



2022 CSOs position paper-High Level Political Forum

Theme “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

We, the representatives of civil society organizations in all our diversities, drawn from across the membership of the SDGs Kenya Forum, gathered in Nairobi, on 30th June 2022 to review the trends and progress of implementing the 5 Sustainable development Goals under review during this year’s session of the High-level Political Forum.

Noting that with only eight years left to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), “years, or even decades, of development progress have been halted or reversed” due to COVID-19, impacts of climate change and the war in Ukraine. Now more than ever the world needs all hands-on deck to achieve the SDGs, with Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) becoming an indispensable tool of tracking and reflecting on the development progress made.

Trends on SDG 4

Recognizing that progress in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 4: Quality Education has a far-reaching impact on all the other Sustainable Development Goals, as education is a core building block of human capital development, including civic duty, peaceful co-existence, and democracy. Over the last 10 years, the Kenyan governments, both at national and sub national levels have undertaken a wide range of programmes and policy-level efforts to ensure that no child is left behind in access to education. There have been substantial efforts to ensure access, completion, and quality of basic education for all. The Kenya Ministry of Education has met significant strides in ensuring that there is access to teaching and learning and this is evident in all levels of education. Notably, Kenya has made tremendous strides in terms of access to primary education.

Acknowledging that overall, the proportion of out-of-school children has declined over the past 10 years, completion rates have risen in primary and lower secondary education, and access to and participation in technical and vocational education and training have been improved, as has access to pre-primary education, adult literacy classes and lifelong learning.

Noting that the Government is emphasizing on a 100 percent transition rate from primary to secondary level and is putting in place measures to ensure 100 percent retention in schools. However, the completion and transition from basic education to university and tertiary institutions is yet to be met. Completion rate in primary school level increased from 84 per cent to 85.4 percent in 2017 and 2019 respectively. The completion rate at the secondary school level was 65.4 per cent in 2019.

Therefore, **reiterating** that the establishment, and adequate capacitating of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutes is key in closing the transition gap to provide an important pathway for developing skills for sustainable work and life.



Acknowledging that Kenya has made significant progress, enrolment in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions grew by 10.4 per cent to 498,326 in 2021, while university enrolment is expected to grow from 546.7 thousand in 2020/21 to 562.1 thousand in 2021/22 academic year. Most students opted to join Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions where they get government sponsorship and loans from HELB. However, **concerned** that there are inadequate trained teachers and facilitators in TVET institutions. Most of the schools have insufficient laboratories, workshops, and computer labs among other essential facilities.

Noting that *Quality Education* is a fundamental human right and it is recognized universally as pivotal for the attainment of self-fulfilment and national development. There is still no significant improvement in *learning outcomes*, there are losses, which may be attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic and its multifaceted local and global impacts of education.

Recognizing government efforts through the introduction of the Competency Based Curriculum still has challenges, although the number of teachers in public primary schools increased by 1.2 per cent to 220,744 in 2021, while number of teachers in public secondary schools and teacher training colleges increased by 6.3 per cent to 120,279 in 2022. The gap of inadequate teacher's capacity enhancement is glaring, which lead to the closure of some private schools, with parents reporting the system to be expensive is worth noting. Also, the Teacher-classroom ratio in primary schools is still low at 0.85 nationally. The teacher-classroom ratio in arid and semi-arid areas is worse.

Therefore, **reiterating** that the demand of the competence-based curriculum calls for the government to make deliberate efforts to retrain and recruit more teachers with CBC skills, who are key in the improvement of literacy and numeracy competencies.

Noting that the country still exhibits persistent disparities within and between counties, in respect of their ability to ensure learning for all. While overall gender inequality in school attendance has declined sharply and, on average, has almost been eliminated for children of lower secondary school age or younger, such inequality, when skewed to wealth and residence, is still prevalent. A child from the richest quintile of households is eight times more likely to complete primary school and twelve times more likely to complete upper secondary level than a child from the poorest quintile.

Concerned that on average, 2 in 5 children from the poorest house holds complete primary school, compared to 4 in 5 from the richest households. At the secondary level, only 6 per cent of the poorest children complete upper secondary school, compared to 46% of the richest. Disaggregated by location, only 12% of children living in rural areas complete upper secondary education, compared to 34% of those living in urban areas.

Further **concerned** that young girls from the poorest communities, children with disabilities and children on the move experience particular difficulties in achieving their right to learning. They face a high risk of being left even further behind, as countries struggle to maintain the resources allocated to education.

Acknowledging that Kenya is making progress on inclusion of children with special needs, the number of registered KCSE special needs education candidates (SNE) went up by 13.8 per cent from 1,888 in 2020 to 2,149 in 2021. The number of physically handicapped candidates increased by 25.3 percent from 711 in 2020 to 891 in 2021, accounting for 41.5



per cent of the total number of special needs candidates. The number of candidates with low vision and hearing impairment increased by 4.6 percent and 8.7 per cent, respectively in 2021. The number of candidates who were blind increased by 25.3 percent from 113 in 2020 to 122 in 2021, while the number of female candidates decreased by 12.5 per cent to 49. Notably, the enrolment in secondary schools rose by 4.9 per cent from 3.5 million in 2020 to 3.7 million in 2021, with enrolment of girls and boys recording growths of 5.7 per cent and 4.1 per cent, respectively. The growth was largely attributed to the implementation of the Government policy of ensuring 100 per cent transition from primary to secondary schools. Cohort analysis shows that learners re-join the education system across all the classes as depicted by the fewer number who join Form One and more learners leaving Form Four.

