The power to empowers citizens: Strengthening data systems in Kenya

Spotlight on Citizen Generated Data

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- SDG Kenya Forum’s roadmap toward strengthening data systems in Kenya
- Youth Advocacy on SDGs
- Monitoring and Evaluation Week
- The Launch of the 2022 Economic Survey
- Data and Information for sustainable economic transformation

Contents

- SDG Kenya Forum’s roadmap toward strengthening data systems in Kenya
- Youth Advocacy on SDGs
- Monitoring and Evaluation Week
- The Launch of the 2022 Economic Survey
- Data and Information for sustainable economic transformation
"Technology is an enabler in harnessing Citizens Generated Data which can monitor the needs and progress of vulnerable groups." Florence Syevuo, Executive Director - SDG Kenya Forum

"Data should be interpreted with a human rights lens of respecting, protecting and fulfilling individual rights as we aim to leave no one behind." James Mwenda, Senior Human Rights Officer - Kenya National Commission on Human Rights

"Citizen Generated Data is information that people or their organizations produce to directly monitor, demand or drive change on issues that affect them on daily basis."

Dr. Kodingo Odingo, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Lead - SDG Kenya Forum

"Citizen Generated Data is a valuable source of evidence for assessing and informing policies to drive SDGs implementation progress thereby Leaving No one Behind"

Dr. Rose K. Oluoch Programme Manager - SDGs Kenya Forum

"Factual data has the power to empower citizens to seek accountability and transparency for critical service delivery within local and national governments." Macdonald Obudho, Director General - Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS)
SDG Kenya Forum’s roadmap toward strengthening data systems in Kenya

SDG Kenya Forum continues to provide space for structured and coordinated civil society organization (CSOs) engagement with (national and subnational) governments, citizens, the private sector, media, academia and development partners. The forum engages with the government and all stakeholders in the implementation, review and follows up on the 2030 Agenda for SDGs using strategic model of engagement;

- **Gender Data Dashboard-Tracking Kenya’s GEF Commitment:** Towards providing a podium for evidence and having a meaningful conversation on inclusion on all aspect of gender as crosscutting issue. The Forum is currently developing a gender data dashboard which is continuously being informed by agreed national data guidelines from Kenya Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), SDG 5 targets and indicators, and global data instruments as roadmap to enhance its multisectoral efficiency and adoptability. This intends to enhance the use of evidence data in making informed decisions and policy which targets to accelerate the implementation of Agenda 2030 in Kenya.

- **Decade of Action:** As the year 2030 fast approaches, there is a need for the Government, Civil Society, Private Sector, Academia and Media to join forces in a global shift toward more sustainable ways of living. Leaving no one behind requires that those who are furthest behind and most excluded are identified and prioritized. The Forum is currently investing in collating information analysed by partners in form of reports and member institution to identify those being left behind in terms of governance, poverty, employment, housing and education among many more. This information is being put on a podium dubbed as Decade of Action Campaign. The action is driven by experience having monumental information across the 17 Goals however and addressing the gap on finding and freely accessing SDGs information for media and public consumption.

- **Partnership with Kenya National Bureau of Statistics:** SDG Kenya Forum has an existing MoU with KNBS to continuously support one another on capacity building and ensuring proper frameworks exist on achievement of Global Goals. The forums has partly contributed towards the developed the Kenya Statistical Quality Assurance Framework (KeSQAF) which aims on promoting the use of best practices in production of statistics within the National Statistics System (NSS). Within this framework, an outlines exist which gives the criteria for validating Citizen-Generated Data (CGD) which is an alternative source of data to fill data gaps, particularly, for reporting on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The KeSQAF was launched in May 2022 and the Bureau has embarked on its implementation whereas Guidelines for Citizen Generated Data was launched 17th June 2022.
On 10th May 2022 UN Association of Finland and SDGs Kenya Forum organized a successful workshop on Youth advocacy for sustainable development jointly supported by UN Association of Tanzania and Uganda. The workshop was one among a series Dialogue that the SDG Kenya Forum and its partner continues to engage with the youth at National and Global Scale to foster peer-to-peer learning and a platform for developing their skills in national and international advocacy work to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. One of the notable dialogues was organised this year in March which was jointly supported SDG Youth Champions, HULTZ and University of Nairobi.

One of the recognised outputs of the dialogue was in order of the youth to create opportunities was for the Youth to create outfits that could formally voice alternative objective voice which can deliberately participate and influence, decision makers in private sector, local and National government to take action. One of such models is the Youth council in Finland that interreacts with local municipalities. This model has seen the youth council being given the opportunities to influence the planning, preparation, implementation and monitoring of the activities of the various branches of the municipality in matters that affect the well-being, health, study, living environment, housing or mobility of the municipality and other matters that the youth council considers important for children and young people.

In Finland, as result of their zeal in performance, the Youth Councils are further anchored and supported by Municipal Act. This gives them an edge and the need to be involved in a meaningful development agenda and continuous consultation of children and young people within any municipality in Finland. As such, section 26 of the Municipal Act in Finland provides for the possibility for young people to participate and influence on matters relating to local, regional and national youth work and policy.
The 10th National Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Week was organized by the National Treasury and Planning in collaboration with development partners. The Conference provided an opportunity to government agencies, private sector, county governments, civil society organizations, private sector and development partners at county, national, regional and international level to learn, share and exchange knowledge in the field of monitoring and evaluation. Further, the M&E practitioners had an opportunity to discuss and celebrate progress, consolidating gains and exploring new opportunities for the M&E in the public sector, such areas in include the Citizen Generated Data (CGD).

