



SDGs KENYA FORUM
Coalition for Sustainable Development



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NEWSLETTER

Spotlight on Leave No One Behind Partnership - Kenya Coalition



“Amplifying the voices of marginalized groups in SDGs implementation in Kenya project 2023-2024”



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As we conclude the third quarter of 2024, the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) Kenya Coalition remains committed to its mission of amplifying the voices of marginalized communities across the country. Our work focused on advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by ensuring inclusivity, equity, and meaningful participation of vulnerable groups in decision-making processes. Our efforts have been directed at addressing the exclusion faced by women, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and marginalized communities in Siaya, Makueni, and Taita Taveta counties.

During the period of 2023-2024, the coalition prioritized capacity-building initiatives, community-led dialogues, and the collection of citizen-generated data (CGD) to empower local voices and drive evidence-based policy reform. These efforts are aligned with our overarching goal of creating a sustainable

development pathway that ensures no one is left behind in the implementation of the SDGs. The coalition has made significant strides in addressing data gaps through our Disability Data Management Training workshop. It has also empowered local organizations to continue collecting and utilizing data in ways that support advocacy efforts, resource allocation, and the development of more inclusive policies.

Moving forward, the Leave No One Behind Kenya Coalition is determined to build on these successes. The lessons learned particularly the importance of community-driven data and multi-stakeholder collaboration—will guide our efforts to create lasting, impactful change for those most at risk of being left behind.

Florence Syevuo

1.0 Background

In a world marked by interconnectedness and shared aspirations for progress, the pursuit of sustainable development has become paramount. The global call to action is clear; the benefits of progress must be accessible to all citizens, regardless of their background, circumstances, or identity. However, exclusion and marginalization of vulnerable groups remain persistent challenges contributing to widening inequalities across various domains, including gender, education, health, and employment. The groups most at risk of being left behind include youth, the elderly, women, and persons with disabilities (PWDs). Evidence shows that many marginalized communities remain invisible in official statistics, as most governments lack the capacity to collect the highly granular data needed to analyze the specific situations of these groups and identify the drivers of their exclusion.

To address these challenges, the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) Partnership, hosted by the International Civil Society Centre (ICSC), was launched in 2017. In 2018, the Partnership established national civil society coalitions in five pilot countries; Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Nepal, and Vietnam, and expanded to Malawi and Denmark in 2021. Today, the Partnership collaborates closely with approximately one hundred international and national Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), think tanks, civic networks, and platforms to deliver scalable solutions for closing data gaps on marginalized groups in development monitoring through the generation and use of community-driven data.

The Partnership aims to;

- Bring about a scalable solution for filling data gaps on marginalized groups in development monitoring.
- Enable local civil society and marginalized groups to participate in policy dialogues with authorities at the local and national level, amplifying community voices in the public discourse and thereby helping to bring about more inclusive policies and services.

The Partnership applies a “local to global” approach, meaning that its national and local partners are the main drivers and implementers of the joint work. Their engagement with communities and local authorities, and their locally applied methodologies and learnings form the basis for the Partnership’s global agenda and overall approach.

1.1 Leave No One Behind (LNOB) Kenya Coalition

The LNOB Kenya Coalition was founded in 2018. Some of the members include; VSO Kenya, United Disabled Persons of Kenya (UDPK), Christoffel-Blindenmission Christian Blind Mission (CBM), Plan International, Development Initiatives (DI), Islamic Relief, SDGs Kenya Forum, ADRA Kenya, ActionAid Kenya, Humanity and Inclusion, Caritas Kenya, HelpAge, Transparency International, Citizen Network for Rural Development, Ahadi Achievers Empowerment CBO, Ogiek People’s Development Program, Sight Savers, Ageing Concern, Champions for SDGs Youth, Indigenous Livelihoods Enhancement Partners (ILEPA) and Indigenous People Network (IPN).

