if sustainable development is at all achieved in our lifetime. The country should ensure it provides adequate platforms for women’s engagement, especially in public participation forums. It is also paramount to



compensate women for unpaid domestic services. Women and girls living in frontlines of climate change should be included in all decision-making processes including program designs. All stakeholders should work towards addressing the cultural and discriminatory practices that disadvantage women. Further, the non-state actors should monitor and evaluate the women empowerment projects funded by the government. To move the process further, several recommendations were raised by both the panelists and participants, and these included. To move the process further, several recommendations were raised by both the report, panelists and participants as follows;

- The need to strengthen linkages and partnerships between the government and
- development partners.
- SDG Kenya Forum should consider investing in an in-depth analysis of all indicators
- across the 17 goals and their impact on gender equality.
- Continuous capacity building for officers involved in gender issues in the various
- ministries and counties.
- Government should consider reducing tax obligations on goods and services critical to
- women.
- Improve access to credit facilities and mental health services for women
- Increase women nominations to positions of leadership and power
- Increase investment in the informal sector where most women work
- Reduce corruption and improve access to government funding for women empowerment
- projects
- Document stories of women and their challenges.
- Data collection and reporting to include specifics and context of women involved in the surveys.



“Hang in there,
as **better** times
are ahead.”



KENYANS AGAINST COVID-19

A partnership between Ahadi Achievers Empowerment (CBO) and SDG Kenya Forum has seen more than 759 Kenyans being vaccinated against COVID-19 in Makueni County. The campaign involved diverse stakeholders including village elders, media, government officials, teachers, and residents from Makueni County moving door to door and utilizing the existing health and administrative structures in reaching out to Kenyans. The campaign encompassed creating awareness on protective mechanisms against covid-19. This campaign is a model that illustrates how various stakeholders can emulate the proponent of public participation and inclusivity on public meetings and hearings, advisory committees and awareness creation.

The participation of Kenyans in the COVID-19 awareness is critical for detecting symptoms, preventing illness transmission, and initiating control measures in regions with no health facilities in different parts of the county, ensuring that diseases are reported early to health authorities for

a prompt reaction. As a model, the Makueni campaign created an opportunity for the local leaders these include the Chiefs and village elders in addressing the community on government policy in relation to COVID-19 protocols and other administrative concerns related to public health. This conversation was further amplified by Kenya Television Network, Radio Maisha, Athiani FM and County FM.

The findings from this campaign showed that there is a need for an increased awareness of the COVID-19 vaccine so as to reduce the inequalities associated with it. As it has been seen, most of the vulnerable communities are unable to travel to the sub-county hospitals to get the vaccine because of poverty levels. A piece of evidence that can be used to hypothesize what to expect when a wider investigation is done county-wide. Two there is a lot of stigma associated with untrue effects of the COVID-19 vaccine which hinders the vaccine uptake. Lastly, the involvement of youths, local leaders, and public institutions in the vaccination campaigns created ownership of the campaign.



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“Access to a clean and healthy environment is a fundamental human right.”

© Leon Uplash



HUMAN RIGHTS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Human rights are increasingly being acknowledged as being critical to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In achieving these goals the Royal Danish Embassy organized a Virtual Human Rights Cafe on September 7, 2021, in collaboration with the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) and the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR), with the goal of raising awareness about the relationship between sustainable development goals and human rights.

The discussion from the panelists and participants acknowledged whenever individuals are able to exercise their human rights, they are able to speak up for themselves and for one another, and they are able to shape the decisions that affect their lives socially, economically, politically, and in development-wise. A feature both in SDGs and human rights. Further, Human rights stand for equality, for participative and inclusive societies that remove the discriminatory institutions that fuel poverty and inequality. Similarly, the SDGs has the principle of leaving no one behind, the Cross-cutting principle of equality and non-discrimination, a commitment to reach those furthest behind first—vulnerable groups. No one can be left behind when everyone can assert their human rights.

Human rights are not only the correct approach to accelerate progress toward more equal and sustainable development, but they are also the sensible way to do it. In reference to the development of both private and public companies, state machinery, and organizations it is key they should always use the human rights-based approach to development to further the realization of human rights. Two Human rights standards should guide all development cooperation and programming in all sectors and in all phases. Three, comments and recommendations from human rights monitoring bodies should guide programming on processing Voluntary National Reviews and Universal Periodic Review. and finally, development cooperation should strengthen the capacities of 'duty-bearers to meet their obligations and of 'rights-holders to claim their rights.

