

A report on SDGs County Dialogue held in Kisumu (Jumuia Resort) on 7th November 2019.

1. Background

The community dialogues provide strong, coordinated, and accountable forums that included voices of marginalized communities including women, youths, the poor in slums, persons with disabilities, and the elderly to be an integral component in monitoring and implementation of the SDGs. This fosters increased social accountability of key stakeholders to trigger responsive action for a more inclusive and equitable society thus enhancing the realization of SDGs.

Inclusion and community engagement of marginalized group is critical in SDG discussions. The dialogues are an intriguing process that help magnify the marginalized voices in the implementation of SDGs. They help identify critical gaps in government service delivery including mismatch of citizen priorities, plans, and actions in the design of service delivery interventions.

The community dialogues seek to reverse the exclusion and marginalization of the vulnerable in Kenya. The level of marginalization has been perpetuated by cultural biases, historical injustice, political partiality, poor value system, and lack of inclusive legislative frameworks. It gives voice and agency to marginalized groups and communities within SDG implementation and monitoring processes. Public Participation is considered a crucial entry point to devolution - as per the Kenyan Constitution of 2010 and the County Government Act of 2012. Public Participation [promotes democracy](#) and inclusivity by providing the public with the opportunity to take part in decision-making processes at the county level. Participation of marginalized group in Kenya is especially important in [the budget process](#) and in other the legislative process.

2. Kisumu Dialogue

The Kisumu SDGs County Dialogue (see [programme](#)) was focused on issues relating to public participation of marginalized groups in Kenya. The objectives of the community dialogues (as with other dialogues) were:

1. To create awareness and share information with Communities about the SDGs especially how they apply to their daily lives;
2. To create awareness in the communities about their roles as citizens in the implementation of the SDGs at the local level; including the importance of public participation
3. To initiate self-motivated planning for community actions for accelerated achievement of implementation of the SDGs at the local level.

Working in close collaboration with Kenya Female Advisory Organization (KEFEADO is a Kisumu-based Civil Society Organization) we drew in (see [full list](#)) 57 Women (~80%) and 14 men (~20%) drawn from:

1. Community-Based Organizations
2. Community Health Workers and Social workers
3. Social justice advocacy groups
4. Gender equality advocacy groups
5. Environmental groups
6. Youth Groups
7. Women Groups
8. Persons with Disability (PWDs)
9. County government officials (Department of Finance and Economic Planning)

3. Structure of the Dialogue

In order to understand the SDGs better, Florence Syevuo (Country Coordinator, SDG Kenya Forum) provided a historical overview - from the era of the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) and building up to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Each of the 17 goals (and some of the key targets) were then presented to the participants and contextualized in lay understanding.

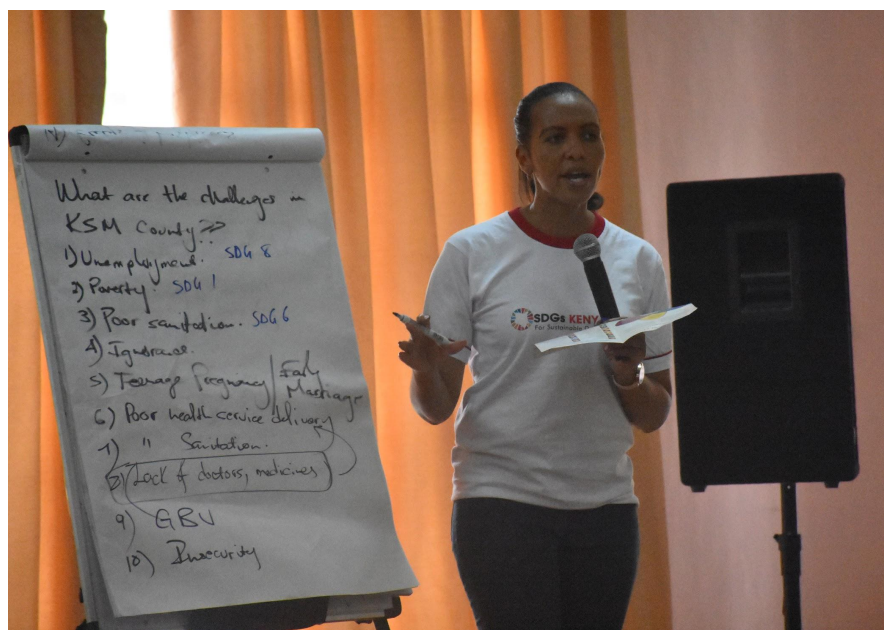


Image: Florence Syevuo leading participants through a session to identify challenges in Kisumu County.