In Kenya, a country rich in cultural diversity and vibrant potential, the need for inclusivity and equity has never been more pressing. Since 2018, the Kenya Coalition has been implementing several “Leave No One Behind” (LNOB) initiatives aimed at amplifying the voices of marginalized groups—including women, youth, slum dwellers, the elderly, and persons with disabilities—in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across Embu, Siaya, Makueni, and Taita Taveta counties. These initiatives focused on identifying the drivers and levels of marginalization among vulnerable populations while also building their capacity and understanding of the SDG processes. As a result, there has been a marked increase in social accountability among decision-makers,

leading to more responsive actions and a more inclusive and equitable approach to planning for SDG implementation. These efforts have successfully integrated the voices and perspectives of citizens into the Voluntary National Reporting (VNR), ensuring that no one is left behind in Kenya's journey toward sustainable development.



1.2 Amplifying the Voices of Marginalized Groups in SDGs Implementation in Kenya

In our collective pursuit of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, no one must be left behind. However, for marginalized groups—those often excluded from decision-making processes—there remains a significant gap in representation and participation. Our latest project, *Amplifying the Voices of Marginalized Groups in SDGs Implementation (2023-2024)*, spearheaded by the SDG Kenya Forum with support from the Kenya Coalition Members, aimed to bridge this gap, ensuring that these groups

and communities are not only heard but are central to the SDG implementation strategies. It emerged as a beacon of hope, a transformative initiative that sought to address the stark disparities around data that persist within Kenyan society. At its heart lay a profound commitment to upholding the principles of human dignity, social justice, and shared prosperity. The project embodied Kenya's resolute determination to honor the pledge made to its people – a pledge to ensure that no individual, no community, is marginalized or excluded from the march towards a brighter future. The project focused on women, youth, older persons, and Persons with Disabilities in Siaya, Makueni, and Taita Taveta Counties and was conducted from July 2023 to July 2024.



1.3 Project Objectives

- i. Build capacity of citizens, marginalized groups, and grassroots organizations on SDGs, community-generated data approaches.
- ii. Improve marginalized groups' access to services and enjoyment of rights - ensuring their voices are heard and counted.
- iii. Promote participation in public discourse and political forums.

1.4 Planned Outcomes

- i. Marginalized groups incorporated in official national and local SDGs dialogues / review forums.
- ii. Use CGD to adjust local and national policies, programmes, and budgets in planning for the marginalized groups –local & national government.

1.5 Desired Impact

- i. Country SDGs priorities are inclusive of the voices of those at risk of being left behind.

1.6 SDGs/ Targets

The project contributed towards SDG 1: No Poverty; Target 1.4: Access to basic and economic resources; Goal 5: Gender Equality; Target 5.A: Access to and control over resources; Target 5.5: Equal participation and opportunities for leadership; Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities; Target 10.3: Equal opportunity and inequalities of outcome; Target 10.4: Adoption of policies to achieve equality; and Goal 16: Peace, Justice and strong institutions; Target 16.5: Reduce Corruption and Bribery; Target 16.10: Access to information; Target 16.7: Public participation

1.7 Project Achievements

The current project succeeded in implementing several activities including; one (1) National Dialogue and three (3) Community Dialogues, development of factsheet/datasheet on land and corruption, three (3) capacity building workshops on social accountability & community led monitoring and data, Engagement in the 2024 Kenya VNR process, Training on Disability Data Management Systems, Youth X Space Dialogue on Meaningful Youth Engagement in Decision Making Processes, Makueni Youth Empowerment Dialogue and participation in a regional peer to peer learning platform.

1.7.1 National and Community Dialogues

The project conducted one National Dialogue and three Community Dialogues in Taita Taveta, Makueni, and Siaya, with a total of 540 participants. The participants included marginalized groups (the elderly, youth, women, and persons with disabilities), local organizations, and government officials. The breakdown of participants was as follows: National Dialogue (44 Female/38 Male); Taita Taveta (63 Female/56 Male); Makueni (64

Female/72 Male); and Siaya (98 Female/105 Male). The main objectives of the dialogues were to: i. Create a platform for the free exchange of information, experiences, and ideas among key stakeholders on SDGs. ii. Deepen the understanding and participation of citizens, marginalized groups, and grassroots organizations in SDG implementation and fundamental human rights issues. iii. Amplify the voices of vulnerable groups in SDG implementation and promote their participation in public discourse and political forums.

