



SDGs KENYA FORUM

Coalition for Sustainable Development

SPOTLIGHT

Q1

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY TO MARCH 2025 HIGHLIGHTS



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INTRODUCTION

As we embark on another transformative year, we remain committed to driving progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Kenya and beyond. The past three months have been a period of strategic action, collaboration, and renewed commitment to sustainable development. Through policy advocacy, grassroots engagement, and data-driven approaches, we continue to shape impactful solutions that drive meaningful change.

At the heart of our work is a strong focus on **Localization and Ownership, Gender Equality, Data and Research, Accountability, and National, Regional and Global Advocacy**. These pillars guide our efforts, ensuring that every initiative we undertake is inclusive, evidence-based, and aligned with our mission to **leave no one behind**.

And just like that, the first quarter of 2025 is done, setting the tone for the year ahead! From high-level policy dialogues to community-driven initiatives, we have worked closely with our members and stakeholders to amplify voices, strengthen accountability, and push for concrete action on the SDGs. As a membership-driven organization, in-person engagements have been a priority, ensuring that the voices of local communities remain central to our advocacy efforts.

In this newsletter, we take you through the key milestones, impactful projects, and inspiring success stories that have defined the first quarter. From strengthening multi-stakeholder collaborations to influencing policies at national and global levels, we are proud to showcase the collective efforts of our network in driving change.

Dive in to explore our latest updates, achievements, and the road ahead. Together, let's continue building momentum for a more just, equitable, and sustainable future!

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dear Members and Partners,

As we embark on 2025, the SDGs Kenya Forum remains steadfast in its mission to drive Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation through advocacy, strategic partnerships, and inclusive stakeholder engagement at the National, Regional, and Global levels. The first quarter of 2025 (January – March) has laid a strong foundation for the year, characterized by significant milestones, impactful collaborations, and steady progress across our core pillars: Localization and Ownership, Gender Equality, Data and Research, Accountability, and Multi-Level Advocacy.



In fostering meaningful engagement, we convened in-person dialogues with our goal group members, ensuring inclusivity and active participation in shaping SDG implementation strategies. Additionally, our online youth engagement session, “Youth Involvement in Accelerating SDGs,” provided a dynamic platform for young changemakers to share their perspectives, reaffirming the vital role of youth in accelerating sustainable development.

This quarter also marked a critical moment for gender equality advocacy, as we reflected on 30 years of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA). Our blog post, [“Are We There Yet?”](#), offered an in-depth analysis of the progress made, ongoing challenges, and the path forward in advancing women’s rights.

Our digital presence has continued to expand, with notable growth across all social media platforms, increasing our reach, engagements, and overall visibility. Through strategic use of digital tools, we successfully hosted virtual events, shared knowledge resources, and amplified advocacy campaigns, reinforcing our impact at both national and global levels.

Adding to these achievements, we proudly published our [2024 Annual Report](#), capturing key highlights from the past year while outlining strategic priorities for the months ahead.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our members and partners for their unwavering support and dedication to driving sustainable development. Together, we will continue to accelerate progress and ensure that no one is left behind.

Thank you for your continued commitment to this shared vision.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Gender

As we kick off 2025, we are excited to share some key updates from our gender initiatives. Here's a glimpse of our recent activities and milestones:

The Meaningful Engagement Transformative Action (META) Project

We're thrilled to share updates on our ongoing project titled "Meaningful Engagement Transformative Action: for Structured CSO Dialogue in Kenya (META)", funded by the European Union, and in partnership with the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET) and Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF).

Kickstarting the year: We kicked off the year with our first META Consortium planning meeting, where our consortium members teams came together to strategize and lay the groundwork for the key activities planned for the year ahead. These discussions were essential in aligning our efforts and ensuring we're on track to achieve our shared goals.



Youth Sounding Board: In February, the European Union (EU) Youth Sounding Board (YSB) in Kenya convened in Nairobi for a dynamic planning session where they engaged in various activities including exploring youth-led initiatives and areas of collaboration; peer-to-peer learning sessions; capacity strengthening sessions and co-creation and finalization of their annual workplan.

META Steering Committee Meeting: Fast forward to early March, the CSOs META Steering Committee convened in Nairobi for a two-day meeting to review the project's progress, assess ongoing initiatives, and refine upcoming activities.



As we move forward, we remain committed to ensuring we provide a platform for strengthening the capacities and influence of Kenyan civil society organizations as independent actors for accountability, good governance, and inclusive development and creating spaces for constructive dialogue that drives positive change in Kenya.