Trends on SDG 5

Reiterating that SDG5: *gender equality and empower all women and girls*, more than being a stand-alone goal, is one of the most interlinked SDGs, achieving these targets holds the key to the realization of all the Sustainable Development Goals and the realization of leaving no one behind. Without systemic changes, structural inequalities will continue to shape global, regional, national, and sub-national responses, derailing countries from achieving gender equality and sustainable development goals (SDGs). Countries should rethink the current strategies and place more emphasis on economic, climate and gender justice for equitable recovery.

Recognizing that overall, Kenya, has made strides in enhancing gender equality and women's empowerment. Efforts are underway to promote the rule of law at national and sub national levels, the Government has ensured responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision making at all levels.

Concerned that, the country has attempted to increase the participation and representation of women in decision-making structures. However, as evidenced in the recent Economic Survey 2022 report, which revealed that the National Assembly and the Senate failed to achieve the two-thirds gender requirement. In contrast, representation of Members of County Assemblies met the two-thirds gender rule in 2021, despite thirteen counties falling short of the constitutional requirement. Similarly, Judicial officers achieved the two-third gender rule during the review period. **Notably**, during the period under review, the number of women Governors, Deputy Governors and County Secretaries remained unchanged. Cabinet Secretaries, Heads of Constitutional Commissions and Independent Offices, Assistant County Commissioners and CEC members achieved the two-third gender rule in 2021. While participation of women and men in selected decision-making positions in the public service for the period 2020 to 2021. Women Representation for the positions of Deputy County Commissioner, Assistant County Commissioner, Chief and Assistant Chief increased by 27, 210, 37 and 121 women to 52, 627, 436 and 1,714 women, respectively, in 2021.

Acknowledging that Kenya recognizes the importance of building an inclusive society that empowers the marginalized groups (women, children, youth, older people, persons with disabilities and geographical/regional inclusion) to reduce poverty and increase their participation in the economy. Availability of social protection schemes, catalytic funds, gender mainstreaming and affirmative actions are some of the measures that the



Government has put in place to address inequalities in the country. To achieve this the Government has put in place various programmes and measures that include gender mainstreaming, affirmative action, gender responsive budgeting, availing catalytic funds that support vulnerable groups, provision of social protection schemes (social assistance, social security, and social health insurance) among others.

In that regard, *government has committed* to improve investments in economic empowerment and social protection services. *However*, such investments vary from time to time, the National Government expenditure on social services is expected to decrease by 23.2 per cent from KSh 64.3 billion in 2020/21 to KSh 49.4 billion in 2021/22. Loan disbursements by the Women Enterprise Fund and the Uwezo Fund are expected to decrease by 4.6 per cent and 5.4 per cent to KSh 3.1 billion and KSh 0.6 billion, respectively, in 2021/22. Disbursement by the Youth Enterprise Development Fund is expected to increase by 25.7 per cent to KSh 730 million in 2021/22. Grants disbursed by the National Government Affirmative Action Fund are expected to increase by 19.4 per cent to KSh 1.1 billion in 2021/21. The total value of public procurement reserved for youth, women and Persons with Disabilities (PWD) groups is expected to increase by 25.0 per cent from KSh 65.3 billion in 2020/21 to KSh 81.6 billion in 2021/22.

Recognizing efforts on gender, economic and social inclusion, the Economic survey 2022 report shows that the country has made significant progress in fostering financial inclusion over the past decade. The Country is the first in the East Africa region and third in the continent after South Africa and Seychelles in financial inclusion. Access to various financial products and services in 2021 and 2019 included the use of banks which increased due to higher up take of mobile banking. The increase was on account of rapid adoption of financial technology and innovations especially in mobile money and mobile banking. In 2021, the use of digital app loans declined by 6.2 percentage points partly due to increased Government interventions.

Celebrating that Kenya is among the countries that have put in place policy frameworks specific to addressing sexual and reproductive health. Notably, Kenya is also one of the 21 countries in East and Southern Africa who have committed to providing comprehensive sex education and sexual and reproductive health services to adolescents and young people. Kenya experienced a decline in fertility from 5 children per woman in 2003 to 4 children in 2014. This can be attributed to the increase in contraceptive use whose prevalence rose from 39.3 percent of married women in 2003 to 58 percent in 2014. The effect of increased contraceptive use and decline in fertility is the decline in population growth rate from 2.9 percent to 2.2 percent between 2009 and 2019¹.

Recognizing that positive trends have also been witnessed with other population dynamics indicators such as infant and under five mortality rates which have declined substantially over the last two decades. This can partly be attributed to the increase in health service deliveries which improved from 40% to 61% over the same period. Overall, the positive performance of the above population dynamics indicators shows that the implementation of Kenya's Population Policy for National Development is on course and the country is moving

¹ https://kenya.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/state_of_kenya_population_report_2020.pdf



towards the goal of matching the population growth rate to the available resources for sustainable development.

Recognize that the country is recording substantial gains in ending gender-based violence, child gender preferences, elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and harmful practices that negatively impact on girls and women future. To achieve these goals, programming should mainly focus on laws and legislations, drivers of FGM, and SGBV, gender equality, teenage pregnancy child and forces marriages among others². However, new forms of violence targeting women, such as cyber-violence, are also emerging. Sexual and gender-based violence increased during the period of COVID-19 lockdowns, creating a secondary pandemic across the country³.