During M&E Week, it was highlighted that Citizen Generated Data initiatives allow statisticians to harness the power of data to contribute in areas where critical information is lacking. Among the many areas mentioned are deforestation, life below water, wildlife conservation, and human behavior. When these data are carefully separated, they form a variety of variables that are critical for the SDG Kenya Forum and its partners in developing evidence-based policy and assist government institution to harness proper intervention.

In addition, the conference will reflected on the progress made in institutionalization of M&E in the public sector and identify lessons learnt that facilitate a smooth transition of the M&E function. It will also be critical to identify unexplored opportunities on establishing robust M&E systems.

Click here to read and download related reports.
The Launch of the 2022 Economic Survey

In 2020 the Global Economy contracted by 4.2% in comparison to a growth of 2.7% in 2019. This contraction is mainly attributed to the emergence of Covid-19 disease which significantly constrained economic activity and significant decline in oil prices as a result of dwindling demand worldwide. In Kenya Agriculture, forestry and fishing added growth accelerated to 4.8% in 2020. This was mainly as a result of increased production tea and food crops such as beans, rice, sorghum and millet. This is according to 2022 Economic Survey released on May 5, 2022 by the National Treasury Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani and Kenya National Bureau of Statistics Director General Macdonald Obudho (R) at the KICC. Further the Survey indicates that more men than women are dying. Male death registration, for example, increased from 104,882 in 2020 to 131,599 in 2021, while female death registration rose from 80,553 in 2020 to 100,345 in 2021.

Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), Nairobi, is the primary source of official government statistics and is entirely funded by the government. The data used by KNBS in the compilation of statistical reports is rigorously validated in accordance with the Kenya Statistics Quality Assurance Framework, which is aligned with international best practices. In partnership KNBS works with various institutions such as the, UN agencies, Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) World Bank, Commonwealth and other development partners.

These are some of the Key finding for 2022 Economic Survey

Environment and Natural Resources:
- Forest cover was estimated at 7.3% of the total and area in 2020
- Total earnings from mineral output decreased by **5.8 percent** to KSh22.7 billion in 2020 mainly attributed to declines in Gold, Refined soda and Gemstones

Manufacturing Sector
- Manufacturing sector real gross value added contracted by **-0.1%** in 2020 compared to a revised growth of 2.5 percent in 2019. The sector’s performance was mainly supported by Sugar and cement production

Energy Sector
- Electricity supply GVA contracted by **0.5%** in 2020 compared to 1.7% growth in 2019.
- The total value of petroleum products imported dropped by **33.9%** to KSh 209.1 billion in 2020 from KSh 316.6 billion in 2019.

Money, Banking and finance
- Financial sector recorded a growth of **5.6 per cent** in 2020 compared to a growth of 6.9 per cent in 2019
- Total domestic credit grew by **18.6 per cent** in Dec 2020
- Credit to the National Government increased to **KSh 1,358.4 billion** as at Dec 2020 compared to KSh 900.4 billion in Dec 2019.
- Credit to the private sector expanded by **8.4 per cent** to KSh 2,891.3 billion in 2020

Public Finance
- Total expenditure stood at KSh **2,947.6 billion** in 2019/20 compared to KSh 2,944.8 billion in 2018/19
- Recurrent account dropped by **1.5%** in 2019/20 while development expenditure increased from KSh **569.7 billion** in 2018/19 to KSh 608.5 billion in 2019/20.
- Development expenditure accounted for **26.0%** of total expenditure in 2019/20
- Total expenditure by County Governments rose from KSh 405.5 billion in 2018/19 to KSh **417.2 billion** in 2019/20
- County Government expenditure on compensation of employees rose from KSh 155.8 billion in 2018/19 to **167.3 billion** in 2019/20.
Employment
- Employment in the various sector of the economy was adversely affected by containment measures instituted to curb the spread of COVID-19
- Total employment outside small-scale agriculture and pastoralist activities contracted by 4.1 per cent to 17.4 million in 2020.
- 83.0 per cent of recorded Employment in 2020 was in the informal sector
- A total of 2.9 million jobs were reported in the formal sector in 2020

Information and Communications
- Information and communication sector real Gross Value Added rose by 4.8 per cent in 2020
- In 2020, mobile cellular penetration grew by 15.1% to 126.15 Subscription per 100 inhabitants.
- Total mobile money transfers increased from KSh 4,346 billion to KSh 5,214 billion in 2020.
- Total domestic mobile call traffic increased by 2.5% from 58.7 billion minutes in 2019 to 60.3 billion minutes in 2020.
Data and Information for sustainable economic transformation

Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) repository continues to facilitate free and easy access of information including policy papers, sessional papers, development plans, economic blueprints and masterplans, county government’s policy documents and research publications since it was launched in 2021.

The right of access to information guaranteed by Article 9 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights and under chapter four of our Kenyan constitution. This freedom is invaluable component of democracy, as it goes a long way in facilitating participation in public affairs. The importance of the right of access to information is underpinned by the fact that it is a crosscutting right which is also one of the key aspect in fast trucking the achievements of sustainable development.

The 5th Annual Regional Conference themed, “Foundations for a Sustainable Economic Transformation in Kenya” 2022 brought together state and non-state actors to exchange views on building strong foundations to propel sustainable economic transformation in Kenya. The Conference also doubled up to provide an avenue to access information, models and policy that are driven by evidence which are key for driving creative economy, digital innovation, green economy and financial inclusion.
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