Stay tuned for more updates!

URGENT ACTION

A Transformative Start in 2025: Key Activities Supported by Urgent Action Fund (UAF)

The Urgent Action Fund (UAF) in partnership with SDG Kenya Forum played a pivotal role in empowering SDGs Kenya Forum to initiate and support various activities aimed at advancing gender equality and women's rights across the country. Below is an overview of the key initiatives carried out during Quarter 1 of 2025:

In the first 3 months of 2025, SDGs Kenya Forum convened a consultative meeting, bringing together key stakeholders, including government representatives, civil society organizations (CSOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), gender-based violence (GBV) survivors, women of all ages, and girls. The meeting was held in partnership with CREAM, offering a vital platform for Women's Rights Organizations (WROs), women with disabilities, young women, and women political leaders to engage in constructive dialogue on the state of women's rights in Kenya.



The SDGs Kenya Forum **hosted two virtual sessions and one in-person meeting** with members of the SDG 5 Goal Group. These engagements raised awareness about the Beijing+30 review process [link to CSO consultations report](#) and served as the foundation for drafting a CSO Shadow Report and policy brief which was completed in March 2025. The Forum and CREAM worked with a consultant to collect feedback from over 15 WROs, primarily members of the SDG 5 Goal Group, via an online survey. We also consulted with CSOs within the 17 groups to align their efforts with the 12 critical areas of focus of the Beijing Declaration, ensuring that their contributions to the shadow report are both impactful and relevant. Our ongoing goal group discussions continue to drive positive change. The consultant utilized this feedback to create a comprehensive **CSO Shadow Report and Policy Brief/Position Paper**. These documents provide valuable insights and recommendations that will inform future policy and advocacy efforts. [Link to SHadow report](#) and [Policy brief](#)

The SDGs Kenya Forum and Hummingbird Grassroots Centre hosted a powerful **Grassroots Women Intergenerational Dialogue** at the Church of God Buruburu dubbed 'Beijing Eastlands Edition'. This session brought together women from different generations to reflect on gender equality, GBV, and the progress made since the Beijing Platform for Action 30 years ago. Key highlights from the event included: [link to activity report](#)



The **Policy Brief/Position Paper** developed in the first quarter was presented to **KEWOPA** in February 2025, as well as during an **Intergenerational Dialogue** with grassroots women on the Beijing+30 process. The discussion provided valuable insights into the journey of the **Beijing Platform for Action**, highlighting the urgent need for actionable, grassroots-level change. While Kenya has made significant strides in establishing progressive gender equality policies, there remain notable gaps in their implementation, particularly at the community level. The dialogue emphasized that the commitments outlined in the Beijing Platform must go beyond policy and lead to tangible, real-world improvements for women and girls across the country.

Barriers to Gender Equality: Discussions during the intergenerational dialogue highlighted several systemic barriers to gender equality, including unpaid care work, economic marginalization, and political exclusion, which continue to hinder women's

full participation in society. The community leaders in attendance, shared personal testimonies about the ongoing struggle for women's leadership, especially in male-dominated political spaces. Mental health challenges were also a major concern, with participants noting the stigma surrounding mental health issues for both men and women. There is a pressing need for gender-sensitive mental health services and improved societal responses to these challenges. The rising cases of gender-based violence (GBV) and femicide also received significant attention, with participants calling for stronger enforcement of legal frameworks and better support for survivors, especially regarding emotional and financial abuse. Key recommendations included localized advocacy for gender equality, improved economic empowerment through access to loans and recognition of unpaid care work, enhanced reproductive health access, gender-responsive mental health services, and stronger legal reforms to combat GBV.



Our work also Raised awareness on GBV in schools using Murals and talking boxes in Nairobi County

In a powerful initiative to raise awareness around Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), vibrant murals were painted at Bidii Comprehensive School and Dagoretti Mixed Secondary School. On Thursday, 20th March and Monday, 24th March 2025, these schools hosted a significant event aimed at addressing GBV while celebrating the achievements of Beijing Plus 30. The event brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including the Office of the Women

Representative Nairobi County, Ministry of Education officials, and representatives from Dagoretti North MP's office, along with students (ages 8-15), teachers, and PTA members. The primary objective was to raise awareness of GBV, highlight the importance of the Beijing Platform for Action, and celebrate the progress made in addressing gender inequality, particularly for girls. Hon. Beatrice Elachi's Office representatives and Hon. Esther Passaris were key speakers, sharing valuable insights on GBV prevention, gender equality, and the challenges of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).