Noting that progress to achieve these targets is mixed, notably, child protection cases related to Violence Against Children (VAC) declined by 11.2 per cent in the period under review. However, significant rise in cases of child labour (55.4%) and child pregnancy (52.7%) was observed. Notably, national trend in the number of adolescents (age 10 –19) presenting with pregnancy at first antenatal care (ANC) visit for the period 2016 to 2020 reveals a decline nationally by 16.3 per cent to 332,208 in 2020. Majority (94.7%) were those aged 15 – 19 years⁴ in the same period. Cases of FGM rose to 139 in 2020 from 74 in 2019, while gender-based violence in terms of physical abuse recorded 3,884 cases in 2020 from 2,189 in 2019. The proportion ever married for age 15–19 was 4.3 per cent for male and 11.2 per cent for females. The proportion of ever-married males aged 15-19 increased from 2.9 per cent in 2009 to 4.3 per cent in 2019, while that of females declined to 11.2 per cent in 2019 from 18.8 per cent in 2009. The county with the highest proportions of ever married males between ages 15- 19 was Mandera while Tana River had the highest proportions of ever-married females⁵.

However, **noting** that implementation of the Leave No one Behind principle has been inconsistent despite robust legal frameworks being in place. Women in rural areas and women and girls with disabilities, older women, women refugees, internally displaced women, and women migrants⁶ face high economic burdens in gaining access to opportunities in the areas of education, employment, and health care. These access-related challenges are frequently due to remote locations and inaccessible public transport systems coupled with high cost of services⁷.

Recognizing that the country is working towards enhancing the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women. For women and girls, the digital revolution represents one of the biggest

²State of Kenya Population Report, 2020

³ African Union Commission, Taking Stock, Charting the Future: African Union Commission End-of-Term Report 2017–2021 (Addis Ababa, 2021). Available at <https://au.int/en/documents/20210203/african-union-commission-end-term-report-2017-2021>.

⁴ Kenya-National-Bureau-of-Statistics-Economic Survey 2021.pdf

⁵ The 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census (KPHC)

⁶ <https://unsdg.un.org/2030-agenda/universal-values/leave-no-one-behind>.

⁷ <https://unsdg.un.org/2030-agenda/universal-values/leave-no-one-behind>.



opportunities for gender equality. Financial services have increasingly moved into the digital world, they have expanded access for women to mobile money accounts. This has been important because receiving money directly enables women to have much more control over household budgets and increases the likelihood of greater economic empowerment and decision-making for women⁸. The digitalizing of payments from the government to people has a positive effect on increasing account ownership and providing women with independent access to predictable income streams and greater control over how money is used⁹. High technology tools are connecting women to new and wider markets, broadening their social networks, and providing them with information that opens important economic opportunities¹⁰.

Acknowledging that Kenya has made significant progress in this area, according to the economic Survey 2022 report, registering higher up take of mobile banking resulting in increased access to various financial products and services in 2021 and 2019. The increase was on account of rapid adoption of financial technology and innovations especially in mobile money and mobile banking. In 2021, the use of digital app loans declined by 6.2 percentage points partly due to increased Government interventions through affirmative action funds for women, youth, people with disabilities and the elderly persons. Notably, the female population recorded an increase in financial inclusion rates from 80.4 per cent in 2019 to 81.7 per cent in 2021. Notably, other factors such as income disparities, age, and residence were key drivers of increased exclusion rate in 2021.

Recognizing that new technologies are also being leveraged to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in a myriad of ways. These include gathering data to map violence; using data gathered to advocate for change and provide survivors with access to essential information and support; raising awareness of the violence faced by women and girls among their families and communities through entertainment and social media forums; and monitoring and evaluating gender-based violence interventions and their impact¹¹. There is increased use of technology to make referrals for GBV survivors, including offering GBV help lines such as 1195 for the national government, the police 999/112.

Trends on SDG 14:

Concerned that progress towards attaining Sustainable Development Goal 14, namely “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”, also termed “Life below water” is being constrained by the following factors: limited financial resources and related institutional mobilization capacity, continuing cascading risks, and climate change-related threats to the marine sector and communities, especially in small islands and coastal areas; insufficient support for innovations, youth entrepreneurship, production of marine data and marine science.

⁸ [GSMA | Mobile money: A product of choice for women to send and receive remittances | Mobile for Development](#)

⁹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, “Women 2000 and beyond: Gender equality and the empowerment of women through ICT (New York, 2005). Available at [Publications \(un.org\)](#)

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Hayes, Ceri, “Tackling gender-based violence with technology: Case studies of mobile and Internet technology interventions in developing contexts (Hong Kong, STATT, 2014). Available at [Tackling gender-based violence with technology - Case studies of mobile and internet technology interventions in developing contexts | GenderIT.org](#)



Noting that evidence shows variations in the overall progress made by the country by region towards Goal 14. Support to small-scale fishers, including facilitation of access by such fishers to marine resources and markets, remains an area needing development, despite huge gaps in data. Notably, based on available data on the degree of application of a legal or regulatory framework, Kenya has provided protection recognizing and protecting access to rights for small-scale fishers in 2020¹². In that regard, in Kenya, the total value of fish landed increased by 16.0 per cent from KSh 26.2 billion in 2020 to KSh 30.4 billion in 2021. Total value of fish landed from fresh water sources grew from KSh 20.6 billion in 2020 to KSh 23.3 billion in the year under review accounting for 76.8 per cent of the total value of fish landed¹³.

Acknowledging that Kenya demonstrated strong commitments to enhancing conservation and sustainable use of marine and oceanic resources to move towards inclusive and sustainable development pathways. To this end, Kenya is now party, and have signed and/or ratified major legal and regulatory frameworks, such as the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Implementation of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission developed a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (2018-2023) that presents a roadmap for addressing and adapting to climate change impacts is critical. In that regard, the Kenya national and county governments are undertaking the following actions: Development, and conservation of water supply systems and new water infrastructure e.g dams, water pans, boreholes, water tank tower reservoirs, pipeline extensions with requisite water collection points, Rehabilitation and expansion of existing viable water facilities e.g Dunga water intake plant, Solarization of existing water pumps etc.