The products and services you buy every day impact the health of your family, your community, and our home planet.

Purchase from 1 % for the Planet businesses who are changing
industries and supporting high-impact nonprofits.



**The money you already spend – on food, clothing, loans, and insurance,
can have a big impact with no additional consumption or expense.**

A close-up photograph of two individuals, a Black woman on the left and a white woman on the right, both wearing white KN95 face masks. They are looking down at a smartphone held by the Black woman. The white woman is pointing at the screen with her right index finger. The Black woman has her hair in dreadlocks and is wearing a gold ring on her finger. The white woman has blonde curly hair and is wearing glasses. They are both wearing dark blue blouses. The white woman's blouse has a red patterned scarf draped over it. The background is blurred, showing other people in a crowd.

**“Dialogue
cannot exist
without
humility.”**



THE PEOPLE DIALOGUE FORUM

“Leaving no one behind should be done with a collective role of providing space and opportunities for everyone.” Florence Syevuo, Country Coordinator- SDGs Kenya Forum during a panel discussion on Strengthening partnerships for sustainable development goals in Kenya during the 2021 People Dialogue Forum. The forum was organised by SDG Kenya Forum and Centre for Multiparty Democracy and supported by the Embassy of Denmark. In the discussion which was moderated by Janet Mbugua, Florence illustrated how and why duty bearers’ and citizens’ commitments at a national level are important to accelerate SDGs processes. One of the strategies was for duty bearers to fulfill the demands and ambitions of citizens through effective leadership which translates into smart public policies and implementation for competent public service delivery. The second highlight was that achieving the SDGs will need a collaborative effort on the part of governments, the corporate sector, society, and individuals to localize ownership. Lastly, innovative leadership and management will be required for companies across all sectors to incorporate these sustainable development goals into strategic planning and operational in order to achieve the 2030 targets.

The 2021 PDF was premised on an understanding that democracy is more than democratic institutions and written rules. However, it is a facilitated balanced inclusion and effective participation of citizens in the national dialogue, development, and promoting the institutionalization of dialogue on all governance structures. This year’s PDF provided an opportunity for reasoned arguments that linked national dialogue with other political processes particularly the 2022 general elections encompassing issues of voter registration and voting processes factoring in the cross-cutting principles of accountability and transparency of the upcoming 2022 general election. In the presence of this conversation were leaders from Jubilee National Party, Orange Democratic Movement, Forum for the Restoration of Democracy – Kenya, among other more political parties present.



© SDG Kenya Forum





LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND



© Caritas International



Leave No One Behind

Inequalities exist in the social, economic, cultural, environmental, and political realms for people with disabilities. The disparities between individuals with and without impairments differ by country, but in some, the disparities are severe. The Sustainable Development Goals lay forth a plan for a better world. When tackling challenges such as poverty, hunger, illness, climate change, and gender inequality, including PWDs as a cross-cutting issue is critical. Towards solving these issues that PWDs face, SDG Kenya Forum and Plan International are members of the the Kenya Leave No One Behind Consortia are currently working on study that aims to examine the drivers and level of marginalization among persons with disabilities, women, and youth at legal and policy levels. Discrimination is a major cause of exclusion of people with disabilities and, in some cases, discriminatory laws and policies contribute to this. Among the study's findings are the following:

- Lack of disability-disaggregated data hinders analysis of how budget allocations can be aligned to disability inclusion and meaningful participation in all sectors.
- Inefficient and ineffective utilization of Disability Mainstreaming tools e.g. the Kenya Population and Housing Census data in budgets for planning and implementation of programmes from National to Ward level.
- Failure by some organizations funded by government to publicly share accessible and comprehensive information in friendly formats on how the funds are

used and their outcomes to support of disability inclusion.


- Inadequate funding for key programmes such as special needs education at primary and secondary level- affects efforts towards inclusive education.
- Lack of access to updated data, evidence, and information in accessible formats to PWDs; and inequalities in access to basic services such as schools, transport and extra classroom support with Disability trained teachers and other support that would enable students with disabilities to benefit from education.