A key highlight of the event was the official unveiling of the **SDGs Mural** by Hon. Beatrice Elachi's Office and Hon. Esther Passaris, which visually represents the commitment to fighting GBV through the SDGs. In addition to this, students at both schools were supported with lunch and sanitary dignity kits. The event also saw the introduction of **talking boxes**, providing students with a safe space to share their thoughts and experiences on tackling GBV in their communities. The event successfully sparked

meaningful dialogue on GBV, empowering students to engage in solutions and fostering a greater sense of community involvement in combating gender violence. The SDGs Mural and talking boxes are powerful tools for continued awareness and action, ensuring the conversation around GBV remains ongoing in the schools. This event marks an important step forward in promoting gender equality and empowering the next generation to take a stand against GBV. . [Link to activity reports & photos.](#)





GATES

This year, the SDGs Kenya Forum is supported by the Gates Foundation to continue “Advancing GE Discussions & Accountability in Kenya” The primary aim of this investment is to advance gender equality initiatives and outcomes in Kenya, with a specific focus on data uptake and accountability. This will be accomplished through ongoing and existing partnerships with national and subnational gender machinery, by supporting the Kenyan government in both implementing and, crucially, tracking the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and by connecting with civil society on citizen-generated data initiatives thus ‘Localize Data’.

Below are key achievements in the first quarter of 2025.

The Second Kenya Strategy for Development of Statistics (KSDS II)-development process: The Forum participated in the co-creation-write workshop for the development of the KSDS11 hosted by KNBS with support from Paris21. Our team will continue to provide inputs into the draft document and the validation of the final document. We intend to eventually pull out an abridged version of the final document-with aspects relevant for the non-state actors, especially CSOs to improve the production of citizen generated data (CGD) and increase the use of gender data. [Link to Draft KSDS11](#)

Implementation of the MOU with KNBS: The Forum convened 02 joint planning meetings with KNBS technical team and developed a Gant Chart to track all the project activities-projecting for the entire project period aligned with the aspirations in the MOU and the teams are working on the key deliverables expected. In that regard, in **Supporting the development of a national gender indicators framework:** Focuses on creating a standardized framework for gender indicators, crucial for consistent data collection and analysis. The Forum **hosted 02 planning meetings with Makueni county** government officials and KNBS to chart a way forward for the team to conduct further analysis and visualization of the existing gender data for dissemination. A **two-day inception & consultative meeting** in Makueni County was convened by the SDGs Kenya Forum in partnership with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), State

department of Gender and stakeholders from the County Governments of Makueni, Nakuru, and Uasin Gishu at Acacia Hotel in Wote Makueni. The consultative meeting aimed at enhancing counties' capacity to further analyze and visualize existing gender data and use statistical products like County Statistical Abstracts (CSAs) for policy development, decision-making, initiatives and resource allocation, as well as to further analyze and visualize gender data already in existence. The meeting led to specific outcomes including: A concept note-developed jointly with Makueni county government teams, Road map (workplan) developed, Operational Budget (Costed workplan) developed and Steering Committee-in place & expanded to include none state actors. [Activity report-Makueni County](#)



Support Accountability: Development of a new gender sector statistics plan and ensure ongoing evaluation and improvement of gender statistics through the **Gender Statistics Sector Plan (GSSP)**: Held 01 planning meeting with UN Women, and KNBS focal point persons for the development of the new GSSP. In collaboration with UN Women, KNBS and NGEAC the Forum **Co-hosted the multi-stakeholders'** workshop for to revise the draft Kenya Statistics Development Strategy (KSDS11) to include CGD implementation priorities and Gender Sector Statistics Plan (GSSP11) development workshop, jointly with UN Women and KNBS. The key stakeholders included SDGs Kenya Forum, UN Women, KNBS, SDfGAA, National Treasury, State departments for Economic planning, energy and Gender, Council of Governors (CoG), Paris21, NGEAC, Academia, Research and consultants and CSOs. Link to [KNBS-GSSP-Activity report](#)

Participation in CSW69 processes: The Forum contributed to the national review processes under the State department for gender and affirmative action through the national steering and sub committees. Contributed to the development of the [technical paper](#) on High-level interactive dialogue with regional commissions outcomes of regional Beijing+30 reviews and next steps. We also contributed by reviewing and providing inputs into the draft [CSW69-draft political declaration-inputs](#). We participated virtually at the sixty ninth session of the Commission on the status of women (CSW69) in March 2025. Our contributions were captured in the Kenyan CSOs shadow report and policy brief on Beijing +30 reviews. Link to [CSO shadow report](#) and [Policy brief](#). Our reflections are captured in the thought-provoking blog post reflecting on the 30-year journey since the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA). Titled **[“Are We There Yet? Reflections During CSW69.”](#)** the piece delves into the progress made towards gender equality, the persistent challenges, and the urgent actions needed to accelerate change. As the world commemorates three decades of the BPfA, this blog highlights key takeaways from CSW69,

shedding light on the commitments made, the gaps that remain, and the way forward in ensuring women's rights are upheld.