Concerned that marine pollution, primarily from land-based activities, including marine (plastic) debris and excessive nutrient enrichment (eutrophication), represents a growing concern in need of public attention. Plastic waste, including micro and nano-sized fibres which are picked up by marine species such as seabirds and fish, continue to increase across regions.

Further **Noting** that the proportion of solid waste not collected demonstrates challenges in refuse management. Comparing the status of refuse collection in Nairobi City, Mombasa and Kisumu Counties, the trend reveals challenges in the level of solid waste collection and the extent to which solid waste is being managed. The amount of mismanaged plastics (measured by plastic waste generated per day) are also expected to expand very significantly from 2010 to 2025. To address this challenge, Kenya introduced legislative or tax measures to ban or curb the use of plastics and the generation of plastic waste. Notable such legislative measures include the ban on all single-use plastic bags.

¹² See further details on the SDG Tracker site, available at [Goal 14: Life below Water - SDG Tracker \(sdg-tracker.org\)](https://sdg-tracker.org)

¹³ Economic Survey report 2022



While Kenya is among the 46 least developed countries undertaking the process of formulating and implementing national adaptation plans, cross-border collaboration in the sustainable use of marine resources remains limited.

Trends on SDG 15

Sadly, achieving Sustainable Development Goal 15: *Life on land* is threatened by several factors including: Climate change which potentially presents one of the biggest threats to sustainable development. Patterns of extreme weather and temperatures are continuing to rise and devastating communities at the frontlines. These are leading to water insecurity, sanitation challenges, migration and conflicts, biodiversity losses and damages to assets and properties, pandemics, reduced agricultural yields, displacements, and inequalities mostly towards women and girls, persons with disabilities and minority or indigenous communities (both socially and economically).

Reiterating the urgent need to combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought, and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world. It is worth **noting** that most parts of the country experienced depressed rainfall during the Long Rains (March-April-May) and Short Rains (October-November-December) seasons. Generally, all regions recorded reduced amount of rainfall compared to the previous year. The Western region received the highest rainfall in 2021 at 1,534.5 millimetres while the North-Western part of the country received the least amount of rainfall of 176.5 millimetres. In general, the average maximum temperatures for all the regions increased except for Nairobi and Northeastern region which dropped in 2021. Southeastern region experienced higher increase in maximum temperatures during the review period in 2021 compared to 2020.

It is important to **appreciate** the Kenya national government effort in operationalizing the Climate Change Act, 2016 which counties are indebted to domesticate into law and roll it out for implementation. In the Act the County governments are to mainstream climate change in their respective, County Integrated Development Plans (CIDP) and report on climate actions through the County Assembly to the National Government.

Recognizing the urgent need to promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation, Kenya, has made some progress in restoring the *Environment and Natural Resources*, with the area stocked under government forest plantation increased from 149.6 thousand hectares in 2020 to 151.9 thousand hectares in 2021 due to the continued ban on logging in Government forests, which has been in effect since 2018. The forest area affected by planting failures and fire damages reduced to 0.1 thousand hectares in 2021 compared to 2.3 thousand hectares in 2020.

Noting that efforts to take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products are yielding mixed progress. Kenyan rangelands area home to wide range of wildlife populations, which are a major tourist attraction. In 2021, notable increases were recorded for eland, buffalo, giraffe and Burchell's zebra. *However*, there were higher decreases in the estimated number of waterbucks, kudu, wilderbeast and grant's gazelle. The declines were mainly



attributed to unfavourable climate during the review period. Population of endangered wildlife species such as number of elephants increased from 34.1 thousand in 2020 to 36.3 thousand in 2021 while the number of lions increased by 4.0 per cent to 2.6 thousand in 2021. **Urge government** to take rapid actions, responses, and measures to tackling climate change, to eliminate fossil fuel subsidies, combat deforestation, protect biodiversity and achieve zero carbon emissions. These strategies are vital to our communities, societies and peoples' sustainable development and resilience.

Trends on SDG 17:

Noting that SDG 17 calls upon countries to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development, the world is still far from achieving the 19 targets and 25 indicators related to finance, technology, capacity building, and trade.

Concerned that Covid-19 pandemic revealed obstacles to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 17, some of the glaring issues include: technology access, intellectual property rights and unequal vaccine distribution, capacity of African national statistical offices to produce and disseminate timely data, high debt-to-GDP ratios and fiscal space deficits.

Recognizing that inequalities persist, with regards to financing for development, which is a critical factor. The country was already facing considerable challenges prior to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic; however, it demonstrated the level of inequalities within and among countries, challenges included high debt-to-GDP ratios and fiscal space deficits, the prohibitive costs of borrowing and the depreciating domestic currencies, against the lock down measures, which have had significant adverse impacts on the country's economy and social well-being.

Recognizing that countries committed to mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation. Under the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, a total of 128 countries, 33 of them from Africa, have pledged more than \$20 billion of public and private funds to reverse forest loss by 2030.

Noting that *Official development assistance (ODA)* countries are collectively falling short of their target to dedicate 0.7 per cent of their gross national income to official development assistance (ODA). Although ODA has historically been a relatively resilient means of financing development, and figures for 2020, ODA to Africa rose by 4.1% to \$39 billion, this was meant to somewhat cushioning the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

By contrast, in 2020, all other major external financing flows for developing countries, such as tax revenues, trade, FDI and remittance flows, fell because of the pandemic. In addition, the transfer cost of remittances to sub-Saharan African countries remains excessively high,

at an average of 8%, thus Billions of dollars are lost every year for development because of these high fees¹⁴.

