



2024

KENYA CSO's VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW REPORT

JULY 2024



SDGs KENYA FORUM

Coalition for Sustainable Development

2024 KENYA CSO's VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW REPORT

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1.0 OPENING STATEMENT

Kenya is committed to sustainable development given her future depends on the achievement of a holistic, integrated and participatory implementation of social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Whereas the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represents a global response to global challenges, it is relevant and capable of having a transformative impact on the quality of life of all Kenyans similar to the aspirations of the Kenya Vision 2030.

The Kenyan CSOs have prioritised the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Since the official launch of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2016 and thereafter the development of the SDGs Roadmap to guide the transition from Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to SDGs, the CSOs have played a key role in ensuring no one is left behind.

Through their efforts, a number of milestones have been achieved. Some of the areas with remarkable progress include in: Poverty reduction, health, education, gender equality, provision of clean water and sanitation, electricity, combating climate change and ensuring sustainable cities and human settlements. They have played a key role in the continued implementation of social protection programmes across the country. The aim of these programmes is to ensure that all Kenyans live in dignity and exploit their human capabilities for social and economic development.

It should be noted that during the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, member states committed to a robust follow up and review process that is government led. It is important to note that the Government of Kenya has institutionalised the tracking and reporting on SDGs – with CSOs playing a key role of inculcating participatory monitoring and implementation at the grassroots level. A comprehensive SDGs progress report is prepared after every two years. This is in addition to the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and other progress reports prepared when need arises – and always has a contribution from the CSOs. The 2020 VNR was the second Voluntary National Review with the first one having been prepared in 2017. Kenya is among 44 countries presenting their VNR in 2024.



2.0 INTRODUCTION

This is the Kenya Civil Society Voluntary Report for 2024. It presents the efforts made by the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Kenya. The report is prepared against the backdrop of the crucial role played by the CSOs in the implementation of SDGs, partly through: Raising awareness about the SDGs, advocating for their implementation, engaging communities at the grassroots level to ensure inclusivity in the SDG implementation process as well as empowering individuals and ensuring their voices are heard in the implementation process. Civil Societies also contribute innovative ideas and solutions to address complex challenges related to sustainable development. The organisations also monitor progress towards the SDGs by collecting data, and providing feedback on the effectiveness of policies and programs and hold governments and other duty bearers accountable for their commitments.

The report is hinged on the fact that citizens need to be mobilised to act and demand action. These organisations have established partnerships and networks that support initiatives that are significant in SDGs implementation and reporting. Given the effect of Covid -19, which among others, affected financial support levels for the Kenyan CSOs and exacerbated the probability of increasing the population likely to be left behind, non-state actors have been able to align their operations to the current obtaining environment. Despite this, Kenya continues to face a number of challenges. These calls for concerted efforts from all actors.



3.0 METHODOLOGY

The preparation of this third Kenyan CSOs report was highly consultative. It sought to ensure participation of all CSOs – with a state in the SDGs. The preparatory process adopted the Secretary General's common reporting guidelines issued at the beginning of the process. The objective of this review was to assess the progress made since the 2020 VNR (with a focus on CSOs contribution to sustainable development), identify challenges and gaps in the implementation. Specifically, the report assessed the interventions under implementation by the CSOs – in complementing the government's efforts. CSOs made contributions, which have been synthesised into this report. The report was validated as a true record of their presentations.



4.0 ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

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The CSOs are key to bringing the SDGs agenda to life locally. Their local knowledge helps tailor goals to community needs, ensures marginalised voices are heard, allows for progress monitoring, fosters collaboration between stakeholders, and raises awareness to mobilise communities. Through localization efforts, CSOs continue to play a pivotal role in creating a more sustainable and equitable future for all. Kenya's CSOs are strong supporters of localising the SDGs. Their deep community ties allow them to understand local needs and tailor SDG implementation. They raise awareness, advocate for supportive policies, and provide training to empower local actors. Through collaboration, they bring together diverse stakeholders for a unified approach towards achieving the SDGs in Kenya.

Kenyan CSOs have been engaging with the national and sub-national governments with a view to mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda into national and county level planning and budgeting frameworks. They have been in the forefront in promoting the use of data and evidence in the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda as well as adoption of administrative data to inform policies. They have been critical agents in creating awareness among stakeholders on the SDGs, mostly through the leave no one behind campaigns. They have also played a key role working with a whole spectrum of stakeholders in driving accountability, while also forging meaningful partnerships and collaboration with government, academia, and the UN System towards the 2030 Agenda.

The SDGs Kenya Forum - which is a voluntary membership entity open to CSOs, academia, media and the private sector, who subscribe to the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals - has been a key player in sustainable development. The Forum represents CSOs in various Technical Working Groups, in addition to being a co-chair of the SDGs Inter-Agency Technical Committee. Through these forums, CSOs agenda is also on the table.

The growing role of non-state actors is changing the political, security, economic, and social environments. In Kenya, the role of social movements, especially the 'networked' ones, has increased. They have been emboldened by the need to shape a new autonomy, to reclaim power and to shake the political scene, leading to social change. The networked social movement appears now as an extended and successful idea, having migrated from screens and streets to a more direct engagement with institutionalised power.

4.1 Leave No One Behind Principle

Three (3) Perspectives of Sustainable Development include: Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) which calls for countries to ensure that individuals and communities know their rights. It also means that they should be fully supported to participate in the development of policy and practices which affect their lives and to claim rights where necessary. Gender Equality and Women Empowerment aims at bringing gender inequality at the forefront of programmes and analysis. This is premised on the fact that faster progress across all the SDGs will largely depend on the thorough integration of gender dimensions in public policies. Environmental Sustainability focuses on the ability to maintain an ecological balance in our planet's natural environment and conserve natural resources to support the wellbeing of current and future generations.

Leave No One Behind (LNOB) is the rallying call for the SDGs. It is the epi-centre of the transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda. It is a commitment of all UN Member States to eradicate poverty in all its forms, end discrimination and exclusion, and reduce the inequalities and vulnerabilities that leave people behind and undermine the potential of individuals and of humanity as a whole. It is about addressing the root causes of inequalities - LNOB compels us to focus on discrimination and inequalities.

Many of the barriers' people face in accessing services, resources and equal opportunities are not simply accidents of fate or a lack of availability of resources, but rather the result of discriminatory laws, policies and social practices that leave particular groups of people further and further behind. Despite the Agenda having been launched close to eight (8) years ago, vulnerabilities are high; deprivations are becoming more entrenched; there is high risk

of missing the poverty eradication target (with 38.6% of Kenyans being ranked as poor); hunger is on the rise (with 30,5% of Kenyans being food poor); progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is too slow; inequalities in wealth, incomes and opportunities are increasing in and between countries; while biodiversity loss, environmental degradation, discharge of plastic litter into the oceans, climate change and increasing disaster risk continue at rates that bring potentially disastrous consequences for humanity.

Some of the reasons quite a substantial proportion of Kenyans are likely to be left behind include: Inequity (due to discrimination); low resilience of our communities (increased vulnerability to shocks); natural Events (recurrent drought – five (5) failed seasons leaving close to 5 million Kenyans in need of food assistance, may never recover, or may recover weaker, at the same position or better); nine (9) counties have been arid with 14 semi-arid – this has grown to 32 as a result of the recent drought, floods; governance [politics (clannism, not belonging), smaller indigenous and minority groups, sub-ethnic groups and clans face discrimination and lack political representation due to their low numbers; while numerically small groups lack political voice and representation, some large communities are at risk of being left behind due to a lack of access to identity documents or because they are labelled 'outsiders' or 'guests' in areas where they reside]. Additionally, the majority of counties experience heightened incidences of violence or tensions during the electoral periods. This is more pronounced in cosmopolitan counties.

CSOs have been in the forefront in: Identifying who is being left behind and why - mapping of those that are likely to be left behind - this has enabled identification and supporting of mostly left behind members of the society. Their participation in programming is critical; identifying and implementing effective measures to address the root causes; capacity

building of communities - how to prepare memoranda, plans and hold those in Authority to advocate; putting in place effective coordination mechanisms between organisations, agencies and bodies providing financing is required to ensure efficiency of services; implementing programmes that improve equity; establishing effective and transparent inter-sectoral governance structures; supporting policy coherence (at national and county processes); improving information sharing and allocation of resources; sensitization of the relevant agencies; monitoring and measuring progress through a sound tracking system – participatory M&E; ensuring accountability for LNOB; ensuring free, active and meaningful participation of all stakeholders, particularly those left behind is a key component of all steps and phases of policy, planning and programming for LNOB; and being active voices of the Voiceless – it is a ministry (it is a calling).

Specific interventions towards those that are likely to be left behind include:

Through its focus on education, training, and empowerment in under-served communities, Art Affair for Development Goals (AADG) addresses social inequities and enhances quality of life, making a direct contribution to building a just and cohesive society. The forum for African Women Educationalists Kenya has been working with diverse groups to ensure inclusion of the marginalised or excluded groups such as Persons with Disability (PWDs).

The Chandaria Tree Nurseries has engaged women, children, youth, local communities, and PWDs in both urban and remote areas. Secondly, the initiative complements the National Tree Growing strategy, aiming to plant 15 billion trees by 2032 and promotes climate resilience and sustainable land management, ensuring equitable access to resources through climate-smart technologies. Additionally, a quality assurance checklist was developed to track progress and identify gaps, focusing on reaching vulnerable populations. The project advocates for partnerships between government, civil society,

and local communities to facilitate meaningful participation and decision-making, ensuring the voices of marginalised groups are heard and respected.

The United Disabled Persons of Kenya (UDPK) working with the Organization of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) have implemented various interventions across the country.

To ensure that the promise to LNOB is released, the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda must address the needs of all young women and girls, especially those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and marginalisation, including, but not limited to sexual and gender diversity, disability, HIV and AIDS status, rural location, ethnic minority status, class and income, and living in conflict and post-conflict settings. When considering the opportunities and scope for achieving gender equality and sustainable development, the poorest and most vulnerable groups of young women and girls must be prioritised. Addressing intersecting inequalities and amplifying marginalised voices are essential to ensure no one is left behind.

4.2 Environmental Sustainability

Driving local climate action and sustainable development is crucial in the global fight against climate change and in achieving a sustainable future for all. This approach recognizes the importance of empowering local communities, understanding their unique vulnerabilities and strengths, and leveraging their indigenous knowledge and practices. It involves creating customised solutions that respect local cultures, economies, and ecosystems, ensuring that actions are not only effective but also equitable and inclusive.

CSOs have played a key role in designing and implementing locally led initiatives, such as: Community-based renewable energy projects, sustainable agriculture practices, reforestation and conservation efforts, and education and awareness campaigns. These projects not only reduce carbon footprints and restore ecosystems but also enhance local economies by creating jobs and improving livelihoods.

The Kenya Platform for Climate Governance (KPCG), which is a membership organisation of community and Civil Society Organizations' grassroots non-governmental organisations, faith-based organisations, women, youth, marginalised, and indigenous people in environment and climate change. The Platform has been a key driver of locally-led climate resilience and greening of livelihoods.

Both localization and mainstreaming of environment and climate action are crucial for developing resilience and promoting sustainable and inclusive development. Furthermore, locally led climate action is essential for sustainable development as it acknowledges the significance of community engagement from the bottom up, customising solutions to fit local contexts, and empowering communities to tackle the repercussions of climate change. By investing in and supporting locally led initiatives, Kenya can strengthen the resilience of communities and contribute to a more sustainable future.

While locally led climate initiative action starts at the grassroots level, its collective impact can contribute to global efforts to combat climate change, demonstrating the power of community-driven action in achieving Sustainable Development Goals.





5.0
**CSOs CONTRIBUTION
TO THE ACHIEVEMENT
OF THE SDGs**





GOAL 1 – NO POVERTY

1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day

In Kenya, poverty levels have remained high, increasing from 36.1% reported in 2015/16 to 38.6% in 2021. CSOs, working across the country (in all the 47 counties) have been on the forefront in the fight against poverty, details of which follow below:

As part of not living in poverty, the United Disabled Persons of Kenya (UDPK) has been supporting Persons with Disability (PWDs) for improved livelihoods. Affiliate Organizations for Persons with Disability (OPDs) have played a key role.

The OPDs, under UDPK, have contributed to these results through implementation of various programs and interventions including advocacy activities. It is worth noting that persons with disabilities are disproportionately impacted by poverty. This is occasioned by various barriers that hinder their participation in social-economic activities in the society, including accessing education services. Contributions made by OPDs toward realisation of these indicators include: Kirinyaga County Disability Organization advocated and worked in partnership with the county government and other organisations on economic empowerment for persons with disabilities. The government allocated 5.23% of the county budget to support persons with disabilities on income generating projects like Kitchen gardens, chicken rearing, goat keeping among others. LFTW and UDPK are members and participate on the livelihood subcommittee of the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee hosted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. The inter-agency Committees consisting of State and Non-state actors monitor implementation of SDGs commitments and advise the ministry on disability inclusion approaches. This ensures implementation is done within the confines of equality. Sight of relief Organization provided socio-economic empowerment to Persons with disabilities and caregivers of children with developmental disabilities such as cerebral palsy. The groups were trained on business and entrepreneurial skills and as a result some of the participants started their

own income generating activities including business. Sight of relief Organisation also partnered with KCB Foundation to train caregivers of persons with developmental disabilities on artisan skills, the aim to improve their employability opportunities and self-employment.

Further, Zipcare women initiative in Nairobi County has been supporting economic empowerment of women in table banking, merry go rounds, table mat making and bead work. The Vision of the Blind in Mombasa implemented the INUA BIASHARA programme that mainly supports Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in starting income generating projects and LIVELIHOODS for children with severe disabilities by targeting caregivers/parents and supporting them to live Independently. The Homabay County Disability Forum partnered with sight savers in supporting sorghum value chain where small scale farmers with disabilities are involved in sorghum farming for either commercial and domestic use. This has improved economic income and food security for PWDs. The Kakamega County Disability Caucus is implementing an Inbusiness program, courtesy of Inclusive Futures Light for the World and UDPK. This is an economic empowerment program that aims to improve the livelihoods of PWDs and their caregivers. Micro entrepreneurs with disabilities are taken through comprehensive business training, self-advocacy training and are supplied with business growth kits to boost their business. So far, 150 HHs have been supported. Other OPDs supporting poverty related programmes include: Albinism Society of Kenya, (Trans-Nzoia); Transformative Effective Disability Development Organization (TEDDO), West Pokot and Emuhaya/Vihiga Group of Disabled; Kikuyu District Disability Network in Kiambu County and Nyeri County Disability Network.

Kenya National Association of the Deaf (KNAD) economically empowered persons who are deaf with Kenya sign language training leading to securing teaching opportunities. Narok Disabled Integrated Program (NAIDP) in Narok County trained persons with disabilities on Income Generating Activities including: Support on how to get government funds like NGAAF, Uwezo Fund for our youths etc., and also ensuring children from PWDs' families go to school. Currently they are advocating for persons with disabilities to benefit from the county housing project. Deaf Ability Initiative undertook sustainable livelihood projects for Deaf youths (18-35yrs) and trained youth who are deaf on Business skills. The trained persons got engaged in internships, employment and self-employment. The Outstanding Abilities Kenya in Kwale County, trained persons with disabilities on business skills including company registrations and accessing tenders through AGPO.

The Maasai Indigenous People are dependent on livestock for livelihoods. The community has been greatly affected by the recurrent drought. ILEPA supported alternative livelihoods through construction of a honey processing unit for two (2) women groups in Narok South, training them on honey packaging, branding and selling. Through this, the women have managed to take their children to school, buy food, buy water tanks for their households and are also doing table banking through some of the funds from the sale of the honey.

1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

Kenya Association for the Intellectually Handicapped (KAIH) provided capacity building to entrepreneurship skills to parents and self-advocates to persons with intellectual impairment, Advocated for provision of business space for caregivers with Nairobi County. Resource mobilisation for medical support and food support through partner organisation. Differently Talented Society of Kenya (DTSK)-Trained 201 caregivers of children with autism and related developmental disabilities in Nairobi, Nyeri and Nakuru on Entrepreneurship and Business Skills at the National Industrial Training authority (NITA) and AAYDEN Consultants across three Counties: Nairobi, Nyeri and Nakuru. The trained caregivers accessed employment opportunities and self-employment. In partnership with NITA, it trained Thirty-one (31) Persons with autism and other developmental disabilities and their support caregivers in various trades IT, Computerised Embroidery, Tie & Dye, Plumbing, Automotive Engineering, Food & Beverage (Hospitality), Painting among others. It also supported 73 Caregivers of children with developmental disabilities and 20 Persons with autism and related developmental disabilities with small business grants to enhance their microenterprises or start new businesses or acquire tools of trade. Women challenged to Challenge (WCC) trained sign language interpretation to a total 52 people with and without disabilities. Blind and Low Vision Kenya (BLINK) Machakos supported income generating activities for PWDs such as encouraging rearing of chicken and rabbits. It also encouraged kitchen gardening that helped people with disabilities earn revenue for themselves.

Save the Children International has been implementing a livelihood project offering an Enterprise Based Technical Vocational Education and Training (EBTVET) to youths aged between 14-26 years in urban informal settlements and in Mandera County. The project aims to equip the youths with skill sets to enable them start up income generating activities in order to improve their livelihoods.

1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable

The Government has been implementing the Inua Jamii Programme for the elderly, those with severe disabilities and Orphans and Vulnerable Children. However, the Inua Jamii social protection programme has not been targeting all needy and eligible older people. For example: Targets for 2020/21 was 933,000 with actual coverage of 763,670 hence a deficit of 169,330. There is also a notable inconsistency in targeting evident with lowering of the 2021/22 target, i.e. 833,129 with 99,871 older people dropped compared with 2020/21 which was 933,000.

As part of complementing government efforts and support to cushion vulnerable HHs, HelpAge International Kenya (HAIK) collaborated with the State Department for Social Protection and Senior Citizens Affairs in Midline Impact Evaluation of Kenya's Inua Jamii targeting those with 70 years and above Cash Transfer Programme. Further, through the ADH project in Turkana County, HelpAge is providing cash transfer for 32 most vulnerable households headed by older women. HelpAge also supported 1,692 older men and women in (921 Marsabit and 771 Turkana) through Drought Response funded by Margaret Anne Cargill Philanthropies (MACP) through cash transfers reaching at least (8460 household members @ 5 people per household). Through a Resilience Building Project, HAIK

has supported 150 Older Persons (OP) in Turkana and 50 youths through Climate Smart Agriculture.

HelpAge International Kenya (HAIK) supported 1,692 older men and women in (921 Marsabit and 771 Turkana) through Drought Response funded by Margaret Anne Cargill Philanthropies (MACP) through cash transfers reaching at least (8,460 household members @ 5 people per household). Through a Resilience Building Project, HAIK has supported 150 Older Persons (OP) in Turkana and 50 youths through Climate Smart Agriculture.

1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance

Towards ensuring that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, GROOTS Kenya facilitated grassroots women in Kenya to obtain land through Communal Land Grants, as outlined in Kenya's Community Land Act of 2016. This process involved extensive community sensitization by the State Department of Ministry of Lands Physical Planning (MOLPP), local governments, traditional leaders, and Kenyan women's groups. The result of these efforts is evident. For example, grassroots women in Kenya now collectively own 520 acres of land in Tana River County, either through leasing from community elders or as registered landowners in Community Land Management Committees (CLMCs). Additionally, 41 land plots were allocated to women's groups and 1,350 land plots to individual women, totaling 45 acres of land.

In tandem with land ownership initiatives, GROOTS Kenya conducted training sessions for women in business, focusing on financial literacy and entrepreneurship skills. During the reporting period, these trained women were connected with financial service providers, such as the GROOTS SACCO, to advance their economic empowerment. Notably, 17 women from Kakamega and Nakuru Counties successfully secured loans amounting to Kshs. 1,927,500. This concrete example highlights the significant impact of GROOTS Kenya's initiatives on women's economic empowerment. The training and subsequent access to financial resources has played a crucial role in the business development and financial independence of these women entrepreneurs. The loans provided by GROOTS Kenya have had a positive and transformative effect on the lives of these women, enabling them to achieve greater financial autonomy and contribute to sustainable economic growth.

The Hakijamii – ESRC has interest in litigations (of concern to the public) to ensure that the marginalised communities are guaranteed their security of tenure. Some of the communities supported are Upendo Village and Deep-Sea community in Nairobi and Kibos Nubian community in Kisumu.

As a best practice, GROOTS has been implementing a Comprehensive Community Sensitization programme. The approach of engaging in extensive community sensitization efforts involving various stakeholders such as government bodies, local leaders, and women's groups ensures that the importance of women's land ownership and economic empowerment is widely understood and accepted within the communities. By involving traditional leaders and local authorities, GROOTS Kenya is able to leverage existing structures and influence to promote lasting change.

The organisation has also been implementing a Holistic Training and Linkages programme providing training in financial literacy and entrepreneurship skills, followed by actual connections to financial institutions like the GROOTS SACCO, GROOTS Kenya is not only empowering women with knowledge but also with tangible resources. This integrated approach enhances the effectiveness of the training,

ensuring that women can immediately apply their newly acquired skills and access financial services to kickstart or expand their businesses.

1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

Brooke East Africa has been working towards sustainable improvements in the welfare of working animals [Donkeys, horses and mules] which communities depend on for their livelihoods. The organisation takes note that working equids play a fundamental role by improving families' livelihoods through their direct and indirect contributions. For example, their (equids) work provides support to food security and poverty reduction through their role in income generation activities they provide drought and load-bearing power, as well as other outputs such as manure. Protecting livelihoods is critical to maintain household income and improve nutrition. Smallholder farmers tend to be from poorer, rural communities and the use of working animals, especially donkeys, have supported the income of these communities. If communities are supported with good animal health and livestock practices, it can sustain their revenues to help them cultivate and buy nutritious foods. Smallholder farmers with working animals, such as a donkey, have the ability to produce more, as they rely on them heavily for manual traction. The Goal speaks about value and non-farm employment, this is clearly exemplified in working livestock such as donkeys or horses because farm owners using working animals not only have the ability to produce more food for themselves but also to take their produce to market.

The organisation has engaged Turkana, Narok, Kajiado, Narok and Kitui county government staff on Livestock in Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS) to support the consideration of livestock, including equids, within national resilience plans and also provided emergency support [water, feed and vet care] in Turkana, Narok, Kajiado, Narok and Kitui [largely on water, Feed, vet care].

The Hakijamii – ESRC, in collaboration with WWF-Kenya, is capacity building communities and CSOs (such as LANABWRUA and LANABLA) in Narok County to be involved in decision making process with regard to the governance and management of natural resources, livelihood enhancement and climate change mitigation. HelpAge, as part of resilience building, supported 50 older persons in Turkana County set up Income Generating Activities. Currently (May, 2024), HAIK is supporting 830 people from 400 households affected by floods in Marsabit County.

1.a Ensure significant mobilisation of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions

Development Initiatives supported disability inclusion through data and analysis by producing a series to examine the inclusivity of county budgets in Kenya, specifically focusing on Bungoma, Kakamega, Trans Nzoia, Busia, and Vihiga counties. These briefings delve into the allocation of funds towards disability inclusion within these counties, analysing budget trends and prevalence rates of disability. Notably, the analysis reveals that all five (5) counties allocated an average of 0.1% of their total budgets towards disability inclusion, with limited funding and inconsistent allocation across specific budget lines targeting persons with disabilities. Interestingly, Vihiga county, which reported the highest disability prevalence rate among the five counties, demonstrated a relatively higher investment in disability inclusion compared to others.

The findings underscore the need for enhanced awareness and understanding of county planning and budgeting processes among persons with disabilities and Organisations of Persons with Disability (OPDs). Recommendations put forth include advocating for more inclusive policies, conducting regular reviews of development plans and budgets to ensure accountability and inclusion, and bridging the knowledge gap between county departments and stakeholders regarding disability-inclusive practices.

However, challenges such as data disaggregation and the unavailability of budget reports for certain financial years hinder comprehensive analysis. Yet, these briefings serve as a catalyst for action, summarising critical funding gaps and offering actionable recommendations to foster greater disability inclusivity and improve the accessibility of budgetary data for future assessments.

It is noteworthy that the report served as a key instrument for the Western Disability Network in advocating for enhanced resource allocation towards disability programs. This advocacy has demonstrably yielded positive results, with Bungoma County being the first to implement such an increase in resource allocation.

At the global level, in its role as evidence producer on disability inclusion, DI tracked aid to disability between 2019 and the third quarter of 2021 using disbursements sourced from the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI). The report provides an overview of the total funding, donors involved, the key recipients and sectoral funding. The analysis revealed most resources (over 94%) are directed towards development projects that only consider disability as a secondary objective, not the main focus. There's a lack of dedicated funding for projects specifically addressing disability needs (under 6%). Additionally, a shift is occurring in who provides this funding. International Financial Institutions are becoming the dominant source, similar to what was seen during the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, funding is heavily concentrated in just a few sectors like health and education, and geographically, it primarily benefits just ten counties. This raises concerns as the allocation doesn't seem to be based on factors like the number of people with disabilities in each county or the capabilities of local organisations to manage these projects.

Development Initiatives with funding from World Bank, helped develop an analytical research product looking at the public expenditure and institutional review of early childhood education in two counties – West Pokot and Nakuru. The aim of this analysis was to provide data and evidence to inform the implementation of the Human Capital Development project implemented by the Government of Kenya with support of the World Bank. The approach involved applying a cross-cutting human capital lens to assess the contributions of programmes, policies, and institutions to ECD in Kenya. This includes (i) looking at multi-sectoral expenditures in ECD, their efficiency and equity and (ii) analysing the institutional constraints regarding policy development, planning, and implementation at the national and subnational levels. The Institutional Review involved conducting a deep dive institutional analysis of 3 ECD Programmes, i.e., (i) Home-Grown School Meals Programme, (ii) Improving Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Kenya, and (iii) a County-Initiated School Feeding Programme. It assesses the institutional and governance arrangements, results monitoring, challenges, and constraints to effective implementation of the three ECD programmes.

The institutional review had the following findings, in West Pokot County, Kenya, the County Initiated School Meals (CISM) program aims to improve both education and nutrition for young children. This breakfast program provides fortified porridge to students in pre-primary centres. Implemented by the Department of ECDE with community involvement, CISM has seen positive results in enrollment and nutrition. However, challenges like inadequate kitchens, limited funding, and weak coordination hinder the program's full potential.

The Kenyan Government tackles childhood education and nutrition through the Home-Grown School Meals Programme (HGSM). This programme provides hot meals and fortified porridge to students in arid and semi-arid areas and urban slums. HGSM aims to boost school enrollment, improve student health, and support local agriculture. Funded by the national government, the program faces challenges like limited funding, inadequate kitchens, and delayed deliveries. However, it reaches 1.8 million students and contributes to their well-being.

In West Pokot and Nakuru counties, efforts focus on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) interventions. These programs aim to eliminate open defecation, provide clean water and sanitation facilities, and reduce health issues linked to poor hygiene. Implemented by a mix of government agencies, NGOs, and UN bodies, WASH programs involve building water infrastructure, promoting sanitation through community initiatives, and educating communities on hygiene practices. However, challenges include limited data for planning, low prioritisation of sanitation by counties, and difficulties with project completion due to procurement delays and land limitations. Despite these hurdles, WASH programs play a crucial role in improving public health and well-being in these Kenyan counties.

This public expenditure review examined three key sectors impacting Early Childhood Development (ECDE): agriculture, health, and education. The review revealed several concerning findings. Firstly, in agriculture, reported contributions to ECDE programs, such as seed distribution for women, were not always reflected in the corresponding budgets. Additionally, it proved difficult to distinguish between spending directed specifically at children and spending that benefits entire households. Secondly, the education sector allocated a significant portion of its ECDE budget towards bursaries for primary, secondary, and higher education. This diverts resources from the core objectives of improving access to and quality of early childhood education itself. Thirdly, the health sector faced challenges in connecting budget records to specific ECDE activities due to unclear categorization. Errors in how allocations were presented further compounded the issue. Overall, a significant disconnect exists between what countries claim to be doing for ECDE and how their budgets are actually allocated. This lack of transparency makes it difficult to track spending on ECDE programs effectively.