In addressing some of these problems the following recommendations were made:

- Kenya LNOB to create awareness on the concepts of 'inclusiveness and 'meaningful participation for PWDs' at various levels of governance and across sectors.
- Government to enact a time-bound law to facilitate adaptation of the built environment to disability; access to government information in timely and accessible formats to enable meaningful contributions to the Kenya LNOB and the SDGs agenda with particular emphasis on participation of PWDs in county and community processes.
- Provide access and use of disability-disaggregated data to allow for budget allocations to disability inclusion and meaningful participation.
- There is need to review government sponsored programmes targeting PWDs such as cash transfers, UHC, AGPO and COVID-19 Response to establish the gains and challenges faced by PWDs in their implementation.
- Strengthen partnerships with the media to monitor and publicize progress on the implementation of the SDGs, with a specific focus on relevant targets and indicators to the LNOB agenda for persons with disabilities.



“ When everyone is included, everyone wins.” George Awalla, Country Director Voluntary Service Overseas, Kenya and Co-Chair SDG Kenya Forum.



“Everyone shall have the right to **freedom of expression**; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of **all kinds**.”

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The right of all persons to be able to obtain information from public bodies about their decisions and activities is well established in international law as a human right. It has also been widely recognised as a means for the enabling of civil and cultural rights, and as a key tool to fight corruption and promote good governance.



The Right to Information in Africa

66%

of the population lives in a country with an RTI law or policy



25

countries have adopted RTI laws



10

countries have pending bills or other initiatives



What is the right to information?

The right to information gives everyone the right to obtain information from public bodies without having to give a specific legal or personal interest

African Platform on Access to Information, 2011



14

countries have joined the Open Government Partnership



Niger does not have legislation, but has adopted a policy to give people rights to information from the government



countries specifically include the right to information in their constitution

25

countries have joined the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative



Information accurate as of September 2021

Dear Hon. Ukur Yatani Kanacho
Cabinet Secretary
National Treasury and Planning
Treasury Building
HARAMBEE AVENUE.

Dear Sir

RE: DOMESTICATION OF THE GREAT RECOVERY PLAN IN KENYA

Since the year 2000, the global community has fashioned an International development framework for cooperation among stakeholders. It started with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) from 2000 to 2015 a period which recorded the greatest reduction of poverty in modern history. From 2016, the world has rallied around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which seek to balance human progress and conservation of the planet. The Agenda 2030 has been domesticated in Kenya and implementation began well and remarkable progress in some targets was being made until 2020 when COVID 19 struck. The effects of COVID 19 and the mitigation measures employed by Government have already led to some erosion of gains made and the pandemic has become a clutch to human efforts and progress towards development. Kenya like most countries requires a programmatic and people centered Great Recovery into the future.

Our world is now at a turning point. More people are sliding back to poverty and the effects of climate change are being worsened by COVID 19. We have more children out of school and the gender inequality has expanded during the Covid 19. The life of people on the planet is NOT likely to turn out to be “the future we want” if we continue with business as usual. We therefore need to transform the existing system that is no longer fit for purpose, and this time it will require the commitment of all stakeholders.

The SDGs Kenya Forum network together with hundreds of civil society partners around the world, urge you to come together with other leaders in this Decisive Decade to lead a transformative effort – to uphold universal principles of care and cooperation, human rights and gender equality; support a zero-carbon economy and green jobs; and ensure we crack the converging crises of COVID-19, injustice, climate change and nature loss.

In this regard, we are calling for you to forge a Great Recovery Plan with action in three key areas, to power a future that is healthy, green and just.

We are calling for specific action in the following areas:

HEALTHY

Vaccines for All – To end the vaccine crisis apartheid we call for a ‘vaccines for all global roadmap’. The poorest citizens and countries must have the same rights and access to immunization as the richest so that we reach at least 60% of people across all countries by the end of 2021 and a vaccine for all who need one by the end of 2022; we call for an immediate temporary waiver of intellectual property protections on all Covid-19 technologies and demand that the vaccine know-how is shared as soon as possible to drive down the cost and scale up production in all continents as part of an emergency plan for universal coverage.

Universal Healthcare – We believe that access to healthcare is a basic human right. We call on you to ensure everyone has access to free, public, high-quality health care including maternal, adolescent and child care, and we also call for support to address mental health, improve nutrition, tackle obesity, and promote wellbeing. Invest in millions of new doctors, nurses and other health workers to make this a reality, with better pay and conditions for those working on the front lines.

