

Newsletter: Flip the Script for People and Planet



# 66 99



"Standing up against ageism and promoting age inclusivity, we can create a more equitable and inclusive society for all." **Mwelu Muindi, Membership Liaison Lead** 



"Kenya's Data Ecosystem is fast changing, modernization efforts for the National Statistical System under the stewardship of the National Statistics Office (KNBS) is embracing new data initiatives in not only enriching official statistics but also reinforcing official data with Citizen-Generated Data from CSOs through set quality criteria to validate it, this will expand the frontiers of what is being counted to be measured" **Festus Odingo, Data and Research Lead** 



"Nandi has led the way in being transparent and established a data desk in the county, making sure that data is available to all of us. This has made it easy to partner and work with them" **Al Kags, Executive Director, Open Institute** 



"We need more specialised doctors in Nandi County, and better access to medical and non medical supplies. We need your support in advocating for more direct access to medical supplies without delays for county governments," **H.E. Dr Yulita Mitei, Deputy Governor, Nandi County** 



### The Open Institute, SDGs Kenya Forum and Baraza Media Lab call for collaboration between counties and civil society to achieve the SDGs.

The Governors Baraza, a high-level breakfast meeting that brought together Governors, civil society organisations and development partners on October 12, 2022 was held at the Baraza Media Lab, Keystone Park, Riverside Drive, Nairobi. County representatives from Nandi County, Meru County and Makueni County, highlighted the county's priorities for the next five years. This sought toprovision the civil society and development partners with information on how best they could support and keep the governments accountable in achieving their set development objectives.

Statement by Executive Director, SDG Kenya Forum, Florence Syevuo During a Meeting With Gorvenors at The Baraza Media Lab, Nairobi on 12TH October 2022: I am glad to join all of you this morning for this high-level breakfast meeting which brings together the Heads of County Government, Civil Society Organizations and Development partners to adopt best development practices from the onset.

The SDGs Kenya Forum is a membership Platform that coordinates over 500 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) across Kenya. The Forum facilitates structured and coordinated CSOs engagement with national and subnational governments, citizens, the private sector, media, academia, and development partners, to implement, report and monitor on Sustainable Development Goals in Kenya.

As you may already be aware, the Sustainable Development Goals were launched worldwide and in Kenya in 2016, with the aim of creating a better, fairer, world by 2030 – ending poverty, urgently addressing climate change, and ending inequalities. To date Kenya has been posting mixed progress. The country is on track to achieve Goal 12 (Responsible consumption and production) and Goal 13 (Climate Action), although there are regional disparities across the country. For instance, despite a decline in the national poverty rate from 46.6% in 2005-2006 to about



36.1% in 2015-2016, poverty rates remain above 70% in the Coastal, Southern Eastern and Northern Kenya as well as the Upper Rift regions.

In several counties, inequalities, and disparities – based on geography, gender, ethnic identity, other individual characteristics such as disability are apparent. The financing for SDGs is a challenge with most counties resources only covering recurrent expenses with little left for Development activities. There is both need for the National Government to unlock ways to increase the county allocation in addition to counties BOOSTING their own source revenues (OSR). Recently the Commission for Revenue Allocation revealed that the potential for Own Source Revenue in all Counties is about 216 Billion in a year versus the 31 Billion collected in the last financial Year. I therefore encourage you to improve the financing landscape by coming up with County Integrated Financing Frameworks.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen: With only 8 years left in the Decade of Action to meet the Agenda 2030, the world is not on track. Amid the traversing crises of COVID-19 pandemic, climate tragedy, Russia-Ukraine war, and rising economic and political insecurity, progress on most SDGs indicators have begun to reverse. The ongoing Medium-Term Plan IV and County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) are expected to outline efficient and effective strategies to tackle the multiple crises the people of Kenya face today.

Gender Responsive Budgeting is recognized as a powerful tool for reducing gender inequalities by using precision to target interventions. Evidence has shown that 12 out of the 17 SDGs have direct gender targets. However, Kenya is yet to demonstrate vigorous application of these tools thus it is lagging in most of the gender equality indicators and measurements as compared to its counterparts. There is need for Counties to implement gender responsive budgeting to ensure





greater consistency between economic goals and social commitments. Gender Responsive Budgeting can assist Counties to strengthen the link between policy planning and budgeting and prioritize gender-related projects and programs. Without heightened commitment from all stakeholders, gender equality will remain nothing more than an unrealized goal. The time to act and invest in women and girls is now.