1.b Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions

Non-state actors have played a key role in establishing a supportive policy and legal framework. For example, HelpAge shared input and submissions in the on-going process towards legislation of the social protection Bill 2024

BEST PRACTICES

1. *Inua Jamii for the Elderly is an innovative dimension.*
2. *Entrepreneurial capacity development for PWDs, Women and Youth.*
3. *Supporting women access to factors of production – land.*
4. *GROOTS SACCO's initiative on Loans without collateral promoting women's economic empowerment.*
5. *Lack of expertise to manage and analyse data at County and National Governments*
6. *Lack of mainstreaming of disability across departments.*

GAPS/CHALLENGES

1. *Inadequate disaggregated data on poverty and LNOB.*
2. *Inconsistencies in data definition makes it difficult to compare overtime.*
3. *Inadequate funding of pro-poor programmes.*
4. *Inconsistency in funding of interventions due to changes in regime.*

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. *Increase investment in social protection programs, education, and healthcare services, targeting the most vulnerable populations. This can be enhanced by adopting innovative funding models and partnerships with partners who prioritise poverty eradication actions.*
2. *Support the implementation of targeted social spending initiatives that directly benefit the poor, including conditional cash transfers and subsidies for essential goods. This practice ensures that social spending is effectively reaching and impacting those most in need. The conditional CTs should be targeted to assets building as well as environmental conservation.*
3. *Strengthen the resource allocation frameworks within the national and county government. This should include prioritisation of poverty reduction efforts, ensuring consistent and inclusive support across multiple departments and programmes. This broadened approach will acknowledge the multifaceted nature of poverty and ensure a comprehensive strategy for achieving SDG Goal 1.*
4. *Collaborative advocacy is essential. CSOs and the Government should work together to promote the utilisation of high-quality, disaggregated data in SDG 1 implementation. This data should encompass various demographics, including data generated by citizens themselves. Citizen-generated data can provide valuable insights into the lived experiences of poverty and inform targeted interventions.*
5. *Integrate the private sector into the overall implementation of SDG Goal 1. This partnership can take many forms, including financial contributions and co-development of poverty reduction programmes. By engaging the private sector, the county government can leverage additional resources and expertise to create a more robust and sustainable approach to achieving SDG 1.*
6. *Generate more disaggregated data for planning purposes.*



GOAL 2 - ZERO HUNGER

2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round

Data indicates that prevalence of undernourishment improved from 34.5% in 2020 to 30.5% in 2021. This is a great improvement, meaning that the government has put measures in place to end hunger in the country. Various CSOs have made a contribution towards food and nutrition security.

The World Vision Kenya (WVK) has played a key role in food and nutrition security. It has had operations in 42 counties. In the last one (1) year, supported 31,436 HHs with an economic development intervention, supported 77,537 HHs in joining Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs), supported 680,650 HHs with food assistance and multi-purpose cash assistance, while another 77,736 HHs were reached with livelihoods, economic recovery and resilience interventions

In Turkana County, HelpAge is implementing a poverty eradication and climate change resilience intervention that has equipped 200 households of older persons, i.e. over 1000 direct beneficiaries and 50 youth with the following: Climate agriculture techniques; skills on IGAs selection, planning and management; and environmental conservation and climate change.

GROOTS Kenya has equipped six women groups, comprising 105 households, with water implements, shallow wells, and solar-powered irrigation systems (including solar-powered pumps, solar panels, PVC pipes, HDPE pipes, and diesel-powered water pumps). These resources have facilitated the cultivation of 66 acres of arid and semi-arid land with climate-resilient crops. As a result, the Maendeleo, Ajab, Tujiinue, Komichale, and Tumaini women's groups have produced approximately 1,880 kg of

green grams and 50 crates of tomatoes, among other vegetables. This initiative has significantly enhanced food security and sustainable farming practices for 105 households in Tana River County.

GROOTS Kenya supported 105 households in Tana River County to cultivate 66 acres of arid land, yielding 1,880 kg of green grams and 50 crates of tomatoes. This enhanced food security and sustainable farming practices.

Local Development Research Institute (LDRI) has implemented the VBA project with support from AGRA with aim of building the capacity of County Governments of Kiambu and Embu to implement a private sector-led extension approach whereby improved maize seeds and other yield-enhancing inputs and information on good agronomic practices (GAP) will be availed to farmers through self-employed Village Based Advisors (VBAs). The project entailed the identification of farmers, called VBAs, who were trained by government officers to be trainers of their peer farmers, in the dissemination of extension information and introduction of new and improved maize varieties that were climate resilient. The project was able to train, build capacity and provide high-yielding maize varieties to 250,000 farmers in Kiambu, Embu and Murang'a counties.

Save the Children International (SCI) and Turkana Christian Development Mission (TCDM) collaborated on a Life-saving Assistance program funded by Swiss Solidarity. The project aimed to improve food and nutrition security among drought-affected households in Turkana County. Through unconditional cash transfers and nutrition education, mothers and children under 59 months gained increased access to diverse diets. Cash was delivered monthly via mobile money, while nutrition education was provided at integrated health and nutrition outreach sites. Evidence suggests that combining cash transfers with nutrition education positively impacts maternal and infant nutrition outcomes, including dietary diversity and child growth indicators.

The SCI has been providing unconditional food assistance in the form of cash transfers to 330 households with children with acute malnutrition to improve household food security outcomes, and therefore address some of the underlying causes of malnutrition. The disbursements are done monthly for three cycles. Based on the Kenya Cash working group, the transfer value was 50% of the harmonised rural food minimum expenditure basket (fMEB) recommendation, equivalent to approx. KSH 8,250/CHF 65 per household (IPC phase 3). The unconditional cash assistance provided was to offer the crisis affected population the flexibility and dignity to choose how to cover their basic needs. Beneficiary registration was conducted to obtain disaggregated demographic details (sex, age, disability, etc.) for beneficiary individuals/households.

The SCI has also implemented the Nitunze project in Kenya's Turkana North and Mathare slums for three years. The project aimed to enhance the survival and well-being of children below 5 years old, by addressing childhood illnesses, malnutrition, and healthcare-seeking behaviour. It also targeted the underlying causes of inadequate resources to create a conducive environment for the children's growth. The Light Foundation (TLF) funded the project. 61% of households acknowledged being able to meet their basic food needs during hunger season. 47% of the beneficiary households showed acceptable food consumption scores during lean season, an increase from 28% at baseline. However, this proportion was very low in Turkana North with an Endline of 20%, but highest in Mathare at 70%.

The SCI has also been implementing a livelihood project offering an Enterprise Based Technical Vocational Education and Training (EBTVET) to youths aged between 14-26 years in urban informal settlements and in Mandera County. The project aims to equip the youths with skill sets to enable them start up income generating activities in order to improve their livelihoods. In terms of food security, the food Consumption Score indicates that 91% of the sampled youths fall into the acceptable consumption category implying that they are food secure. This was more than twice the current Mandera county food consumption score (45%) reported in the recent National Drought Management Authority report for the month of October 2022.

On the other hand, the OPDs did their part to reduce hunger in the country. These include: Hope Women with Disabilities (HOWID) has been part of the Kisumu County food security strategy book formation, has given vegetable and fruit seedlings to farmers with disabilities in partnership with the Agriculture department, issued stalls for selling farm produce and linked them to hotels and supermarkets. It also held smart agriculture sensitization meetings for farmers. UDPK and COTU (Central Organization of Trade Union) in partnership and collaborations with other actors such as Syngenta Foundation East Africa, Coca-Cola and EABL are implementing a global project, Global Labour Project (GLP) whose objective has been to increase income of small-scale farmers who are women with disabilities. This is done through training and equipping the women with Agri skills and linking them with market opportunities, including providing access to financial components. Low interest loans and grants. The programs have trained 310 women with disabilities on framing and entrepreneurship skills, this has led to increased income among the women farmers, and increment in the crop yield

Further, the Kapkatet group for the disabled, educated and trained their members on how to conserve and use natural resources in farming and cultivation. Differently Talented Society of Kenya (DTSK) Provided Supermarket food vouchers support to 200 families of persons/children with developmental disabilities for 3 months. The Kisii County Abled Differently encouraged and trained their members on embracing agricultural production based on the meagre government assistance e.g. fertiliser subsidy. Endorois Indigenous Women Network (EIWEN) in Baringo county encouraged persons with disabilities to rear animals such as chicken and kitchen gardening - they've been able to generate income for themselves and provide food for their families through this.

The Nyeri County Disability Network has been training individuals and groups on income generating activities, linking them to opportunities and providing seed capital. Linking persons with disabilities to opportunities in agriculture and seed capital for dairy goats, tree seedling nurseries and beehives to groups, and distribution of food stuff to over 243 persons with disabilities.

Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd (OLCGS) held sensitization and awareness to the public on food security (planting indigenous food crops such as millet, wimbi, sorghum, cassava, sweet potatoes).

Hami Imani Africa has been implementing a feeding program in schools. The program is currently being implemented in three (3) schools. The performance in all the schools has greatly improved. Further, its humanitarian food program for the elderly in Kiamba (Kiambu County) has seen their health improve.

2.1 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons

The Community Implementing Initiative (CII) has been organising training on proper nutrition with trained Community Health persons (volunteers). The organisation has been training them on malnutrition and how to identify affected children and refer them to the health facilities.

ILEPA has implemented restocking efforts geared towards building resilience through the purchase of goats and Sahiwal Bulls for climate resilience. Milk from the goats and honey from the bee apiaries support good health for the children in these areas.

2.2 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.

2.3 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.

2.4 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed

Brooke East Africa has been supporting collaborative research and engagements on anti-microbial work with agrovets. It has also mentored 180 practising animal health practitioners (Veterinarians, Para vets and vets' surgeons) ensuring that they provide quality of service, mentored 160 agrovets on governance, records keeping, trained 31 farriers on hoof care, interacted with 500 students from eight (8) animal health learning institutions. There have also been ongoing efforts to repeal Cap360 (Prevention against cruelty to Animals Act).

It has also supported development of County Animal Welfare Bills [Kirinyaga, Nakuru) that have since been assented. The organisation has been advocating for the ban on the commercial slaughter and export of donkey's skins and associated products. This push is informed by a KALRO report on the status of slaughter of donkeys. The report warned that the numbers of donkeys will fall below effective reproductive numbers by 2023 if slaughter continues. Additionally, Sessional Paper Number 3 of 2020 on Livestock Policy recognizes the threat of slaughter of donkeys. The Head of States and Governments in 2024 ratified a decision of the STC 2023 on donkey preservation in Africa that had endorsed a ban on slaughter of the donkeys for the skin trade.

2.a Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries

2.b Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round.

2.c Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility

BEST PRACTICES

1. *Targeted Support: GROOTS Kenya's approach of providing specific support to women's groups in the form of water implements and irrigation systems tailored to their needs is a best practice. This targeted assistance ensures that resources are efficiently utilised and directly contribute to improving agricultural productivity.*
2. *Climate Resilience: The focus on climate-resilient crop production and agroforestry activities demonstrates a best practice in aligning with SDG 2.4. By emphasising sustainable practices and adapting to local climate conditions, GROOTS Kenya is contributing to long-term food security and environmental sustainability.*
3. *Children Agenda Forum - engaging policy makers, educators and civil society organisations on child nutrition. Additionally, advocating for policies supporting the elimination of child hunger.*
4. *Jesuit Haklmani Center - Indigenous knowledge being used to adapt to the effects of climate change. Use traditional indigenous knowledge to adapt to climate change promoting sustainability and inclusive partnership in Isiolo, Kajiado, Kitui, and Samburu County. Combination of traditional knowledge with scientific knowledge. Traditional practices include maintaining diverse seed varieties, which can be more resilient to climate extremes, pests, and diseases. Gender representation in decision making processes related to climate change adaptation and mitigation. Introducing kitchen gardens to female farmers in Isiolo, Kajiado, Kitui, and Samburu County who had no knowledge.*
5. *Local Development Research Institute - Using the VBAs and taking a farmer field school approach, LDRI has since introduced farmers to rice in places where rice has never been grown before and supported the uptake of innovations such as Black Soldier Fly larvae to support plant and animal nutrition and Indigenous vegetable farming to increase household resilience to weather shocks while enhancing the nutrition status of the households. We are currently developing an Artificial Intelligence (AI) early warning system that monitors farming activities and supports precision agriculture practices using on-the-ground data This AI development project aims to provide extension service providers and smallholder farmers in rural Africa with predictive climate change mitigation recommendations, which will be based on artificial intelligence and satellite data.*

GAPS

1. *On livestock - Under-resourced national veterinary services with inadequate staff and infrastructure; critical shortages in veterinary medicines and vaccines; inadequate access to veterinary and para veterinary services by animal-owning communities; weak disease surveillance at critical points like border crossings and wet markets; lack of coordination between human, animal and plant health services.*
2. *Poor diversification of income strategies.*
3. *Inadequate holistic rangeland management*
4. *Discriminatory welfare practices.*
5. *Climate related vulnerabilities.*

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. *Enhanced school meals programmes - ensure universal access to free nutritious meals for school children in Kenya.*
2. *Provide financial support to low-income families to reduce poverty and food insecurity.*
3. *Strategically design projects to provide attractive incentives to youth to engage in agriculture amid the high rate of unemployment in the counties. Most youths preferred value chains that generated "quick income"*
4. *More investment in drought resistant crops and local animal breeds.*
5. *Holistic rangeland management.*
6. *Advocacy on Nutrition and available affordable balanced diet and children under 5 years and pregnant and lactating women.*
7. *Sensitization on kitchen garden/gunny bag farming for the informal settlement communities where space is a challenge and will help get Balanced diet.*
8. *Implement of moratorium on donkey slaughter for the skin and development of a Pan African Strategy for the Development of Donkey Species in Africa and action plan for increased production and productivity as guided by the Heads of States and Government EXECUTIVE COUNCIL of the Forty Fourth Ordinary Session of 2024.*



GOAL 3 – GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

3.1 *By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births*

The World Vision Kenya (WVK) has played a key role in improving health outcomes in 42 counties across the country. Detailed information on some of the key output indicators is as shown below.

OUTPUT INDICATOR	ACHIEVED
Number of adolescent girls and young women reached with HIV prevention programmes	53,991
Number of children 0-59 months in program area reached by a trained CHW	516,643
Number of Women of Reproductive Age (15-49 years) reached by a trained CHW	286,053
Number of Women reached with Maternal Child health services (Postnatal care, nutrition and family planning)	304,732
Number of children (6-59) months fully immunised	221,682
Number of pregnant women attending the fourth Antenatal Care (ANC) visit at a health facility	149,190

Number of children who benefited from Nutrition counselling reached by Community Health Promoters (CHPs)	437,390
Number of children 0-59 months treated for Moderate & Severe Acute Malnutrition (MAM&SAM)	121,655
Number of Pregnant and Lactating women treated for Moderate acute malnutrition (MAM)	29,107
Number of pregnant and lactating women reached with BFCI and Mother to mother support groups.	94,396
Number of community health promoters trained on IMAM, MIYCN, and BFCI	9,257
Number of healthcare workers (HCWs) trained on IMAM, MIYCN-E, BFCI, and RMNCH	1,228

Save the Children International (SCI) project approach for family Middle Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) in Turkana includes the use of simplified approaches. In total, 247 Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) were trained to diagnose and treat common childhood illnesses, such as malaria, pneumonia and diarrhoea. CHVs perform these services during home visits in the communities where they serve. This means that children did not have to be taken to a health facility for diagnosis and treatment for uncomplicated incidences of malaria, pneumonia and diarrhoea. In communities such as Turkana where barriers to access a health facility are common, this approach provided an effective solution to receiving care, thereby not only increasing coverage, but also promoting task shifting from facility-based Health Workers to CHVs.

Integrating ICCM with SAM and MAM treatment was expected to increase the coverage of SAM treatment, reduce opportunity costs to caregivers, decrease the burden of care at the health facility, decrease defaulting and reinforce programming links between community health and SAM treatment. It was also an opportunity to strengthen the synergy between health and nutrition programming, by ensuring childhood diseases and acute malnutrition are addressed together to maximise the impact on child survival. Furthermore, the approach sought to strengthen health service delivery at the community level, by working with CHVs and integrating community health into a broader health system strengthening process. The GMI project is being implemented in 15 Community Units in Loima and 5 community units in Turkana North sub-counties and is a partnership between SC, the Turkana County Government (Ministry of Health) and communities (caregivers of children 6-59 months) residing in the project areas. A total of 1,306 children (52% male and 47% female) were reached through Family-led MUAC. Nadoto and Nakurio health facilities have the highest proportion of children reached through family MUAC. A large proportion of children (79.7%) who were admitted into the IMAM programme through Family-led MUAC are still enrolled in the treatment programme. These children may be staying longer in treatment because of commodity stock-outs or non-adherence to treatment protocols including sharing of commodities among family members. Nonetheless, the levels of default, non-response and referrals for more advanced treatment were low.

Infants under six months of age are at greatest risk of death from malnutrition. Yet, the scope of this devastating issue has been difficult to understand resulting in infants under six months often being left out when it comes to screening and care for malnourished children. Save the Children's MAMI program seeks to better understand the causes of infant malnutrition and build programming to address it at all levels. Infants under 6 months (u6m) are unique and their wellbeing is intrinsically linked to that of their mother/caregiver, being completely dependent on breastfeeding (or a breastmilk substitute) to meet all their nutritional needs. Developmental changes from birth to 6-months are exponential compared to later in childhood. The MAMI Approach is a solution for at-risk infants under 6 months. In Kenya MAMI was piloted in Wajir and Garissa County in 2021; the piloting started with 18 facilities (Garissa 9, Wajir 9) in March 2021 and later scaled up to 82 facilities (Wajir 42, Garissa 40). The MAMI Care Pathway is targeted at moderate-risk and high-risk infants and thus focuses on secondary and some aspects of tertiary-level care. Prevention and primary care for all (low-risk) infants are dealt with separately through related but distinct programs, such as Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) support programs. Out of the 540 infants aged less than 6 months (<6m) enrolled into the program; 250 infants were discharged from the MAMI programme. Discharge outcomes included cured, defaulted, transferred to a stabilisation centre, transferred to other MAMI sites, transferred to Integrated Management Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) program or death. Out of the 250 that exited 198 infants were cured, indicating the cure rate was 79.2%.

The MUAC of children increased consistently over time in all sub-counties, with the average MUAC of all sub-counties increasing from 10.7 mm at admission to 12.6 mm at exit. The trend also shows that the intervention was more effective in increasing MUAC than weight, as MUAC increased consistently over time for all sub-counties, while weight gain varied across sub-counties. On average, the children gained 4.0 kg during the intervention, which is a significant increase in weight. The weight gain varied across the sub-counties, with the highest gain in Wajir North sub-county and the lowest gain in Wajir South sub-county. Similarly, the analysis in Garissa revealed that on average, the children gained 2.95 kg during the intervention, which is a significant increase in weight. The weight gain varied across the sub-counties, with the highest gain in Fafi sub-county and the lowest gain in Ijara sub-county. These results indicate that the intervention was more effective in some sub-counties than in others.

In collaboration with local partners such as health service providers in Nyeri County, CIC-K organises sports events and medical camps where participants receive free screening services, check-ups, mental health services, and training. We also have created several peer support networks for people with mental health issues where they get to support each other in various aspects of life. This promotes general health and well-being

3.2 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.

HENNET and LVCT Health have partnered to disseminate the HIV shadow report on HIV Prevention & Accountability Progress against the 2025 HIV Road Map which is a civil society analysis to HIV Champions, Policymakers in Health Sector, Faith based leaders and Donor's funding HIV in Kenya in the 2023–24 financial year, Kenya's Health Ministry received 11% of the government's total annual budget, falling short of the 15% recommended by the Abuja Declaration. Kenya currently faces a shortfall of more than US\$1.8 billion for its HIV response over the next five years. As a lower middle-income country, Kenya continues to experience a decline in donor funding. However, the country's HIV response continues to remain heavily donor funded at 63.5% in 2021–2022. The United States

President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) is the largest donor, contributing 37% of annual total investments across all HIV programmes. Kenya's allocation as part of Global Fund co-financing has decreased from US\$26 million in 2019–20 to approximately US\$19 million in 2022–23.

The Indigenous Livelihoods Enhancement Partners (ILEPA) has built and operationalized the Ololoipangi dispensary that will primarily serve the indigenous Ogiek community. This facility marks a significant milestone in our commitment to improving healthcare accessibility for indigenous and marginalised communities. The establishment of the Ololoipangi dispensary has alleviated the burden of accessing emergency health services for residents, particularly considering that they previously had to travel approximately 15 kilometres to reach the nearest health facility at Ololulunga centre. With the dispensary now operational under the County Government of Narok, community members can now access essential healthcare services much more conveniently, ensuring timely medical assistance when needed. This initiative is a testament to ILEPA's dedication to promoting equitable access to healthcare for all. ILEPA also constructed a Maternity Wing in Majimoto, Narok County with a view to reducing maternal mortality (the nearest facility was 50 km away before this construction). Through this effort, TBAs were sensitised on the need to partner with registered nurses.

VSO Kenya, through collaboration with WHO supported Nairobi, Taita Taveta and Kilifi counties to monitor spread of communicable diseases using the WHO IPC (infectious diseases prevention and control) scorecard and the CES (continuation of essential services) monitoring tools. They trained community health promoters on use of the tools to inform county departments on disruption of services due to various factors e.g. natural calamities and identify response mechanisms, as well as prepare adequately for potential pandemics, outbreaks, and essential service disruptions.

Sightsavers, Partners and the Ministry of Health are working towards elimination of trachoma as a public health problem in Kenya. Between 2007 and 2023, 14,853,084 doses of Azithromycin, a drug used to treat trachoma and donated by Pfizer, had been used in 24 trachoma endemic sub-counties. As of January 2024, a total of 2,098,238 people had been treated in 18 Trachoma endemic Districts and no longer needed Azithromycin. Additionally, the programme has also supported morbidity management of trichiasis resulting from Trachoma among 33,986 people in 41 trachoma endemic districts. A total of 12 counties have been supported with equipment and consumables to take up management of trachoma through their devolved health systems. In an effort to help with dealing with issues of persistent trachoma, Sightsavers conducted operational research in Kajiado, Narok and Turkana Counties. The aim of the operational research was to identify programmatic and epidemiological issues driving persistence and recrudescence of trachoma. Through this the project has developed a new model of implementing trachoma mass drug administration campaigns. The model incorporates enhanced supportive supervision and tracking coverage using GIS technology to ensure that no one is left behind during the campaign. This has seen an improvement in treatment coverage in the area. Additionally, this has drastically reduced trachoma infection in Kajiado county, and it put the Country in sight to elimination of Trachoma before 2030

3.3 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being.

Since 2020, SCI has implemented the Pfizer immunisation project with the aim of reducing the needless deaths of children under 5 years in three counties of Mandera, Nairobi and Wajir. The main working areas include: Technical support to develop a robust strategy for immunisation of marginalised populations; Training health workers to improve child health and immunisation services; Social and behavioural change communications to strengthen community acceptance of immunisation;

National-level support for immunisation programming. As a result: An average of 88% of children reported to have received age-appropriate immunizations in targeted counties vs the baseline average of 62%; an average of 62% in targeted communities reported having heard immunisation messages compared to the baseline of 67%; 100% of caregivers or parents knew where and when to take their child for vaccination; an average of 69% of one year-olds were fully immunised (FIC); defaulting children traced and immunised in health facilities were 47%; an average of 63% targeted community members were reached with accurate knowledge about immunisation; an average of 71% targeted communities reporting having heard immunisation messages at least once in the last six months; percentage of children under one year of age who received Penta3 vaccines (82%) and PCV3 vaccines (81%); percentage of dropouts from completion of scheduled immunisation for Penta 1-Penta 3 was 15% while for Penta 1-Measles 1 was 32%; and percentage of immunising facilities with Reaching Every Child (REC) micro plan was 84%. Only one (1) facility reported OPV vaccine stock outs in the past 3 months.

The CAPMHK has been sensitising communities on stigmatisation and criminalization of mental health is based on sanism and biomedical approach to mental health. Most Kenyan societies lack empathy and compassion to persons with mental health challenges, isolate them, vilify them, label them and to a larger extent, jail them and coercively institute them in rehab centres. The CAPMHK has engaged five organizations in five counties to create awareness on suicide and better health seeking behaviour, and translated infographic into vernacular languages, and reached over 2 million listeners on community-based radio stations and TVs. To the organization, decriminalization of suicide will promote better health seeking behaviors, destigmatization of mental health and reduce mortality.

3.4 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.

The OLCGS, formed the Chemichemi ya Wanaume (Komarock) with a view of addressing Alcohol and Drug Abuse (ADA) in the community. The group is composed of addicts who are in the reform process.

3.5 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.

3.6 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes

HENNET and Partnership for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (PMNCH) have partnered and created the Kenya Digital Advocacy Hubs (Hubs), a comprehensive platform for advocating women's, children's, and adolescent health (WCAH). Membership to these Hubs grants access to high-quality information and enables partners to develop skills, networks, and capacities for effective advocacy. PMNCH focuses on three key areas: Maternal, Newborn, and Child health; Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights; and Adolescent Health and Well-Being. The Kenya Country Hub, specifically designed for Kenyan organisations and individuals, aims to advance WCAH in the country through collaboration, amplification of local events and initiatives, knowledge exchange, and networking. It emphasises the power of partnership and provides resources for advocacy efforts, including access to up-to-date WCAH materials and learning opportunities such as webinars.

HENNET has partnered with GHAI (Global Health Advocacy Incubator) to generate evidence on immunisation in Kenya. A study by IPF Kenya shows that Kenya's government contributes only

KES. 40 to complement donor funding for immunisation meaning there is a shortfall of KES. 60 domestic funds for immunisation. Immunisation proposed budget was further reduced from KES. 5.2 billion in FY 2022/23 to KES. 4.6 billion in FY 2023/24. Whereas Kenya has held discussions with Gavi on accelerating plans to transition from Gavi, The Donor Transition Plan aimed at outlining the steps and processes to ensure health programs including immunisation are locally funded has not been published. The current government is fast tracking establishment of PCNs through a PHC fund enacted in a PHC Act but functionality of this proposal is not clear. PHC and immunisation programming advocacy is not as strong among CSOs as compared to other programs. It is important for HENNET to mobilise CSOs with immunisation/PHC programming to monitor government health operations towards achievement of universal immunisation and PHC for Kenyans. HENNET will engage partners with strength in evidence generation such as Institute of Public Finance (IPF) and International Budget Partnership (IBP) to generate position papers on immunisation financing in Kenya in relation to the Gavi co-financing obligations as well as for PHC through the PHC fund and other appropriated monies to PHC at national and county level.

The Community Implementing Initiative (CII) has been training and sensitising teenagers and teenage mothers on sexual reproductive health care and nutrition and Malnutrition to their children and themselves. Most of the trained girls have taken the initiative to prevent teenage pregnancies by advocating to others on why they should prevent early pregnancies through family planning and abstinence. In Nairobi Mathare, Korogocho, Baba Ndogo and other areas, the organisation has trained 65 mentors/ Mobilizers who conduct sensitizations on the Sexual reproductive health care, Nutrition and malnutrition to women, pregnant mothers and teenage mothers. It also ensures girls are retained in school by providing scholarships and sanitary towels (health package) for the girls. It has integrated its programmes with most of the issues affecting girls, women and children and celebrates important days such as menstrual health day. During such celebrations, girls come together to learn about menstrual health care, gender Based violence to girls and women, HIV/Aids and prevention methods, STI/STDs infections and prevention methods. Mentorship is done once a month at safe spaces in health facilities, mostly private facilities due to the stigma attached with public health facilities and teenage mothers.

VSO through the DESIP (delivering sustainable equitable increased in Family planning)consortium funded by FCDO, worked in 21 counties with low modern contraceptive prevalence, to increase family planning uptake by persons with disability by working with MOH to revise the MOH reporting tools to incorporate disability indicators to allow capture of disaggregated data on PWD, trained 200 health care workers on disability inclusion, produced 3,000 disability friendly IEC material, and 6,000 copies of Washington group of questions for use in health facilities triage for disability identification. VSO through the ACTIVE program, funded by FCDO trained over 1,000 young people, women, to carry out social accountability through generation of citizen led data for access to SRH services in health facilities and progress to implementation of SRHR policies in Turkana, Kilifi and Makueni. The program has also trained 150 health care workers on provision of inclusive youth friendly services and supported them to improve access to SRH information and service.

With the aim of addressing a gap in SRH information amongst adolescents, Fawe has disseminated 2000 copies of adolescent guide booklets to adolescents both in Siaya and Nairobi Counties, they have further conducted sensitization forum in schools and community with the help of school health and reproductive health departments from both counties of Siaya and Nairobi. The sensitization forums are aimed at addressing the gaps in SRH issues affecting adolescents.