Preparations for ARFSD-SDGs Review Process: Coming up in April, planning meetings are held bi-weekly. The Forum coordinated and convened 03 virtual preparatory meetings for CSOs as information sharing sessions ahead of the Africa Regional Forum on sustainable development (ARFSD). The attendees were drawn from across the continent. We used the virtual meetings to also coordinate CSOs to develop a joint position paper-tracking progress on the 5 SDGs under review and contributed to the development of key messages to inform our engagement at the regional Forum. Link to [CSO-Women's Group Position paper](#).

Looking ahead, we remain committed to engaging with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), who are members of the SDG Goal Groups. We are actively working with all 17 groups to align their work with the 12 critical areas of focus, ensuring their contributions to the shadow report are impactful and relevant. Our goal group discussions continue to make an impact focusing on advancing gender equality and empowering women, with progress shared on relevant initiatives. The efforts made during Quarter 1 of 2025 lay the groundwork for continued advocacy and policy development in gender equality and women's rights. As we move forward into the 2nd quarter of 2025, we are excited to see the continued impact of our consultations and strategic partnerships in shaping Kenya's gender equality landscape.

Stay tuned for more updates and progress as we work together towards a more equitable future for all women and girls, men and boys in Kenya!

COMMUNICATIONS

Effective communication remains a vital pillar in the SDGs Kenya Forum's mission to champion sustainable development across the country. As a convenor of diverse stakeholders within the SDG ecosystem, the Forum continues to prioritize strategic and inclusive communication to enhance our visibility, influence, and reach.

During the first quarter of 2025, our communications efforts were notably impactful, guided by a refined strategy that integrates digital innovation, purposeful storytelling, and deliberate stakeholder engagement. Our approach has focused on ensuring that every message we share reflects our core values, mobilizes action, and inspires partnerships for sustainable development.

We utilized our digital platforms including Twitter/X, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube to disseminate timely content on our events, campaigns, and initiatives. These platforms have proven instrumental in not only keeping our audiences informed but also fostering dialogue and visibility on key national and global development processes. Our social media analytics reveal consistent growth in engagement, indicating that our messaging is resonating with our target audiences, particularly youth, civil society, and development partners.

Additionally, we have continued to produce high-quality visual and written content that highlights the real stories behind SDG implementation—stories that spotlight local actors, amplify community voices, and capture lessons from the ground. These narratives

have been central to our efforts to humanize the SDGs and bring lived experiences into policy conversations.

Our website remains a critical knowledge hub, offering a centralized platform for accessing publications, policy briefs, event announcements, and multimedia content. It has facilitated seamless information flow and positioned the Forum as a go-to source for credible, timely, and relevant SDG-related information in Kenya.

Looking ahead, the Forum is committed to scaling up its communications efforts to foster more dynamic engagement, increase visibility across platforms, and ensure that the voices of our members and communities continue to shape the SDG discourse both nationally and globally.

During the first quarter of 2025, and in line with our ongoing commitment to youth inclusion, the SDGs Kenya Forum successfully hosted an online youth engagement session titled **"Youth Involvement in Accelerating the SDGs."** This virtual discussion served as a dynamic platform for knowledge sharing, ideation, and advocacy among young people passionate about sustainable development.



YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN ACCELERATING SDGS



Moderator:

EUGINE OKANDA
AUNYD Youth Representative



Speakers:



LINDA AKITELA
AUNYD Youth Representative



KAPWANI KAVENUKE
AUNYD Youth Representative



MORRIS ANDATI
Partnerships Manager- AUNYD

TUESDAY



18 MARCH, 2025



5:00 PM- 6:00 PM



<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84458445844>



Let's Connect



SDGs Kenya Forum

The session brought together a diverse mix of participants from across the country, including students, youth-led organizations, grassroots advocates, and policy influencers. The conversation centered on identifying tangible pathways for youth to engage more meaningfully in local and national development processes. As part of our ongoing efforts to leverage digital communication for inclusive engagement, the Forum also hosted a virtual session gearing up to International **Women's Day**. This online dialogue provided a powerful platform for women from diverse backgrounds to share their lived experiences, challenges, and aspirations in the context of sustainable development. By facilitating open dialogue and storytelling in an accessible virtual space, the Forum reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring that women's perspectives remain central in the sustainable development discourse, while strengthening gender equality.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