Acknowledging that beyond the catalytic role of ODA and remittances, a much larger portion of financing for development in Africa comes from domestic resource mobilization and savings, making these sources of finance key to efforts by African countries to achieve the goals and aspirations of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063¹⁵.

Sadly, African countries lose \$88.6 billion per year through illicit financial flows, more than twice as much as it receives in the form of ODA, depriving countries of precious domestic financial resources to fund sustainable development¹⁶. **Reiterating** that improving tax collection, formalizing the informal economy, stemming illicit financial flows, and recovering stolen assets will enable the countries to sustainably finance its development priorities.

Recognising commitments to promote *technology and innovation*: Technology has been one of the invaluable opportunities given prominence by the pandemic. It contributed significantly to the shaping of efforts by governments to curb the spread of COVID-19. With the use of innovative tools, such as robots, some African countries have been able to identify COVID-19 cases and to track the evolution of the virus that causes it. Technology and innovative apps are also helping to build social resilience during lockdowns and restrictive measures, to keep the world and families connected during the pandemic.

Acknowledging that Kenya is making progress to enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology. According to the Kenya Economic survey 2022, digital connectivity was accelerated by the COVID-19 crisis as the markets sought alternative means of procuring goods and services. In response to supply disruptions caused by the measures instituted to curb the spread of the pandemic, the sector accelerated innovation which in turn increased the uptake of online services. Consumers and businesses opted for online channels resulting in faster growth of the sector at a time when activities in several sectors remained subdued. In 2021, the uptake of most of the ICTs such as mobile telephony services and broadband returned to a modest growth compared to 2020. The value of output from ICT sector rose by 6.9 per cent from KSh 529.8 billion in 2020 to KSh 566.3 billion in 2021.

Mobile subscriptions increased by 6.0 per cent to 65.1 million in 2021. Total domestic calls increased by 32.8% to 80.0 billion minutes while total international telephone traffic increased by 1.3% to 1.0 billion minutes in 2021. Mobile money subscribers increased by 8.5% to 35.2 million in 2021. The value of mobile commerce, which entails transactions via pay bill and till number platforms, increased from KSh 9.4 billion in 2020 to KSh 15.3 billion in 2021.

During the review period, utilized bandwidth grew by 20.0 per cent to 4.8 million Megabits per second (Mbps). Total fixed and wireless subscriptions increased by 4.5 per cent to 46.4 million in 2021. Fibre to the home broadband subscriptions increased from 340,271 to 410,762, while the Fibre to the office broadband grew by 11.8 per cent to 67,198 in 2021.

¹⁴ Dilip Ratha and others, "Recovery: COVID-19 crisis through a migration lens", Migration and Development Brief 35 (Washington, D.C., KNOMAD-World Bank, November 2021). Available at [Migration and Development Brief 35 | KNOMAD](#)

¹⁵ For a more detailed analysis, please see Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, Policy Brief on ODA, forthcoming

¹⁶ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, World Investment Report 2021 (Geneva, 2021).



Number of mobile money transfer agents and transactions recorded a steady growth in the last five years. The number of mobile money subscribers increased by 8.5 per cent to 35.2 million in 2021 compared to an increase of 12.0 per cent recorded in 2020. In addition, the total amount of mobile money transfers grew by 31.7 per cent, to stand at KSh 6.9 trillion in 2021. The value of mobile commerce transactions grew by 63.2 per cent to KSh 15.3 trillion in the same period.

Nonetheless, the country is yet to fully capture the benefits of digital technologies to power innovations, business development, public service delivery and communities¹⁷.

Technology & Research: North-South and South-South research partnerships have continued to grow, technology collaboration remains weak, as highlighted by the significant debate over intellectual property rights and unequal vaccine distribution. Intellectual property rights are playing a critical role in the development of the pharmaceutical sector and local vaccine production in Africa.

In 2021, the Kenyan government embarked on mass vaccination against Coronavirus 2019 (COVID -19) with priority being given to vulnerable groups such as frontline workers, older persons, and persons with underlying conditions. COVID-19 containment measures continued for the better part of 2021. The country continued to make progress towards achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) through implementing various critical reforms in the healthcare system. More Kenyans were put on social insurance, with institutions within the health sector being strengthened to increase their efficiency towards UHC.

Noting that *Data, monitoring, and accountability are imperative to the realization of SDGS:*

On *Policy and institutional coherence:* most countries still face challenges in reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063, due to their weak statistical capacity and data governance framework. A range of initiatives are being deployed to overcome this challenge; principal among these are the integrated planning and reporting toolkit, designed to adopt both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 as part of countries' national development plans in an integrated way and simultaneously to report on progress under both agendas.

Acknowledging that progressively, countries are producing more and more reliable data, to enable accurate formulation and reporting for public policy. Although the pandemic heavily affected data collection and statistical operations during 2020, with the reallocation of funding to health sector priorities, however, as of June 2021, data availability for countries on the continent ranged between 107 and 184 indicators in 2021, compared to between 103 and 177 in 2020.

In that regard, KNBS conducted the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census (KPHC), whose theme was "Counting Our People for Sustainable Development and Devolution of Services" was conducted in August 2019, with the 24th/25th being the reference night. The main objective of the 2019 KPHC was to collect information on the size, composition, distribution, and socio-economic characteristics of the population. In-depth analysis of the census data was undertaken to provide more information on various aspects of the

¹⁷ 6 Toby Shapshak, "Mobile money in Africa reaches nearly \$500bn during pandemic", Forbes article, 19 May 2021. Available at [Mobile Money In Africa Reaches Nearly \\$500bn During Pandemic \(forbes.com\)](https://www.forbes.com/sites/tobyshapshak/2021/05/19/mobile-money-in-africa-reaches-nearly-500bn-during-pandemic/)



population with highlights of the three principal determinants of population change, that is, fertility, mortality, and migration and on older persons.