The next phase involved identifying challenges in Kisumu county. This was done so that these challenges can be contextualized to the SDGs before the participants provide probable solutions. Not all of the challenges ought to be solved by county governments, there were indeed many cases where citizens do have solutions to some of the problems

identified in the 2030 agenda. Below is a summary of the challenges and opportunities discussed in Kisumu County by participants.

Challenges	Opportunities
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unemployment, 2. Poverty, 3. Poor sanitation 4. Ignorance; lack of information 5. Teenage pregnancies and early marriage 6. Poor health service delivery - including few doctors and lack of medicines 7. Gender-based violence 8. Insecurity 9. Poor infrastructure - manifesting as limited housing and mushrooming of slums 10. Limited accessibility to government facilities by persons living with disability 11. Corruption; nepotism and negative ethnicity 12. Miscommunication by some CSOs 13. Discrimination, for example, against commercial sex workers 14. Demolitions; people are moved forcefully without alternatives 15. Presence of street children and street families 16. Drug abuse 17. PWDs feel leaders are imposed upon them 18. Limited consultation on public spending and public projects 19. Limited representation of women in Public Participation 20. Poor leadership 21. Unfair taxation 22. Disregard for the law - especially by revenue collection officers against persons with disability - who they accuse of pretending when they indicate they are tax exempt. 23. There is a challenge with the practice of fish for sex around the lake. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Freshwater lake 2. There are enabling laws and policies eg. the Public Participation Act, the Disability act, etc. 3. Universal Health Care (UHC) 4. Tourism, therefore, employment 5. International airport 6. The Port is being revived. 7. Kisumu is peaceful 8. Have talent and the best 9. There is improved infrastructure even if it needs 10. It's a clean count (# 2 in the entire county) 11. Brewery in Kisumu has been revived 12. There are factories: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Kibos (sugar) b. Awasi (cement)

The participants subsequently aligned each of the challenges/opportunities to the SDGs so as to internalize and get a deeper understanding of what the Global Goals really are.

Kisumu County Government - represented by the Chief Officer - Department of Finance and Economic Planning - also made a detailed presentation on the SDG county processes in Kisumu county. Kisumu County Government has established a Service Delivery Unit (SDU) charged with the overall management and coordination of the implementation, monitoring, and reporting of the SDGs process. There is an SDG Project Implementation Unit headed by the SDG Champion who coordinates all Sector Working Groups (SWGs) in liaison with Finance and Economic Planning Department. The SDG Champion also reports to the Council of Governors (COG).

Some of the key stakeholders the SDU is working with include:

1. County Government departments (SWGs)
2. The academia (involvement through KLIP)
3. National Government departments and agencies e.g (NCPD, KNBS)
4. Private sector SDGs Forum being planned at the county level to bring together key stakeholders such KEPSA, KNCCI, KAM so as to have a coordinated mechanism for the private sector.
5. CSOs are critical stakeholders in SDGs. SDU is encouraging CSOs on the formation of an SDGs Kenya Forum type of coalition at the county to hasten engagement.
6. Youth, Women, and PWDs; the SDU is proposing the formation of youth, women and PWD caucus.

In terms of progress, Kisumu County has managed to integrate SDGs into the county government frameworks as follows:

1. The implementation of Vision 2030 is done through 5-year MTPS and CIDPs.
2. Kisumu County has mainstreamed SDGs into the 2nd Generation CIDP (CIDPII) to ensure mainstreaming of SDGs in county government programs.
3. Tracking progress towards the achievement of policies, projects and programs outlined in the CIDP II will be undertaken through County Integrated Monitoring & Evaluation System (CIMES).
4. For effective monitoring of the SDGs, the CIMES will be aligned with SDGs. To this effect, the County has prepared a draft CIDP II Indicator Handbook that covers relevant SDGs indicators.

Lastly, it is noteworthy that during the event, the SDG Kenya Forum twitter feed remained vibrant with various conversations.



Way Forward.

As part of the way forward, each table (there were 8 of them) made commitments.

CSO Level	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is a commitment to follow up with the county government to ensure Migosi hospital is adequately staffed with health workers. 2. There was also a commitment to carry the learnings on the SDGs to the community level especially:.. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. On issues of climate change and encouraging afforestation; reducing soil erosion and planting cover crops b.
Community Level	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commercial Sex workers would form an economic self-help

Commitments	<p>group that can help them raise some little finance to engage in other activities besides sex work.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. That they would be instrumental in ensuring that community-owned structures engage the county government constructively on issues of development.
Individual Commitments.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There were commitments to attend public participation meetings and ensure that there is more engagement with the budgeting process of the county. 2. Commitment to being an SDG champion - and also be sensitive in representing those who are minorities; without a voice during public meetings.
County Level	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the policies currently in place supporting the attainment of SDGs (as outlined in this report) will be actualized. 2. Strengthen public participation processes including promoting access to information.



Image: Participants' group photo at the Kisumu SDG County Dialogue