Healthy Food Systems – We call for an end to famines, hunger and malnutrition with a well-resourced humanitarian system and regenerative food systems that will help improve nutrition and fight obesity while also providing farmers with a fair share of the value they create.

GREEN

A Healthy Planet – It is essential that all countries proceed to implement the Paris Agreement goal to limit mean global temperature rise to 1.5C by committing to science-based targets and a net zero emissions economy by 2050 with ambitious climate action plans in place in each country that demonstrate immediate action. Protect the ecosystems on which all life depends by strengthening international environmental law and reversing biodiversity loss by 2030.

An End to Fossil Fuels – All governments, development partners, donors and investors must end financing of coal in 2021. We call for a shift in funding towards clean and green R&D, to deliver solutions that provide quality jobs and power the future ethically and sustainably. We call for recovery packages to dramatically accelerate the transition to a zero carbon economy by setting common minimum floors, transparency and robust principles for green recovery spending, including do-no-harm principles and ecosystem restoration objectives.

No-one Left Behind – Deliver on climate finance promises, including the \$100bn annual floor set out in the Paris Agreement and commit to unlocking the liquidity necessary to ensure all countries, including those most in need, can respond to systemic environmental and social challenges. Commit to directing at least 50% of total climate finance, bilateral and multilateral investment, toward adaptation and resilience.

JUST

Forge a New Social Contract – Keep your promise to end poverty with a new deal that delivers social protection for all and protects workers' rights, while tackling threats posed by historic injustice, including racism, patriarchy, inequality and colonialism. Ensure financial support reaches those who most need it, by prioritizing funds for women, disadvantaged minorities, young people, persons with disabilities, migrants and other most affected groups.

Protect Civil Rights – Ensure rights are guaranteed, close the digital divide and protect democracy, privacy and larger freedoms; including the rights of campaigners to speak out, as well as the rights of workers to organize collectively and bargain for improvements in pay and conditions to reshape the future of work.

Design Fair Economic Systems – Drop the debt and not the aid, ensure recovery packages deliver a fairer, safer, greener and healthier future for all funded by trillions of dollars in additional international financing, including equitable allocation of new Special Drawing Rights, debt restructuring, better aid and far more support from multilateral development banks. Ensure everyone plays their part by taxing companies and individuals fairly, and incentivizing positive social and environmental performance throughout the economy to strengthen corporate accountability and create a regenerative and circular economy.

As the country begins to heal from the effects of the COVID 19 pandemic, the Government of Kenya has been presented with a historic opportunity to lead a Great Recovery for all, to uphold the Paris Climate Agreement by halving global emissions by 2030 while the attainment of the 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development remains on track even as they endeavor to leave no one behind. Whereas Government is expected to lead in policies, planning and funding recovery efforts, communities and volunteers are stepping up their efforts to ensure vital food, medical supplies and basic provisions are delivered. They are also providing the needed care to the affected and building resilience at the lower levels.

The purpose of this call is to enable you to direct ministries, department, counties and agencies to prioritize the Great Recovery Plan in their budgeting proposals to ensure that the Government of Kenya leads the recovery and also complements the heavy responsibility being born by communities and grassroot organizations.

Yours Faithfully

Florence Syevuo

Country Coordinator





POST PARIS CONVERSATION

Generation
Equality

KENYA'S ROADMAP FOR ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY AND ENDING
ALL FORMS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND FEMALE GENITAL
MUTILATION BY 2026



[Click here to listen to Post Paris conversation](#)

TWEET CHAT



**GLOBAL WEEK
TO
#ACT4SDGs**

Date: 24 th Sep 2021
Time: 2pm-4pm EAT





Florence Syevuo
Country Coordinator
SDG's Kenya Forum



Joseph Kimani
Program Manager
Governance & Health
Danish Embassy, Nairobi



TOPIC
To what extent do the plans & budgets of the National & County Governments address SDGs in Kenya?

@KEBUDGETTALK 



ke Budget Talk



SIDAREC



Follow The Money

[Click here to follow and contribute to the Budget Talk](#)

“Alone we can do so
little, **together** we can
do so much.”



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