3.7 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all

Ageing Concern Foundation (ACF) has implemented a project on increasing older people's access to healthy Ageing Services in Kenya. The project has an overall purpose of facilitating inclusion of older persons and to ensure their voice is heard so that their needs and opinions are used to shape and strengthen legislation, policies, programs and services. This has been implemented through a multi-prong approach that includes advocacy, policy engagement and influence, and capacity enhancement.

The Fred Hollows Foundation has supported eye health focused on increasing the standards of eye care, its availability to rural communities through strengthening health systems by equipping hospitals, training eye health workers and working with health authorities and other partners to empower local people to deliver services. The Foundation supports national and county governments to effectively plan, resource and monitor eye health services. In Kenya, the burden of eye diseases is not well documented, and a comprehensive national survey is required to assess its magnitude to establish the actual prevalence for most of these diseases, as well as a baseline for most of the core indicators and targets recommended by the WHO. For example, for the two leading causes of blindness and vision impairment (cataract and refractive error) the WHO in 2021 encouraged all members states to commit to (i) a 40% increase in effective coverage of refractive error by 2030; and (ii) a 30% increase in effective coverage of cataract surgery by 2030.

In an attempt to address the data gap in eye health prevalence, The Fred Hollows Foundation in collaboration with the Ophthalmic Services Unit (OSU) in the Ministry of Health and other eye health INGO stakeholders supported Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness (RAAB) survey in only 15 out of the 47 counties. The survey found that cataract, uncorrected refractive errors and glaucoma in that order, contributes about 85% of visual impairment, with slight variation in the previously Trachoma endemic counties. The survey found that the effective Cataract Surgical Coverage (eCSC at VA 6/18) ranged from 7.5% in Turkana County to 30.8 in Bomet County. The prevalence of Vision impairment (Visual acuity (VA) worse than 6/18 in the better eye), ranged between 11.0% in Nakuru County to 37.5% in Turkana County. The effective Refractive Error Coverage (eREC) ranged from 0% in Turkana County to 9.7% in Kajiado County and Kiambu/Muranga Counties. The near vision spectacle coverage ranged from 0% in Turkana County to 18.9% in Vihiga County (Assumption; that 100% of the population 50 years and above will require near vision correction).

Further, during calls for the public participation on the Social Health Insurance Fund, HENNET called for her members for a meeting to draft a memo. CSOs were not included in representation on how The Social Health Insurance would be implemented when signed into law. After the Memo submission was made with the HENNET members comments, HENNET was given a slot to represent CSOs in the Benefits Package and Tariffs Advisory Panel of the Social Health Insurance Fund General Regulations, which was signed into law by the President William Ruto.

Ageing Concern has been strengthening the capacities of Community Health Promoters (CHPs) in order to advocate for health and care services across the rural communities. The organization supported enrollment of older persons into the complementary National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) establishing alliances and coalitions with key civil society actors to champion for increased healthy ageing services for older persons in rural areas of Narok, Migori, Siaya and Kakamega counties.

Marie Stopes Kenya (MSK) provides long-acting reversible contraceptive services through public sector strengthening at government health facilities and also works with private networks for the same. In 2023, MSK reached a total of 677,894 clients across Kenya with SRH services. MSK continues with provision of services to reach youth and adolescents through youth friendly services and youth projects aimed at creating awareness of SRHR issues. Besides, MSK engages directly in advocacy to create an enabling environment for access to SRHR services in Kenya. MSK also provides support for post abortion care through health system strengthening at government health facilities to reduce maternal mortality.

3.8 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

In collaboration with the Local NGAOs and the community, the OLCGS has been holding public participation with a view to closing the Monarch Plastic Company situated at the heart of Komarock Town. The company manufactures plastics while exhaling hazardous toxins in the environment. This has affected the community through intoxication. There have been reported cases of deaths as a result and increase in respiratory diseases.

Sight of relief organisation, in partnership with Mama Lucy Kibaki Hospital and Garissa Referral Hospital, is working towards safe deliveries intervention called 'Zero Disabilities and mother-to-child HIV transmission' targeting marginalised communities

3.a Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate

3.b Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all

3.c Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States

VSO through the ACTIVE program trained and supported 150 young people across Makueni, Kilifi and Turkana to carry out budget advocacy for increased budgets to health. They have submitted memos and engaged national and county leadership on the importance of increasing budget lines to health and more so to reproductive health.

3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks

Collaborating with sub national NHIF structures in Narok, Kakamega, Migori and Siaya counties, Ageing Concern Foundation (ACF), conducted NHIF outreach registration sessions for older persons. In six months of the healthy ageing project implementation, ACF registered more than

seventy thousand older persons through the established OPAs structures, equipping older persons with NHIF cards, a key component to realise the national universal health coverage (UHC) efforts. The project engaged and involved key government structures specifically, the ministry of labour and social protection (responsible for older citizen affairs), the ministry of health through sub national platforms, older people organizations (OPOs) and older persons associations (OPAs) to carry out awareness and sensitization of the insurance cover as a key tool for increased health access for older persons in rural communities. Reaching over seventy (70) Community Health Promoters (CHPs), the project supported strengthening of health sub-national leadership and coordination mechanisms to ensure a full continuum of essential, quality healthy ageing services targeting health promotion, prevention and treatment. Capacity of more than seventy (70+) Community health promoters has been strengthened through training, community dialogues and inter county exchange programs on healthy ageing and older people's health needs.

The Fred Hollows Foundation has supported eye health development organizations. In Kenya, the burden of eye diseases is not well documented, and a comprehensive national survey is required to assess its magnitude to establish the actual prevalence for most of these diseases, as well as a baseline for most of the core indicators proposed by the WHO. The targets are based on WHO recommendations. For example, for the two leading causes of blindness and vision impairment (cataract and refractive error) the WHO in 2021 encouraged all members states to commit to (i) a 40% increase in effective coverage of refractive error by 2030¹; and (ii) a 30% increase in effective coverage of cataract surgery by 2030.

GAPS/CHALLENGES

1. *Transition and registration of citizens of all ages from NHIF to SHIF was not consultative and therefore left many, including older persons, without proper access to healthcare services.*
2. *Poor health service access through NHIF - essential services not funded.*
3. *Inadequate access, availability and affordability of health services.*
4. *Ever increasing out of pocket expenditure*
5. *Inadequate referral mechanisms*
6. *Inadequate essential services such as maternity, drugs and other commodities.*
7. *Limited modern delivery equipment and emergency facilities*
8. *Unskilled birth attendance*
9. *Lack of political goodwill towards sexual reproductive health*
10. *Lack of policy on geriatrics health care including geriatrics health packages for targeting older persons.*
11. *DHS surveys and data table exclude data for 50+ and older persons*
12. *Restrictive policy environment i.e. the requirement of parental consent for adolescents when seeking FP services and age restriction also hinders access to services.*
13. *Frequent shortage of FP commodities especially Implanon. This makes the women have limited FP choices due to inadequate FP Methods.*
14. *Low budgetary allocation for family planning services.*
15. *Lack of periodic data on unsafe abortion*

¹ <https://www.who.int/news/item/24-05-2022-who-launches-new-guide-on-integrating-eye-care-in-health-systems>
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240050068>

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. *The Government of Kenya to develop and enhance oversight mechanisms to monitor the implementation of health programs and budgets, including SRH and reproductive health (SRHR), to ensure effectiveness in county budgeting, accounting, and auditing processes.*
2. *Budget for mental health care and eye health*
3. *Transition and registration of citizens of all ages from NHIF to SHIF was not consultative and therefore left many, including older persons, without proper access to healthcare services*
4. *Provide psychosocial support services at all levels of health care.*
5. *Operationalize Facility Improvement Fund Act, 2024 in the County to improve service delivery in facilities.*
6. *Enhance access to skilled birth attendance and emergency obstetric care.*
7. *Construct and operationalize youth friendly health centres.*
8. *Invest more while targeting Non-Communicable Diseases*
9. *Implement the Healthy Ageing and Older Persons Health Strategy within the framework of Kenya's contribution to the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021-2030) through the following:*
10. *Restructure the community health care system to be older persons-age friendly (MoH) including training of staff on geriatric care and the adoption of WHO Integrated Care for Older People (ICOPE) package*
11. *Review, approve, and implement the National Adolescent Reproductive Health Policy*
12. *Recommit to the East and Southern Africa Ministerial Commitments on SRH services and CSC (Comprehensive Sexuality Education) for adolescents and young people*
13. *Address legal, policy and structural barriers that hinder access to SRH information and services for Adolescents and Youth with disability*
14. *GOK to increase the health National health budget allocation to at least 15% of the total national budget according to Abuja declaration*
15. *Itemise SRH budget*
16. *Remove the requirement for parental consent for adolescents to access contraceptive services.*
17. *Remove age restrictions for the adolescent to access contraceptive services.*
18. *Provide periodic data on unsafe abortion.*
19. *Government to ensure consistent supply of family planning commodities.*
20. *Government to include family planning cover in the national health insurance schemes.*
21. *Government to operationalize article 26.4 of the constitution*



GOAL 4 - QUALITY EDUCATION

4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

Save the Children's Watoto Rudi Shule project in Kenya seeks to increase enrolment and retention of children who are out of school in Wajir Turkana, Baringo and Bungoma Counties. Through targeted enrollment drives, community mobilisation efforts, and infrastructure improvements, the project has successfully enrolled 24,275 out-of-school children. Additionally, initiatives such as capacity building for teachers and Board of Management members, hygiene promotion campaigns, and menstrual hygiene management support have contributed to creating inclusive and conducive learning environments. Furthermore, the provision of remedial lessons has benefited 2,803 learners in Wajir, Baringo, Turkana, and Bungoma counties.

The Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) Kenya has continued to support girls' child education through various mentorship models. For instance, the 'Tuseme' model is a mentorship program used in 200 schools in Kenya, the model gives mentorship to young girls and boys in schools across 20 counties in Kenya. In every 20 schools, the ratio of membership of the Tuseme model which in schools is 3:2 (Girls: Boys). In addressing ICT gaps in schools, FAWE Kenya through the Mastercard Foundation donated 480 computers to schools across 20 counties in Kenya. These computers were donated in the year 2023 and it has helped to improve the ICT knowledge of girls across 160 schools. According to KDH data, 2020,77.4% of schools have computers for pedagogical purposes, however, the data doesn't show schools with computers for student digital literacy and direct learning purposes. The data should give the percentage number of boys and girls accessing computers in schools.

Under the Right to Education and Life for Children with Disabilities Project, VSO Kenya supported to improve access to inclusive quality education for 1200 marginalised Children with Disabilities in Laikipia and Isiolo Counties as evidenced by the assessment carried out from a baseline of 29% to 37% during evaluation.

VSO Kenya through Education for Life Project supported 1600 young out of schoolgirls (aged 10-19 years) to attain functional numeracy and literacy and life skills in Isiolo and Migori. This saw these girls enrol back to formal education or gainful employment.

VSO has been at the forefront in advocating for gender and disability inclusion in the education sector through capacity building duty bearers such as school management, teachers, MoE officials on inclusion; developing model inclusive schools; working with parents to create awareness to take girls and children with disabilities to schools and demand for inclusion in schools. This has seen schools allocate budgets to build ramps, construct inclusive toilets, create friendly environments for school, teachers changing their attitude and language.

Towards ensuring equity in education provision, the ILEPA equipped the community Library in Majimoto (in the heart of a village in Narok) with 10 computers, unlimited internet and engaged a librarian. It has now become an ICT centre for nearby schools.

Sightsavers' education strategy is guided by the principle of ensuring no child is left behind. Our support in education has been geared towards strengthening government systems to ensure that learners and Children with disability receive quality education in an environment that is conducive, welcoming, and provides for their participation in learning. For example, through the EARCs project we have supported the Ministry of education to strengthen Functional Education Assessment systems for learners and trainees with disabilities by facilitating the development of Minimum Standards for EARCs as well as a standardised Functional Education Assessment tools and manual that ensures that assessment services across the country are systematic and standardised. The project trained and oriented 19 CSO SNEs and 174 teachers to the use of the tools and manual, contributing to the assessment, placement and support to 3,704 learners with disabilities. With education strategies drawn and assistive device pathways put in place, the identified children are supported to meaningfully remain in school and transition from one level to another.

Sightsavers worked with partners and the Ministry of Education to enhance awareness of inclusive education to the community members. In total Sightsavers conducted 20 sessions in Homabay and Kakuma regions in the country. Through training of classroom teachers, ensuring the involvement of parents and local Organization of Persons with Disabilities, Sightsavers facilitated transition of learners with disability. During this initiative In Kakuma, 235 (150 F,85 M) and Homa Bay 124 (23M, 101F) parents/guardians were trained are now more involved in the education of their children with disabilities through peer-to-peer learning sessions and participating in school activities as stakeholders organised by the project. From this, parents reach out to other parents of children with disabilities to provide psychosocial support.

4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education

The Watch, Play, learn ('WPL') project has been a pilot project implemented for 13 months from June 2022 to July 2023 by Save the Children International in Dadaab Refugee Camp in Kenya. The project introduced the use of technology to enhance digital learning as advocated by the Ministry of Education's strategic plan 2018 to 2022, by exploring how digital learning resources, specifically, numeracy and social-emotional learning (SEL) could be integrated with the existing early childhood development (ECD) national curriculum to support playful and inclusive learning and teaching for early learners. WPL videos made the learning environment more inclusive and engaging. With increased collaboration among learners and between teachers and learners, there was improved classroom management and classroom participation from all children with and without disabilities. 3,406 learners, previously at risk of being left behind, are now embracing the transformative power of digital learning.

VSO Kenya has provided and strengthened the professional capacity of additional 700 teachers in Kakuma, Dadaab, Makueni and Kilifi through trainings, coaching and mentorship sessions on learner-centred, process-oriented teaching, gender sensitive, safe and inclusive teaching pedagogies and positive discipline practices.

Sightsavers through the ECDE TO20 project which was an innovation project implemented in Homa Bay County and Turkana County including the refugee community in Kakuma sought to identify and test affordable, contextually appropriate Inclusive Early Childhood Development and education approaches for children with disabilities. This was implemented in partnership with other consortium partners and government departments. The ECDE project, built capacity of teachers in inclusive education pedagogies to provide relevant support to learners with different disabilities, The project also built capacity of parents so that they could meaningfully participate in the education of their children with disabilities. Learners with disabilities demonstrated improvement in learning and developmental outcomes as measured using the IDELA tool.

Sightsavers and partners worked with Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development and the Ministry of Education to develop the functional education assessment tool and manual. The tools and manual will support the identification and placement of children with disabilities and special needs. During this period over 3,704 children were assessed at the Education Assessment Resource Centres. The continuation of this assessment will ensure the support strategies for every child are agreed on with the curriculum Support Officers, teachers, and parents. During this period a vast majority of the teachers sampled were able to incorporate recommended learning support into their lessons. Sightsavers also trained 19 Curriculum support Officers and 174 teachers to support the roll out of the new assessment tool on a pilot basis.

In addition, LSAs (Learner Support Assistant) were trained to support 45 learners with complex disabilities through home-based education. 18 (6F 12M) out of the 45 (14F 31M) transitioned from home-based education to school-based education. The project supported by Sightsavers also utilised locally adopted play materials reaching 139 children (59 females and 80 male). This aimed at developing the bodies and minds of children about the world around them, fostering independence.

4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university

Youth empowerment programs at Save the Children Kenya focus on offering practical skills to the most vulnerable youths based on the Enterprise Based Technical and Vocational Education and Training (EBTVET) apprenticeship model, in order to empower them for innovation, job creation and employability opportunities. In Nairobi and Turkana Counties, youth of age 15-24 were empowered. 74% and 58% of the youth in Nairobi informal settlements and marginalised areas of Turkana have gained employment.

Hakijamii – ESRC works to ensure the Kenyan government is held accountable for its human rights record, especially regarding education policies. They achieve this by actively participating in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process through the Kenya Stakeholders' Coalition. Hakijamii – ESRC's participation in the UPR, through the Kenya Stakeholders' Coalition, helps make sure Kenya's education policies are being reviewed and that there's a focus on improvement. Some of the recommendations boarded by the government include: Implementation of quality assurance framework, and a review of return to school policy for expectant learners.

Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd runs an education support program for vulnerable children that have not been able to transit from primary school to secondary, and from secondary to polytechnics in collaboration with area MP (Matungulu), since February 2024. A total of 9 children have been assisted so far to enrol in various secondary schools. They also run a mentorship program for children under the program titled, 'ChemiChemi Stars'

4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship

As the Champions for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Youth have been holding Annual Youth conferences working toward positive youth development. This has gone a long way in ensuring their meaningful involvement in order to have just and inclusive societies. The organisation hosts periodic hybrid information sessions and dialogues to reach out to young people, educate them about Sustainable Development and carry out policy advocacy. Champions for SDGs Youth fosters an environment where the young people can acquire relevant knowledge, get empowered and actively contribute towards the realisation of the targets of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development regardless of their background, gender, religion or social status.



Sightsavers working with the National Industrial Training Authority, established the first IT Bridge Academy training in Kenya graduating 145 learners with disabilities on CISCO Certified Networking Associate course.

4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations

Through child rights awareness and life skills activities with learners, VSO has been able to increase the agency, participation and ability of learners to demand their right to learn for over 1000 learners (girls, boys and children with disabilities) in three counties (Makueni, Kilifi and Turkana). Increasingly, parents, families and communities recognize and support children’s rights to education, especially of girls and learners with disabilities.

Under the Right to Education and Life for Children with Disabilities Project, VSO Kenya supported to improve access to inclusive quality education for 1200 marginalised Children with Disabilities in Laikipia and Isiolo Counties as evidenced by the assessment carried out from a baseline of 29% to 37% during evaluation. VSO Kenya through Education for Life Project supported 1600 young out of schoolgirls (aged 10-19 years) to attain functional numeracy and literacy and life skills in Isiolo and Migori. This saw these girls enrol back to primary school, enrol into non-formal education or gainful employment.

Hami Imani Africa has been vocal about girls and women in the Masaai community. The organisation started a football league to enhance inclusion of girls in sports that are mainly dominated by boys.

This has helped to keep them away from drug abuse as well as being an avenue for them to get sponsorship through their talents.

4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy

Through the Education for Life project, VSO Kenya targeted Out of School Girls aged 10-19 by providing functional literacy and numeracy skills, 2035 out of school' girls have been reached.

Teachers4SDGs has been engaging teachers in SDGs online courses that have equipped them with valuable knowledge that can significantly enhance their teaching practices and impact on students. Firstly, teachers gain a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness of global issues such as poverty, inequality, climate change, and environmental degradation, enabling them to integrate these complex topics into their curriculum in a meaningful and engaging way. Secondly, they learn about innovative teaching methodologies and resources for promoting sustainable development education, fostering critical thinking, problem-solving, and empathy among students. Additionally, teachers acquire practical strategies for incorporating the principles of the SDGs into classroom activities, projects, and extracurricular initiatives, empowering students to become active global citizens and agents of positive change in their communities. Overall, participation in SDGs online courses enriches teachers' professional development, enhances their capacity to address pressing societal challenges, and cultivates a culture of sustainability within educational institutions.

4.7 By 2030, it is envisaged that all learners will acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

The COVID 19 pandemic left many children in the Dadaab refugee camps vulnerable as their families could not afford home-schooling and on-line classes. To compensate for the lost learning of the children aged between 7 to 10 years during the pandemic, Save the Children International introduced digital learning in the camps to improve their literacy and numeracy skills. The Library for All Safe Back to School project focused on two areas: proven inclusive and effective foundational learning opportunities for children at Dadaab refugee camp, and reduced barriers to learning for marginalised children. A total of 3028(1568 boys,1460 girls) learners with and without disabilities accessed digital learning through the use of 160 spark kits in the 4 identified schools in Dadaab refugee camps.

The SCI has been involved in policy development in the education sector both at national and county levels. At the national level, the organisation has been a member of the technical Working Group that drafted the Children Act 2022 and supported Child Rights Networks to make submissions to the Basic Education Act. At the County level, Save the Children has supported the development of several policies and legislations including the Early Childhood Education Development policies and Acts, and the Cross-cutting Children Policies. Save the Children has also led partners working with the Ministry of Education, the Directorate of Policy and Partnership in the review of the National Positive Discipline manual. The project has been facilitating the dialogue around the adoption and implementation of the APBET policy at the National level. As a result, the project has fostered collaboration among APBET

stakeholders, educators, parents, and policymakers to promote the implementation of APBET policy. Through engagement with the members of the National Assembly, an Act of Parliament to amend the Basic Education Act, 2013 to provide for the recognition, funding, and regulation of APBET was drafted- Basic Education Bill, 2024.

The SCI has influenced policy recommendations and budgetary allocations. Notably, specific budget lines for holistic skills development, including capitation reforms in Kenya have been established. This includes recommendations to increase capitation from KES.1,420 to KES.2,238 for primary level and the introduction of per capita grants for pre-primary education. Additionally, Save the Children has facilitated the hiring of 116,000 intern teachers and an additional 30,000 teachers on a permanent basis, alongside an overall increase of more than KES.80 billion in the education budget. These achievements signify a significant step forward in ensuring that children have access to the skills and education needed to thrive in today's rapidly changing world.

Usawa Agenda hosts youth engagement fora working toward positive youth development. This has gone a long way in ensuring their meaningful involvement for just and inclusive societies. The community organisation hosts hybrid information sessions and dialogues that provide a platform for young people to acquire and exchange knowledge and information on the SDGs and the development landscape as a whole. Their activities further enlighten and inspire young people to take up and create opportunities to actively contribute to the implementation and review processes of the global goals for Sustainable Development. Champions for SDGs Youth fosters engagement, cross-sharing and collaboration with other stakeholders in their activities and creates an environment where the young people can acquire relevant knowledge, get empowered and actively contribute towards the realisation of the targets of the SDGs regardless of their background, gender, religion or social status.

4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all

VSO Kenya has provided and strengthened the professional capacity of additional 700 teachers in Kakuma, Dadaab, Makueni and Kilifi through trainings, coaching and mentorship sessions on learner-centred, process-oriented teaching, gender sensitive, safe and inclusive teaching pedagogies and positive discipline practices.

Hami Imani Africa (HIA) is dedicated to uplift emotionally vulnerable and oppressed women, girls, and the broader community. They run a school with the aim of bridging the distance gap which encourages girls' education. In the school, they have initiated a football league for the purpose of retaining many girls in school. This has seen some improvement in the enrollment and retention of girls in school. In addition, they also provide a gadget called, "Rachel" to expose girls to education technology. The gadgets enable teachers to monitor the whereabouts of girls even in the remotest areas. They have also built a community library to encourage reading culture and to promote adult education. As a result, 28 adults graduated in 2023.

4.b By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries

4.c By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States

Usawa Agenda made a submission to the Presidential Working Party on Education Reforms Committee (PWPER), and some of their recommendations were taken onboard. For instance, the Committee incorporated the suggestion to discontinue the current categorization of public secondary schools based on nomenclature, which includes National, Extra-County, County, and Sub-County, and instead transition to categorising schools based on career pathways, such as STEM, Social Science and Arts, and Sports Science, at the Senior School level. We applaud this recommendation, putting into consideration that categorization of schools has contributed significant negative implications for equity in education in terms of resource distribution and learning outcomes. Indeed, evidence reveals a stark contrast in resource allocation and learning outcomes between different categories of schools. More than 86% of national schools are equipped with libraries, while only 33% of sub-county schools have this essential resource.² Moreover, an in-depth analysis of learning outcomes underscores the disparities: students in national schools' graduate from secondary school level with an average of 5 points more than their counterparts in sub-county schools. Therefore, the organisation contribution through a recommendation to the PWPER has the potential to promote greater educational equity by ensuring that resources and opportunities are more evenly distributed among schools. It also aligns with the objective of offering specialised education in line with students' interests and talents, ultimately fostering a more equitable education system.

Usawa Agenda is among few organizations whose data has been validated by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) as an alternative source of official statistics. Consequently, part of our data is used by the KNBS to report on various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). During our field work, we also connect Development Partners with some of the needy cases we find in the communities. For instance, we facilitated the rescue of 2 girls from early marriages in Marsabit County, and took them to school (Bubisa primary) with the help of the police, local administration, our local partner and well-wishers.

Ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education for persons with disabilities (SDG 4) is a tool of reducing inequalities. Access to inclusive quality education is a fundamental right enshrined in Article 43, 54, 55 and 56 of the Constitution of Kenya if an individual fails to access education at an early age affects his or her transition in all the other stages of development.

To address inequities in the education system, the Government set aside 27.4% of its national budget at Kshs.628.6bn in the FY 2023/24 as compared to Kshs.505.1bn in the FY 2020/2021. This reflects a positive growth on investment in education. However, the findings of the "National survey on children with disabilities and special needs in education, 2018" indicated that many children with disabilities are in segregated institutions of learning and face difficulties transiting into primary schools, secondary schools, vocational institutions and into other higher levels of learning.

²Usawa (2022): *Are our secondary schools inequitable by design? Usawa 1st Secondary School Survey Report. Nairobi: Usawa Agenda*

The report recommended for policy development or changes in policy on curriculum development and curriculum adaptations for learners with disabilities, reasonable accommodations in assessments or examinations taking note of the severity and support needs of learners, training and deployment ratio of teachers, acquisition, provision and maintenance of assistive devices, provision and adaptation of teaching and learning resources, enhancing and disaggregating capitation for children with disabilities with regard to type and severity of disability, establishment of well-equipped vocational training institutions for learners with disabilities to enhance transition and allocation of adequate resources for vocational training for learners with disabilities, physical accessibility adaptations in the schools amongst others.

GAPS

1. *Uneven distribution of teaching personnel across the country.*
2. *Increasing number of Out of School Children, mostly in ASAL counties.*
3. *Limited parental role in the basic education;*
4. *Low funding of the education sector.*
5. *There are inadequate youth-driven conversations, sessions and initiatives in major SDGs fora and conferences. This has contributed to lower levels of awareness amongst youth on how to engage in SDGs processes locally, regionally and globally.*
6. *Insufficient use of technology and innovative ways of reaching the youth with knowledge and support towards developing innovations for Sustainable Development. This has also hindered progress in implementation of existing youth engagement policies/structures and under-representation of the youth in decision-making and negotiation tables.*
7. *Inconsistent collaboration amongst stakeholders in SDGs initiatives and activities. This has led to insufficient role models/leaders/youth-supporting stakeholders that can mentor young people and expose them to spaces of elevation, network building and professional growth.*
8. *GBV and poverty contribute majorly to low school enrolment, and drop out.*

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. *Amendment to the TSC Act (2012) to make it mandatory for the Commission to ensure a fair distribution of teachers across the country to align with the goals of promoting equitable access to education.*
2. *Address the challenge of limited learning opportunities among refugees including posting of teachers to schools in refugee camps areas.*
3. *Collaborate with other education stakeholders to fund educational facilities and infrastructure;*
4. *Parental empowerment & engagement needs to be strengthened by reviewing the Basic Education Act to enhance the role of parents in the running of schools*
5. *Continue to actively engage more young people in multi-stakeholders' and inter-generational fora at all levels from planning to implementation to review. Also, deliberately create more avenues for youth to learn and solve problems in school and at work through initiatives such as trainee programs, clubs and societies.*

6. *Invest in technology for Sustainable Development, foster innovations and collect and analyse data related to creative youth engagement to derive insights on effective strategies going forward. Sustainable Development education in school curriculums to teach sustainability practices using modern technologies where possible to nurture practitioners from an early age. This will also help disseminate information on our progress, current trends and opportunities to engage in the SDGs processes.*
7. *Recognize youth as important and equal stakeholders in the process, partner and work in collaboration with us to implement SDGs initiatives at the grassroots level, where the young people/target population is. Stakeholders may also establish a structured way for meaningful youth engagement and participation in their organizations/institutions. Such as by specifically setting up a youth wing or department that harmonises and coordinates youth in the SDGs space.*
8. *Increase bursaries targeting vulnerable children and youth*
9. *Promote Equitable Access to Education: Amendment to the TSC Act (2012) to make it mandatory for the Commission to ensure a fair distribution of teachers across the country to align with the goals of promoting equitable access to education.*
10. *Enhance Learning Opportunities for Refugees: Address the challenge of limited learning opportunities among refugees, with approximately 40% of out-of-school children still lacking access to education. Introduce digital learning devices to increase access and promote joyful learning, complementing the national curriculum and facilitating catch-up classes.*



GOAL 5 - GENDER EQUALITY

5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

According to the 2019 Census, the population of Kenya is 47,564,296. Of these, 23,548,056 (49.51%) are male, 24,014,716 (50.49%) are female, and 1,524 are intersex. Women and girls making up over 50% of Kenya's (and the global) population bolsters the rights-based argument for gender equality, women and girl's empowerment.