A fundamental guiding principle of the implementation of the SDG Agenda is that "no one should be left behind". Thus, it endeavors to reach the furthest left behind. In Kenya today it is disheartening to note that several vulnerable groups are still being left behind in the development process. Women and girls, youth and persons living with disabilities are among the vulnerable groups left behind. Excellencies,

The Agenda 2030 calls on the National and Subnational Governments to lead in regular and periodic reporting of the SDGs targets. This is through the National Voluntary Reporting for the National Government and the Voluntary Local Reporting for the County Governments. In 2020, when Kenya made its last report, only 5 counties successfully produced Voluntary Local Reports. These are Kwale, Kisumu, Busia, Marsabit and TaitaTaveta. If we synergize our efforts to capacity build more counties, we strongly believe this number can be scaled up in the next reporting period.

The VLR are important as they demonstrate the capacity of a county to foreign investors and development partners. So, we call upon most of you to ensure that your counties periodically produce these reports. This will start with having an SDGs Liaison unit that can engage with other stakeholders. Secondly, is to have a vibrant statistical Unit which will ensure the data needs are met for good quality reporting. We as the SDGs Kenya Forum are willing and available to offer you technical assistance and support to enable you produce quality reports.

It is important to note that reliable and timely Data is key to



achieving SDGs by 2030. It is in this respect that the SDGs Kenya Forum as the Chair of The Makueni County Taskforce on SDGs, worked in collaboration with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) and the Makueni County Government, to Launch the 'Makueni County Statistical Abstract 2020 and Ward Statistical Profiles for the 30 wards'. With the improvements in technologies and ability of Non-State Actors to generate data, the Forum has also been championing the use of Citizen Generated Data (CGD) as an alternative source of data on official national reporting on SDGs. CGD is data produced by people or their organizations to directly monitor, demand or drive change on issues that affect them.

Excellencies :As I Conclude, we all know Devolution is the Cornerstone of our 2010 Kenyan Constitution and it's our best fit to fast track the achievement of the Kenya Vision 2030 and the agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. You are the leaders and executors of devolution, and we hereby offer our support but also expect good performance of Devolution in the Counties

#### Thank you for listening and for having me.











## Capacity building workshops on SDGs implementation, review, monitoring and reporting.

ender responsive Budgeting: A training workshop hosted by FIDA -Kenya was held at the Silver Palm Hotel, Kilifi County, from Wednesday 12th to Friday 14th October 2022. The Forum in partnership with implementing partners namely; FIDA-Kenya, CREAW, Groots kenya, White Ribbon Alliance, Women Empowerment Link, and Polycom development project participated in the training for Kilifi County government technical officials from 10 sectors and national government representatives on mainstreaming SDGs, Gender responsive budgeting and Monitoring and evaluation.

Key sectors represented included the Social sector: disaster, gender, social services, betting control, culture, and sports. Agriculture, rural and urban development (ARRO): agriculture, fisheries, lands. Health. Infrastructure, housing and energy. Education and ICT. Trade, tourism, and cooperatives. Public administration and intergovernmental relations: public service and gender. Environment, water and sanitation and Budget, economic planning. The training focused on developing a basic understanding on Gender responsive budgeting (GRB) while familiarizing with the county budget processes and tools, with the intention of instilling knowledge of GRB to county policy makers in ensuring that in planning phases budgets are made more equitable. Additionally, the training gave insight on the importance of public participation, showing linkages between gender and water, gender and roads, trade, climate and why our national and county budgets need to be gender responsive. Another area of focus was localization of the sustainable development goals among the local government sectors, as well as understanding the monitoring and evaluation tools and methodologies that will be able to inform implementing partners' end of year accelerated plans, outcome harvesting and reporting of impact. The outcome of the training was development of sector specific gender issues and priorities for consideration in the county integrated development plans (CIDPs).