Acknowledging The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) in consultation with relevant stakeholders developed and launched in May 2022 a Quality Criteria for Validating Citizen Generated Data (CGD) which is part of the Kenya Statistical Quality Assurance Framework (KeSQUAF). The criteria will be used in assessing the quality of CGD as “fit for use” for official reporting, especially on SDGs which is an emerging issue globally, and Kenya is among the pioneers in Africa

In conclusion, The Decade of Action calls for accelerating sustainable solutions to all the world’s biggest challenges therefore, all SDGs can only be realized with strong global, regional, national and sub national partnerships and cooperation. Successful partnerships must be inclusive at all levels, they must be hinged upon common principles and values of placing people and the planet at the centre of development.

To build forward better, Goal 17 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which aims to strengthen partnerships for the realization of all other Goals, must be pursued with the same decisiveness, solidarity, urgency, and commitment as the fight against COVID-19. Focusing should be on key means of implementation, including finance for development, capacity-building, peer learning, knowledge-sharing, trade facilitation, effective public-private partnerships, and access to technologies, will be imperative for the attainment of such a recovery.

We therefore submit the following as our recommended priority actions and key messages for adoption towards the achievement of all aspirations espoused in the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development in Kenya.

Key Messages, Priority Actions, and recommendations

Key messages for Sustainable Development Goal 4

- government should improve initial teacher education programmes and implement more effective and equitable recruitment and allocation policies, the formation of these new cohorts of qualified and highly motivated teachers would significantly revitalize the teaching workforce.
- Introduce changes to the education financing status quo: teacher salaries already represent a significant share of recurrent education budgets in most countries. Hence, the ongoing expansion of the education workforce requires broader conversations about the financing priorities of both governments and development partners.
- As witnessed during the COVID-19 pandemic, sudden school closures mean that teachers must re-define their roles, learn to use technology to communicate and teach, and prepare for the challenges that they will face.



- Improve participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training, especially for youth population without TVET skills, especially for those who do not join universities or choose not to join them, with increased support structures across communities.
- Increase TVET investments and expand the Kenya Youth Empowerment Opportunity Program that provides relevant skills, internships, and business ideas to unskilled youths below 29 years. Through private-public partnerships with the government to scale up the 1year internship program where interns acquire relevant work readiness skills with certification at the end of the placement.

Key messages on Sustainable Development Goal 5:

- Implement commitments to end the Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) by strengthening coordination in legislation and policy framework, communication and advocacy, evidence generation, and support cross border collaboration on elimination of form by 2022; Elimination of all forms of gender- based violence, including child and forced marriages as well as Ending gender and other forms of discrimination by 2030.
- Recognize and value that women and girls are providing millions of hours of unpaid care and domestic work that remain under-recognized, undervalued, and underinvested in. Women and girls living in poverty and those who are marginalized, with limited access to public services, social protection, and technology, shoulder the heaviest responsibility for unpaid care and domestic work. This unequal and often arduous care workloads rob women and girls time and limits their access to opportunities¹⁸.
- Many households depend heavily on women as health-care givers. Where health sector funding is inadequate and the quality of care is low, it is women who fill the gaps. During almost all disease outbreaks, women voluntarily provide most care to sick family members in their home often at great personal risk and cost. In addition, there is also evidence that women and girls are at greater risk of sexual violence while engaging in domestic tasks outside the home such as collecting fuel and water.
- Violent conflict, which results in displacement and dispossession, often increases the unpaid care and domestic work responsibilities of women and girls¹⁹.
- There is political will, and the country is making progress, the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics is pioneering to carry out the country's first time use survey, with the help of UN Women's Women Count program and other partners.
- Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance, and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

¹⁸ Oxfam, "Unlocking sustainable development in Africa by addressing unpaid care and domestic work (2020). Available at [Unlocking Sustainable Development in Africa by Addressing Unpaid Care and Domestic Work - Oxfam Policy & Practice](#)

¹⁹ Ibid.





Key Messages for Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Under water

Key Messages for Development Goal 14: Life Under water

- Goal 14 intersects to a varying **Sustainable** extent with numerous other Sustainable Development Goals, owing to strong interdependencies between climate, life on land, oceans, and economic development pathways. Oceans play an essential role in those interactions, for example, oceans occupy more than 70 per cent of the Earth's surface and sustain more than 80 per cent of global value-added trade; they are therefore able to influence most economic sectors. Oceans produce more than 25 per cent of the world's oxygen, sink 25 per cent of global carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels and 90 per cent of the Earth's excess thermal energy, thus influencing most forms of life on land and below water.
- Mitigation through increased investment in human interventions to curb atmospheric greenhouse-gas emissions from their sources and to boost the natural and other greenhouse-gas sinks will improve the health of the oceans, lakes, rivers and other water bodies, enabling them to recover and sustain some of their functions, including regulating global warming, moderating the effects of climate change and providing countless services to communities.
- Biological and ecological adaptation, and increased coastal or blue carbon stocks, will help to reduce further emissions of greenhouse gases, and enable water ecosystems to deliver more services, including those related to ecotourism, fisheries, coastal communities and water and power utilities.
- Increased efforts to accelerate progress in climate mitigation and adaptation (in line with Goal 13), including using nature-based solutions and natural climate solutions, will support national coastal conservation and adaptation plans and actions. This will boost progress towards target 14.5 (Conserve coastal marine areas) and help to sustain the livelihood of coastal communities in terms of access to food (target 2.1).
- Progress made against Goal 14 may therefore have many synergistic effects, facilitating both the realization of several aspirations of Agenda 2063 and priority areas of national development plans. That progress will build a vibrant blue economy and improve inclusive growth, by promoting trade and unleashing the potential of the country's maritime industry, worth some \$1 trillion²⁰ annually.
- Sustainable use of marine resources and their harnessing for socioeconomic benefits), remains an area needing more support and development in many small island developing States and coastal least developed countries. Progress must be accelerated by small island developing States towards implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and by least developed countries towards implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, with the provision of larger amounts of financial assistance for them to move forward in pursuit of their Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 14.
- Some signs of progress notwithstanding, significant technical and financial support is needed to improve the enforcement of laws and regulations and to scale up the existing plans and actions, using advanced infrastructure and methods to monitor the movement of plastic waste through communities, capturing micro and nano-sized