"For ALL women and girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment"



**LIVE
WEBINAR**



SPEAKERS



Jacinta Makokha
Women's Rights Advocate



Rachel Gatabaki
Women's Rights Advocate



Wanja Maina
Disability Rights Expert



Jewel Omina
Climate Change Advocate



Thursday
2:30pm- 3:30 pm
6th March, 2025

REGISTER NOW



<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81254567890>

MODERATOR



Hellen Apila
Gender Lead- SDGs Kenya Forum

Additionally, we proudly unveiled our [2024 Annual Report](#), highlighting the progress, achievements, and impact of our initiatives over the past year. This report provides an in-depth look at our collective efforts in advancing the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, showcasing key milestones, success stories, and lessons learned.



We wrapped up the first quarter with a thought-provoking **blog post** reflecting on the **30-year journey since the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA)**. Titled **[“Are We There Yet? Reflections During CSW69.”](#)** the piece delves into the progress made towards gender equality, the persistent challenges, and the urgent actions needed to accelerate change.

As the world commemorates three decades of the BPfA, this blog highlights key takeaways from **CSW69**, shedding light on the commitments made, the gaps that remain, and the way forward in ensuring women’s rights are upheld.

SOCIALS STATS

As of April 1, 2025, the **SDGs Kenya Forum** maintains an active presence across various social media platforms. Here are the available follower counts:



Twitter (X): 12,909 followers



Facebook: 3,880 followers



Instagram: 5,987 followers



LinkedIn: 4,464 followers



TikTok: 603 followers



[Link to social media analytics:](#)

MEMBERSHIP

@Membership SDGs Kenya Forum

In the spirit of collaboration and shared commitment to advancing the 2030 Agenda, we are delighted to report that the SDGs Kenya Forum successfully convened two vibrant and impactful membership goal group meetings during the first quarter of 2025. The first session, held in **February**, brought together members working around **SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), and 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production)**, while the second session, held in **March**, focused on **SDGs 5 (Gender Equality) and 10 (Reduced Inequalities)**.

These meetings were anchored in our broader strategy to enhance **coordination, accountability, and inclusivity** across our membership base. The primary objectives included: updating members on current progress and strategic priorities for 2024; sharing key developments and thematic highlights; providing a structured space for members to offer feedback and share experiences with the Forum's secretariat; and exploring opportunities for **peer-to-peer learning, networking, and collaborative action**.

A critical component of the discussions involved early planning and concept development for



the 2025 Civil Society Organizations' Position Paper, which will be submitted as part of Kenya's contribution to the global SDGs review processes. Members initiated the groundwork for identifying key thematic concerns, priority areas for advocacy, and opportunities for joint policy engagement ahead of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).

around resource mobilization and partnership building. Participating organizations mapped out joint fundraising strategies, identified areas for potential collaboration, and brainstormed ideas for co-hosting activities in a way that maximizes impact while avoiding duplication of efforts. The result was a renewed sense of collective purpose and Momentum, reinforcing the value of belonging to a shared platform.

The meetings also fostered strategic thinking



As the convener of civil society on the SDGs in Kenya, the Forum remains deeply committed to facilitating spaces that empower our members to contribute meaningfully to national development. We extend our sincere gratitude to all participating members for their unwavering dedication, insightful contributions, and commitment to leaving no one behind. We look forward to continued collaboration as we co-create sustainable solutions for a just and inclusive future.

[Report of SDGs 5 and 10 Goal Groups Meeting](#)



PARTNER UPDATES

URAIA

With support from URAIA Trust and the Danish Embassy, the SDGs Kenya Forum conducted a two-day training workshop on SDGs Tracking and Reporting on the 25th to 26th March 2025. The training was designed to enhance the capacity of URAIA implementing partners and new member organizations of the Forum, by providing practical knowledge and skills on SDGs, tracking tools, and reporting mechanisms. It enhanced their ability to contribute meaningfully to national and global SDG progress reports, ensuring that grassroots perspectives are adequately captured.



By the end of the workshop the participants had a deeper understanding of the SDGs framework and its monitoring mechanisms; Gained some hands-on experience in using SDG tracking tools and reporting templates; increased their commitment to contribute to national and global SDG progress reports as well as strengthened networks and collaborations through leveraging synergies. The training was a follow up to the 2024 CSO VNR process where CSOs were encouraged to share their stories with regards to the different initiatives in the different counties on SDGs implementation.