In Kenya, 34 percent of women and girls aged 15-49 years surveyed have experienced physical violence at least once in their lifetime and 13 percent have experienced sexual violence, with many of these cases going unreported. SGBV has profound impacts on survivors' physical and mental health, and access to mental health care is a major challenge for survivors of sexual violence. From 2020 to 2022, PHR worked with partners, including the Survivors of Sexual Violence Network in Kenya (SSVKenya) convened by the Wangu Kanja Foundation, to address challenges faced by survivors. These included medical-legal documentation of the mental health impacts of sexual violence and access to quality mental health services in Kenya. The project, supported by the Comic Relief & UK Aid Mental Health Programme, aimed to enhance the capacities of health professionals and institutions in Kenya to provide post-rape mental health care and to forensically document the mental health impacts of sexual violence, as well as to strengthen the legal and policy framework on mental health care in Kenya NAIROBI. Survivors of sexual violence in Kenya face barriers to quality mental health services in their communities, according to a new assessment co-published today by Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) and the members of the survivors' network.

Fifty-three percent (53%) of the Kenyan population is considered poor by international standards, the most significant percentage being rural dwellers and women. The country has registered near-

gender parity in the enrolment of girls and boys at the primary school level on indicators related to education. Fertility rates have dropped from 4.9 births per woman in 2003 to 3.92 births per woman in 2014. However, the lived reality for women and girls is markedly different, particularly in terms of the statistics based on age, education, and geographical location. For example, 23% of girls in Kenya are married off before the age of 18, placing them at a high risk of maternal mortality, which according to the World Health Organization (WHO), is highest for adolescent girls under 15 years old. Higher-income losses among women due to the ongoing COVID pandemic are likely to increase their vulnerability to GBV.

According to a COVID-19 Gender Assessment conducted by UN Women in Kenya in 2020, 20% of women compared to 12% of men reported a loss of income at the time of the survey. The global COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the likelihood of GBV. Like other countries worldwide, Kenya has seen a spike in cases of Gender-Based Violence, specifically domestic violence and sexual offences. Statistically, most perpetrators are close relatives, guardians, and/or persons living with the survivors from the recorded cases.

In a survey undertaken by the National Crime Research Centre on the prevalence of GBV during the pandemic, the number of GBV cases recorded between January and June 2020 had shot up by 92.2% compared with those between January and December the previous year. According to the Chief Justice's report in April 2020, sexual offences constituted 35.8% of reported cases handled within the judiciary. Globally and in Kenya, some of the containment measures to mitigate the impact of COVID-19—such as national curfews, lockdowns, and school closures—were shown to expose girls to FGM and discriminatory and harmful practices, including early and forced child marriages.

Kenya made commitments related to ending GBV during the Nairobi Summit on the 25th Anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD+25) in 2019 during the Nairobi Summit. The commitments, which were aimed at accelerating momentum on the 1994 ICPD Plan of Action

In addition to the ICPD+25 commitments, the Government of Kenya committed an allocation for FY2020/2021 of USD 2.79 million towards elimination of GBV and FGM. This initial resource allocation is critical to implementing already existing policy commitments on ending GBV and FGM and to providing a frame and baseline evidence for a gender responsive budgeting on GBV and FGM. The Government has also launched guidelines for the management of County Gender Based Violence Recovery Centers which are critical for ensuring that survivors have access to quality essential services. As part of Kenya's leadership in the Gender Based Violence Action Coalition in the Generation Equality process, the country seeks to build on these commitments by expanding the scope where applicable, increasing the level of ambition and accelerating the momentum towards the advancement of gender equality as well as the empowerment of women and girls in all their diversities.

The Association of Media Women in Kenya (AMWIK) strives to see a society in which the media in Kenya embraces and promotes equitable development, human rights and women's rights, by using

the media to promote an informed and gender-responsive society in Kenya and Africa. Research shows that Kenyan media houses have been leading in the continent in cases of sexual harassment with devastating effects, mostly on women. To mitigate this, the Kenya Media Sector Working Group (KMSWG) mandated AMWIK to lead in efforts to eradicate the vice. AMWIK also works in different consortiums and multi-stakeholder collaboration, AMWIK also has MoUs with Media Council of Kenya (MCK)-the media regulation body, WAN IFRA Women in News as well as collaborative engagements with the Kenya Union of Journalists (KUJ), Kenya Correspondents Association (KCA) and the Kenya Editors Guild (KEG).

The AMWIK and Journalists for Human Rights (JHR) has been a vital collaborator in industry-led efforts against sexual harassment. In 2021, we initiated the model policy and committee, and we are committed to further actions to address and resolve this problem. Our ongoing training aims to encourage wider acceptance and implementation of these measures. So far, 21 media stations have adopted the policy. The association has trained over 300 journalists on gender sensitive reporting which allows them to produce more accurate, engaging, and impactful stories that contribute to a more just and equitable society. AMWIK also supports these journalists by providing story grants and engaging editors to cover their stories.

By addressing issues such as child marriage and advocating for reproductive rights, ZamaraFdn contributes to breaking the cycle of poverty that disproportionately affects these constituents. For instance, through digital media advocacy and community forums, Zamara Foundation has continued to raise awareness about the link between gender inequality and poverty, empowering women and girls to make informed choices about their reproductive health and futures. When girls and women have control over their reproductive rights, they contribute to their development, actualize their full potential and break the cycle of poverty. Through advocating for policies prioritising gender equality and women's autonomy, Zamara Foundation also supports creating an enabling environment for poverty reduction efforts.

The organisation's efforts to advocate for gender-responsive policies, empower women and girls, and foster inclusive partnerships resonate with the AU's commitment to advancing women's rights and promoting gender equality across the continent. By striving towards a future where every woman and girl can fully participate in social, economic, and political life, Zamara contributes to the realization of Agenda 2063's vision of an Africa where all citizens enjoy equal rights, opportunities, and dignity. Wangu Kanja Foundation (WKF) serves as the Convener of the Survivors of Sexual Violence in Kenya Network (SSVKenya), which unites survivors to advocate against sexual violence in the country. Under the WKF's leadership, SSVKenya introduced a mobile app for swift evidence collection from survivors and witnesses anonymously nationwide. This information is accessible to survivors and relevant stakeholders for reporting and sharing purposes.

In February 2023, the Coalition Against Sexual Violence (CASV) was established by fourteen organizations to coordinate efforts in addressing sexual violence comprehensively while prioritizing survivor-centered interventions. WKF convenes this Coalition against Sexual Violence and it brings together diverse stakeholders, enhances collective resources, awareness creation, social and resource mobilization, expertise and building relations, and advocacy efforts in the country. This unified approach aims to create a safer environment, raise awareness, and implement comprehensive strategies to prevent and respond to sexual violence, fostering a society where survivors are supported and empowered. In March 2024, the CASV officially launched their strategic plan 2024-2028.

WKF is a member of the Police Reforms Working Group, Kenya, which is an alliance of national and grassroots organizations committed to professional and rule of law policing. They are also members

of the Defender's Coalition, which is the National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders (HRDS) in Kenya. This is a national membership organisation established in 2007 and registered under Kenyan law as a Trust to champion the safety, security and wellbeing of human rights defenders (HRDs). The Defenders Coalition works primarily for the protection of HRDs in Kenya. Among others, the Coalition strengthens capacities of HRDs to work more effectively, besides advocating for favourable legal, policy and institutional environments in order to reduce their vulnerability to the risk of persecution and or harm.

Addressing the prevalence of physical and sexual violence in Kenya, particularly affecting women and girls, remains a critical challenge. The partnership between PHR, SSVKenya convened by the WKF, and other stakeholders aims to improve mental health care access for survivors of sexual violence and enhance the legal and policy framework concerning mental health services in Kenya.

To enhance immediate collection of evidence while witnesses' memories are still fresh, SSVKenya under WKF pioneered a mobile application that enables survivors and witnesses to report and document cases anonymously across the country. The information remains available to the survivors for retrieval and sharing with relevant actors.

In June 2023, Voicing Our Plight using Photovoice report was launched to Assess Perceptions of Mental Health Services for Survivors of Sexual Violence in Kenya highlighting gaps, challenges and recommendations to different duty bearers and stakeholders. The assessment was conducted in 2022 using Photovoice, an inclusive and participatory methodology that mitigates the risk of retraumatizing survivors of sexual violence. Featuring survivors' own voices, photos, and perspectives, the assessment shows that there are significant gaps in the availability, accessibility, acceptability, and quality of mental health services being offered to survivors in their communities in Nairobi. Barriers that survivors experience range from costly transportation, stigma, infrastructure to under trained health workers.

GROOTS Kenya has been actively collaborating with the National Gender Technical Working Group, Gender Technical Working Groups in various counties, GBV Technical Working Groups, National Steering Committees on Unpaid Care and Domestic Work, and the Anti-FGM Board to monitor and enforce existing and new legal frameworks. Additionally, GROOTS Kenya has provided training to the Nakuru County Budget Committee on the Public Financial Management (PFM) Cycle to enhance the capacity of key stakeholders to address gender issues and promote gender-responsive budgeting. This ensures that gender considerations are integrated into policy and planning processes at both national and county levels, leading to more effective and sustainable development outcomes.

Although there are no prevalence studies on violence against women and girls with disabilities (WGwD) in Kenya, however in line with global trends, WGwD are more likely to experience gender-based violence. Baseline surveys conducted by WCC in Kenyan communities, including Migori County, shows that WGwD face various forms of violence, with sexual and physical violence being the most severe. Women and girls with intellectual disabilities are at the highest risk, followed by those who are blind, deaf, and physically disabled. Perpetrators are often people known and trusted by the victims, such as husbands, family members, neighbours, or friends.

Research and projects by Women Challenged to Challenge (WCC) in 2014 and 2019 reveal that WGwD are doubly marginalised and at a higher risk of violence. Factors such as damaging patriarchal norms, negative attitudes toward disability, poverty, disabling conditions, and poor knowledge of their rights

contribute to weak support for survivors and low prosecution rates of perpetrators. Most incidents of violence go unreported and are often handled inappropriately at the family or community level. Local service providers often respond discriminatorily and lack training, knowledge, and guidelines for proper handling of such cases. WCC has reached over 300 women with disabilities in 20 counties and 20 refugee women with disabilities, achieving the following: Increased the ability of women and girls with disabilities to recognize and respond to violence; raised awareness about violence against women and girls with disabilities; empowered women to prevent and respond to violence by educating them on their rights and encouraging them to report violence to local authorities; contributed significantly to addressing violence against girls with disabilities in the targeted counties in Kenya.

WCC has also simplified and distributed over 500 copies of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Sexual Offences Act (SOA) to women with disabilities, disability organizations, and other county stakeholders. This ensures that women at the grassroots level can understand these important laws. In May 2024 WCC supported Kilifi County to review its SGBV policy making sure that issues of Women with Disability are well captured in the policy. The policy will be launched in July 2024.

5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

The SGBV is a widespread problem that affects women and girls in all their diversities and is a serious violation of human rights not just in Kenya but throughout the world. As part of Kenya's commitment to eradicating gender inequality, the Government is trying to address this issue. The Government has established the following legal framework to address GBV issues. The Constitution of Kenya; the Penal Code; Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2003, which amended the Penal Code to enhance sentences on sexual violence; the Criminal Procedure Code; and the Sexual Offences Act, which among other things broadens the definition of sexual offences; the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act, 2011 which strengthened the 2006 Act; the Sexual Offences Regulations 2008; the Counter Trafficking in Persons Act (2011) and the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Act 2011. However, the impact of these laws is hampered by inadequate enforcement and gaps in various respects.

Article 2 (5) of the Constitution of Kenya makes international law a source of the Country's laws. The Constitution provides that the 'general rules of international law shall form part of the laws of Kenya' and further that 'Any Treaty or Convention ratified by Kenya shall form part of the law of Kenya under the Constitution. Globally, Kenya acceded to a list of priority areas adopted by the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of 1995. The prohibitions on sex discrimination in the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women encompass SGBV. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child requires States Parties to protect children from all forms of violence, maltreatment, or exploitation, including sexual abuse. The UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women affirms that violence against women constitutes a violation of the rights and fundamental freedoms of women. Further, the African Union (AU) adopted the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) in 2003, ratified by Kenya in 2010. The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa devotes Article 4 entirely to the topic of violence against women, calling for a range of state measures to address the violence that takes place 'in private or public,' including the punishment of perpetrators, the identification of causes of violence against women and the provision of services for survivors.

Zamara Foundation has been intentional in ensuring that survivors, victims and witnesses are protected and their rights upheld through engaging the Witness protection Agency and Victims protection Agency to look at what Justice looks like from the lenses of the survivors. Ministries and Agencies tasked with the operationalization of SGBV preventive and response services include: The Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government; Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Justice; Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP); The Judiciary, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Science & Technology, and County Governments. The Ministry of Interior is critical to SGBV because it is directly in charge of institutions such as police and national (formerly provincial) administration that administer and ensure law enforcement. They are a major stakeholder in SGBV prevention, mitigation, and realization of justice for survivors. However, there are concerns regarding police awareness, responsiveness, and professional commitment to fighting SGBV. Notable gains such as Police Gender Desks have, however, attracted criticism that they are not effective in changing the culture of the police behaviour towards survivors of SGBV and that they are often manned by untrained personnel. These are very rich structures in place that, if properly utilised, could liberate women and girls from the shackles of Sexual Gender Based.

WKF through the support of UN Women, Oxfam, CFLI and Oak Foundation focuses on strengthening the capacity of the Survivors of SSVKenya Network and its 47 chapters and communities to engage in the prevention, response and protection of the rights of the survivors of sexual violence. WKF focuses on the establishment of Survivors prevention and response Hub to coordinate, coalesce and support survivors of sexual violence through the Utilization of a Toll-free line 1519. This toll-free line is 24 hrs and is manned by WKF staff and it provides a safe and confidential space for individuals to report cases of sexual violence. 1519 offers a supportive and compassionate environment for survivors to seek help and access the resources they need to navigate through the difficult process of addressing and reporting sexual violence. According to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime women are uniquely and disproportionately targeted in the private sphere: 56% of female homicides are perpetrated by intimate partners or family members, compared to only 11 percent of male homicides. In 2022 alone, around 48,000 women and girls worldwide were killed by intimate partners or family members. While Africa had the largest number of such killings as well as the highest rate adjusted for total population size, the problem afflicts all regions. Echoing the narratives surrounding sexual violence, entrenched cultural scripts tend to shift blame from the attacker to the victim, who is framed as somehow responsible for endangering herself or attracting her relative's or partner's wrath.

Following the immense surge of Femicide in Kenya this year that garnered significant public attention. At least fourteen women were killed in January alone; some reports cite as many as twenty-one killings. They include Scarlet Wahu, a well-known online influencer, and Rita Waeni, a twenty-year-old university student who was brutally murdered and mutilated. In Kenya, the data collected by Africa Data Hub suggest that over the past eight years, 75% of female homicide victims were killed by intimate partners or family members, most often husbands or boyfriends. Approximately 80 percent of these killings took place within the confines of a home. Although the Kenyan Constitution safeguards citizens' right to be protected from violence and affirms the state's duty to protect women's needs, we emphasise that there is a vast schism between these legal obligations and current state practices. So far, the Government response has been muted. Government spokesperson Isaac Mwaura has made no official statement on the issue, but, according to the Nation newspaper, he told a journalist that women should "stop the love of money and being gullible." To date, the only concrete responses

have come from the Ministry of Interior and National Administration and the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI). The former has rolled out new regulations requiring short-term rental properties to register with the Tourism Regulatory Authority, as two recent femicides occurred in unregistered short-let apartments. Meanwhile, Kenyan newspapers report that DCI is forming a specialised team that will expedite investigations into sexual offences and murder incidents involving women and develop preventive strategies, though no further details on the scope of this effort have been made public.

Polycom Girls' initiatives align with government priorities to end violations against women and girls, as emphasised in national gender equality policies and strategies. In mainstreaming gender equality involves integrating Polycom Girls' programs into broader government agenda such as Vision 2030, policies such as Gender Bill, and initiatives aimed at promoting women's rights and empowerment. Polycom Girls tailors its interventions to address the specific needs and challenges faced by women and girls in different communities, leveraging local and international resources and partnerships. Polycom Girls has promoted dialogues with community members, local leaders, and relevant stakeholders in the design, implementation, and evaluation of programs, fostering a sense of ownership and sustainability within Kibera and Nairobi. Polycom Girls has also reached out to Kenya National Bureau of Statistics towards validation of the data collected from the SafeCity App developed jointly in partnership.

To strengthen the institutional capacities of state and non-state actors to effectively address GBV in the COVID-19 pandemic situation in Kiambu, Kakamega and Tana River Counties, GROOTS Kenya trained grassroots women as first responders on survivor-centred rescue, response and building resilience for GBV survivors. GROOTS Kenya thereby established three shelters in each of the mentioned counties, which have collectively accommodated 293 young women and girls and 115 dependents. These shelters continue to provide immediate safety to GBV survivors seeking refuge from abusive situations. They have been instrumental in protecting women, girls, and persons with disabilities (PWDs) in danger, facilitating their transition to safer and more stable lives. The shelters' success in consistently accommodating survivors is attributed to the strong linkages developed between GROOTS Kenya's GBV Responders and County Government officials. These shelters have served as a lifeline for victims, offering them a way out of abusive situations and starting their healing journey. Zamara Foundation led and co hosted the Anti-femicide March along with other organizations across the country which saw us gather in solidarity with other Civil Society Organizations to boldly condemn the Killing of the Kenyan Women.

To advocate and fight for elimination of all gender injustices and promote awareness on GBV Response and referral mechanisms, GROOTS Kenya engaged in different 16 Days of Activism campaigns during this reporting period. GROOTS Kenya also held a press - conference to call out against GBV. The press conference was convened to denounce political injustices directed at a nominated woman member of the Kiambu County Assembly by an elected male counterpart during a county assembly meeting aimed at reconciling the county's work. GROOTS Kenya played a facilitating role in organising this event, bringing together 10 journalists and 110 grassroots champions to conduct the press conference in Kiambu. The primary objective was to mobilise the community, urging collective action against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) cases. Simultaneously, the press conference aimed to raise awareness about the specific challenges related to GBV that the counties, particularly Kiambu, should address comprehensively.

The KUDHEIHA has been advocating for the ratification of ILO Convention 190 through campaigns and trainings, signaling its commitment to eliminating sexual harassment and gender-based violence.

Through the Decent Work Network, KUDHEIHA submitted a memorandum on the ratification of ILO C190. The organization has also included clauses on gender-based violence and sexual harassment on CBAs to ensure all workers are protected against the same. In all the training KUDHEIHA organises for its members, SGBV is one of the main topics that is handled. Members get trained on all forms of SGBV and means of reporting the same.

5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

An estimated 55 million girls under the age of 15 in 28 African countries have experienced or are at risk of experiencing FGM, which remains prevalent in parts of West, East, Central, and Northern Africa, despite the fact that laws against FGM are most common in the African continent where 28 countries have specific anti-FGM laws or legal provisions.

The prevalence of FGM varies significantly across different regions in Kenya. Eastern and Northeastern regions have the highest prevalence, while Nyanza and Western regions have the lowest. In Isiolo County, 97% of women have undergone FGM, while in Kisumu County, the prevalence is only 2%. It is estimated that an additional 574,000 Kenyan girls are at risk of undergoing FGM between now and 2030, highlighting the need for continued efforts. An overwhelming 92.5% of women and 88.8% of men aged 15-49 believe that FGM should be stopped. It is estimated that an additional 574,000 Kenyan girls are at risk of undergoing FGM between now and 2030, highlighting the need for continued efforts.

According to the Kenya Demographic and Health Survey Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS, 2022), an estimated 15% of women and girls aged 15-49 in Kenya have undergone some form of FGM. The prevalence is much lower among younger girls, with only 11.4% of girls aged 15-19 having undergone FGM. However, the prevalence remains high among older age groups, with 40.9% of women aged 45-49 being cut.

Female Genital Mutilation is a severe violation of human rights, and presenting accurate, gender-sensitive, and constructive reporting on this issue is essential to eradicating the practice. To mark the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM and to support journalists and editors in delivering gender-sensitive reporting on FGM, AMWIK created a toolkit in partnership with Equality Now and Anti-FGM Board that is accessible for free³ AMWIK and its partners have convened webinars each year during the 16 days of activism on GBV. From bringing in survivors to national and county government players, the online events aim to create more awareness of GBV and create a rallying call to action towards zero cases. AMWIK works with journalists to report on issues of GBV, primarily FGM. Through its partners, AMWIK gives story grants to journalists to produce stories on GBV and conducts training on gender sensitive reporting. AMWIK has created an FGM reporting guidebook, as produced a reporting

Zamara Foundation's commitment to ending child marriages deepened as they became members of the Kenyan Girls Not Brides Partnership. Through active participation in the steering committee, they have given power back to girls, ensuring they exercise their rights and unlock their full potential within a society free from the shackles of child marriage. In their dedicated efforts to foster positive narrative shifts and meaningful discussions among adolescent girls, they have facilitated open platforms for them to candidly share their experiences and challenges. They have engaged over 100

³ <https://shorturl.at/etxGV>

girls in Kwale and Kilifi sparking vital discussions on how we can collectively contribute to crafting and implementing solutions. Despite facing challenges in school engagements due to government restrictions on civil society involvement, these continuous safe spaces have played a crucial role in elevating girls' political consciousness regarding their sexual and reproductive health, rights, and justice. They have also hosted digital media conversations reaching over 10 million people to influence discourse on SRHRJ and child marriage across Kenya and the region.

The FAWE Kenya has been working closely with the Government through the Directorate of Children Services (DCS) in coordinating prevention and response programs geared towards ending harmful practices among children in Kenya. As an organization, we have had several consultative meetings towards ending harmful practices against children in Kenya including child marriage and female genital mutilation and cutting, we have gone further to make submissions on approaches and mechanisms that have proved effective in the eradication of early, child, and forced marriage to inform the report by the DCS on progress towards ending child marriage in Kenya. In addition, FAWEK has also been at the forefront of the development of the national plan of action on ending child marriage in Kenya. The planning process has begun, and the review and finalisation are scheduled for 2024. From our initial efforts, the percentage rate of those girls who got pregnant before 15 years stands at 2.2 % (KDH 2022) while those getting pregnant before 18 years is at 12.5% (KDH 2022), this means there is an improvement in the in reducing teenage pregnancy though this is not enough and there is need to further reduce teenage pregnancy to zero percent.

Zamara Foundation has also been at the forefront of the Universal Periodic Review for Kenya under EAC human Rights where we have reviewed the legal and policy frameworks on child marriage in Kenya and highlighted the inconsistency in documenting child marriage in the Kenya Demographic and Health survey.

In addressing FGM, in 2014, (15-19) years, 11.4% have undergone FGM, however, 9.1% of girls of the same age category were reported to have undergone the same in 2022. This is a remarkable advancement towards eliminating harmful practices. At FAWE Kenya, engagements such as Male engagement, and Tuseme mentorship in schools, are some of the initiatives that have proved successful in bringing such a change.

The FAWE Kenya facilitated a session on the Gender Responsive to Teachers Service Commission during a sensitization meeting for the Gender and Disability Mainstreaming Committee. The committee was taken through the 6 pillars of Gender Responsive Pedagogy (GRP), which are methodology, resources for teaching, learning and assessment, teacher-learner-learner interaction, and classroom management. They also learned why Gender Responsive Pedagogy is important for the learners, teachers, and school management. The participants were also made aware of the effects of gender stereotypes by teachers and the issues affecting male and female learners. As an organisation, our main aim is to ensure that we address issues of gender equality in schools and discourage biases between boys and girls in school.

The FAWE Kenya has supported the Ministry of Education in the development of the National Education Sector Plan (NESSP) 2023-2027 whose period came to an end in June 2023. The Ministry of Education and partners including FAWE Kenya organised a Joint Sector Review (JSR) of 2018-2022 (NESSP) from 5th to 9th June 2023 in 23 counties where 470 schools were monitored. The findings were presented to education partners in a feedback workshop in September 2023 as part of the process. A final draft was completed by the technical team from the ministry in December 2023. The policy is currently awaiting public input before it is finalised and disseminated.

5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

GROOTS Kenya plays a significant role in shaping national policies related to unpaid care work. The organisation holds a seat on the National Steering Committee responsible for developing the Unpaid Care Work Policy. This policy is being formulated in collaboration with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) and other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). Additionally, GROOTS Kenya is an active member of the Coalition for Unpaid Care Work in Kenya, whereby the coalition represents collective effort by various organizations to advocate for policies and practices that recognize, reduce, and redistribute unpaid care work, particularly the burden shouldered by women and girls. Through these roles, GROOTS Kenya contributes to advancing gender equality and promoting the well-being of individuals and families by addressing the often-overlooked issue of unpaid care work.

GROOTS Kenya mobilised and engaged one hundred and three (103) people in a National Care Conference Convening. Of these eighty-eight (88) were women while fifteen (15) were men drawn from diverse spaces including government officials, community health workers, civil society organisation, media and academia. With a view to increase intergenerational equality and engagement, 32 of the participants were youths. Virtually, 161 participants were engaged (drawn from different parts of the country). This convening allowed for a broad-based dialogue that enhanced cross sector collaboration and promoted intergenerational perspectives. This forum provided a better scope for comprehensive and effective approaches that address care related issues. GROOTS Kenya partnered with the mainstream media such as K24, KU TV & the Tuko Blog, etc, to cover the National Care Conference as part of raising awareness to the general public.

KUDHEIHA, which has long organised domestic workers throughout Kenya and has won national legislation improving domestic workers' wages, benefits and working conditions is at the forefront advocating for the ratification of C189 which is vocal in protecting the domestic workers and ensuring their work is recognized as a valuable work to the economy as the other types of work. KUDHEIHA holds monthly meetings with the domestic workers on skills development. During the meetings, KUDHEIHA also trains workers on social security programs and policies and encourages them to register for the programs. The organisation also holds dialogues with the employers on promoting conducive working environments for the domestic workers and also negotiate for better terms and working conditions. It continues to encourage domestic workers to ask for written contracts that they can sign rather than settling for oral contracts. Through campaigns such as social media campaigns and processions, and community sensitization meetings, the union educates the public on rights for domestic workers and the value of the work domestic workers do not only in our households but also the community at large.

5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

In Africa, the report estimates that only 21% of women hold leadership roles, highlighting the pressing need for increased representation. AMWIK recognizes that gender inequality and inequity undermine development. Thus, we particularly focus on enhancing the visibility of women in society and promoting

their participation in leadership and decision-making. The media is a powerful tool for social change and agenda-setting, which we use to create public awareness around key issues affecting women to ensure public support and appreciation. These media tools include radio, television, community radio listening group sessions, newsletters, magazines, and digital media platforms.

In 2022, AMWIK celebrated its 40th anniversary by bringing together current and veteran journalists. The platform was used to advocate for more inclusion of women in leadership positions in the media houses. Over 200 female journalists have been trained by AMWIK on leadership skills in efforts to boost numbers in decision-making positions. AMWIK has pushed for the uptake of the Women in News Leadership Accelerator programme, an initiative of the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers (Wan-Ifra), is empowering female journalists converting them into hotcakes undeniably impossible to ignore for promotions. AMWIK made submissions to the multi-sector working group secretariat on the challenges facing the adoption of the 2/3 gender rule in Kenya in 2023. The group was commissioned by the then Public Service and Gender Cabinet Secretary Aisha Jumwa.

Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd is hosting an empowerment project named ChemiChemi ya Mwangaza Machakos for parents of vulnerable needy children that are unable to go to school through government support. The organisation empowers women caregivers to ensure that their children receive financial support in terms of school fees and Shopping and also creating awareness on Sheep rearing for self-sustainability. It also hosts sessions to help the women understand their rights and that of their children for instance unpacking The CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Violence against Women)

To ensure women's full and effective participation in leadership, during the most recent general elections in Kenya (2022), GROOTS Kenya supported 15 women to run for various political positions, including 5 Members of Parliament (MPs) and eight (8) Members of County Assembly (MCA) seats, across five (5) counties: Nakuru, Murang'a, Laikipia, Kakamega, and Kiambu. Seven of these women emerged victorious in their respective elections. They have since collaborated closely with the movement to advocate for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) and to amplify the voices of grassroots women in spaces that were previously inaccessible to them.