Gender Knowledge Hub members training on gender mainstreaming, gender budgeting and gender statistics, and advocacy in practice sessions where participants engaged in conversations and dialogue with the state department for Gender and Kenya national Bureau of statistics. Participants were local champions drawn from several counties including Kitui, Samburu, Nairobi, Wagir, Homabay, Nakuru, Kissi, Nyamira, Bomet counties. The training provided space for grassroots actors and gender champions to engage, they learnt and acquired critical skills in gender analysis, increased understanding of gender data and evidence in policy development process. They practiced applying gender analytics tools to effectively integrate gender equality and women's empowerment in various interventions including SGBV prevention, mitigation, and response. They are also involved in public participation forums promoting gender mainstreaming for better service delivery, and empowerment outcomes for women and girls. The skills and knowledge exchange will contribute to effectiveness in holding governments accountable for the implementation of SDG 5 targets at the county and national level.

Author: Hellen Apila, Gender Lead

#### Regional engagements in Data and statistics

#### Gender Statistics Regional conference: 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2022

he Forum participated in the Gender Statistics regional Conference, jointly convened under the hospice of Africa Partnership for Gender Statistics (APGS) hosted by Africa Development Bank (AfDB), COMESA, PARIS21, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), UN Women, National Statistical Offices and CSOs at Safari Park-Nairobi, Kenya. The theme: "Gender Statistics Imperatives in Africa, the partners shared the most significant achievements/progress towards achieving SDG Gender Indicators in Africa, Regional partnerships and coordination mechanisms, capacity building and research initiatives".

The Africa Statistical Commission presentation provided an overview of the outlook of gender statistics on the continent and the following three aspects stood out: Availability of SDG Gender indicators data in countries stood at 35.7% (these have data) and 64.7% indicators don't have data.

The pathway towards countries achievement of gender related SDGs by 2030, based on the current trajectory revealed that a lot of SDGs are not achieved, and that lack of gender data is dominant across SDG 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, with only 16% countries are higher achievers, 26% countries are medium achievers and 54% of countries are low achievers.

Partnerships and Coordination: participants underscored the Need to have proper TORs and reconstituting the membership of the coordination mechanism and proposed the following: Mandate of the convenors; -Reporting progress on implementation of Africa Gender Data/statistics (AGDS), Coordination of the AGDS-representation of all 5 Africa regions, Promote mainstreaming of gender into statistical systems through development of country workplans beyond the AFDB program. Importance of giving CSOs observer status in the AU Gender data working cluster and mechanisms to contribute effectively.

Also notable was the UN Women presentation on mainstreaming gender into the National Statistics and data Systems (NSDS) hihlighted the following issues: Why mainstream gender into the National Statistics Development Strategy: to respond to Data demands in the national development plans and international commitments. To improve data granularity-gender disaggregated variables which allow for inclusive and intersectional analysis of development progress. To recognize the cross-cutting character of gender data, improving coordination and skills, improve capacity on gender data across the national statistics systems (NSS). To build trust with data users (including citizens) by communicating gender disaggregated data that is reliable. Challenges in mainstreaming gender into NSDS: lack of an enabling environment including poor legal frameworks and weak policy environment. Lack of appreciation of gender statistics. Lack of harmonization and technical capacities. Lack of clear and harmonized concepts, definitions and methodologies, for example how tools for collecting administrative data cross the different ministries, the staff responsible need capacity to understand gender and gender variables. Limited financing: Gender Focal point units must carry out annual surveys-but the budgets are limited for the gender units. Their budget is very small, it does not allow cross sector operations to take initiatives to produce gender statistics to improve availability at sectoral level.

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#### Author: Festus Odingo, Data and Research Lead









### Professional Seminar organized by KNBS on Contemporary Issues and New Global Trends in Statistical Development

Forum participated in a professional seminar organized by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics on Contemporary Issues and New Global Trends in Statistical Development. The seminar echoed critical recommendations to governments as espoused in the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa: critically it recommended the following:

- Adequate funding for statistics
- Establishment of Statistical Development Fund
- ECOWAS's 18th November to be adopted as African Statistics Day
- Giving support to African Statistical Association
- Development of attractive schemes of service for statisticians
- Development of national statistical plans in context of National Development Plans
- Establishment of data user-producer and producer-producer committees
- National Statistical Seminars, "National statistical seminars covering specific or broad areas with participation of civil service as well as research and training institutions should be organized on a regular basis and should be included in the programme of work"

The discussion enumerated several factors suggesting to the data imperatives, the changing data landscape, and the new trends within the data ecosystem. As such, imperatives were:

- world presence in the new data-driven world / digital economy
- data are ubiquitous, explosion of new types and uses of data
- data is becoming an integral part of the daily lives of most people everywhere
- data is an inexhaustible resource can be used and reused repeatedly to create more and more value
- data are a prerequisite for many governments functions as it is critical for policy formulation
- data are a "public good" & integral part of national development

These has tremendously given rise to new data trends in that there have been conversations on the extension of frontiers of the traditional National Statistical System through the Re-invention of the NSSs at four levels:

- reformation
- innovation
- modernization
- transformation

In its strict sense, the four items are driven by national priorities and underpinned by the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. UN called for a Data Revolution for SDGs. Independent Expert Advisory Group on the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development (Report on Internet) which aimed to put statistics on high political agenda, demystify and democratize statistics by making data a tool of the people for the people, making data work for everyone, improve scope of data (to reach every segment of society, population, and economy) "leaving no one or domain behind", Increase data quantity, quality, access, and use

Leverage advances in ICT – across data value chain, empower & equip users to access, interpret & use data, empower citizens to hold governments to account, and increase resources for statistics.

#### Author: Festus Odingo, Data and Research Lead



### Data pre-events to the Joint Opening of the eighth Session of the Statistical Commission for Africa

The SDGs Kenya Forum also participated in a panel discussion during the pre-events to the Joint opening of the eighth session of the Statistical Commission for Africa, hosted by the ECA's Macroeconomics and Governance Division (MGD), the event was held on the margins of the Eighth Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa-VIII) taking place from 24-26 October on the broader topic of "Modernizing data ecosystem in Africa to support regional integration. The side-event's focus was underpinned by the growing and urgent need for timely accurate, complete, reliable and relevant data and statistics to inform policy, which remains a significant challenge across Africa.

The discussions did not only touch on New advances and best practices in the inclusion of citizen-generated data in national statistical systems and data ecosystems in East Africa but also touched on strengthening data exchange mechanism to promote the Open data concept of all official statistics in a timely manner; transforming and modernizing national statistical systems in Africa; The Beyond GDP initiative to explore the feasibility of measuring the relationships between the economy, society, and human capital; and finally on Statistical Leadership Training to assist with the Modernization and Transformation of Official Statistics in Africa.

Macroeconomic data experts stressed the need for concerted data coordination and the need to have data collected by statisticians, to ensure countries are generating and disseminating high quality data to achieve structural transformation. This was the conclusion for the pre-event outlining the urgent needs faced by countries to ensure high-quality data supply.

Presenting the challenges and consequences related to the lack of data, Ms Atkeyelsh Persson, Economic Affairs Officer at the Macroeconomics and Governance Division (MGD) stressed the need for high-quality data to achieve structural transformation and inclusive growth. This, she noted, is a key focus of MGD, which aims to serve member states through strengthened and effective development planning, macroeconomic policy analysis, and enhanced public sector financial management and economic governance.

She noted that the Division faces challenges in the area of data quality, in terms of its availability, timeliness, completeness, consistency, and accuracy. These challenges hinder its support to member states, such as in the area of macroeconomic modelling, development planning and reporting, and measuring illicit financial flows (IFF). For instance, incomplete and inconsistent data results in biased estimation in macroeconomic modelling. "Our aim, stressed Ms Persson, "is to continue to strive for data quality and support countries in order to resolve these challenges."

Jairo Arrow, Official Statistics Expert, former Deputy Director-General of Statistics in South Africa and Vice President of International Association of Survey Statisticians spoke about modernizing data ecosystems and quality statistics. He drew from his rich experience in and compared the production of statistics to building a house, in which sampling frames correspond to foundations, surveys and censuses to pillars, national accounts to roof, and policy outcomes to flagpoles for assessment of poverty and inequality, economic growth, unemployment.

Author: Festus Odingo, Data and Research Lead







#### SDGs and Data Use for Decision Making in Kenya

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were established by the United Nations in 2015 as a successor to the Millennium Development Goals. The main goal of the SDGs is to ensure a better future for all, including the end of poverty, the protection of the planet, and the promotion of peace and prosperity among all people. Member countries have committed to achieving these goals, with support from developed countries, in the spirit of leaving no one behind. At the end of the SDG timeline in 2030, there will be a review to assess the progress made towards these goals. In order to accurately measure this progress, data is invited to address issues of sufficiency, consistency and data use for official reporting/fit-for-use as explained below:

- Sufficiency: Globally, violence against women disproportionately affects low- and lower-middle-income countries and regions. It is right to say that given the global GBV prevalence of 30% among women of and above 15 years of age, these countries have higher prevalence rates above 30%; Kenya has 40% prevalence<sup>2</sup> as at June 2021. While less than 40% of the women who experience violence seek help, less than 10% of them report the violation acts to police or institutions capable to bring the perpetrators to book, resolving to family members, friends and relatives.
- Consistency: There are many organizations in developing countries that champion implementation of SDG; greatly inclined to Gender issues. Far much as there has been tangible progress in the fight against gender inequalities, it is difficult to come up with a defined consolidated index of the status of attainment of SDG 5 targets. This is due to widely varied collection of the data variables of interest and the collection methodologies used thus making it difficult to consolidate an§d present a regional face or and assist in inter-region comparison of the statistics revealed by the data<sup>3</sup>.
- Data use for official reporting/data fit-for-use: In Kenya, KNBS are the custodians of official data hence generates official statistics. However, Citizen Generated Data (CGD) generated by citizen-generated data can also be adopted and be used for official reportingby KNBS. This is done by subjecting the CGD to a CGD Quality Criteria and scored against the minimum acceptable standards of official statistics. A significant proportion of CGD fail to meet the minimum threshold for adoption into official statistics.

Further, to ensure effective monitoring and evaluation of the strides made in attaining Sustainable Development Goals Targets by the member countries, Kenya included, there is need to invest efforts and resources to ensure that the data collected can be used to make decisions that are reliable and population representative, lest we ran a risk of implementing and raising policies with disproportional representation of the population.

There is great need for capacity building of the Citizen Data Generators to ensure that their data is conforming to the minimum standards requirements by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics. Additionally culturing consistency and pooling of Gender Data to ensure ease of presenting national faced statistics. Sensitization and encouraging of GBV victims to report incidents to mandated institutions.

#### Author: Owino Nashon, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

#### Data training and sensitization on Citizen-Generated Data

Over the years, Civil Society Organizations led by SDGs Kenya Forum, PARIS21, GPSDD, UNWOMEN and many other data actors, championed for the development of Quality Criteria on data production for Citizen Generated Data. With the stewardship and technical support of the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, the criteria were validated. Subsequently, the bureau saw the need to tap into alternative data sources as a measure to not only cut data generation costs but also to use data from CSOs to fill the data gaps and needs. This prompted the development of a Quality Assurance Framework, which is not just a national instrument but an international tool under which quality issues can be underpinned. With a section of CSOs and the technical team from KNBS a Quality assurance framework termed "Kenya Statistical Quality Assurance Framework" – KeSQAF was coined and the CGD criteria was developed and annexed to the framework.

To operationalize CGD, KNBS, SDGs Kenya Forum and PARIS21 embarked on an exercise to do an inventory of data emanating from CSOs to be subjected to Quality check. Out of the 83 respondents to that inventory, about 38% of them were found to have generated gender data. Procedurally, 14 datasets that seemed to have the potentiality of adhering to certain quality dimensions within the criteria were selected to serve as the basis for setting the pace to either amendments to the framework and/or starting point to quality checks for other datasets. Datasets from USAWA agenda and GROOTS passed the quality threshold. The estimate from USAWA can be used as a proxy for indicator 4.6.1. Nevertheless, these engagements have since raised the appetite for CSOs to not only produce quality data but also to be brought up to speed in the processes and existing frameworks as an enabling environment for CGD, data production knowledge and collaboration with KNBS.

To achieve the ambitious global development agenda within Kenyan context and second, to generate productive discussion on required policies and measures to achieve and follow up on the 2030 Agenda and ultimately ensure that no One and No data is left behind. SDGs Kenya Forum with the stewardship of KNBS partook, trained and sensitized CSOs on better ways to produce quality data to enable uniformity within the data value chain for non-state actors. The engagement sought to:

- Understand the nature of data CSOs produce (How, when, what and why it is produced)
- Sensitize CSOs on the existing data and statistical frameworks and role of the bureau as well as the Quality Criteria for validating CGD
- Train CSOs on data generation and use procedures for different thematic areas (gender, energy, climate etc,) while carrying out practical examples
- Address existing challenges and opportunities for collaboration with NSO

As such, the Forum outlined the following Outputs:

- A comprehensive understanding of the data ecosystem, the NSS and role of the Bureau
- A comprehensive report outlining and highlighting the achievements of the above objectives and further recommendations
- Outline an elaborate a commitment and next line of action for CGD operationalization
- Establish areas of collaboration with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics for all data actors within the auspices of Data Users and Producers Platform (DUPP) through a data coordination agenda

#### Author: Festus Odingo, Data and Research Lead

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#### **Communications and Implementation of SDGs**

Effective communication is crucial for the successful implementation of sustainable development goals (SDGs). SDGs are a set of global goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015, with the aim of ending poverty, protecting the planet, and ensuring peace and prosperity for all people by 2030. To achieve these goals, it is important to use a variety of communication tools and channels to reach and engage a wide range of stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, businesses, and individuals. Here are some tips for using communications tools and channels effectively to support the implementation of SDGs:

- 1. Identify your target audience: Before you begin communicating about SDGs, it is important to understand who you are trying to reach. This will help you choose the most effective communication tools and channels for your audience. For example, if you are trying to reach a younger audience, social media platforms like Instagram and TikTok might be more effective than traditional media outlets.
- 2. Choose the right tools and channels: There are many different communication tools and channels available, each with their own strengths and limitations. Some common tools and channels include social media, email, websites, press releases, events, and face-to-face meetings. It is important to choose the right combination of tools and channels that will reach and engage your target audience effectively.
- **3. Use clear and concise messaging:** When communicating about complex topics like SDGs, it is important to use clear and concise messaging that is easy for your audience to understand. Avoid using jargon or technical language that might be unfamiliar to your audience. Instead, focus on using simple, straightforward language that is easy to understand and remember.
- **4. Use storytelling to engage your audience:** People are more likely to remember and take action on stories than on facts and figures alone. To engage your audience, try using storytelling to illustrate the importance of SDGs and how they can make a difference in people's lives. This can be through personal anecdotes, case studies, or examples of how SDGs have been successfully implemented in other communities.
- **5.** Use visual aids: Visual aids like images, videos, and infographics can be very effective in engaging and informing your audience about SDGs. These tools can help to break up long blocks of text, making it easier for your audience to understand and remember the key points you are trying to communicate.
- **6.** Use a variety of channels and tools: To reach and engage a wide range of stakeholders, it is important to use a variety of communication tools and channels. This might include social media, email, websites, press releases, events, and face-to-face meetings. By using a variety of channels, you can increase the chances that your message will reach and engage a diverse group of people.
- 7. Monitor and evaluate your communication efforts: It is important to regularly monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of your communication efforts. This can help you to understand what is working well and what could be improved. You can use tools like website analytics, social media metrics, and surveys to gather feedback from your audience and track the impact of your communication efforts.

In conclusion, effective communication is crucial for the successful implementation of SDGs. By using a variety of communication tools and channels, using clear and concise messaging, and engaging your audience through storytelling and visual aids, you can increase the chances that your message will reach and engage a wide range of stakeholders. Regular monitoring and evaluation will help you to understand the impact of your communication efforts and make any necessary adjustments to ensure that you are effectively supporting the implementation of SDGs.

#### Author: Medika Medi, Communications Lead



#### Climate Change And Gender Inequality

Climate change disproportionately affects women and girls in Kenya, as they often bear the brunt of the negative impacts due to societal inequalities and cultural traditions. These cultural factors often value men more than women, leading to a lack of access to education and ownership of land for women. As a result, women are often more reliant on the natural environment for their livelihoods, such as through agriculture or fetching water and firewood. This leaves them more vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change, including droughts, floods, and conflicts.

In addition, women are often excluded from decision-making processes and discussions about climate change, despite being heavily impacted by it. This lack of representation means that the needs and experiences of women are often overlooked in the development of solutions to address climate change.

Furthermore, the health of women is often impacted by climate change, with maternal and family planning services being disrupted during times of drought-induced migration. In the event of natural disasters, women are also more likely to die than men due to their maternal instincts to prioritize the safety of their children.

In pastoralist communities, climate change-induced conflicts can lead to harmful practices such as forced early marriages, as parents seek to acquire livestock in the form of dowry to replace lost stock. This can lead to girls dropping out of school and being left behind by their male counterparts in terms of education.