Thus, the workshop provided a valuable opportunity for grassroots organizations and CSOs to enhance their capacity in SDG tracking and reporting in preparation for the upcoming VNR process. By equipping them with the necessary skills and tools, the initiative will contribute to more inclusive and data-driven SDG reporting at national and global levels. Ultimately, strengthening the role of grassroots actors will ensure that development efforts are inclusive and aligned with the principle of leaving no one behind.

In addition to the training, the SDGs Kenya Forum actively supported youth engagement by facilitating their participation in the 2025 People Dialogue Festival. Youth delegates not only attended diverse sessions and side events including activities within the SDGs Village but were also empowered to be active contributors to the national development discourse.



This engagement ensured that young voices were not merely observing from the sidelines but were part and parcel of shaping the conversations around participatory governance, sustainable development, and accountability. These combined efforts underscore our commitment to ensuring that all stakeholders, particularly at the grassroots and youth levels, are equipped, included, and empowered in driving the 2030 Agenda forward.



Bridging Generations for Gender Equality

In collaboration with Hummingbird Grassroots Centre, the SDGs Kenya Forum co-hosted a compelling Grassroots Women Intergenerational Dialogue at the Church of God in Buruburu, under the theme «Beijing Eastlands Edition.» This impactful gathering brought together women across different age groups to exchange perspectives and experiences on gender equality, gender-based violence (GBV), and the strides made since the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action three decades ago. The dialogue fostered rich conversations on progress, persistent challenges, and the role of grassroots voices in advancing gender justice.

[!\[\]\(d66ff64371a51729ac8c1cdaa685ba6f_img.jpg\) Click here to read the activity report and key takeaways.](#)

International Women's Day: Commemorated on 8th March, the Forum supported and hosted a webinar focused on Beijing +30 reviews - in commemoration of International Women's Day, bringing together a diverse panel of speakers dedicated to championing gender equality. The session provided a platform for insightful discussions on the critical role of advocacy, policy, and grassroots initiatives in ensuring that women's voices are not only heard but also influence decision-making processes. Speakers shared their experiences, challenges, and success stories in advancing women's rights, fostering inclusivity, and driving transformative change within communities.



SDGs KENYA FORUM
Accelerating the Sustainable Development Agenda

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

"For ALL women and girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment"




LIVE WEBINAR

SPEAKERS



Jacinta Makokha
 Women's Rights Advocate



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Wanja Maina
 Disability Rights Expert



Jewel Omina
 Climate Change Advocate



Thursday
 2:30pm- 3:30 pm
 6th March, 2025

REGISTER NOW 

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6666666666>

MODERATOR



Hellen Apila
 Gender Lead- SDGs Kenya Forum

Celebrating Women's Achievements in Kilifi County

On March 8th, 2025, the SDGs Kenya Forum supported vibrant **International Women's Day celebrations** in **Kilifi County**, co-hosted by our SDGs and gender champions. The event recognized women's achievements across sectors and provided a platform to **amplify calls for gender equality**, address GBV, economic disparities, and leadership gaps.



Key highlights included the **launch of the Young Women Activist Lab 2025**, a 1km IWD Walk led by the **Chair of the Kenya Roads Board**, and exhibitions that showcased women's leadership and enterprise. The event also fostered stronger collaborations between local stakeholders, government, and civil society in advancing gender justice.

Commemorating International Women's Day in Makueni County

This year's **International Women's Day celebrations in Makueni County** highlighted the invaluable contributions of women to society and reinforced the urgent need to protect young girls from **gender-based violence (GBV)** and **sexual exploitation**. The event served as a powerful platform to raise awareness about the importance of **women's inclusion in leadership and development**, the **redistribution of unpaid care work**, and the need to **challenge**

traditional gender roles within households and communities.

In line with the day's theme of empowerment and equity, the SDGs Kenya Forum partnered with **Solar Mtaani's "Rays of Hope" initiative** to enhance energy access by donating **solar lanterns to 70 vulnerable women**. Additionally, through a collaboration with the **Makueni County Government**, **250 households** received **clean energy solutions** in the form of **LPG cooking units**—a significant step toward improving health outcomes and reducing environmental impact.