The outcomes of the dialogues included: i. Increased awareness and understanding of the SDG processes, including their relevance and how they can be achieved locally. ii. Identification of local priorities and issues, including challenges and opportunities related to the SDGs within the community. iii. Empowerment of marginalized groups, giving them the confidence and knowledge to engage with local authorities. iv. Enhanced collaborations and partnerships among various stakeholders, including local government, non-governmental organizations, businesses, and community members, fostering partnerships that leverage diverse resources and expertise. The detailed reports with key results and recommendations of the dialogues (National [[National Dialogue on SDGs Report.pdf](#)] and Community Dialogues [Siaya County: [Siaya Community Dialogue Report](#); Makueni County: [Makueni Community Dialogue and Tree planting Report TM.BR](#) and Taita Taveta County: [Taita Taveta Community Dialogue Report](#).]

1.7.2 Disability Data Management Systems Training Workshop

The project continued to build and strengthen the 'Leave No One Behind' principle to ensure that disability data utilization and dissemination are conducted in a way that promotes social inclusion and avoids discrimination. A total of 37 participants (18 male, 19 female) from CSOs, Organizations for Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), and grassroots organizations

working with persons with disabilities were trained on disability data management systems and processes. The participants were drawn from disability organizations across Nairobi, Kakamega, Siaya, Makueni, and Taita Taveta counties. The objectives of the training were to: i. Equip CSOs, OPDs, and grassroots organizations with practical skills in data collection, management, visualization, and utilization. ii. Encourage peer-to-peer learning, data sharing, and collaboration among organizations to enhance the quality and equity of disability data. iii. Identify challenges, best practices, and lessons learned in disability data management systems, including approaches to data collection, analysis, and visualization. iv. Understand the significance of disability data in advancing disability-focused advocacy and resource allocation and demonstrate its use in supporting evidence-based advocacy, effective planning, budgeting, and programming at various levels.

The outcomes of the training included: i. Increased awareness among participants about the rights and needs of persons with disabilities. ii. The workshop brought together diverse stakeholders (CSOs and grassroots organizations), providing an opportunity to form collaborations and share best practices in disability data management. iii. The training empowered CSOs and grassroots organizations to continue disability data collection, reporting, and utilization, ensuring the inclusion of persons with disabilities in accessing social services and strengthening reporting mechanisms. The full training report [Disability Data Management Systems Training Report](#).



1.73 Social Accountability and Community Led Monitoring Training Workshops

The project organized three social accountability and community-led monitoring training workshops in Siaya, Taita Taveta, and Makueni counties. The workshops engaged 93 participants in Siaya (62 male, 31 female), 56 participants in Taita Taveta (31 male, 25 female), and 64 participants in Makueni (37 male, 27 female). The objectives of these sessions were to: Build a comprehensive understanding of social accountability concepts and frameworks, particularly in the context of policy formulation; Equip participants with practical skills, tools, and techniques for community-led monitoring, with a focus on budgeting processes; Foster dialogue and collaboration among participants, encouraging the exchange of best practices in public participation and Explore successful case studies where social accountability and community-led monitoring have led to positive policy outcomes.

In Taita Taveta county the training focused on these thematic areas; Land use and infrastructure; Climate change and governance of public participation; education sector, water, agriculture and food security and youth, gender and Person with disability [[Taita Taveta Social Accountability Training. word.pdf](#)]. In Makueni County training covered the principle of effective public participation, tools and techniques of participation, promoting inclusiveness and leaving no one behind and advocacy and action planning. [[Makueni Social Accountability and Community Led Monitoring Report.pdf](#)]. In Siaya County the training was majorly on engaging with duty bearers on inter-governmental relations, citizen involvement in planning and budgeting, public finance management frameworks, national and county planning process and budgeting and county government process and important documents in budgeting. [[Siaya Social accountability Report.pdf](#)].