Overall, it is clear that climate change and gender inequality are deeply interconnected issues that must be addressed together in order to effectively address the challenges posed by climate change. Including women and girls in decision-making processes and ensuring equal access to resources and information is essential in creating tangible solutions to address the negative impacts of climate change in Kenya and beyond.

#### Author: Agnes Kendi, Membership Liaison Assistant

#### Ageism And Age Discrimination

Ageism and age discrimination refers to prejudice or discrimination against individuals or groups on the basis of their age. This can take many forms, including discrimination in employment, access to services, and social opportunities. Ageism is a societal problem that is often overlooked or dismissed, but it can have serious consequences for those who experience it. Older people may face barriers to employment and advancement and may be denied access to education, healthcare, and other essential services. They may also be marginalized and excluded from development, social and cultural activities.

Age discrimination is one of the hindrances to the achievement of Agenda 2030. This is because such attitudes and behaviors can limit the participation and agency of older individuals in development processes and decision-making. It is essential to address and challenge ageism and age discrimination to ensure that all individuals, regardless of their age, are included in the implementation of Agenda 2030 and the Leave No One Behind principle.

One of the most common forms of ageism is employment discrimination. Older and younger workers without experience may be passed over for job opportunities, or they may be forced to retire at a certain age, even if they are capable of working. This can lead to financial insecurity and a lack of purpose or meaning in life. Age discrimination can also occur in the healthcare system. Older people may be denied treatment or may receive lower-quality care based on their age. This can lead to poorer health outcomes and reduced quality of life. There are several ways to combat ageism and age discrimination.

The Decade of Action campaign was launched in 2020 to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 2030. It calls for global, local, and individual actions to achieve these goals. These goals are driven by Leave No One Behind principle which is a commitment to combat discrimination such as those based on age among many more. One important step is to raise awareness about the issue and the negative impacts it can have on individuals and society as a whole. Employers can adopt policies that promote age diversity and inclusivity in the workplace and can provide training to help employees recognize and address ageism. Additionally, laws and policies that protect older individuals from discrimination can help to reduce the occurrence of ageism.

According to a study conducted by Helpage International, titled Advancing Equality for Older People-HelpAge Legal Study on Ageism and Age Discrimination AGE EQUALITY PROJECT, the 12 states examined have each adopted different approaches to the elimination of age discrimination as listed:

- 1. Finland, Great Britain and Serbia, comprehensive or near comprehensive antidiscrimination laws have been adopted prohibiting discrimination on an extensive list of grounds including age in multiple areas of life.
- 2. Argentina, The Kyrgyz Republic, Paraguay, Philippines, The Republic of Korea have age specific equality legislation that has been enacted. Although the scope, content and enforceability of the protections vary significantly.
- 3. India, Jordan, Kenya and Tanzania have protections against age discrimination that spread across a patchwork of different laws and policies, offering varying degrees of protection and in some cases, very little or no protection at all

It is important to recognize that ageism and age discrimination can affect people of all ages. By standing up against ageism and promoting age inclusivity, we can create a more equitable and inclusive society for all.

Author: Mwelu Muindi, Membership Liaison Lead



#### Leave No One Behind Dialogues

The SDG Kenya Forum held county dialogues in five locations across the country in order to promote the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the national and local levels. These dialogues provided a space for local communities to have a say in their development needs and for county governments to consider these needs in their County Integrated Development Plans. Findings from the county dialogues showed that many counties in Kenya are not poor, but rather have significant resources and opportunities that could make them wealthy if properly harnessed. These resources include solar and wind energy, farming land, tourism, culture, pastoralism, minerals, wildlife, and natural resources. The human capital in these counties was also identified as a valuable resource, with residents having a wide range of skills, knowledge, and abilities that could be utilized to improve the county's economic situation. However, the county dialogues also highlighted several challenges that are hindering development in these areas. These challenges include poor infrastructure and public amenities, corruption and poor governance, high unemployment rates, gender-based inequalities, and a lack of access to credit and financial services. To address these challenges, the county dialogues recommended improving infrastructure and public amenities, addressing corruption, creating economic opportunities for young people, promoting gender equality, and increasing access to credit and financial services. They also emphasized the importance of involving local communities in the development process and ensuring that the principle of equity is upheld. By addressing these issues and utilizing the resources and opportunities available, it is possible for these counties to achieve sustainable development and leave no one behind.

#### Author: Bridget Rugube, Assistant Project Manager



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