The celebration featured a vibrant mix of **songs, poems, skits, and speeches**, through which local women's groups and schoolgirls shared their stories, voiced their challenges, and expressed their hopes for a more inclusive and just future. These creative expressions not only uplifted the community's spirit but also sent a strong message to stakeholders about the importance of sustained investment in **gender-responsive policies and programs**.

LOOKING AHEAD

ARFSD

As we approach the close of Quarter One, the SDGs Kenya Forum is actively gearing up for one of the most critical engagements in the regional sustainable development calendar—the **Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD)**, scheduled to take place from 7th-11th April 2025. In alignment with our mandate to amplify civil society voices at both national and regional levels, the Forum is proud to announce that we will not only attend the ARFSD but also host a **dedicated side event** to spotlight Kenya's civil society contributions toward the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under review this year.

In preparation for our participation, we have held a series of **virtual planning and information-sharing sessions** with our members and partners. These sessions have served as critical platforms for building a common understanding of the ARFSD processes, sharing logistical updates, and refining our key advocacy messages. Moreover, we have facilitated a **collective review of the Goals under review**—including SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14, and 17, focusing on emerging issues, implementation gaps, and opportunities for accelerating progress through multi-stakeholder collaboration.

These preparatory engagements have enabled us to align our messaging, strengthen our regional policy positioning, and ensure that our participation is informed, coordinated, and impactful. As we look ahead to April, we remain committed to ensuring meaningful civil society engagement, regional solidarity, and evidence-based advocacy that resonates within and beyond the ARFSD platform



The poster for the 11th ARFSD session features logos of the Republic of Uganda, ECA, United Nations, and the Office of the Prime Minister. The central text reads: "11th ARFSD Eleventh Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development 9 - 11 April 2025 Kampala, Uganda". Below this, it states: "The 11th session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development will have **Exhibitions** from 9th - 11th April 2025". A dark blue banner at the bottom provides event details: "6th - 11th April, 2025 Commonwealth Convention Centre, Munyonyo, Kampala, Uganda" and includes a QR code with the text "Scan To Visit Website". A section titled "IN COLLABORATION WITH" lists various partners including UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP, World Food Programme, UNFPA, UN Women, and others.

HLPF

As part of our forward-looking agenda, the SDGs Kenya Forum is also laying the groundwork for meaningful engagement in the upcoming **High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)**, scheduled to take place in **July 2025** from 14th-23rd in New York. The HLPF remains a critical global platform for tracking progress, sharing innovations, and accelerating collective action towards the 2030 Agenda. With this in mind, the Forum has initiated an inclusive planning process to ensure that Kenya's civil society voices are well-prepared, coordinated, and effectively represented at the global stage.

Our preparatory activities for HLPF 2025 include internal consultations with member organizations, review of priority **Goals under review (SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17)**, and identification of key policy messages and advocacy asks that reflect grassroots realities and national priorities. We are also working closely with government partners, regional platforms, and international networks to build synergy and alignment in our engagement.

Feature Article : Data and Policy Engagement: Advancing Data-Driven Development

This quarter, the SDGs Kenya Forum actively participated in the East Africa Data Governance Conference 2025, hosted by the Open Institute. The conference brought together key stakeholders from across the region to explore inclusive, ethical, and people-centered data governance frameworks. Our participation reaffirmed our strong commitment to leveraging data for accountability, informed decision-making, and inclusive development.

As a platform that champions civil society's role in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we recognize that effective use of data is fundamental to tracking progress, identifying gaps, and ensuring no one is left behind. Going forward, we will continue to engage in regional and national data initiatives, advocate for open and accessible data systems, and strengthen our members' capacities in evidence-based programming and reporting.