Zamara Foundation hosts yearly cohorts of the Zamara Foundation's Intersectional Feminist Leadership Institute (ZAFLI) where we host young women and girls Hailing from Nairobi, Kilifi, and Kwale counties, these individuals represent diverse organizations and affiliations within the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) sphere, all sharing a profound dedication to advancing women's rights. We have built the capacities of over 70 young women with a curriculum that encompasses exploring the intricacies of sex, sexuality, and gender, examining SRHR through a feminist lens, delving into feminist theory and intersectionality, evaluating the state of SRHR in Kenya, scrutinising the legal and policy landscape of SRHR in Africa, gaining insights into SRHR advocacy, and honing social media and communications strategies. These intensive discussions leveraged the lived experiences and knowledge of the participants, fostering profound engagement. The program encourages them to embrace a process of learning, unlearning, and relearning, shedding light on their conscious and unconscious biases. Collaborative group activities and post-session adventures facilitate bonds and networking, culminating in the forming of a powerful sisterhood, evident in the heartwarming feedback received.

5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

Several organizations have worked to ensure that all survivors of sexual violence have access to coordinate, comprehensive care and support, trauma informed, and survivors centered services. Wangu Kanja Foundation (WKF) has been holding sessions with survivors in making sure they receive all the required services and also works with duty bearers in making sure that the perpetrator is arrested and arraigned in court. In November 2023, Wangu Kanja Foundation organized a meeting where survivors of sexual violence consulted with the Internal Affairs Unit-Kenya. It's through these engagements that duty bearers can understand what the survivors are actually experiencing & happens at the ground. WKF also took the lead in successfully delivering a petition to the Supreme Court received by Chief Registrar of Judiciary Anne Amadi on behalf of the Chief Justice Martha Koome. The emphasis was on survivors being protected and treated with respect and dignity.

Adolescent girls and young women in all their diversities in Kenya face many challenges, such as deaths due to unsafe abortion complications, increased rates of teenage pregnancies, femicide, sexual and gender-based violence, and harmful cultural practices. A 2012 survey by the Kenyan Ministry of Health, African Population and Health Research Center, and Ipas found that there were 464,000 abortions induced that year, translating to an abortion rate of 48 per 1,000 women aged 15–49; and an abortion ratio of 30 per 100 live births. The unmet need for contraceptives has put girls in a vulnerable state of unintended pregnancies. Adolescent girls and young women do not have access to comprehensive sexuality education that will allow them to make informed choices and delay their sexual debut. Twenty-three per cent of Kenyan girls are married before their 18th birthday, and 4% are married before the age of 15, and Kenya ranked third in the world over teenage pregnancies, recording a total of 45,724 pregnancies between January and February 2022, according to the Ministry of Health. Culture and tradition are often weaponized and used as a justification for violating the rights of adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in Kenya. Morality and religion have often been used to judge LGBTIQ+ persons as denying or limiting their access to essential health services and information and also excluding them in developmental agendas. Zamara Foundation's mission is to strengthen the voice, choice, and agency of adolescent girls and young women in all their diversities through raising their political consciousness to challenge inequalities and oppression in an effort to advance gender equality. The emphasis on African feminist principles and intersectionality is especially important in today's world, where social justice movements are increasingly recognizing the ways in which different forms of oppression intersect and reinforce each other. By creating spaces for young feminists and activists to come together, Zamara Foundation is helping to build a strong movement for reproductive justice, gender justice and equality that is inclusive of all young women and girls, regardless of their backgrounds or identities in Kwale and Kilifi.

Before the adoption of the 2010 Constitution, abortion in Kenya was highly criminalised and stigmatised with the end result being imprisonment of women and medical providers who offered safe abortion services. This narrative, however, changed with the promulgation of the Constitution that now allowed for safe abortion on a wide range of circumstances, and similarly complemented by county laws that are increasingly emerging to allow for safe abortion. In an effort to recognize the challenges and shortages of specialized health care professionals in Kenya, the 2010 Constitution moved beyond specialist doctors to involve a wider range of health workers as an increasingly important public health strategy to address unsafe abortion. In the final report of the Committee of Experts on Constitutional Review, the drafters of the Constitution recognized that implementation of Article 26 (4) was not

limited to doctors only but extended to nurses, clinical officers and midwives. This has now been cemented with the enactment of the Health Act, 2017 Health Act 2017 which under Section 6(2) clarifies that “a trained health professional” shall refer to a health professional with formal medical training at the proficiency level of a medical officer, a nurse, midwife, or a clinical officer who has been educated and trained to proficiency in the skills needed to manage pregnancy-related complications in women, and who has a valid licence from the recognized regulatory authorities to carry out that procedure. Zamara Foundation has also been at the forefront of highlighting the disparities in the legal system.

According to Article 26(4), there are four broad indications on when a medical provider can perform a safe abortion. These are: Where there is danger to the life of the mother; Where there is danger to the health of the mother; Health, as defined in the Health Act 2017 is a complete state of physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease. This then brings to light the nuanced circumstances that would make a woman a mental wreck including rape. If there is need for emergency treatment of any kind; and If allowed by any other written law. Besides enabling laws such as the Health Act 2017, this includes any other laws, policies, guidelines passed in Kenya or international treaties ratified by the state. It need be noted that Under the Ministry of Health’s ,National Guidelines on the Management of Sexual Violence rape survivors are allowed safe termination of pregnancy.

It is also critical to note that the Constitution, 2010, allows a singular provider to form an opinion on access to safe abortion. The law does not require the provider to seek the opinion of a second provider. Aware of the Human Resource limitations that exist in marginalised regions in Kenya, this is progressive as compared to the previous practice prior to 2010 where medical practitioners were compelled to seek the opinion of a senior health practitioner or psychiatric review of the patient before allowing safe abortion. It is further noteworthy that pursuant to Article 32 of the Constitution, freedom of religion, thought, opinion and belief remains a human right. The law thus does not compel a medical provider to offer safe abortion services. Where a provider indicates a conscious objection, ideally, they must undertake effective and timely referral. However, in emergency situations such as ectopic pregnancies, or post abortal care, a medical provider is compelled to perform safe abortion to save the life of the woman. Post abortion care is classified as a lifesaving emergency medical treatment.

Section 6(1) of the Health Act 2017 is instructive on abortion matters as it provides that: Every person has a right to reproductive health care which includes— (c) access to treatment by a trained health professional for conditions occurring during pregnancy including abnormal pregnancy conditions, such as ectopic, abdominal and molar pregnancy, or any medical condition exacerbated by the pregnancy to such an extent that the life or health of the mother is threatened. All such cases shall be regarded as comprising notifiable conditions. Section 6(2) thereafter defines “a trained health professional” to refer to a health professional with formal medical training at the proficiency level of a medical officer, a nurse, midwife, or a clinical officer who has been educated and trained to proficiency in the skills needed to manage pregnancy-related complications in women, and who has a valid licence from the recognized regulatory authorities to carry out that procedure. The Act also demands that any procedure carried out shall be performed in a legally recognized health facility with an enabling environment consisting of the minimum human resources, infrastructure, commodities and supplies for the facility.

The Penal Code criminalizes the procurement of unsafe abortion under sections 158- 160 which states

under (Section 158 'Any person who, with intent to procure miscarriage of a woman, whether she is or is not with child, unlawfully administers to her or causes her to take any poison or other noxious thing, or uses any force of any kind, or uses any other means whatever, is guilty of a felony and is liable to imprisonment for fourteen years')(Section 159 'Any woman who, being with child, with intent to procure her own miscarriage, unlawfully administers to herself any poison or other noxious thing, or uses any force of any kind, or uses any other means whatever, or permits any such thing or means to be administered or used to her, is guilty of a felony and is liable to imprisonment for seven years') (Section 160 ' Any person who unlawfully supplies to or procures for any person anything whatever, knowing that it is intended to be unlawfully used to procure the miscarriage of a woman whether she is or is not with child, is guilty of a felony and is liable to imprisonment for three years') It is however noteworthy that the Penal Code also allows a trained health professional to provide safe abortion services if performed in 'good faith and reasonable care' under Section 240 which states as follows: 'A person is not criminally responsible for performing in good faith and with reasonable care and skill a surgical operation upon any person for his benefit, or upon an unborn child for the preservation of the mother's life, if the performance of the operation is reasonable, having regard to the patient's state at the time and to all the circumstances of the case.

It is noteworthy that in practice, law enforcement officers have largely used Section 158 of the Penal Code to ambush, threaten, harass, extort and entrap medical providers who offer safe abortion, even when a woman qualifies under the law. In accordance with the provisions of Article 2(5) of the Constitution, regionally and internationally, there are also several laws and policies that regulate safe abortion practices. These include: The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo protocol).

Women's right to bodily integrity and autonomy has increasingly become a major political and social discussion in Kenya. There have been concerted efforts to claw back gains and limit women's access to reproductive rights through policy change. The SRHR agenda has become an ideological battlefield at the expense of marginalised groups, especially adolescent girls and young women with compounded vulnerabilities. The wider SRHR civil society has therefore tended to mobilise around widely shared, comparatively less politically-contested issues, such as maternal mortality, but not enough around the contested issues included within SRHR such as abortion rights, access to contraceptives and comprehensive sexuality education, or to address some issues affecting adolescent girls, poor women, women with disabilities, sexual minorities, and others. Yet politically and culturally charged gender norms shape power dynamics, resource allocation, health sector actors' attitudes and responsiveness, and whether people see themselves as "worthy" of rights. Moreover, the influence of conservative political, religious, and cultural forces on SRHR, sometimes with a global remit, is shaping both the government's ability to be accountable to the population and the population's ability to demand accountability. In 2022, the Ministry of Health launched the National Reproductive Health Policy amidst protests from civil society organizations due to the inadequate engagement of SRHRJ CSOs and the exclusion of reproductive rights in the policy. The current review of the adolescent and young people reproductive health policy has excluded organizations and voices of adolescents from influencing the process and removed the language "sexual" in the title of the policy and throughout the document. Whereas the Judiciary has determined that reproductive rights are fundamental rights in their rulings, anti-rights groups have heavily challenged these decisions which have greatly limited access to reproductive health services and commodities.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that over 1 billion people globally (about 15%) live with some form of disability, and this number is increasing due to demographic trends and chronic health conditions. This proportion is higher in developing countries, largely due to the link between

disability and poverty. Understanding the number of people with disabilities (PwDs) and their circumstances is crucial for improving disability policies, programs, and interventions.

Sexual and reproductive health is a fundamental human right guaranteed by various international, regional, and national laws. Kenya's Constitution of 2010 guarantees the right to health care, including reproductive health, and mandates that no one should be denied emergency medical treatment. It also requires the State to provide social security to those unable to support themselves and their dependents. Kenya is committed to protecting the sexual and reproductive health rights of all its citizens, including those with disabilities. While the rights of women and girls with disabilities are the same as those without disabilities, they face unique access and discrimination issues. According to the 2007 Kenya National Survey for Persons with Disabilities, 95% of urban PwDs were aware of health services compared to 86% in rural areas. However, only 72% of urban PwDs had access to needed health services, compared to 79% in rural areas. Additionally, the use of family planning among female PwDs aged 12 to 49 was found to be 16%.

Women Challenged to Challenge (WCC) has focused on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) by collaborating with policymakers, program managers, health, gender, and social development sectors, judiciary, law enforcement, disability organizations, and community members. Their goal is to increase understanding of disability and integrate it into sectoral planning and programming. Between 2020 and 2024, WCC raised awareness about sexual and reproductive health rights for over 500 women and girls with disabilities in Nairobi, Migori, Siaya, and Baringo Counties. Between 2021 and 2024, WCC supported the construction of disability-friendly toilets, ramps in hospital maternity units, accessible beds, and menstrual hygiene awareness in three sub-county hospitals, three county hospitals, and three special school units in Nairobi, Siaya, and Baringo Counties.

5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

GROOTS Kenya has been actively involved in supporting women in Tana River to access communal land, get the women added in the community land register and participate in the Community land management committees. GROOTS Kenya held bi-annual meetings with 40 cultural and religious male elders and 15 women leaders from Masabubu and Tawfiq villages in Tana River County. These dialogues aimed to advocate for the allocation of productive land to women and support for their enterprises. One successful advocacy bid was seen when a young woman – led group (Tawfiq Girls Community Based Organization) was given 4 acres as part of the community land to lead their farming and water initiatives. The young women group continue to cultivate maize and mung beans, creating additional income streams. More efforts were prompted by challenges faced by women's groups, particularly in the honey value chain, regarding the location, size, and productivity of the land allocated to them. For example, the Furaha women's group in Masabubu village was initially denied land by the elders. Although one member managed to convince her husband to allocate their private land, it was not suitable for beekeeping due to its proximity to the village, posing security risks. This engagement model has been identified as a good practice and is recommended for replication in other project areas.

Hami Imani Africa has been running a mentorship program in Kajiado County schools that has really helped keep girls in school. In 2023, mentees from five (5) schools sat for their exams and there were no reported cases of teen pregnancies or early marriages. Provision of reusable sanitary towels has improved school.

5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women

Violence against women and girls is a huge threat to progress on gender equality. As technology becomes more widely available, more awareness is needed for young women and girls to repress the prevalence of online harassment. Under the Women@Web project in East Africa by DW Akademie. This is one of the premier learning networks on digital safety and security for women journalists, content producers and young activists in Kenya and the East African region. The comic strip is part of the regional advocacy work that the Women at Web East Africa network in cooperation with DW Akademie, Media Convergency and Women at Web Rwanda.

As part of the regional advocacy work that the Women at Web East Africa network undertakes, Acacia Book Café (ABC), Association of Media Women in Kenya (AMWIK), and Media Convergency collaborated on producing a comic strip about Online Violence Against Women, for women in the East Africa region. The Women at Web East Africa network has been working to Shift the narrative around access to SRHR especially access to safe abortion, CSE, and Contraceptives among adolescents through the bold conversation that we have been hosting. We have strengthened the digital advocacy to bring out positive stories of why access to SRHRJ especially safe and legal abortion is a healthcare issue and a right. We acknowledge that the role we play in the online space is critical; appreciating the expanding digital community. Because of this, we hope to ensure that the stigma associated with abortion is eliminated in the long run. The public is not as ignorant as it once was, and this provides an opportunity to influence their perceptions and support with the right strategy and approach. By use of digital advocacy to challenge these narratives in the SRHR space, we have seen and experienced pushback from the community. We have seen community members challenge opposition trending topics online when they continue to spread these false narratives and misinformation on Twitter and Facebook. Zamara Foundation has been loud, audacious, and bold in hosting these uncomfortable conversations around safe and legal abortion access. We are very deliberate in deconstructing and challenging abortion myths and misconceptions that continue to fuel stigma and discrimination. We intend to use this space to rally public support through our partnerships with other young women to influence positive public discourse on access to safe abortion.

5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

FAWE Kenya supported the Teachers Service Commission to disseminate its Revised Gender Policy 2022 to its staff at the Secretariat in June 2023. The policy provides an institutional framework for addressing gender equity, and equality and enhances gender responsiveness in the commission including teachers across the country. In November 2023, FAWE Kenya supported the Teachers Service Commission to facilitate a session on Gender Responsive Teaching during a sensitization workshop for the Gender and Disability Mainstreaming Committee. They were taken through the importance of Gender Responsive Pedagogy (GRP) for the learners, teachers, and school management, and issues affecting male and female learners were highlighted to the participants. FAWE Kenya has also been supporting the re-entry strategy for the Ministry of Education.

FAWE Kenya has been supporting MoE in reviewing Education and Training Sector Gender Policy, 2015. This is aimed at sharing the decision-making in the activities of the gender technical working group (TWG) which FAWE Kenya is a member. A series of physical and virtual meetings have been

held to update and revise the policy and align it with current policy frameworks. The draft policy highlights several issues, including the current policy context, the global, national legal, and policy framework's implications on gender and education, the Education and Training Sector's policy performance overview, and the contemporary challenges of gender and education. This policy is geared towards a human rights-based approach, ensuring equal rights to education for boys and girls, men and women.

A key component of KCCWG programs includes gender inclusivity in implementation. KCCWG has implemented a training and capacity programme for Kajiado county gender department in highlighting the intersectionality of gender and climate change; this aided in advocating for more women in climate related engagements, and further research on the gender effects caused by climate change, opportunities and challenges, which were mainstreamed in the Kajiado County CIDP. Utilising gender-segregated forms for data collection, this has been a crucial component in advocating for more women in our engagement, including working with the county officials in ensuring equal climate capacity building opportunities and policy representation of women in key committees (including WCCC).

GROOTS Kenya's financial literacy training and linkage to financial services resulted in 17 women securing loans totaling Kshs. 1,927,500. This initiative empowered women entrepreneurs, fostering economic independence and growth.

GROOTS Kenya collaborated with policymakers and stakeholders to evaluate the Nakuru draft gender and development policy and to strategize the annual Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) programs and projects. This collaboration resulted in more county departments coming together to develop a unified country strategy for implementing GEWE programs and plans. Additionally, by engaging with the National Gender Technical Working Group, Gender Technical Working Groups in various counties, GBV Technical Working Groups, National Steering Committees, Anti-FGM Board, and providing training to County Budget Committees on the PFM Cycle, GROOTS Kenya is helping to build the capacity of key stakeholders to address gender issues and promote gender equality. This can help ensure that gender considerations are integrated into policy and planning processes at both the national and county levels, leading to more effective and sustainable development outcomes.

For men in similar situations, the most common perpetrators of physical violence were teachers (28%), followed by current wives or intimate partners (20%), and former wives or intimate partners (19%). Twenty-three percent of men in these categories experienced physical violence from other individuals. In response to this issue, GROOTS Kenya has assisted more than 300 survivors of GBV who were violated by an intimate partner. The organisation has offered shelter, psychosocial support, legal counsel, and financial assistance to aid these women in their healing process and help them overcome the trauma they have endured.

To strengthen the institutional capacities of state and non-state actors to effectively address GBV in the COVID-19 pandemic situation in Kiambu, Kakamega and Tana River Counties, GROOTS Kenya trained grassroots women as first responders on rescue, response and building resilience for GBV survivors. GROOTS Kenya established three shelters in each of the mentioned counties, which have collectively accommodated 293 young women and girls and 115 dependents. These shelters continue to provide immediate safety to GBV survivors seeking refuge from abusive situations. They have been instrumental in protecting women, girls, and persons with disabilities (PWDs) in danger, facilitating their transition to safer and more stable lives. The shelters' success in consistently accommodating survivors is attributed to the strong linkages developed between GROOTS Kenya's GBV Responders

and County Government officials. These shelters have served as a lifeline for victims, offering them a way out of abusive situations and starting their healing journey.

To advocate and fight for elimination of all gender injustices and promote awareness on GBV Response and referral mechanisms, GROOTS Kenya engaged in different 16 Days of Activism campaigns during this reporting period. On 27th November, GROOTS Kenya held a press - conference to call out GBV. The press conference was convened to denounce political injustices directed at a nominated woman member of the Kiambu County Assembly by an elected male counterpart during a county assembly meeting aimed at reconciling the county's work. GROOTS Kenya played a facilitating role in organising this event, bringing together 10 journalists and 110 grassroots champions to conduct the press conference in Kiambu. The primary objective was to mobilise the community, urging collective action against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) cases. Simultaneously, the press conference aimed to raise awareness about the specific challenges related to GBV that the counties, particularly Kiambu, should address comprehensively.

According to the KDHS 2022 Data, the prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Kenya stands at 15%. A significant percentage of women who underwent FGM experienced a severe form, with 70% reporting the removal of flesh during the procedure. In response to this, the Kenyan Government committed in 2020 to end FGM by 2023. GROOTS Kenya has been actively collaborating with the Anti-FGM Committees in Laikipia and Tana River Counties to support this commitment. This increased awareness has prompted communities to mobilize support for ending FGM, with local administrators and religious leaders, such as sheikhs, stepping forward to support the cause.

GROOTS Kenya plays a significant role in shaping national policies related to unpaid care work. The organisation holds a seat on the National Steering Committee responsible for developing the Unpaid Care Work Policy. This policy is being formulated in collaboration with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) and other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

Additionally, GROOTS Kenya is an active member of the Coalition for Unpaid Care Work in Kenya. This coalition represents a collective effort by various organizations to advocate for policies and practices that recognize, reduce, and redistribute unpaid care work, particularly the burden shouldered by women and girls. Through these roles, GROOTS Kenya contributes to advancing gender equality and promoting the well-being of individuals and families by addressing the often-overlooked issue of unpaid care work.

GROOTS Kenya mobilised and engaged one hundred and three (103) people in the national care conference. Of these eighty-eight (88) were women while fifteen (15) were men drawn from diverse spaces including government officials, community health workers, civil society organisation, media and academia. With a view to increase intergenerational equality and engagement, 32 of the participants were youths. Virtually, 161 participants were drawn from different parts of the country.

As part of raising awareness to the general public, GROOTS Kenya partnered with the mainstream media such as K24, KU TV & the Tuko Blog just to name a few to cover the National Care Conference on 5th November 2021. This was of key importance to ensure that the conversation reaches all up to the household level.

In addition, GROOTS Kenya has conducted training sessions for Community Health Promoters from Kiambu and Kakamega counties. These sessions focused on recognizing care work as valuable work and emphasised the importance of raising awareness about this issue within communities.

During the most recent general elections in Kenya, GROOTS Kenya supported 15 women to run for various political positions, including 5 Member of Parliament (MP) and 8 Member of County Assembly (MCA) seats, across 5 counties: Nakuru, Murang'a, Laikipia, Kakamega, and Kiambu. Seven of these women emerged victorious in their respective elections. They have since collaborated closely with the movement to advocate for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) and to amplify the voices of grassroots women in spaces that were previously inaccessible to them.

GROOTS Kenya has been actively involved in supporting women in Tana River to access communal land and participate in land management committees. The organisation has held bi-annual meetings with 40 cultural and religious male elders and 15 women leaders from Masabubu village in Tana River County. These dialogues aimed to advocate for the allocation of productive land to women and support for their enterprises.

These efforts were prompted by challenges faced by women's groups, particularly in the honey value chain, regarding the location, size, and productivity of the land allocated to them. For example, the Furaha women's group in Masabubu village was initially denied land by the elders. Although one member managed to convince her husband to allocate their private land, it was not suitable for beekeeping due to its proximity to the village, posing security risks.

As a result of GROOTS Kenya's advocacy and dialogue, on 18th June 2022, the elders allocated one acre of productive land to the women, fulfilling their commitment to support them. This engagement model has been identified as a good practice and is recommended for replication in other project areas.

GAPS

1. *Inadequate budgeting for gender programmes and projects*
2. *Discriminatory tendencies.*
3. *Counties not facilitating Gender Technical Working Groups.*
4. *Inadequacy of updated data*
5. *The disparities in laws and Legal frameworks on Sexual and Reproductive Health*
6. *The Counties need to evaluate legal frameworks that promote, enforce and monitor GEWE*
7. *Lack of data on the prevalence of violence against WGwD.*
8. *Delay in the ratification of ILO C190 leaves many domestic workers, who are mostly women and women in the hotel, Educational Institutions, hospital and informal economy sector*
9. *vulnerable to different forms of violence at their places of work.*
10. *Existing anti-FGM national initiative lacks the inclusion and meaningful involvement and inclusion of older persons and specifically of older women who are mostly custodians and promoters of cultural and traditional practices is missing.*

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. *Implement more gender empowerment programmes.*
2. *County Governments should work towards eliminating all forms of harassment to informal economy workers.*
3. *All should develop sexual harassment and Safeguarding policies and all employees to be trained on these policies.*
4. *Increase sensitization on SRHS in the informal settlement and in schools because most affected are girls age 15 to -19 years*
5. *Capacity strengthening: Enhancing capacities to seek redress through formal and informal mechanisms is crucial. Building on existing strengths and solutions is key to developing access to justice capabilities. Emphasis should be placed on enhancing people's own skills rather than relying solely on external actors to address justice issues.*
6. *Legal awareness: Both government and non-government entities should implement strategies to enhance legal awareness. Recognizing legal awareness as the cornerstone for safeguarding rights, particularly of vulnerable and marginalised communities in combating injustice is vital. A lack of knowledge about rights and entitlements under the law often prevents individuals from seeking redress for injustices. Therefore, it is imperative to disseminate information on remedies for injustice to the public in a manner that is practical and beneficial to them.*
7. *Policies and programs: Strengthen institutional capacities to provide redress through adjudication, due process, enforcement mechanisms (such as police and correctional facilities), and civil society initiatives aimed at promoting accountability is essential. Additionally, there is a need to empower individuals to demand justice explicitly. The concerns of marginalised groups, such as those affected by SGBV amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, must be integrated into program planning and design from the outset to prevent them from being left behind in justice reform efforts.*
8. *Multi-sectoral participation: Justice system reforms should involve a broad range of stakeholders beyond legal professionals. Encouraging diverse participation that encompasses all sectors and actors within the legal justice system is imperative. Regular consultation with duty-bearers, rights-holders, academia, bar associations, and civil society organizations is essential for effective engagement. Strong leadership is also necessary to facilitate an inclusive participatory process.*
9. *Resource allocation: Allocate resources to ensure the availability of services to the public is critical. It is essential for various stakeholders to identify and utilise human and material resources effectively towards the prevention, protection, and response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV).*
10. *Data on Child marriage and Sexual Reproductive Health and rights should be periodically documented in the Kenya Demographic and Health Survey to ensure that our interventions speak to the realities of young women and girls and young women.*
11. *Need for more inclusive services, such as sign language interpreters.*
12. *Need for accessible infrastructure, like ramps and disability-friendly toilets, in service provision institutions.*
13. *The Government to ratify ILO C190.*
14. *The County Government should also eliminate all forms of harassment to informal economy workers.*
15. *Employers should also develop sexual harassment and Safeguarding policies and all employees to be trained on these policies.*



GOAL 6 – CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

World Vision Kenya has been supporting communities to access safe drinking water. In the last one (1) year, World Vision has achieved the following key outs.

OUTPUT INDICATOR	ACHIEVED
# of children at an education facility with access to a basic drinking water facility	43,221
# of people gaining access to a BASIC drinking water service	103,837
# of people gaining access to a SAFELY MANAGED drinking water service	6,144
# of people gaining access to a LIMITED drinking water service	78,121
# of sensitized households with recommended point-of-use water treatment technologies in use	37,363
# of households with sanitation facilities constructed	24,857
Children with access to BASIC sanitation facilities, in education facilities	17,669
Children who have access to a BASIC hand washing facility at an education facility	59,932

According to Brooke East Africa, in Rural and peri-urban areas, donkeys are an important asset to providing easier access to water. Many communities lack access to water and prolonged seasons of drought exacerbate this problem. This has a multi-pronged impact on pastoralists and farmers, because not only does access to water for their families become difficult, the quality of the little water they have worsens. Donkeys are often also relied upon to carry food, water and provisions for other animals on a farm as well as for themselves, thereby making their role even more important in accessing water for the benefit of a community. Furthermore, if they are dependent on growing food for their livelihood or on rearing cattle, their crops may fail and cattle die because of the lack of water. In these situations, donkeys often provide a bridge to access water further afield. But the drier a drought gets, the more difficult it becomes for equids to do this as they suffer dehydration and exhaustion. In recognition of the importance of equids in access to water, county governments such as Kitui and Turkana have included donkeys in their disaster risk and reduction strategies.

Brooke East Africa formed and registered 396 groups majority of whom uses donkeys to transport water for domestic and commercial purposes; rehabilitated 9 solar powered boreholes in Turkana, Kajiado, Baringo and Kitui; constructed 6 water dam/pans in Baringo, Narok, Kajiado, Nakuru and Kitui; provided training to 12 youth groups [250 members] that used donkeys to transport [sale] water in peri-urban areas on animal; lobbied for the inclusion of animal health and one health approaches in the UNEA-6 Water Resolution. The ILEPA excavated a Water Pan in Enkutoto, affording the community access to water for livestock and domestic use. Before, women used to walk for more than 10 kilometres to access water.