1.74 Supported the Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning Staffs from all Departments of Makueni county

The project supported Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning staffs from all departments of Makueni county to develop and validate the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) indicator handbook integrated with all the sustainable development goals. The indicator tracking handbook is a useful exercise in measuring progress and performance of programmes and projects towards achievement of development agenda. The indicator tracking handbook was prepared to monitor the execution of the CIDP 2023-2027 and Sustainable Development Goals. The rationale for the indicator's handbook is measuring progress, accountability and transparency, learning and continuous improvement, resource optimization, communication and stakeholder engagement and long-term planning and sustainability. [[Makueni County CIDP Draft Indicator Handbook - Draft28-6-2024.pdf](#)] **Production of Factsheet/datasheet on land and corruption.**

With the support of a consulting team, the project developed comprehensive national and county-level factsheets on land and corruption. These tools are designed to facilitate community dialogues, shape policy recommendations, and drive advocacy efforts for marginalized communities in the counties of Siaya, Makueni, and Taita Taveta. The visually engaging factsheets present data in a clear, actionable format, highlighting key areas of concern and opportunities for both policy intervention and community action. This initiative's primary outcome was a deeper understanding of land and corruption issues at the national and community levels, particularly how these challenges impact vulnerable groups. The factsheets also serve as valuable resources for training programs, aimed at building the capacity of public officials, civil society, and community leaders to recognize and combat corruption. [[Factsheet on Land and Corruption in Kenya](#)]; [[National Report on Land and Corruption](#)

[in Kenya](#)]; [[Makueni Land and Corruption Report](#)]; [[Taita Taveta Land and Corruption Report](#)]; [[Siaya Land and Corruption Report](#)]

1.75 Training on Data, SDGs and VNR Process

As Kenya prepared its third Voluntary National Review (VNR) this year, it was crucial to incorporate the perspectives of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). The project facilitated the active engagement of grassroots organizations in the VNR process and ensured their participation in a VNR writing workshop. This workshop aimed to: (a) assess the progress of CSOs in developing submissions for the 2024 CSO VNR report, (b) build the capacity of CSOs in data collection, SDG tracking, and the VNR reporting process, and (c) promote partnerships and collaboration among stakeholders through peer-to-peer learning, sharing of ideas, experiences, and best practices in SDG reporting. Key outcomes from the workshop included an improved CSO VNR Zero Draft submission, enhanced knowledge and skills for meaningful participation in the VNR process and strengthened partnerships for advancing the Sustainable Development Goals. A detailed report for the engagement [[CSO VNR Writing Workshop Report.pdf](#)]



1.76 X Space Youth Dialogue on Meaningful Youth Engagement in Decision Making Processes

To ensure that youth are not left behind and that their voices are amplified, the project supported an X Space Youth Dialogue session, where 397 youths engaged in discussions on the SDGs and youth participation in decision-making processes. The objectives of the dialogue were to:

- i. **Amplify Youth Voices:** Highlight the importance of youth voices in matters of public accountability and political engagement.
- ii. **Identify Barriers:** Understand the barriers preventing meaningful youth participation in decision-making processes.
- iii. **Propose Strategies:** Develop actionable strategies to enhance youth engagement and representation in governance.
- iv. **Enhance Capacity:** Improve the capacity and understanding of SDGs and development processes among youth.

The outcomes of the discussion included a deeper understanding of the Agenda 2030 processes, strengthened partnerships and collaborations among the youth, the identification of strategies for better

youth participation and engagement, and leveraging media to ensure that youth voices are heard and counted. The detailed activity report [[X Space Youth Dialogue Report on Meaningful Youth Engagement in Decision making processes.pdf](#)]

1.78 Youth Empowerment Forum Kiteta/Kisau Ward

To further engage youth at the community level and ensure no youth is left behind, the project supported a collaboration with local CBOs in Makueni County to host a youth empowerment forum for young people aged 13 to 25 years. The main objective of the forum was to equip the youth with the skills and knowledge needed to positively confront the challenges they face today. This was achieved through the following specific objectives:

- i. Facilitate open dialogue on the issues facing the youth of Kiteta/ Kisau Ward, addressing various cross-cutting life challenges.
- ii. Raise awareness and provide mentorship on responsible living, the role of youth in development, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and governance.
- iii. Sensitize youth on the

negative effects of alcohol and drug abuse, mental health issues, and early pregnancies and marriages. iv. Assist out of school youth, including graduates, in facing the challenges of unemployment by developing innovative means of self-employment. v. Connect youth with role models and mentors and provide life coaching. The detailed report [Makueni Youths Empowerment Dialogue Report.TM.docx](#)

1.79 Global peer to peer Learning Workshop

Through the project, some members of the Kenya Coalition from the SDG Kenya Forum, Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) Kenya and Champions for SDGs Youth participated in the 2023 LNOB Partnership's annual meeting held in Copenhagen, Denmark back-to-back with the UN Expert Group Meeting on Citizen Data. The meeting was a platform for cross-sharing, learning, and capacity-building assessment amongst the different country coalitions. LNOB members unanimously agreed to prolong the joint journey for the coming six years towards 2030.

1.8 Reflection and Learning

Some of the reflections and learnings from the implementation of the project include;

Community Engagement: Dialogues and training are essential for fostering understanding, collaboration, and problem - solving among diverse groups. These efforts build trust, ensure all voices are heard, and lead to inclusive solutions. By involving community members, organizations can address local needs, enhance social cohesion, and empower residents. Expanding community dialogues to counties in Kenya where they have not been conducted will help localize and build ownership of the SDGs in the remaining years before the 2030 target.

Advocating for Inclusive Data: Inclusive data collection is critical to capturing the diverse experiences and challenges of

marginalized groups. This data helps guide decision-making, promote equity, and ensure that interventions are targeted to address disparities effectively and that no one is left behind.

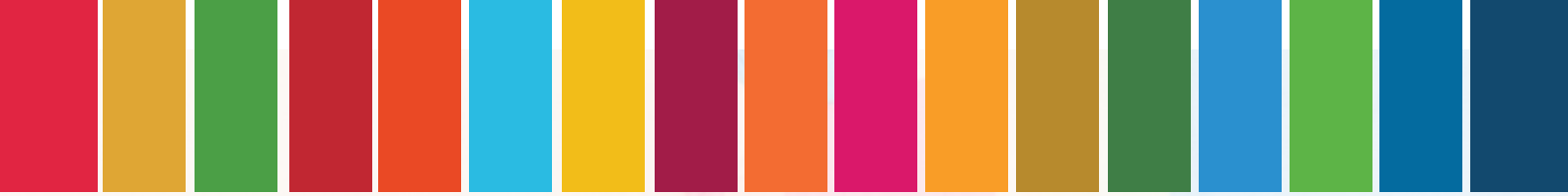
Citizen-Generated Data (CGD): Integrating CGD with inclusive data approaches ensures that the voices of underrepresented groups are included in decision-making. CGD provides granular insights into the needs and challenges of different groups, enabling more targeted and equitable solutions.

Strengthening Partnerships: Strong and deepened partnerships across governments, civil society, the private sector, and academia are crucial for sustainable interventions. Multi-stakeholder collaborations ensure inclusivity and diversity in development processes, addressing the needs of marginalized communities.

Summary: Expanding community dialogues, advocating for inclusive data, integrating citizen-generated insights, and fostering strong partnerships are essential for achieving equitable and sustainable development. These efforts will ensure that marginalized groups are actively involved in shaping decisions and interventions, promoting inclusivity and local ownership of the SDGs.

1.9 Looking Ahead:

In pursuit of the SDGs, we need to scale up our efforts to ensure everyone's voice is heard. In our upcoming projects, we will expand our outreach to more marginalized communities. We will also need to strengthen our partnerships with stakeholders, and advocate for more robust and inclusive policies. We will focus on long-term solutions that meet the needs of the most vulnerable communities. We must likewise prioritize data collection to ensure effectiveness as we strive to ensure sustainability and consider the long-term impact of our initiatives. Finally, we must leverage technology to create innovative solutions that reach more people.



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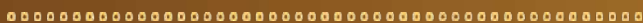
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