²⁰ See the remarks by the Secretary-General at the Blue Economy event in Addis Ababa on 8 February 2020, available at www.un.org/press/en/2020/sgsm19965.doc.htm.



fibres and leveraging new technologies and business models covering the plastics value chain.

Key messages under Sustainable Development Goal 15: Life on land,

- In view of the looming deadline of 2030 for attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, efforts are urgently needed and must be scaled up. The finance gaps must be plugged through increased government and private sector investments and innovative financing solutions are required.
- Investments for nature must be integral priorities of COVID-19 recovery strategies and financing plans. Evidence now abounds indicating that targeted green investments can create the largest multiplier effects, such as an increase in gross value added, more new jobs and a better recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, than would be possible with traditional, fossil fuel-based investments.
- Data collection must be strengthened, and the value of land, forests and land resources properly recognized to build awareness and focus policy attention and action on the sustainable management of these resources. Land governance reforms and integrated approaches are needed, particularly in response to the call to leave no one behind and to realize the goals in an integrated manner.
- The Nairobi Declaration adopted at the seventh High-Level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction in November 2021 provides a tangible framework for reducing disaster risk and building resilience through biodiversity conservation, combating desertification, nature-based solutions, sustainable land, and biodiversity management. Governments, the private sector and their partners need to ensure full implementation of this Declaration to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 15 and the goals of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- The African Continental Free Trade Area will provide opportunities to develop green regional value chains. In so doing, the Area will promote the sustainable exploitation of forests and biodiversity and the development of ecosystem-friendly agriculture and industrial development in the region.
- It is vital that countries strengthen their capacity to collect, manage and disseminate data and information on environment-related sectors as an integral priority of national statistics systems. This is crucial to addressing the limited availability of quality data, statistics and information at various levels on many indicators associated specifically with land, forests and biodiversity and, in general, environmental degradation risks.
- Including forest, biodiversity, and other land resources, is crucial for the attainment of most of the Sustainable Development Goals and for fostering a transformation towards a green, inclusive, and resilient Africa.
- The linkages between Goal 15 and the other Sustainable Development Goals, including those for consideration by the high-level political forum at its 2022 meeting, is amply captured in the following statement by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF): “There cannot be a healthy, happy and prosperous future for people on a planet with a destabilised climate, depleted oceans and rivers , degraded land and empty forests, all stripped of biodiversity, the web of life that sustains us all”²¹.

²¹ World Wide Fund for Nature, Living Planet Report – 2018: Aiming Higher (Gland, Switzerland, 2018).



- Socioeconomic development should not be carried out at the expense of the environment, since land, forests and biodiversity resources are essential for the attainment of all the development goals. They underpin economic growth, job creation, response to climate change and recovery and resilience building.
- Ensuring secure access to land and other ecosystem resources by women, indigenous peoples, local communities and other marginalized groups is central to the protection and restoration of forests, biodiversity and other land resources. this will address shortcomings of land resource tenure regimes: Most women neither own nor have control over land resources. Globally, fewer than 20 per cent of land holders are women and only 13 per cent of the land users who make the major decisions on agricultural land are women²².
- Financing remains a serious constraint to the implementation of relevant policies and plans and countries and partners needed to honour their pledges towards climate action and the sustainable management of natural resources. Insecurity and conflicts are also driving the degradation of forest resources.
- There is need for system-wide approaches and a strengthened focus on agriculture and green value chains development, to generate green jobs particularly, for youth and women. Attention should be drawn to the opportunities provided by post-2020 biodiversity framework for progress towards sustainable forest, land, and biodiversity management and to the business opportunities linked to such management, which needed to be identified and harnessed.

Key messages for Sustainable Development Goal17: partnerships for sustainable development:

- Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 requires inclusive partnerships at global, regional, and national levels to mobilise the resources required to ensure progress.
- Financial flows of official development assistance to developing countries have not resulted in significant development outcomes for beneficiaries, therefore there is need for extended partnerships and a stronger sense of ownership of its development agenda. To that end, African Governments need to cultivate an environment conducive to fostering more effective partnerships.
- In Kenya, rising public debt, the impacts of Covid-19 and competition expenditure needs means that the national and county governments must nurture partnerships with private sectors, development partners and civil society to ensure adequate access to resource for the implementation of the SDGs.
- The current pandemic is a wake-up call for practical actions to revitalize international cooperation, fostering transnational partnerships and establishing capable global, regional and national institutions dealing with universal risks in a sustainable manner.