Hami Imani Africa (HIA) has been passionate about girls and the community. It has impacted the lives of communities through sustainable projects that improve the livelihoods of the people. The organisation has built a school in Osewan Community (in Matapato South, Kajiado county). It has also built toilets in different areas and has plans to dig a borehole for the Osewan community to ease the burdens of the women and children who have to trek far distances - the nearest water point is 16 kilometres. It has put a water dispenser machine for the Zion community in Maili Tisa, put up two (2) 100,000 litres water tanks, and a water trough for animals. As a result of the new school, more children are going to school in the area, while water borne diseases have reduced.

6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations

Through the Nitunze project in Turkana North, communities reducing open defecation through Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approaches reduced from a baseline of 5% to 4%. Overall, 60% of households had access to a toilet or latrine facility, but this was still low in Turkana, with 16% of households in agreement, which is like the baseline. There was a general observation that hand washing behaviours have deteriorated over the implementation period as evidenced by the decline in handwashing practices during critical times for handwashing. However, this contradicts information provided by the key informants, and the arguable reason is that COVID-19 pandemic led to a positive behaviour change on handwashing. In this regard, children suffering from water borne diseases (water and bloody diarrhoea) reduced from 11.4% at baseline to 8% at Endline.

CLTS was implemented in Turkana North and Mathare Informal settlements. Ten villages in Turkana and ten in Mathare were selected for the activity. All the ten villages in Turkana North were certified open defecation free at the end of the programme. None were certified in Mathare Informal Settlements. The lack of involvement of landlords was cited as the main failure in Mathare. Several Landlord forums were held. However, most landlords do not hail from the area and therefore just attend these meetings and go back to their homes.

6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimising release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally

6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.

6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.

6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

Brooke East Africa planted over 10,000 trees in Ndundori and Mau forests using donkeys [as a means of transport] in the reforestation efforts; supported Nakuru and Nyandarua county governments in the development of legislations domesticating disaster risk reduction strategies; and trained and supported donkey farmers in ASALS on fodder production, agroforestry and management.

6.a By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies

6.b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management

GAPS/CHALLENGES

1. *Inadequate water and sanitation facilities - leading to increased trekking distances and queuing at sources*
2. *Weak water resource management*
3. *Resource-based conflicts*

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. *Expand water supply and piping systems mostly in rural areas, coupled with rehabilitation and excavation of water dams and pans (in water scarce counties).*
2. *Proper management of underground water extraction (increased borehole drilling will likely lead to reduced water resources in the future).*
3. *Enforce the EMCA - ensure compensation for intoxicating the environment.*
4. *Construct sanitation facilities in schools and health facilities.*
5. *Support villages on sanitation to attain ODF status.*
6. *Support communities to treat water through provision of innovative solutions.*



GOAL 7 –AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services

GROOTS Kenya has made significant contributions to Goal 7 through various initiatives across different regions. In Tana River, the organisation has facilitated the installation of solar panels for water provision, ensuring access to clean and sustainable energy for the community. This has not only improved access to clean water but has also reduced reliance on fossil fuels, contributing to environmental conservation efforts.

In Kitui, GROOTS Kenya has promoted the use of clean cooking jikos, which are more efficient and environmentally friendly than traditional stoves. By providing these jikos, the organisation has helped reduce indoor air pollution and deforestation, improving the health and well-being of households while mitigating environmental degradation. Similarly, in Kiambu, GROOTS Kenya has supported initiatives for clean cooking, furthering the adoption of sustainable energy practices in households and reducing the carbon footprint.

Additionally, GROOTS Kenya's partnership with the World Resources Institute (WRI) in the Clean Air Catalyst Program in Nairobi County is proving instrumental in addressing air pollution. The program focuses on finding solutions for hospital waste management and reducing emissions from vehicular sources. This partnership underscores GROOTS Kenya's commitment to tackling environmental challenges through innovative collaborations.

Moreover, the nexus between air pollution and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is significant. Studies have shown that exposure to air pollution can lead to adverse health effects, including respiratory problems and cardiovascular diseases, which can disproportionately affect women and girls.

Furthermore, the burden of collecting firewood or other sources of biomass for cooking falls mainly on women and girls, exposing them to indoor air pollution. By addressing air pollution, GROOTS Kenya is also contributing to the well-being and safety of women and girls, highlighting the interconnected nature of environmental and social issues.

GROOTS Kenya's award for Goal 7 during the recent National Multistakeholder Forum in Mombasa is a testament to our continued efforts with grassroots women. This recognition highlights the movement's commitment to promoting sustainable energy practices, such as solar panels for water provision in Tana River, clean cooking jikos in Kitui, and clean cooking initiatives in Kiambu. Through these efforts, GROOTS Kenya has not only improved access to clean energy but has also empowered communities to adopt environmentally friendly practices, contributing to a more sustainable future.

7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix

Existing data on the renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption in Kenya reveals a consistent upward trend, increasing from 46.1% in 2020 to 48.2% in 2021, and further to 56.0% in 2022. This significant rise indicates a positive shift towards greater reliance on renewable energy sources within the country's energy mix. To capitalise on this momentum and further advance the transition towards sustainable energy, several actions are necessary. These include continued investment in renewable energy infrastructure, such as solar, wind, geothermal, and hydroelectric projects, to further expand the country's renewable energy capacity strengthening policy frameworks and regulatory mechanisms to support the growth of the renewable energy sector, including incentives for renewable energy investments and streamlined approval processes for renewable energy projects (c).

7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency

According to the ACCESS Coalition, data on energy intensity in terms of primary energy and GDP indicates a fluctuating trend over the years, decreasing from 0.000034 in 2020 and 2021 to 0.000020 in 2022. While the reduction in energy intensity in 2022 suggests improved energy efficiency and productivity in terms of economic output, the inconsistency in the trend requires keen consideration. Kenya needs to accelerate its energy measures by enhancing energy management practices, adoption of cleaner and more efficient cooking solutions and investing in renewable energy sources to decouple economic growth from energy consumption.

7.a By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil -fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology

Presently (2024) CCAK is in the process of establishing a collaboration with OYU Green Group, a global carbon offset development and consulting company engaged in environmental businesses such as large-scale tree plantation, renewable energy solutions, bio-energy, and waste management practices. It targets to enhance the livelihood of rural and tribal communities in the project area by providing them with improved cook stoves, consequentially employment opportunities, and increasing awareness on both climate changes and the negative impact of GHG emissions. Through the adoption of these projects, significant carbon credits will be generated by averting the release

of greenhouse gas emissions and will serve as a catalyst for enhancing existing technologies and bolstering financial support, fostering ongoing innovation and sustainability within the initiative.

7.b By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support

Clean Cooking Association of Kenya (CCAK) played an integral role in advocacy initiatives across the country that have increased the uptake of clean cooking solutions and methods among various populations countrywide. It has made efforts to liaise with the national government, including engaging with the National Treasury and Parliament to advocate for favourable policies that support the adoption of clean cooking technologies. The association has achieved some wins, such as VAT exemptions and zero ratings on clean cooking technologies, showcasing its effectiveness in influencing fiscal policy frameworks. Through the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA), CCAK provided technical inputs and insights in the development, tracking, and approval of the Energy Act 2019. 2020 CCAK Annual Report. Further, CCAK was a key player in the development and launch of the Gender policy which occurred on 1st November 2019. Inclusion of the household air pollution indicators in the primary healthcare strategy by the Ministry of Health informed CCAK's initiative to develop the Household Air Pollution Modules for Community Health Workers and Volunteers, and participated in the EAC CET review meeting to advocate for retention of clean cooking products imported under the tariff band of 25%.

On Partnerships on stakeholder engagements, CCAK co-chairs the Inter-ministerial Committee on Clean Cooking committee with the Ministry of Energy which supported the development of an action agenda for streamlining clean cooking activities into its annual ministerial plans. CCAK engaged the non-carbonized briquette stakeholders to discuss issues affecting the sub sector and define actions appropriately and recommendations to initiate development and awareness on the available standards were actioned. CCAK's collaboration with Kenya Bureau of Standards (KBS) resulted in establishment of standards for Sustainable Charcoal and Carbonized briquettes which were developed and approved for sector adoption by December 2020. It partnered with other actors in the energy sector through a consortium of different stakeholders including GOGLA, AMDA, ACE, KEREA, and SNV who are involved in lobbying for VAT removal on solar and clean cooking products. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Kenya Forestry Research Institution, and Fine Aromas under the Biofuel for Kenya KEFRI project and Voice for Change Partnership project and initiated engagements with Kisumu County and Kakamega County to support evidence generation and advocacy for the inclusion of a clean cooking agenda into county plans.

On Sector Advocacy and Awareness Campaigns, CCAK launched the Kenya Clean Cooking Sector Study Report, the country's first ever clean cooking study commissioned by the Ministry of Energy. Further, CCAK in partnership with UN- Habitat managed to develop a training handbook on clean cooking. The handbook recognized the role of resource efficiency and renewable energy uptake in achieving sustainable development. The Ministry of Health in collaboration with CCAK and other partners successfully launched the Household Air Pollution Module 14 which was utilised to sensitise community health volunteers on the health impacts arising from HAP. CCAK has also been actively involved in behaviour change communication to demystify clean cooking to the wider public. The association uses platforms like the Clean Cooking Week and various messaging strategies to promote behavioural change and create a positive perception of clean cooking solutions. These communication efforts contribute to the indirect impact of attracting more investments into the clean cooking sector.

On Standards and Technical Issues in the Sector, CCAK collaborated in KEBS Technical committee meetings to develop and approve Standards for Sustainable Charcoal and Carbonized briquettes by December 2020. Additionally, CCAK partnered with KEFRI, KTDA, and RainForest Alliance to promote the non-carbonized briquette standards. The analysis found that CCAK, in collaboration with stakeholders, spearheaded the development and approval of sector standards, encompassing biomass cookstoves, ethanol-fueled appliances, and technical denatured alcohol. CCAK's backing in creating a framework for a voluntary accreditation system for stove artisans, based on stakeholder input. This initiative, spearheaded by CCAK, aims to address sector needs independently of government oversight, aligning with the sector's goals amid pending biomass regulations.

On knowledge and information management, CCAK held several media coverage following the clean cooking forum and the sensitization forum which is one of the initiatives that advocate for an enabling environment and catalyse the growth and adoption of clean cooking technologies and visibility with leading media stations like Television (22), Radio (29), Newspaper (30), Digital Print (38) and Pod-Cast Interviews (1). CCAK devised and executed its communication strategy, focusing on enhancing visibility through mainstream media, active engagement on social platforms, and ensuring alignment with the association's brand image. It developed its website which continues to act as a one-stop-resource centre/hub promoting access to information on the organisation's work and impact on clean cooking. CCAK has actively shared with members 42 weekly bulletins and 41 business news with Sector Opportunities. Over 150 Social Media Posters for CCAK have been developed revolving around various events and messages including national and public holidays. 5 social media posters were developed for the clean cooking week.

On standards and Technical Issues CCAK is undertaking a technical training on the implementation of ISO/IEC 17025:2017 which is the international standard for testing and calibration laboratories setting out requirements for the competence, impartiality, and consistent operation of laboratories, ensuring the accuracy and reliability of their testing and calibration results. This training will in turn be helpful in ensuring that products and services are fit for their purpose, enhancing comparability and compatibility of services and products and providing effective guidelines and rules aimed at achieving optimum degree of order. CCAK has also supported the development of Biogas Systems Installer Curriculum with NITA. We also submitted memos to the National Treasury on the Finance bill, Green fiscal policy, Ministry of Environment on Climate change amendment bill and Carbon Markets regulations, and on the recent 2024 Finance Bill, lobbying for favourable policies in the clean cooking sector. CCAK annually supports Energy Management Awards, specifically the Clean Cooking Award category which recognizes enterprises within the cooking space that are making significant contributions via their solutions offering towards the achievement of the Universal Access to Clean Cooking by 2028 as well as contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

GAPS/CHALLENGES

1. *Unpredictable fiscal/tax policies in Kenya stifle adoption of clean cooking alternatives.*
2. *Poor integration of cooking into broader sector planning.*
3. *Limited financing options and financial services.*
4. *Availability of low-cost on no-cost alternatives such as firewood and three stone fire (TSF)*
5. *Over Reliance on wood fuel for lighting and cooking*
6. *Capital intensity of energy projects*
7. *Minimal investment in clean technologies*

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. *Maintain a stable tax policy for at least 5 years.*
2. *Integrate cooking into broader energy planning at national and county levels to ensure that adequate resources are allocated, and progress tracked.*
3. *Establishing a clean cooking fund situated outside the governmental framework or distributing funds for programmes.*
4. *Increased connection of households and institutions to the national grid.*
5. *Enhanced Policy coherence: According to ACCESS Coalition, there is an opportunity for improved policy coordination to bolster coherence through comprehensive and coordinated implementation approaches, especially in strategies aimed at promoting electric cooking. Ensuring electricity affordability and reliability presents an opportunity to incentivize households and businesses already connected to the grid to embrace electric cooking. This involves creating conducive policies that not only facilitate access to electricity but also encourage the adoption of electric cooking technologies through promotion of multi fuel strategies.*
6. *Adopting an integrated energy planning approach: Integrated Energy Planning through the Energy Development Model (EDM) approach will contribute to a comprehensive, multisectoral strategy that prioritises inclusive engagement in energy planning processes. By leveraging the EDM framework, stakeholders can design and implement fully costed, socially and environmentally sustainable solutions tailored to meet the priority development needs and goals of end-users. Costed plans would not*
7. *Knowledge management: Establishing a robust knowledge management practice for data management will enhance implementation of systems, protocols for collecting, analysing and sharing data related to energy planning and implementation to inform evidence-based decision making. Data is necessary to inform planning and it needs to be tailor made based on the target audience.*
8. *Public awareness and promoting the adoption of renewable energy technologies among households, businesses, and industries can help drive further uptake of renewable energy and accelerate Kenya's progress towards achieving its renewable energy targets.*
9. *Diversifying energy financing sources: To accelerate progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7) in Kenya, diversifying financing sources for the energy sector is crucial. This entails leveraging domestic resources through public-private partnerships, implementation of financing models that are development in nature and tapping into international funding mechanisms like the Green Climate Fund, bilateral aid and strengthening public investment with increased allocation towards energy infrastructure development, particularly in rural areas. This includes grid extension projects and off-grid solutions such as mini-grids and standalone solar systems to ensure no one is left behind.*
10. *Invest in Research, Innovation and Development (RID): Promoting local manufacturing for energy solutions to advance local technology tailored for local needs will go a long way ensuring that solutions being deployed are not only efficient, durable but are also affordable for the general population and vulnerable groups*



GOAL 8 – DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries

GROOTS Kenya supported initiatives in beekeeping, poultry farming, and Galla goat rearing, benefitting 149 households in various counties. This contributed to increased income and economic resilience. Through UDPK, OPD representatives were hosted in a talk show at Radio Atto Sifa to discuss business permits, recognition of OPDs and registration of persons with disabilities, reaching approx. 75,000 listeners in Turkana West geared toward increasing employment opportunities to persons with disabilities, The InBusiness program, where those with disabilities were trained on financial management, paired with mentors and provided with some capital to boost the venture.

Sight Savers and UDP as part of the global initiative Future Makers implemented a project aiming to address inequality and promote economic inclusion among young persons with disabilities. Working together with individuals, and employers to address gaps in labour market systems so they can adapt and be more inclusive. The program created knowledge products such as Inclusion guides and trained employers on inclusive employment.

8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high -value added and labour-intensive sectors

The Art Affair for Development Goals (AADG) has been organising workshops targeting university students with a view to economic empowerment, skills enhancement, and entrepreneurship within

⁴UoN, KU, MKU and JKUAT

the digital and creative economy sectors. It has held workshops with a total of 718 students from four (4) Kenyan Universities⁴.

8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalisation and growth of micro - small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services

Kenya Union of Domestic, Hotels, Educational Institution and Hospital Workers has been working towards increasing inclusion of informal economy workers in informal markets in Nairobi. It has also increased the average hourly earnings of domestic workers by actively lobbying the Government through COTU. The Union increased the level of compliance with labour rights by registering at least 63 CBAs in 2023. In 2021, the Union partnered with NSSF and NHIF to train workers from different sectors including domestic workers on social protection. In 2024, the Union engaged 50 domestic workers in Nairobi and Mombasa on a training session on labour rights and social protection that increased awareness on why they should access social protection programs and how. The Union held a training workshop targeting 25 participants from Mombasa. The Union has endeavoured to have training that help domestic workers grow their skills especially soft skills and work readiness. The Union has developed a domestic worker training manual and a simpler version of the same that Domestic workers can use to learn about trade unionism, Labor Rights, Soft Skills and Work Readiness. It has also been advocating for the ratification of ILO Convention 189 through campaigns and training, signalling its commitment to upholding the rights of domestic workers. Through the TTC program and the support of OXFAM, the Union commemorated International Women's. The Union has also included a clause on technology on Aga Khan Hospital's CBA proposal to ensure workers including women are exposed and trained on the new technology in their workplaces. The Union submitted comments to MOL on the Labour Migration Bill which will help facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration.

ILEPA supported the Narok County Department responsible for Youth to develop a county youth engagement strategy.

Sightsavers, with a consortium of other NGOs, Trade unions and organizations of people with disabilities is implementing the Global Labor Program - Inclusive Futures funded by USAID. This program builds the skills of jobseekers, workers, unions, employers, and government to achieve inclusive and decent work opportunities in Kenya through work done with suppliers and distributors of two large beverage companies – Coca Cola Beverages Africa (CCBA) and East African Breweries Limited (EABL). This is with the aim of supporting them to become inclusive of people with disabilities and improve protection of labour rights for all workers and producers.

As part of the Global Labour Programme advocacy work, Sightsavers and its partners conducted a legal policy assessment that recommended the Enactment of the Persons with Disabilities Act 2023: If implemented and adhered to, this will protect and promote the right of people with disabilities to decent wage or self-employment. The act has progressive clauses on the right to work, equality, and reasonable accommodation and when enacted will ensure regulation of labour whilst ensuring that opportunities are inclusive to ensure persons with disability can undertake the jobs.

8.4 Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead.

8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

The KUDHEIHA has had several media campaigns on wage differential and on the International Equal Pay Day, the Secretary General, Albert Njeru was hosted by Spice Fm where he urged all employers to ensure every work is treated without discrimination by ensuring they all receive equal pay for equal value of work. Through CBAs, KUDHEIHA also negotiates with Employers to ensure workers in all the sectors they represent receive equal pay for equal value of work. The CBAs also guide on the terms and working conditions for workers in workplaces with an aim of promoting decent work. For example, Clauses on disciplinary process, issues to do with redundancy, termination of service, Occupational Safety and Health, Provision of work tools, Gratuity or Pension and Leaves amongst other clauses which are in all KUDHEIHA's negotiated CBAs helps promote decent work at different workplaces.

In cases where workers' rights are violated, KUDHEIHA engages in social dialogue with employers with an aim of settling the dispute and if both parties get to a deadlock, the union represents its members in the Employment Labour and Relations Court seeking for their rights to be accorded to them. In 2022, KUDHEIHA in partnership with FIC presented a petition against all forms of precarious work to the parliament of government which is currently at the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.

Sightsavers, through the USAID funded Global Labour Program Inclusive (GLP -IF) is building the skills of jobseekers, unions, value chain employers and government to achieve inclusive work opportunities in Kenya. We support people with disabilities, particularly women, to work in the supply and distribution chains of East African Breweries Limited (EABL). and Coca-Cola Beverages Africa (CCBA), and to have confidence in exercising their labour rights.

The training and support build the skills of jobseekers, unions, value chain employers and government to achieve inclusive work opportunities. They learn about decent work principles which apply to the informal economy as well as the formal economy and need to work for people with disabilities too. It is important that the informal sector does not exploit people with disabilities or other marginalised groups. Informal jobs need to adhere to Kenya's labour laws and regulations. One of the expected outcomes of the GLP-IF is that programme participants will form associations to be affiliated to trade unions. This then allows the associations to enter into social dialogue with value chain employers to improve promotion and protection of their labour rights.

8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.

Kenya's informal sector offers a huge opportunity for achievement of 2030 targets. The Sightsavers Global Labour Programme- Inclusive Futures provided an opportunity for youth with disabilities to access self -employment through the Sorghum value chain selling to EABL or the retail value chain selling beverages. These models can be transferred and adopted by youth for self-employment. Sightsavers working with the United Disabled Persons of Kenya (UDPK) also trained 813 (359F, 454M) job seekers with disabilities on soft skills out of which 145 have been trained on CISCO IT skills. Out of these, 318 (156 M 132F) transitioned into decent work and employment across different sectors in Kenya. Working with the private sector we now have the Kenya Business and Disability Network; businesses are able to share experiences on inclusive recruitment. The Network aims to make sure that employment policies and practices in the member companies are inclusive of people

with disabilities as well as working to increase awareness about the positive relationship between disability inclusion and business success.

8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.

Through community sensitization, trainings and workshops, KUDHEIHA has been active in creating awareness on forms of child labour and advocating against all the forms of child labour in informal settlement in Nairobi such as Kibra and in Busia.

8.8. Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.

With an increase of Kenyans seeking employment in Gulf countries and other Arab States, KUDHEIHA has been active in organising workers through the returned migrant workers so as to collectively push for their agenda. The union in partnership with ILO under the Fairway programme conducted workshops to raise awareness of intending migrant workers and returnees on the ILO General principles and Operational Guidelines for Fair Recruitment. The workshop also focused on safe migration and the provision of labour laws that protects them. KUDHEIHA participated in the drafting of the Labour Migration Bill which will help facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration. The Union has also had several social dialogues with stakeholders such as NEA and Ministry of Labour and Social Protection on the regulation of the private agencies. The Union are active on social media and mainstream media (Radio Jambo) campaigns educating the public on labour laws, how to identify registered Agencies and the role of the COTU Migration Resource Center. KUDHEIHA has also received 12 grievances from migrant workers. Out of the 12, 5 cases are under ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) and has managed to file one court case for 6 migrant workers at the ELRC that is currently ongoing. One of the cases that is under ADR is on repatriation of a migrant worker who completed her contract last year but the employer is unwilling to release her requesting for a fine of KES. 100,000 for her exit visa.

8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.

8.10 Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all

GROOTS Kenya emphasises the importance of grassroots women's economic empowerment in achieving women's rights, gender equality, and improved livelihoods. The organisation believes that providing grassroots women with access, ownership, and control over productive assets like land, finance, and technology can lift them out of poverty and enhance their economic stability. Additionally, empowering grassroots women economically strengthens their ability to prepare for and cope with the impacts of shocks. In its commitment to building the economic capacity and resilience of grassroots women, GROOTS Kenya has facilitated 4,855 loans through various programmatic interventions and the GROOTS Sacco, which boasts a membership of 759 grassroots champions. Notably, 269 loans totaling Kshs. 9,298,100 have specifically supported survivors of gender-based violence through the Jasiri Fund. These loans provided survivors with the means to rebuild their lives after the trauma of violence.

The loans have enabled women to expand their businesses by procuring inputs, obtaining capital to start new ventures, and making investments such as coolers to preserve produce. Some have used the funds to acquire land and mobile phones, enhancing their economic empowerment and transforming lives. As part of its community organising efforts, GROOTS Kenya encourages grassroots communities to form self-help groups or community-based organisations. These groups are trained in the importance of collective action, and registered groups are required to open bank accounts for group savings. The pooled funds are then used for activities such as table banking or funding group business ventures.

BEST PRACTICES

1. *Tailored Financial Services: GROOTS Kenya's provision of loans and financial services tailored to the needs of grassroots women is a best practice. By recognizing the unique challenges faced by these women, such as survivors of gender-based violence, the organisation is effectively addressing economic empowerment.*
2. *Collective Action and Savings: Encouraging grassroots communities to form self-help groups and open bank accounts promotes collective savings and financial literacy. This approach fosters a culture of financial inclusion and shared economic progress among grassroots women.*

8.a Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries

8.b By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization

GAPS/CHALLENGES

1. *Most domestic workers are still paid way below the minimum wage - domestic workers have a challenge of unequal pay for the work they do.*
2. *Delay in the ratification of C189 has led to the continuation of indecent work to the domestic workers.*
3. *Lack of awareness on social protection programs by marginalised groups such as migrant workers, domestic workers and informal sector workers.*
4. *Domestic workers, who are mostly women, are vulnerable to different forms of violence at their places of work.*
5. *Gaps in implementation of policies.*
6. *Existence of unregistered agencies remains to be a major challenge as it leads to exploitation and trafficking of migrant workers.*
7. *Evidence of exclusion of older persons in post-retirement (what happens to women and men who anticipate to live a better life after retirement of being healthy and productively engaged).*

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. *University institutions should Implement comprehensive entrepreneurship education programs in schools and universities. The focus should be on practical skills, financial literacy, and innovative thinking, aiming to prepare youth for economic participation. This is inspired by the empowerment programs that have equipped young participants with essential skills for the digital and creative industries.*
2. *With the help of donors and higher education authorities, our organisation can be further helped to facilitate skill development workshops focusing on digital literacy, green jobs, and the creative industries to increase productivity and innovation. This strategy will promote inclusive economic growth by empowering youth to actively participate in the digital economy.*
3. *Informal Sector Leaders can be trained to set up a system which allows the seamless transition of informal workers into the formal sector, offering legal protection, social benefits, and capacity-building training. This approach addresses the high proportion of informal employment, suggesting a need for policy intervention and better enforcement of labour laws.*
4. *The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection can enforce wage equality laws and conduct regular audits to ensure fair compensation across age, sex, and disability status within organisations. The need for such measures is highlighted by the emphasis on decent work for all, a fundamental target of SDG 8.*
5. *Conduct financial literacy campaigns focusing on savings, investment, and financial planning tailored to young adults.*
6. *Integrate financial literacy and entrepreneurship education into the national curricula at various levels of schooling. This early intervention ensures that young people grow up with a solid understanding of financial concepts, savings, investment, and the basics of starting and running a business.*
7. *Create awareness on social protection programs, including the new SHIF.*
8. *Increase the minimum wage.*
9. *Need for enactment of age, sex and disability inclusive policies towards achieving full, productive employment and decent work for all women and men.*



GOAL 9 - INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The intersection of industry, innovation, and infrastructure plays a pivotal role in the development and deployment of assistive technology, fostering social inclusion and accessibility for individuals with disabilities and other populations including elderly persons, individuals with incontinence, chronic illnesses and temporally injuries. Assistive technology encompasses a broad spectrum of devices and systems designed to enhance the functional capabilities of individuals, thereby promoting their independence, participation in social activities, and overall quality of life. This includes innovations that support hygiene products, mobility, hearing, visualisation, cognitive functions, and even skincare. By leveraging the strengths of industry, driving innovation, and building robust infrastructure, we can ensure that these technologies reach and benefit those who need them the most.

Some of the key interventions by CSOs include:

UDPK worked in collaboration with Open institute in conducting accessibility audits on all government infrastructure in Nairobi and Nakuru counties. This supported advocacy efforts on accessible and inclusive infrastructure. UDPK in collaboration with sight savers are working with micro entrepreneurs and farmers with disabilities to integrate them into value chains and markets e.g. EABL and Coca-Cola companies. OLCGs is investing in the production of traditional food –sunflower with communities within Machakos County and elsewhere in other 8 sub counties with ChemiChemi ya Mazingira Bora Machakos.

Sight of Relief Organization is working in partnership with JKUAT in enhancing research on how to decompose disposable diapers to mitigate climate action. Sight of Relief advocates for recognition

of diapers as a basic need and harnessing towards establishment of local biodegradable diaper production to enhance availability, affordability and social inclusion of persons with disabilities. UDPK advocates for policies and legislations that support production and accessibility of assistive devices for persons with disabilities. UDPK supports innovation forums for young person's working on assistive devices. NCPWD has adopted digital Data Capture and Registration of persons with disabilities. Brooke East Africa - Adoption of Interactive Voice Response for animal welfare messaging to youth in urban areas and women who use donkeys for work. UDPK- raises awareness and provides comprehensive information on assistive devices to both users and sellers.