Spotlight on Membership

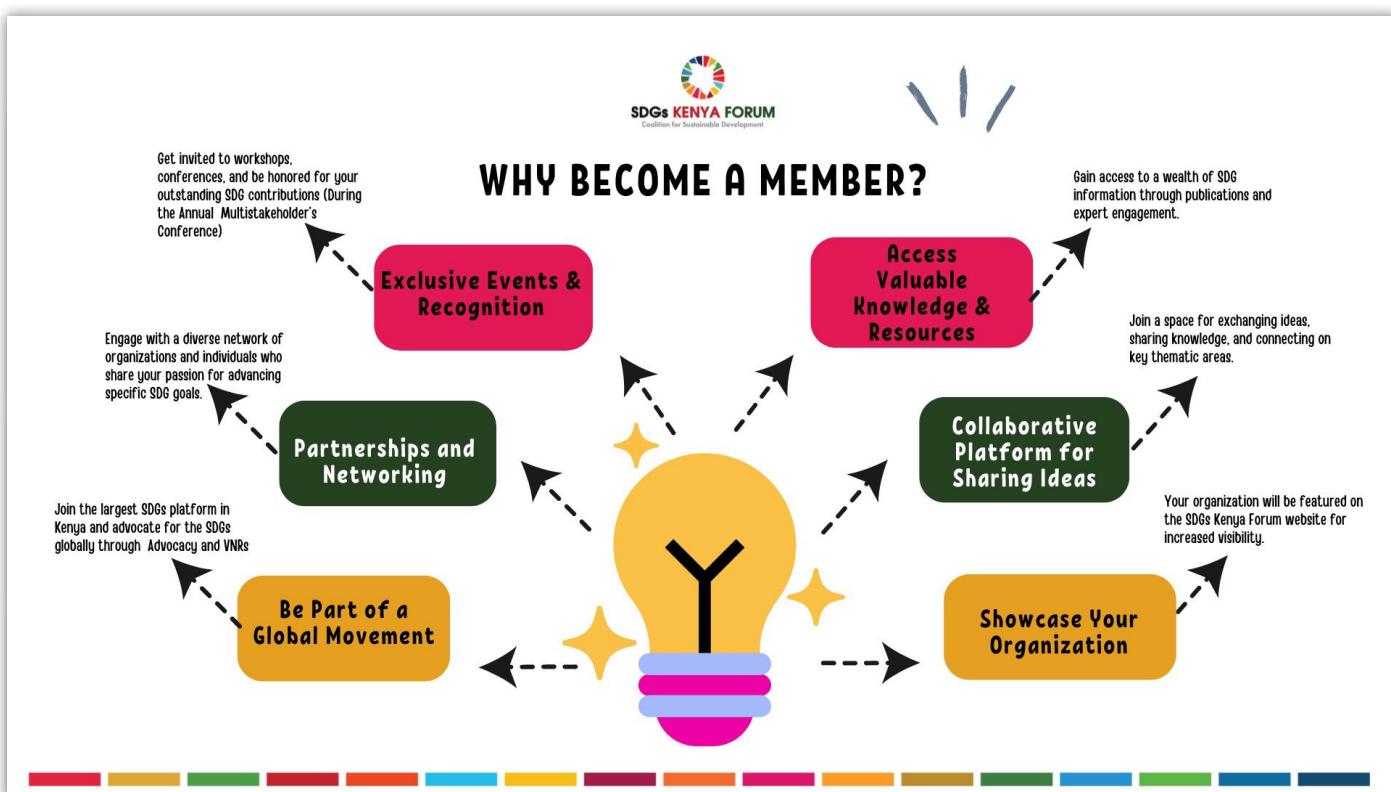
As a membership-based organization, the SDGs Kenya Forum remains committed to deepening engagement, strengthening collaboration, and ensuring that our members continue to derive value from being part of a vibrant and impactful network. This quarter, we placed a renewed focus on enhancing our membership database and fostering more personalized connections through a series of in-person engagements. These physical meetings not only allowed us to verify and update member profiles, but also created invaluable spaces for direct dialogue, experience sharing, and reflection on the evolving role of civil society in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Be Part of the Movement: Become a Member of the SDGs Kenya Forum



Are you passionate about sustainable development and making a real difference? Join the SDGs Kenya Forum and connect with a vibrant community of changemakers working to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Kenya and beyond.


As a member, you will gain access to a collaborative platform that fosters learning, partnership-building, and joint advocacy. You will also have opportunities to contribute to influential policy dialogues, participate in national and global development forums, and co-create impactful solutions with fellow civil society actors.



Let's shape a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable future—together. Become a member today and help amplify the voices and actions driving the 2030 Agenda forward.

Stay Informed: social media platforms:



 @SDGsKenyaForum

Follow us across our social media platforms and sign up for our newsletter to stay informed about our latest initiatives, events, and opportunities to get involved. Be the first to know what's happening at the SDGs Kenya Forum and how you can be part of driving the Sustainable Development Goals!

CONCLUSION

As we wrap up this first quarter, we extend our sincere gratitude to all our members, partners, and stakeholders who continue to walk with us in the journey toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Your dedication, collaboration, and shared commitment to leaving no one behind have been instrumental in driving our impact. As we look ahead to key moments such as the ARFSD and HLPF, we remain energized and focused on advancing our shared vision for a just, inclusive, and sustainable future. Let's continue to engage, innovate, and act—together.

SPOTLIGHT

Q1 **NEWSLETTER**

JANUARY TO MARCH 2025 HIGHLIGHTS





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