²² 1 See the submission by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to the 2020 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, available at [25971ECOSOC_2020_HLPF_UNCCD.pdf](https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2020-09/25971ECOSOC_2020_HLPF_UNCCD.pdf)



- Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed.
- *Trade imbalance*: African commodity-dependent economies are more vulnerable to macroeconomic instabilities due to commodity price volatility, in addition to the economic and social challenges posed by the pandemic. Transport costs could increase global import prices by 11 per cent and consumer prices by 1.52 per cent over the period 2022–2023²³. Least developed countries and small island developing States are particularly dependent on trade flows in intermediate and consumption goods. The operationalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area can help those countries to reduce their dependence on global commodity markets and vulnerability to exogenous shocks.
- *Implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area agreement*: intra-African trade is the solution. According to ECA and the Centre for International Research and Economic Modelling²⁴, the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area is expected to have a positive impact on the continent's overall GDP, trade, output and welfare. With this agreement, intra-African trade in 2045²⁵ is projected to rise by 35 per cent, boosting competitiveness to support further industrialization and economic transformation. Implementation of the agreement could support the diversification of African production and trade partners, while reducing the vulnerability to external shocks. Furthermore, the share of intra-African trade will increase from 15 to more than 26 per cent with the operationalization of the Area. The African Continental Free Trade Area will strengthen the continent's productive capacities, in industry, by improving access to new technologies, encouraging innovation and fostering development of the services sector.
- *Strengthening advanced research & technology*: The current desire to collaborate presents a rare opportunity for local firms, institutions and governments to seek technology partnerships and investment to improve the research, production and manufacturing of vaccines and other medical supplies, including medical devices and yet, only a handful of countries have concluded such agreements on the continent.
- *Implement the first generation of Gender Statistics Sector Plan (GSSP) 2019-2023*, was launched in December 2020 which is part of the Kenya Strategy for the Development of Statistics (KSDS). The KSDS forms a robust, comprehensive and coherent framework that is meant to strengthen statistical capacity across the entire National Statistical System (NSS). The GSSP on the other hand, is a basis for strengthening statistical capacity in the gender statistics sector in Kenya.
- ***Implementing of a roadmap to operationalize citizen generated data***: Includes sensitization workshops for civil society organisations, Capacity building for data

²³ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, "High freight rates cast a shadow over economic recovery", 18 November 2021, Geneva. Available at [High freight rates cast a shadow over economic recovery | UNCTAD](https://unctad.org/en/press/20211118-high-freight-rates-cast-a-shadow-over-economic-recovery.aspx)

²⁴ Assessment based on computable general equilibrium modelling. For further details, see https://uneca.org/sites/default/files/keymessageanddocuments/en_afcfta-infographics-11.pdf

²⁵ While the African Continental Free Trade Area reforms are expected to be fully implemented by 2035, results are presented as for 2045, to leave sufficient time for the dynamic adjustment of all the variables in the model.



production and use and further provision of a mechanism for CSOs to partner through a financing model to carry out surveys on certain data needs to fill the existing data gaps

- *Budget tracking and analysis* to assess the level of actual expenditures against set allocations and to determine if resource allocation is adequate to facilitate implementation of SDGs. Increase *Financing for gender*: overall, financing for gender equality remains inadequate, with budgetary allocations not being commensurate with the demands of the mandate to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. There is also a huge financing gap for nature-related efforts, including the protection and restoration of biodiversity, forest and land.

Conclusion

Promoting efforts to reform the international financial architecture to facilitate access to scaled-up and sustainable finance for an inclusive delivery of sustainable development, through a new approach – the Global Public Investment (GPI). The GPI approach calls for a radical shift in how global public concessional finance is done, aiming to create a system in which all contribute, all decide and all benefit. GPI comes against a backdrop of an increasingly interconnected world – where our biggest challenges go beyond national borders – and a global system that is struggling to finance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). GPI is a paradigm shift from the current aid structure. First, in terms of ambition, it is a shift from the narrow focus of poverty reduction to meeting wider inequality and sustainability challenges. Second, in terms of function, it is a shift to a permanent effort to finance global challenges – no longer seeing international finance as a last resort that comes in quickly to respond to a crisis and disappears again until the next crisis. Third, it is a shift away from outdated post-colonial institutions to a modern, dignified and accountable decision-making structure. Fourth, it is a shift from the outdated notion of concessional financing only as a transfer from North to South, to a universal effort with all paying in and all benefiting. GPI is a shift in narrative from the patronising language of ‘foreign aid’ to empowering cooperation as a common endeavour, the responsibility of all, not just the rich few. In line with SDG 17, GPI's fundamental principles are “all contribute, all decide, all benefit”.



Signed by

SDG Kenya Forum

Polycom Development Project

Akili Dada

Resource Conflict Institute

Action AID

Women's Empowerment Link
(WEL)

Healthwise Foundation

Usawa Agenda

Art Affair for Development Goals

Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)

Centre for Rights Education and Awareness
(CREAW-Kenya)

Africa Wildlife Foundation (AWF)

Development Initiatives (DI)

Kenya Land Alliance (KLA)

Box Girls Kenya

Grassroots Organisation
Operating Together in Sisterhood
(GROOTS- Kenya)

The African Women's Development and Communication
Network (FEMNET)

Kenyatta University

Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA- Kenya)



SECRETARIAT

SDG Kenya Forum, Shelter Afrique Building 4th Floor, Mamlaka Road
P.O. Box 102802-00101, Nairobi, Kenya |
Twitter: @SDGsKenyaForum | Facebook: @sdgkenyaforum
LinkedIn: SDGs Kenya Forum | Instagram: sdgkenyaforum
Email: info@sdgkenyaforum.org
Website: www.sdgkenyaforum.org