GAPS

1. **Policy and Regulatory Gaps:** *Regulatory Hurdles: Bureaucratic and lengthy approval processes for new businesses and technologies discourage innovation and industrial growth. Inconsistent Implementation: There is often a gap between policy formulation and implementation, leading to inefficiencies and lack of progress. Laxity of policy enforcement that overlooks infrastructure development that costs lives and businesses.*
2. **Financial Constraints:** *Limited Access to Finance: SMEs and startups struggle to secure funding for innovation and expansion. Financial institutions often perceive them as high-risk, leading to limited loan availability and high-interest rates. Insufficient Public Funding: Government funding for research and development (R&D) is inadequate, hindering scientific and technological advancements. Investment Gaps: There is a lack of investment in critical sectors that drive industrialization and innovation, such as manufacturing, renewable energy, and technology.*
3. **Infrastructural Deficiencies:** *Poor Transport Infrastructure: Inadequate roads, railways, and ports hinder efficient movement of goods and services, increasing operational costs and reducing competitiveness. Digital Divide: Limited access to high-speed internet and digital technologies, particularly in rural areas, restricts the ability to participate in the digital economy and leverage modern innovations. Energy Supply Issues: Unreliable and insufficient energy supply affects industrial productivity and limits the potential for technological innovation and adoption.*
4. **Human Capital and Skills Development:** *Skills Mismatch: The education system often does not align with the needs of the industry, resulting in a workforce that lacks the necessary skills for modern industrial and technological roles. Inadequate Training Programs: There are limited vocational training and professional development opportunities to upskill workers in emerging industries and technologies.*
5. **Research and Innovation Gaps:** *Limited Infrastructure: Universities and research institutions lack modern laboratories and equipment needed for cutting-edge research. Weak Industry-Academia Linkages: There is insufficient collaboration between academic institutions and industry, leading to a gap between research outcomes and practical applications. Low Innovation Output: Despite a growing number of graduates and researchers, the level of innovation output, such as patents and new technologies, remains low.*
6. **Sustainability and Environmental Concerns:** *Environmental Degradation: Industrial activities often lead to environmental degradation, and there is insufficient emphasis on sustainable industrial practices.*
7. **Climate Change Resilience:** *Infrastructure development does not always incorporate climate resilience, making it vulnerable to environmental impacts.*

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Enhance Financial Support:** Increase funding for R&D through government grants, subsidies, and incentives. Facilitate access to venture capital and other financial instruments for SMEs and start-ups.
2. **Improve Infrastructure:** Invest in modernising research facilities, expanding digital infrastructure, and ensuring a reliable energy supply.
3. **Develop Human Capital:** Align educational curricula with industry needs, and expand vocational training and professional development programs to build a skilled workforce.
4. **Update Policies and Regulations:** Modernise regulatory frameworks to support technological innovation and streamline approval processes.
5. **Expand Market Access:** Develop strategies to grow the domestic market for new technologies and remove barriers to export.
6. **Foster Collaboration:** Strengthen partnerships between academia and industry, and encourage international collaborations for knowledge transfer and technological exchange.
7. **Strengthen IP Protection:** Improve the awareness and enforcement of intellectual property rights and streamline the process for patenting and IP protection.
8. **Promote Sustainability:** Integrate sustainability into industrial policies and encourage the adoption of green technologies and practices.
9. **Universal Design:** Adopt universal design principles in the construction and renovation of industrial facilities and infrastructure to ensure accessibility for all employees, including those with disabilities.
10. **Assistive Technologies:** Invest and support production of assistive technologies and equipment to facilitate persons with disabilities participation and productive engagement.
11. **Skills Development Programs:** Implement training and capacity-building programs specifically designed for persons with disabilities to equip them with the skills needed for industrial jobs.
12. **Accessible Safety Measures:** Ensure that all health and safety measures, including emergency procedures, are accessible to persons with disabilities. This includes clear signage, accessible exits, and tailored safety training.
13. **Monitoring and evaluation:** Develop systems and key performance indicators to monitor and evaluate the accessibility infrastructure focusing on public, private and industries in accordance with standard regulations. Regularly review and report on progress towards inclusion goals.
14. **Inclusive Innovation:** Encourage the development and adoption of innovative technologies that enhance accessibility and inclusion
15. **Outsource for export market:** Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd invests in building and outsourcing markets for local products and farm products innovate on technology “Buy Kenya, Build Kenya strategy and expand the export markets.



GOAL 10 - REDUCED INEQUALITIES

10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 percent of the population at a rate higher than the national average

Kenya's 2010 constitution has acknowledged the historical flawed and inequitable outcomes of development actions in the Country. Art. 260 identified such communities as marginalised - having been excluded from the benefits of mainstream development based on their traditional occupations & geographical remoteness inter alia Pastoralists and hunter gatherers. While significant legal and policy gains on IPs' is observed including recognition of their indigenous knowledge systems, a call for their direct representation in development planning and actions & affirmative action provisions on access to public resources and opportunities; little progress is reported in real transformation of their rights & livelihoods on the ground. They are still lagging far behind. Kenya's commitments under SDG framework and its slogan and aspirations to put those last first (leaving no one behind) presents an opportunity to enliven those policy gains.

The SDG 10 and its targets and indicators align well with the National Legal and Policy Framework. The Constitution of Kenya, Article 27 provides for equality and freedom from discrimination. Article 54 of the Constitution envisions equality of opportunities and treatment with dignity for persons with disabilities. 10 2(b) espouses principles of governance to include inclusiveness and non-discrimination. Equality principles and measures have also been mainstreamed in various sectors including education (learners and trainees with disabilities sector policy 2018.), employment (Employment Act), Gender and Equality Commission Act and county government Act. Health (Kenya Health Policy 2014-2030) and Vision 2030. The programs and interventions done by CSOs and OPDs are all grounded in national legal and policy frameworks that align with the SDGs agenda and Au agenda 2063.

SDGs and Agenda 2063 interlinkages

Reducing inequalities within and between countries (Goal 10) targets and indicators, link directly with AU Agenda 2063 targets. SDG 10 targets an increment of household incomes and expenditures linked with AU Agenda Target 2 on the reduction of the unemployment rate by at least 25%, target 3 on the reduction of Youth and Women unemployment rate by 2% per annum, and Target 5 on reduction of vulnerable unemployment rate by at least 25%.

Regarding the social protection measures: SDG 10 target 10.4 on the provision of social protection aligns with Target 12 of the AU Agenda 2063 which envisions that at least 30% of vulnerable populations including persons with disabilities, older persons, and children provided with social protection; target 13 which indicates that all persons working in the formal sector are provided with social security - aligned with SDG 10 and target 14 which states that at least 20% of the informal sector and rural labour have access to social security. On discrimination and equality, SDG 10 aligns with AU Target 233 on ending all forms of political, legal, or administrative discrimination against Women and Girls.

SDG 10 interlinked with other SDGs including Goal 1 on eradication of poverty and goal 2 on zero hunger. Ideally, by reducing income inequalities and providing equal access to income and livelihood opportunities, barriers around poverty and hunger will be addressed. SDG 10 envisions elimination of Gender based discrimination and disparities which are also addressed in Goal 5. Elimination of inequalities involves equal access to services and participation in the decision-making process, this includes access to employment opportunities (Goal 8), access to health care services (Goal 3), access to educational services (goal 4), accessible infrastructure (Goal 11), access to clean environment (Goal 13) and participation in decision-making spaces (Goal 16) .There is a clear linkage among SDGs, National Policies, and the African Union Agenda 2063, this creates synergies and points of collaboration in accelerating the realisation of a society with zero inequalities.

Kenya recorded economic growth of 0.9% to the total population and 2.7% to the bottom 40% of the population in 2021. This is an impressive feat, given that it was during the COVID-19 pandemic period, however, the growth was not equitable, and homesteads of persons with disabilities and other marginalised groups did not record significantly improved economic fortunes. The component of inclusive growth was not strong in the economic upward trajectory and hence risked leaving some constituents behind.

Available data from KNBS indicates that the proportion of people living below 50 percent of median income, by sex, age, and persons with disabilities, nationally was 18.4% and 21.1% for persons with disabilities in 2016. The numbers imply that persons with disabilities had poorer economic outcomes than the general population which was above the national average. The conclusion that could be drawn is that the economic growth was not all-inclusive. There is no disaggregated data to indicate growth in median income for persons with various disabilities, making it difficult to measure the progress of realising this indicator for persons with disabilities and this increases the risk of leaving them behind.

The National Government has established social protection measures including Cash Transfers programs for the elderly, orphans, and persons with severe disabilities. The measures have significantly changed economic outcomes for marginalised and vulnerable populations. However, allocations to Cash Transfers to Persons with Severe Disabilities as a proportion of GDP recorded a decline from 2021 to 2023. This implies that as the economy grew, cash transfers could not sufficiently boost incomes for persons with disabilities and provide cushion for economic shocks.

Sight Savers and UDP as part of the global initiative Future Makers implemented a project aiming to address inequality and promote economic inclusion among young persons with disabilities. Working together with individuals, and employers to address gaps in labour market systems so they can adapt and be more inclusive. The program created knowledge products such as Inclusion guides and trained employers on inclusive employment. Kikuyu District Disability Network-Participated in Budget, Planning and other Finance forums e.g. Finance Act so that our views are considered. Nyeri County Disability Network has made proposals on decentralisation of disability programmes and establishment of disability departments within the national council, or delegate some responsibilities to other institutions and organisations.

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10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

Due to various barriers prevalent in society, persons with disabilities are likely to be left behind in accessing livelihood opportunities. This indicates that as progress is made toward the realisation of Goal 10, there exists variables that need to be considered to ensure no one is left at the margins. Kenya recorded economic growth of 0.9% to the total population and 2.7% to the bottom 40% of the population in 2021. To reduce inequality in income and to grow household income for persons with disabilities, UDPK and OPDs developed and implemented a series of programs, advocacy activities, and interventions tailored to address SDG 10 and by extension SDG 1 on poverty.

Light for the World (LFTW) in collaboration with United Disabled Persons of Kenya (UDPK) implemented the InBussiness program which aimed at enhancing livelihood opportunities for persons with disabilities and creating business linkages with private and public institutions. The program onboarded 315 microentrepreneurs (MEs) (180 Women, 135 Men), and trained them on finances, money management, investments, access to government procurement opportunities (AGPO), and the process of business registration. A total of 108 institutions (Private and Public) received a Disability Inclusion Scorecard (DISC) assessment. The assessment and engagement with the institutions resulted in 55 MEs (33 Women, 22 Men) securing business opportunities with private and public institutions. MEs were provided with business growth kits valued at KSH 20,000/- to enhance their business venture. The initiative served to improve income outcomes for entrepreneurs with disabilities, their families, and the larger community

To ensure that persons with disabilities were not entirely left behind in economic growth, UDPK and other OPDs advocated for inclusive growth that encompasses all sections of society without leaving anyone behind. Advocacy also focuses on the elimination of barriers that hinder persons with disabilities from participating in livelihood opportunities on an equal basis as others.

UDPK and CDRA led the OPDs to develop and submit a memorandum to the National Assembly on the proposed Finance Bill. The memorandum proposed to lower the turnover tax range for persons with disabilities since the Bill had some propositions that would negatively impact entrepreneurs with disabilities. Among the proposals was to reduce the housing levy to a manageable amount, and reduce the import duty for assistive devices as well as for beauty products. As part of this advocacy, we conducted online campaigns and created awareness of the provisions of the bill for persons with disabilities. We also developed and published an article in Nation Newspaper regarding the bill.

UDPK in collaboration with other OPDS, has been holding round table sessions with the Kenya Bureau of Statistics to discuss the issues with disability data and the upcoming Disability Survey 2024.

To improve the skills of young persons with disabilities from diverse backgrounds and enhance their chances of accessing employment or self-employment, United Disabled Persons of Kenya (UDPK) in partnership with Sightsavers, NITA, CISCO, and collaborating with other Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), implemented a program (The IT Bridge Academy) designed to increase job readiness to young persons with disabilities through ICT skill development and hands-on the job experience. The program recruited and trained 133 young persons with disabilities in ICT skills and created linkage for them including internships with the job market. The program graduated 133 trainees, released them to the job market, and linked them with employment opportunities. A good number set up their own ICT outlets and others were engaged through internships and employment. Safaricom employed at least 14 Youths from the academy.

UDPK in collaboration with Sightsavers conducted Disability and Equality training for employers. The training focused on making employers aware of the need to employ persons with disabilities, creating accessible workspaces, disability inclusion, and legal and policy frameworks underpinning the employment of persons with disabilities including incentives and tax breaks as provided for in the Persons with Disabilities Act 2003. The training utilised material developed during programming such as employer confidence tool kit. Accessibility audits to determine the level of accessibility of workspaces were conducted in various companies including Safaricom, Bamburi, Kenya Breweries, and Unga Company. The audits acted as an entry point for the company to employ persons with disabilities. As part of these interventions several persons with disabilities were employed and some companies instituted the recommendations of the audit reports.

Data from the KNBS economic survey shows a reduction in employee compensation as a component of the GDP, in 2021 it was 27.9 % of the GDP which reduced to 27.1 % of GDP in 2022. To improve equality of opportunities in income and economic growth, states must adopt policies that align with this SDG aspiration. Adoption of inclusive social protection schemes including social safety nets, social health insurance, and cash transfers can improve the economic fortunes of marginalised groups and low earners cushioning them against economic shocks, and reduce their vulnerabilities and exposure to poor economic outcomes. UDPK and OPDs conducted a series of advocacy activities geared toward the promotion of the development of inclusive policies and programs.

UDPK in collaboration with CIP conducted a budget analysis of Kenya's budget between FY 2019/20 and 2023/24. The study focused on assessing the investment made by the Kenyan government toward disability inclusion as well as evaluating the alignment of existing disability legal and policies to the constitution and the CRPD. The study indicated that the allocation of the Cash Transfers program to Persons with Severe Disabilities recorded a decline from 0.042% of the GDP to 0.038% of the GDP. The study findings were consistent with the KNBS economic survey 2023. The Cash Transfer Program is designed to benefit the household as opposed to an individual. The findings from the study were used to develop data-driven advocacy strategies that guided OPDs in public participation

during budget formulations.

DUPOTO CBO in Narok in collaboration with UDPK and VOICE implemented Smart Government Project. The program aimed to build the capacity of persons with disabilities, women, and youth to actively participate in county government governance and development processes. The program developed LUFs (Local urban forums) in each Narok Major Town. The LUF consisted of persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, women, and youth. LUFs were trained in strategic advocacy. After the training, the LUFs participated in the development of Narok County CIDP 2023-2027. The participation was through the development and submission of memoranda and round table sessions with County assembly members and the executive. As a result of their efforts, issues of persons with disabilities were captured and reflected in the CIDP. The advocacy effort also led to the allocation of budgets to disability-specific programs including bursaries and economic empowerment.

UDPK, CDRA, and Other OPDs participated in the development process of Social Protection Bill 2023 through the development and submission of a memorandum. The memorandum called for social protection measures to be inclusive and eligibility criteria to be revised to reflect the current reality where 2.2% of the Kenyan population are persons with disabilities who could be eligible for assistance in one form or the other. Also, the parties concerned developed a memorandum to the Social Health Bill 2023, and a memorandum to the Digital Health Bill 2023 which envisioned the development of health systems and digital health spaces that are inclusive of everyone, leaving no one behind. The memoranda drew attention to the fact that persons with disabilities face barriers to accessing healthcare and investment was needed to address the barriers to access.

UDPK and OPDs worked to cultivate and build relationships with state and non-state actors to accelerate and create synergies of realisation of the SDGs. Key partnerships and collaborations during the evaluation persons included: Collaborated with Department of social protection in social protection measures in promoting access to social measures to persons with disabilities; collaborated with KNBS on Data collection and disaggregation; partnered with County Governments including Nairobi, Kiambu, Narok and Homabay in advancing disability inclusion cause; and partnered with development partners including Banks KCB, Standard chartered in financial aspects of inclusion

UDPK and OPDs plan to expand and scale up the programs and interventions that have been successful in influencing change and producing outcomes that enhance the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all spheres of life including in the socio-economic sphere. This includes awareness creation and sensitization interventions. Expansion will be determined by available resources.

UDPK and OPDs will intensify and continue with advocacy to influence development of legal and policy frameworks that reflect equality, non-discrimination and provide access to services on an equal basis for everyone's. The advocacy effort will encompass promoting and advocating for implementation of the existing legal and policy frameworks to enhance inclusion and reduce inequalities. Partnerships and Collaborations is an area that UDPK and OPDs will seek to strengthen and expand. Cultivating partners to build a collaborative environment that fosters teamwork and leveraging each other's strengths to enhance inclusive development. These collaborations include working with County Governments and National Government line MDAs. UDPK and OPDs plan to continue and expand resource mobilisation to ensure continuity and expansion of programs and interventions. OPDs will continue and intensify the usage of public participation forums as avenues to be involved in key decision making.

Development Initiatives in collaboration with NGEN and support from GIZ developed a training on

monitoring and evaluating focusing on reducing inequality which was facilitated by Development Initiatives. This request stemmed from collaboration between NGEC and GIZ on the Kenya Inequality Diagnostic.

This workshop aimed to improve the skills of technical staff at the NGEC in monitoring inequality across Kenya. By the end, participants would be better equipped to develop a long-lasting system to track and evaluate inequality at both national and county levels. The sessions especially looked at concepts and measurement of inequality and the status of inequality data and research in Kenya.

UDPK participated in the development of the National Disability Policy. The policy has been lacking in spite of having a Persons with Disability Act 2003. UDPK supported OPDs in Public participation forums in the 10 regions in Kenya. The policy contains 26 sections that seek to reduce inequalities on key issues that marginalise persons with disabilities in Kenya.

Sightsavers, UDPK and OPDs participated in the submission of memorandums for the Learners with Disabilities Bill 2023, Persons with Disabilities Bill 2023, and the Kenya Sign language Bill 2023. Sightsavers facilitated the discussion with the legislature – Kenya Disability Parliamentarian Association (KEDIPA).

10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard

10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality

Community United for rural development (CURD) was involved in the development of an MOU to the ongoing public participation on the National Disability Policy. Additionally, CURD also trained a group of 53 CSO's on income generating activities i.e. starting small businesses, table banking and linking groups to microfinance in Kenya.

10.5 Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations

10.6 Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions

10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

10.a Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements

10.b Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes

10.c By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent

GAPS

1. *Attitudinal barriers are still prevalent in society, and this influences the participation of persons with disabilities in socio-economic activities, negatively impacting various aspects of their lives. This attitude leads to stigmatisation and discrimination making it harder to achieve the intervention goal.*
2. *Limited Budget data, especially on the implementation level, makes it difficult to track and evaluate specific allocation to disability programs. This means that one may not be able to measure equality and disparities in allocations.*
3. *Limited enforcement of existing legal and policy frameworks regarding disabilities i.e. persons with disabilities Act 2003 and Sector policy on learners and trainees with disabilities. Limited enforcement of these legal provisions produces low quality outcomes in securing and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities.*
4. *Limited resources make it difficult for OPDs to expand and scale these interventions for greater reach and impact.*
5. *Limited participation - There is observable limited involvement and participation of the vulnerable in legal and policy formulations. This action is also prevalent in the development and implementation of interventions.*
6. *Program Design - Some programs and interventions by the Government such as Cash Transfer Programs present restrictive criterion which acts as a barrier to access. The program design where it focuses on the household instead of an individual could limit the impact and the effectiveness of the program.*
7. *Budget Allocations - Budget allocation to disability-specific programs is insufficient as compared to the need. For instance, allocation to the National Fund for Persons with Disabilities averages KSH 250 million per year, as compared to the demand. This creates disparities and leads to non-implementation of laws and policies.*

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. *National and County Government partners to enhance and strengthen social protection programs through addressing the existing programs design issues, scaling up and increased budgetary allocations. The effort will involve OPDs and CSOs as partners in mobilising and creating awareness of the existing programs and interventions.*
2. *Annual budget allocation to Cash Transfer to the elderly, persons with severe disabilities and OVCs should be increased.*
3. *Access criteria to the Cash Transfer Program be revised from Only persons with Severe disabilities to include all persons with disabilities who do not have any other source of income (Persons with disabilities constitute 2.2% of Kenya population). The benefits will be allocated to individuals as opposed to households - This will ensure equality and autonomy in the fund's distributions.*

4. *Conduct regular awareness campaigns aimed at eliminating discrimination and stigmatisation and promote inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community.*
5. *Invest in research, data collection and disaggregation to inform decisions making process and inclusive planning with an aim of leaving no one behind. Data will also provide means of measuring the progress of realising SDGs and extent of disability inclusion. OPDs collaboratively endeavour to collect Citizen Generated Data to complement the official statistics.*
6. *Involve persons with disabilities in key decision-making processes and expand the avenues and opportunities available for participation. This includes making public participation spaces accessible and inclusive.*
7. *County Government in collaboration with CRPD to fast tract development of County Persons with disabilities Act.*
8. *County Governments through the Assemblies to set aside Disability Fund (Such as one done in Kajiado and Nakuru Counties) to enhance socio-economic empowerment to persons with disabilities.*
9. *The National Government in collaboration with OPDs and CSOs review persons with disabilities Act 2003 and align its provision with SDGs and CRPD.*
10. *National and County Government in collaboration with OPDs to develop and implement awareness raising sessions on SDGs and train the population at grassroots on importance of SDGs, how they can be involved in implementation and approaches on monitoring and evaluating implementation process.*



GOAL 11 - SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums

The World Bank released data that shows that there is a constant (no increase/decline) in the % population of people living in slums vis-a-vis the total urban population from 2018 – 2020. GROOTS Kenya actively participated in the second UN Habitat Assembly held at the University of Nairobi and the stakeholders' forum at the UN Habitat Headquarters in Gigiri, Nairobi. The organisation sent 10 grassroots champions to these forums, which served as exclusive dialogues bringing together key stakeholders from various sectors. The participants engaged in meaningful discussions on pressing urban challenges and explored innovative solutions. During these forums, the grassroots champions emphasised the importance of inclusive stakeholder engagement in public participation to take ownership of slum upgrading and promote the development of sustainable settlements and cities. They advocated for the adoption and implementation of policies and programs that facilitate affordable housing, considering both rental and ownership models, with a particular focus on accessibility for low-income households. Furthermore, the participants highlighted the need for sustainable transport options, including public and non-motorized transport, as effective solutions to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality in urban areas.

BEST PRACTICE

- Inclusive Stakeholder Engagement:** GROOTS Kenya's participation in the UN Habitat forums demonstrates a best practice of actively engaging grassroots champions and stakeholders in discussions on urban challenges and solutions. This inclusive approach ensures that diverse voices are heard and considered in decision-making processes related to urban development.*

2. Advocacy for Affordable Housing: *The organisation's advocacy for policies and programs promoting affordable housing, both for rental and ownership models, reflects a best practice in addressing the housing needs of low-income households. By advocating for accessibility to affordable housing, GROOTS Kenya is contributing to inclusive and sustainable urban development.*

Polycom Girls' dedication to fostering safe and inclusive urban environments resonates with government objectives concerning urban development and gender-responsive planning. Through platforms like the Urban Thinkers Campus, Polycom Girls convenes diverse stakeholders to discuss strategies for ensuring cities are safe for women and girls to navigate without fear of violence. The organisation employs a strategy of mainstreaming, strategically advocating for gender-sensitive urban policies and infrastructure investments prioritising women's and girls' safety and accessibility in urban spaces. Our commitment to localization is evident through active participation in public forums, ensuring well-lit streets in areas where women conduct business to mitigate risks of mugging and sexual violence.

According to the UDPK, in making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe resilient and sustainable various key issues need to be addressed: Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), transport systems, urban planning, water, sanitation, waste management, access to information, education and capacity-building are all relevant issues to sustainable urban development. Recognizing the cross-cutting issues and the interlinkages to other SDGs including SDGs 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 15, and 17. Persons with disabilities are most likely to be affected due to their vulnerability hence all measures adopted should identify and respond to the rights and needs of persons with disabilities who are most at risk of being left behind. Persons with disabilities face various barriers that hinder their participation and lead to their exclusion. These barriers are: attitudinal barriers (negative attitudes sometimes rooted in cultural or religious beliefs, unequal distribution of power, discrimination, prejudice, ignorance, stigma), environmental barriers (physical obstacles in the natural or built environment), institutional barriers (laws, policies, strategies or institutionalised practices that discriminate against persons with disabilities).

11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanisation and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage

11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations

11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management

11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

11.a Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri -urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning

11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels

11.c Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilising local materials

GAPS

1. Unplanned urban settlements.
2. Growth in informal settlements – without commensurate growth in social amenities.
3. Inadequate implementation of policies and laws.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Policy Implementation - continue advocating for the adoption and implementation of policies that promote affordable housing, ensuring they cater to the needs of low-income households.
2. Sustainable Transport - advocate for the development and promotion of sustainable transport options, such as public and non-motorized transport, to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality in urban areas. These efforts can contribute to creating more livable and environmentally friendly cities.
3. Put in place mechanisms to operationalize the United Nations Convention on the rights of Persons with disabilities (CRPD) to ensure Persons with disabilities realise their rights in this case Article 9 on Accessibility.
4. There's a need to enact the draft National Building code 2022 which provides for inbuilt accessibility.
5. Physical planning of Nairobi Metropolitan urban areas, and roads improvement to bitumen standards (such as Kiamba – Ndunyu Road in Komarock).



GOAL 13 – CLIMATE ACTION

The SDG 13, is an urgent call to action to combat climate change and its impacts. This goal calls for mitigation efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adaptation measures to address climate impacts, and enhancing climate resilience at local and global levels. Attaining environmental sustainability is essential for tackling global issues such as climate change, biodiversity decline, water scarcity, pollution, and resource exhaustion. Kenya is an active participant in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) processes and is keen on fostering partnerships for climate finance, technology transfer, and capacity building. Since 2010, Kenya has put in place a strong policy and regulatory framework for mainstreaming climate change in development planning.

Addressing data gaps and challenges necessitates the implementation of innovative methodologies to optimise resources and prioritise data requirements. By promoting partnerships between governments, international organisations, and civil society organisations (CSOs) can improve the exchange and reporting of SDG data.

Locally led climate action for sustainable development acknowledges the significance of involving local communities, governments, and organisations in the efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change, while also advancing broader sustainable development goals. To effectively tackle the challenges posed by climate change on vulnerable communities and address development obstacles, it is imperative to adopt integrated approaches.

It behoves the governments to institute locally-adaptable, pragmatic strategies to address acute constraints on the struggling smallholder producer-based SMEs and households to revive diminished production and ensure citizens access to sufficient food and nutrition. This means that the stimulus (in some instances called green recovery) packages proposed by Government Agencies or devolved units of governments as well as non-state actors should be as diverse as possible, taking

into consideration geographical, cultural, political and social orientation. Effective climate policies provide the necessary framework and incentives for climate action to take place, while climate action demonstrates the commitment and progress towards the 13 goals set by climate policy. Together, they form a comprehensive approach to tackling climate change for sustainable development.

Overall, a holistic approach for environmental sustainability goals involving collaboration across sectors is needed to combat climate change, collectively address various environmental challenges and provide a framework for promoting sustainable development while safeguarding the planet's natural resources and ecosystems. SDG goals for environmental sustainability are essential for ensuring the well-being of current and future generations.

The ILEPA brought together 63 Indigenous Peoples together to contribute to the Climate Change Action Plan 2023 -2027. The Directorate of Climate Change identified Indigenous Peoples as a key stakeholder in the Climate Change discussions and were therefore considered as a sector in the NCCAP discussions. Kenya has developed the National Climate Change Action Plan 2023 -2027. Indigenous people remain one of the most affected when it comes to Climate Change. It also trained Local and international next generation of Indigenous Peoples on Climate Change related mechanisms such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and supported a 10 to participate in COP 28 and COP 29. It issued small grants to support Climate Action advocacy work for some of the Next generations of Indigenous Youth Leaders in Africa, Asia, and South America. It also supported the establishment and capacity building of the Majimoto Naroosura Climate Change Planning Committee under the Financing Locally Led Climate Action Program.

Haklmani has been supporting harnessing of indigenous communities, owing to the fact that they possess valuable traditional knowledge honed over generations of living in harmony with their environments, offering insights into resilient practices for weather prediction, resource management, and agricultural sustainability. By incorporating indigenous knowledge into adaptation strategies, communities can enhance resilience to climate-related challenges, reducing vulnerability to extreme weather events and fostering sustainable livelihoods. Moreover, recognizing and valuing indigenous knowledge systems promotes cultural diversity, social equity, and inclusive decision-making, aligning with SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by fostering collaborative partnerships between indigenous peoples, governments, NGOs, and other stakeholders to achieve sustainable development objectives.

AICS has been fostering international partnerships and cooperation can facilitate access to technical expertise, financial resources, and technology transfer to support Kenya's efforts in combating climate change and biodiversity loss. It has facilitated collaboration between governments, civil society organisations, academia, and private entities to capitalise on their respective strengths and resources in delivering effective climate change education and awareness campaigns. By bringing together diverse stakeholders, we can enhance the reach, impact, and sustainability of our initiatives, fostering collective action towards climate resilience.

13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

The Tutegrated Project is a green recovery initiative implemented by Kenya Platform for Climate Governance (KPCG) and is tailor-made to help smallholder producers diversify their livelihood options, and utilise their nature-based resources – land, water, trees - through a diverse collaborative effort that brings together mutually-beneficial actors across commodity value chain. The collaboration between PACJA- Kenya/KPCG and BIDCO sought to encourage local people whose reliance as commodity of choice is maize, and who have faced challenging times occasioned by exceedingly

harsh weather events, to try other crops that are drought-resistant. While PACJA Kenya/KPCG used its known prowess in community and resource mobilisation, BIDCO provided farmer technical and extension services for the crop cultivation. The company also guaranteed the farmers of the market for all the sunflower cultivated, with a guaranteed price.

The Project focused on strengthening on-farm activities through a systemic approach to market strengthening. This means, jointly, PACJA/KPCG and BIDCO periodically assessed the overall value-chain to gain a stronger understanding of where the gaps and challenges were that needed to be addressed in order for rural farmers to benefit. These revolved around not only production and quality, but also on farmers accessing other related services to build confidence in the Project, such as financing, quality assurance, inputs and processing.

So remarkable was the Project's success that it saw a bumper harvest of over two hundred (200) tons of sunflower in a single season, enabling farmers to earn around 10 million Kenya Shillings (US\$100,000). Sixty (60) Tons of the produce were delivered to BIDCO-Africa, while internal-bilateral trade among farmers consumed forty (40) Tons locally as livestock feeds while hundred (100) Tons were consumed by proliferating Cottage Industries that locally process sunflower to edible oils. Expansion (diversification) of the commodity base from sunflower was agreed after the consultation with producers, who resolved to try other fast-maturing, drought-resistant crops adaptable to the local climatic conditions.

In the short rains season of October to December 2022, PACJA has supported farmers with 8,122 Kgs of sorghum seeds. In the short rains season of October to December 2023, Tutegrated project supported farmers with 5,170 Kgs of sorghum seeds. This has yielded 283, 249 Kgs of sorghum produce as per the current aggregation data. This produce is worth Ksh. 15,573,195.00 benefiting more than 3000 farmers through direct sales to the off taker. Approximately, 500,000 Kgs have been used locally in supporting food and nutrition requirements of the farmers as well as supporting local cottage industry at the community level.

The Indigenous Livelihoods Enhancement Partners (ILEPA) has contributed to this target through production of hay and construction of silos to facilitate storage and access to pasture during drought season. It has so far constructed three (3) Hay silos that can hold 2,000 bales of hay each in Narok South. Following the success in the pilot stage and the community's positive uptake of the silos, ILEPA in the next two years will upscale this activity in Narok and Kajiado West by constructing 15 hay silos and planting of hay in 130 acres of land within the 2 counties. The organisation has also been supporting greening initiatives (regeneration, afforestation, and reforestation by supporting a youth-led group to establish a tree nursery with indigenous tree seedlings in Maji Moto Naroosura Ward). The tree nurseries have made access to tree seedlings to this community easy. It has also supported 100 households in Narok South with energy-saving Jikos and demonstration on biogas production for domestic use to help curb deforestation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG).

In Tana River County, Kenya, GROOTS Kenya implemented a successful Participatory Rangeland Management (PRM) approach. This initiative involved collaborating with communities to reclaim and enhance land for drought-tolerant pasture and forage. It organised the community into clusters and established a model farm in each cluster. Representatives from various groups within the cluster visited these model farms to learn about PRM practices. Additionally, GROOTS Kenya provided support to 18 groups in Tana River sub-county for pasture and fodder production. These groups successfully reclaimed 407 hectares of land, which were fenced and reseeded. Impressively, they produced 1,850 kilograms of fodder, surpassing their initial target of 450 kilograms.

Furthermore, GROOTS Kenya conducted training sessions for 670 households, focusing on various reclamation activities such as bush thinning, fencing, reseeding, pasture and hay management, as well as post-harvest handling and pasture marketing. As a result of these efforts, there has been notable growth among the groups as they harvest pasture and bale it into hay for storage and use during the dry season. GROOTS Kenya further supported these groups by fencing a total of 200 acres of land.

GROOTS Kenya's PRM approach has demonstrated significant success in reclaiming and enhancing land for drought-tolerant pasture and forage in Tana River County. These efforts have not only improved the livelihoods of pastoralist communities but have also increased their resilience to drought and climate-related challenges.

BEST PRACTICE

1. **Participatory Rangeland Management (PRM) Approach:** *GROOTS Kenya's successful PRM approach in Tana River County is a notable best practice. By collaborating with communities and organising them into clusters, they empowered locals to reclaim and enhance land for drought-tolerant pasture and forage.*
2. **Capacity Building:** *The training sessions conducted by GROOTS Kenya for 670 households on various reclamation activities proved highly effective. Empowering communities with skills in bush thinning, fencing, reseeding, and pasture management not only improved land productivity but also increased resilience to climate-related challenges.*
3. **Model Farm Establishment:** *Establishing model farms within clusters, as done by GROOTS Kenya, serves as a practical learning tool for community members. This approach allows for hands-on experience and knowledge sharing on sustainable land management practices.*

The Kenya Climate Change Working Group Association (KCCWG) is a leading National membership network of civil society organisations (over 600 members) uniting voices and actions on climate change and nexus issues with the aim of creating synergies in response to the impacts and the underlying issues. It has effectively engaged with Kajiado County to localise and decentralise SDG initiatives specifically through capacity building workshops with Kajiado County. This includes participatory climate scenarios workshops enhancing stakeholder understanding of potential impacts of climate change, especially being an ASAL region. This has enabled the community to develop community led adaptive strategies and build resilience to climate-related hazards such as droughts. By focusing on scenarios relevant to the county's vulnerabilities, such as water scarcity and livestock management, we have empowered communities to build resilience to climate-related hazards. This programme has included working closely with the county Kenya Meteorological Department and the indigenous forecasters to develop a harmonious climate information system.

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd is equally creating awareness and sensitization campaigns and seminars on water harvesting and conservation, food security, afforestation in particular climate friendly trees and fruit trees such as dragon, orange and Mangoes and avocado trees, growing of natural healthy food crops; Cassava, sweet potatoes, Other include adding value to the indigenous crops, sunflower for animal feed and extraction of edible oil. The GROOTS Kenya's approach reclaimed 407 hectares of land in Tana River County for drought-tolerant pasture. This initiative enhanced community resilience to climate-related challenges.

13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

Climate change is a phenomenon that affects us all over the world. Its impact on the poor is disproportionate, people with below average income, who work hard to build their livelihoods can have this stripped away by a single environmental disaster. Droughts and floods have led to underproductive farms with very small yields and affected seasonal cycles. This has also affected farmers with livestock. During climate related disasters, donkeys are used in rescue missions and in food/ feed relief supply. Donkeys have also been used in reforestation efforts in areas inaccessible to trucks. Donkey manure is rich in nutrients and tree nurseries have saved a lot from conventional fertilisers by using donkey manure as organic inputs. Biodiversity decline and climate change can also increase pathogen spread and infection rates, and antibiotic use in animals can contaminate land and water sources. Healthy animals and sustainable methods of production help farmers adapt to a hotter and more unpredictable climate. Keeping livestock helps farmers adapt to conditions brought about by climate change.

Global Peace Foundation Kenya and the Chandaria Foundation, employs various mechanisms to enhance capacity for climate change planning and management, particularly targeting women, youth, and marginalised communities. These include training programs, workshops, and educational campaigns tailored to their specific needs and circumstances. Engaging local leaders and community-based organisations facilitates knowledge sharing and empowerment at the grassroots level. The two organisations promote inclusive decision-making processes to ensure local community meaningful participation in climate resilience initiatives. By prioritising these groups and implementing targeted strategies, GPF Kenya and Chandaria Foundation aims to build a more resilient society capable of effectively addressing climate change challenges. Currently, the two organisations have set up 12 tree nurseries, trained over 12,000 schools going children and teachers on tree growing and management, grown over 1.2 million trees, engaged over 1000 community members in the tree growing initiative, developed 12 community forest associations and support ecosystems in the 12 schools covering 9 counties in Kenya.

The Ahadi Achievers Empowerment Community-Based Organization (AAE) is committed to advancing sustainable development in Kenya. As part of its efforts, it has initiated Sustainable Village Ecosystems that empower local champions to take charge of climate action initiatives within their respective locations. These champions identify climate-related challenges, propose local solutions, and rally their villages to implement action plans. The approach aligns with international commitments, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Some of its key initiatives include: Community-Driven Nurseries – the organisation operates three (3) community-driven nurseries, which play a crucial role in promoting sustainable practices. **Seedling Supply** - these nurseries supply environmental champions and farmers with seedlings. The organisation prioritises drought-resistant species suitable for the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) climate. These seedlings serve multiple purposes, including fuel and household nutrition. Species Diversity - its nurseries cultivate 13 species of seedlings, including Melia Volkensi (Mukau), Moringa (Cordia Africana), Honey Acacia (Acacia mellifera), bamboo (Arundinaria alpine), Neem (Azadirachta indica), Senna siamea, Grevillea robusta, Australian grevillea, and various fruit trees (mangoes, citrus, avocado, etc.). The average capacity of each nursery is 250,000 seedlings. **Ecosystem School Clubs** – the organisation recognizes the importance of engaging young learners in environmental conservation. To achieve this, it collaborates with schools through the Ecosystem School Clubs.

Kiambu County Disability Network has been participating in various activities regarding climate change, including disseminating information of climate change committees training and induction of climate change. Black Albinism has been advocating for distribution of protective gear to persons with albinism (PWAs), educating the public and PWAs on protective measures with regard to climate change, and implementing a project on PWAs in ASAL Counties on climate change.

Homabay County Disability Forum planted 5000 trees during World Environment Day. The Endorois Indigenous Women Network (EIWEN) in Baringo County has conducted research on loss and damage from rising levels of water from lake Bogoria affecting the livelihood of farmers and pastoralists. The Network has also trained women with disabilities on disaster reduction and warning mechanisms. It has also started initiatives that help restore waste and degraded land, by planting back trees, digging terraces and passing information preparing them for higher responsibilities. Furaha disabled group in Lamu County has been planting trees for sale, constructing boats to ferry people and goods in the Indian Ocean. The group has also been supporting HHs with foodstuffs. The group has also been collaborating with Kenya wildlife services to plant trees in Bonny Forest and putting nursery seeds to enable the neighbourhoods to plant more trees.

The Emuhaya/Vihiga Group of Disabled has been planting trees and advocating for prevention of environmental pollution. The Nyeri County Disability Network has distributed over 100 energy saving jikos to persons with disabilities and trained over 200 persons with disabilities on climate change mitigation. The Networks has supported tree planting and seedling nurseries establishment. Wheels 4 Trees in Kisumu County has partnered with three (3) organisations implementing projects in disability and climate change such as Youth Alive Kenya, Young Women Christian Association Kenya and Powering Dreams youth group. The group has also sensitised communities on climate change, especially on funds being allocated for vulnerable persons affected by climate change such as FLOCCA.

The KCCWG has been working closely with Kajiado County. Integrating SDG in the County Integrated Development Plan 2023-2027 has been crucial to ensure achievement of SDG targets and prioritising these considerations into the county-level development plans, sectoral strategies, and policies in Kajiado County. The group facilitated capacity-building sessions during the Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) 2023 to equip young people with knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to engage effectively in global climate negotiation proceedings. The Workshops focused on topics such as climate science, advocacy strategies crucial in Youth led projects. Some of the discussion focused on Climate smart agriculture aligning it with the national KCSAP project, Access to clean and affordable energy and Climate finance opportunities.

Brookes East Africa supported use of donkeys to access feed and food relief supplies during climate related disasters such as drought; integration of donkeys in relief strategies and training of county governments and policy actors on the Livestock Emergency Guidelines (LEGs).

Kenya's NDCs target a 32% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, aligned with sustainable development goals. Long-term strategies incorporate climate change mitigation and adaptation into development plans. National adaptation plans (NAPs) 2015-2030 focus on agriculture, water, and infrastructure resilience. Adaptation communications assess vulnerabilities and prioritise actions, including climate-smart agriculture and early warning systems. These measures address challenges like extreme weather and rising temperatures, enhancing overall resilience. Kenya's comprehensive approach aims for sustainable development while effectively responding to climate change impacts, safeguarding communities and ecosystems.

Through different platforms, VSO affiliated volunteer networks including young people's networks have participated and advocated for increased climate action and national and global spaces. An example is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) processes. The 2023 Local Conference of Youth (LCOY), 2023 ACW (Africa Climate Week) and Conference of Party(COP28). In those spaces, the youths presented the Youth Statement and CSOs position to the Kenya government through the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change & Forestry, and global leaders. Another key achievement is the involvement and spearheading of volunteers in the formulation of national and county agroecology policy which will promote a sustainable transformation of the food system, enhance food security, climate resilient livelihoods and social inclusion.

13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

The Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice (NSSCJ) is an initiative pioneered by the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) and will be hosted by Chuka University, in collaboration with a consortium of Universities from the Mt. Kenya East Region. The school is designed to provide a timely opportunity for long-standing scholar-activists, community-based scholars, and the younger generation of climate justice advocates as well as practitioners from the Global South and North. Summer school participants share experiences, exchange perspectives, and collectively reflect on just, equitable, and inclusive pathways to a low-carbon, climate-resilient development trajectory using modules that are designed in practical and uncomplicated ways.

The NSSCJ is conceptualised as an intergenerational platform to share, learn, and network on disruptive ideas that are needed to catalyse economy-wide transformation in a climate-catastrophic world. The school adopts a society-wide focus, targeting sectoral and thematic experts and frontline activists irrespective of formal education and cultural backgrounds.

The NSSCJ is designed as a continuous learning process since graduates undertake to extend outreach into their respective localities by initiating creative communal action to solve immediate local-level challenges that they consider detrimental to climate justice. This 'bottom-up,' 'from-below' approach is vital for effective grassroots organising, and in turn, has awakened consciousness about humans living interdependently with nature. The role of young people and community scholars is the most vital for thorough-going socio-economic transformation. Participation in the Nairobi Summer School provides youth with valuable knowledge, skills, and networks to enhance their resilience to climate change and contribute to broader efforts for climate change social and environmental justice in the region.

Collaborating with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), GROOTS Kenya organised a dialogue with the land committee of Wayu location to explore strategies for land reclamation. This initiative faced initial challenges due to the area's dependency on rain-fed agriculture. Despite this, GROOTS Kenya remained steadfast in its support, concentrating efforts on the communities of Gafuru and Haroresa in Participatory Rangeland Management (PRM). In 2021, the organisation conducted 13 community engagements, resulting in a commitment of over 700 acres of land for pasture development.

Additionally, GROOTS Kenya implemented innovative video-based extension services aimed at disseminating climate-smart agricultural practices among farmers. Through these services, crucial information was shared to assist farmers in adapting to the impacts of climate change.

In a strategic partnership with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), GROOTS Kenya reached grassroots farmers with audio-visual support, specifically focusing on climate-smart technologies. This collaborative effort aimed to alleviate poverty, enhance food security, and mitigate natural resource degradation, with a particular emphasis on benefiting women in smallholder farm households.

The video content developed in partnership with GIZ showcased various techniques such as mulching, zai pits, and zero tillage, providing practical demonstrations for farmers to adopt on their own farms. These videos were effectively distributed to farmers in Busia, Nakuru, and Laikipia counties, reaching a total of 1,134 farmers. Through these initiatives, GROOTS Kenya contributed significantly to closing gendered yield gaps, empowering farmers with essential knowledge and tools to address the challenges posed by climate change in their agricultural practices.

Furthermore, the organisation has made substantial strides in diversifying livelihoods through initiatives in beekeeping, poultry farming, and Galla goat rearing. In beekeeping, the organisation trained coaches and supported beekeeping groups with equipment, benefiting 149 households. Additionally, a week-long training on the beekeeping value chain, in partnership with KIRDI, enhanced the skills of 60 members. In poultry farming, GROOTS Kenya aided 173 households with modern cages and trained artisans, resulting in a total of 718 chickens across the villages. Furthermore, in Galla goat rearing, 33 groups were trained and supported with 200 male goats, with a vaccination drive reaching 382,085 herds to prevent diseases. These initiatives align with the goal of increasing youth and women participation in agricultural value chains.

Through these endeavours, GROOTS Kenya has not only diversified livelihoods but also bolstered resilience and sustainability in the communities. The support provided in beekeeping, poultry farming, and Galla goat rearing has empowered households, particularly women and youth, to actively engage in integrated agricultural practices. By equipping them with knowledge, skills, and resources, GROOTS Kenya has facilitated the adoption of modern farming techniques and improved the overall well-being of the communities. These efforts contribute to building a more resilient agricultural sector and fostering economic growth at the grassroots level.

GROOTS Kenya promoted the resilience initiatives through fruit-tree planting activities by grassroots champions. The grassroots champions planted 400 fruit trees in Laikipia County to commence this initiative and promote food security, which is a key objective for the movement to realise its strategic objectives.

BEST PRACTICES

1. **Video-Based Extension Services:** *GROOTS Kenya's innovative approach to disseminating climate-smart agricultural practices through video content was effective. The partnership with GIZ to reach farmers with audio-visual support was instrumental in closing gendered yield gaps.*
2. **Partnerships:** *Collaborating with organisations like FAO and KIRDI provided valuable expertise and resources. These partnerships enhanced training programs and ensured a broader reach for education on climate-smart practices.*
3. **Community Engagement:** *Conducting 13 community engagements in 2021 to commit over 700 acres of land for pasture development demonstrates effective community involvement. Engaging stakeholders at the grassroots level fosters ownership and sustainability of initiatives.*

The KCCWG's initiative to raise awareness of climate change through performing arts and support grassroots climate projects has directly contributed to implementation of SDGs by empowering communities to mitigate, adapt, and build resilience to climate change impacts. This effort is localised through partnering with organisations such as SEAF-K & Art Space, KCCWG has recognized the power of performing arts in local communication specifically through drama and music among other culturally relevant mediums, to effectively engage grassroots communities. By understanding local vulnerabilities and adaptation needs, KCCWG designs interventions that resonate with the lived experiences of community members. Leveraged social media advocacy tools such as twitter spaces, twitter chats to reach a wider audience and effectively incorporate everyone's voices, and presents an opportunity to tailor messages to different audience segments based on their interests, demographics, and level of awareness. We hosted the World Environmental Day intergenerational discussions in light of aspects of environment and climate change correlations and differences in regards to policy and implementation activities. In addition, KCCWG capacity building initiatives included training sessions for the climate change committee e.g. Kajiado ward climate change council aimed at improving climate literacy at community level. This was in context, providing education and knowledge on climate change mitigation, adaptation, and early warning systems. KCCWG has supported the goal of ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education for all, this through working with grassroots communities and their grouping and engaging county officials on climate change basics, policies present and opportunities for engagement. Such capacity building initiatives included Community Social Responsibility and budgeting with specific climate budgeting.

The pre-LCOY policy workshop in Kajiado created an avenue for young people to build their capacity, to actively engage in shaping climate policies tailored to Kenya's specific needs and increase their knowledge to enable them to meaningfully contribute to Climate mitigation and adaptation solutions as well as contribute to accelerate their engagement. This led to development of the youth statement to COP 28. The LCOY Kenya was also featured in the youth global stock-take 2023 launched at COP 28.

13.a Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilising jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible

The KCCWG has leveraged the Climate finance opportunity in Kenya for example Financing Locally led Climate Action (FLOCA) an initiative by the Government of Kenya aimed at delivering locally-led climate resilience actions and strengthening county and national governments' capacity to manage climate risk. Through partnership with the County Climate Change committee in Kajiado, KCCWG has enhanced the capacity of such groups to upscale their own finance source by developing the Climate project proposal and budget to accelerate implementation of SDG13. The work has contributed to building collaboration with communities around climate action and strengthening their governance. KCCWG has provided capacity-building opportunities to community-led organisations and youth groups which has enhanced their ability to access climate finance opportunities. This includes training on project development, proposal writing, and monitoring and evaluation, empowering them to secure funding for their climate resilience initiatives such as LCOY 2023 and Mazingira Challenge. These efforts led to more youth engagement in climate policy processes with five of the 100 youth in the LCOY 2023 being part of the COP 28 negotiations in Dubai. Further, grassroots youth through this conference were able to engage as youth representatives in the WCCC.

13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing

on women, youth and local and marginalised communities

Ensuring inclusive development is essential in driving sustainable development in Kenya. KCCWG hosted the first PWDs conference in Mukuru Kwa Njenga with 50 PWDs and their caregivers learning key aspects of climate change, climate information and early warning systems and climate risk reduction in their community. Further the development of an urban farm in the informal settlement area as a livelihood source for this community. By including women, girls and marginalised communities, PWDs, children and youth in the development agenda, this helps reduce barriers that might limit their access to education, healthcare and economic opportunities. This is part of the 'Leave no one behind' initiative by integrating targeted inclusivity in the country's priority agenda.

KCCWG has effectively advocated for the integration of gender-responsive approaches in climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. This includes ensuring national and county policies, programs, and projects consider the differentiated impacts of climate change on women youth and marginalised communities and promote gender equality and social inclusion hence advancing the implementation of SDG at local level.

Through the work in Kajiado North, Central, west and South ward climate change council KCCWG has ensured meaningful integration of Women and marginalised communities in Climate action covering topics such as climate basics, policy cycle and resource mobilisation raising their capacity on effective climate change planning and management.

The Chandaria Tree Nursery is an ongoing initiative funded by the Chandaria Foundation and implemented by the KEPISA Foundation and the Global Peace Foundation Kenya with an aim of supporting the President's Agenda of planting 15 billion trees by 2032. The Campaign's objectives encompass ecosystem and biodiversity restoration, fostering robust youth involvement, nurturing volunteerism and community service, and fostering environmental social enterprise. We have currently established 12 tree nurseries of 50,000 capacity each, planted over 2 million trees and generated KES.3,042,360 for the beneficiaries' schools through the sales of the seedlings. The Global Peace Foundation, extend heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Manu Chandaria and the Chandaria Foundation for their impassioned support in environmental conservation and engaging youth in proactive climate mitigation. Our appreciation also goes out to our committed partners as we continue this vital endeavour.

Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) volunteers have actively taken part in building the resilience of the most marginalised communities in the highly climate hit counties of Makeni, Kilifi and Turkana. This has been through the efforts and work of the volunteers who have worked closely with the local government and communities in reducing climate change impacts by bridging the gap between them. Involvement of volunteers has helped in strengthening the system in terms of how climate change policies are formulated and implemented while supporting the vulnerable communities realise their voices in claiming for the climate actions.

The volunteers have been part of the county climate change interventions, from planning to implementation. They have been part of the Financing Locally Led Climate Action (FLLoCA) program which looks at how climate finance trickles down to the local communities. They mobilised and supported the local government in conducting an assessment (PCRVA) that looked at the needs and priorities of the communities in building their resilience to climate change. In counties with poor policies that supported the program, the volunteers took part in seeking for amendment of the policies i.e. a volunteer in Kilifi County was part of the Kilifi Act amendment process, influencing the county government to allocate more budget (2 %) to go into supporting and mainstreaming climate action in

the county. The feedback from the assessment was integrated into the county Climate Change Action Plans with the keen interest of including the differentiated needs and priorities of the communities (women, youths, persons with disability) rather than sector specific priorities (infrastructure, water, land etc).

Through ACTIVE Project, the volunteers have sensitised more than 170,000 small scale farmers (including persons with disability) on climate finance, climate governance, agroecology and integrating gender inclusion and social accountability training. Through the training and sensitization activities, communities have been empowered to demand for their rights in climate change decision making processes and services. Through different platforms, they have been able to directly seek services and voice out their concerns to the duty bearers.

Among the key achievements is that through the community-government interphase forums, three members of the farmers groups and 2 volunteers have been elected to be part of the county climate change planning in Makueni and Kilifi County, supporting the county in representing their communities in identifying bankable climate resilient projects. Another key achievement is that 11 projects that were prioritised by communities have been allocated funds from the county FLLoCA program and the volunteers have developed a social accountability mechanism in ensuring that the allocated funds go into implementing those projects.

BEST PRACTICES

Integration of indigenous knowledge in climate change action plans at both national and county level.

GAPS

1. *Inadequate infrastructure.*
2. *Lack of elaborate coordination among agencies.*
3. *Gaps in public awareness and community participation.*
4. *Un-proportionate disaster management planning between top-down and bottom-up approaches.*
5. *Lack of coordination in the entire disaster management cycle and greater focus on the disaster emergency response stage.*
6. *Lack of planning of a long-term recovery (post-disaster) process, which results in low level community and stakeholder resilience.*

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. *Kenya must put in place frameworks for tripling renewable energy capacity which is crucial for combating climate change. This approach, involving solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal power, can significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, significantly reducing global warming to below 2 degrees Celsius, as per the Paris Agreement's target.*

2. *In addition to the environmental advantages, tripling renewable energy capacity has significant socio-economic implications. It has the potential to generate employment opportunities in the green economy, alleviate energy poverty by improving accessibility to affordable and dependable energy sources, and enhance energy security by decreasing reliance on imported fuels.*
3. *Establish and strengthen institutional mechanisms and capacities for Disaster Risk Management.*
4. *Reduce disaster risks and vulnerabilities at County and National levels.*
5. *Mainstream Disaster Risk Management (DRM) into sustainable development policies, strategies and plans at all levels and within and across all sectors.*
6. *Enhance resilience at the County and National levels to the impacts of disaster risks and climate change.*
7. *Effective and coordinated disaster preparedness, prevention, response, mitigation, and recovery.*
8. *Strengthen community DRM institutions.*
9. *Promote community-based resilience initiatives through capacity building, training, and awareness programs that empower local communities to effectively respond to disasters.*
10. *Fostering partnerships and collaboration among government agencies, civil society organisations, and private sector stakeholders is imperative for mobilising resources and expertise towards disaster preparedness and response efforts.*
11. *Implement comprehensive training programs on climate change to the local communities.*
12. *Increasing public access to information on climate change processes and budgeting.*
13. *Enhance institutional capacity on early warning systems should be strengthened to enable timely responses, fostering effective mitigation, adaptation, and impact reduction strategies to address climate-related challenges.*
14. *Integrate traditional knowledge with modern climate adaptation strategies fosters resilience.*
15. *Establish inclusive decision-making platforms to ensure women, youth, and marginalised communities' active participation in policy formulation and implementation.*
16. *Strengthen local institutions and promote partnerships between government, civil society, and academia to facilitate knowledge sharing and sustainable practices.*
17. *Replication and Scaling - encourage the replication of the PRM approach in other regions with similar challenges can expand its impact. Investing in scaling up successful models can improve resilience among more communities.*
18. *Establish platforms for knowledge sharing among farmers, such as farmer field schools or online forums, can facilitate peer learning and adoption of best practices.*



GOAL 15 – LIFE ON LAND

15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally

Kenya's tree cover now stands at 12.13 percent while forest cover is at 8.83 percent up from 5.9 percent of 2018, the National Forest Resources Assessment (NFRA) Report 2021 states. Within these percentages are 7,180,000.66 hectares, where up-to 37 counties out of the 47 (79 percent) have a tree cover percentage greater than 10 percent. Kenya has an ambitious National Plan of planting 15 billion trees by 2032. In response, the Global Peace Foundation, the Chandaria Foundation, and allied partners are dedicated to a values-based approach for peace-building and community development. Together, they've embarked on the Million Tree Growing Campaign, establishing Chandaria Tree Nurseries.

This initiative aims to bolster tree seedling production, aligning with President H.E.Dr. William Ruto's ambitious goal of planting 15 billion trees by 2032, aspiring to achieve 30% forest cover as outlined in Kenya's Vision 2030 blueprint. This initiative will contribute to the expansion of the current forest cover and tree cover across Kenya's 47 counties. (Kenya has a forest cover of 8.83% (KFS 2022) and tree cover of 12.13% (KFS 2022), strengthening school capacity to tackle socio-economic issues, including natural resource management and boost production and supply of indigenous, fruit and

exotic tree seedlings in schools and nearby areas.

The Campaign's objectives encompass ecosystem and biodiversity restoration, fostering robust youth involvement, nurturing volunteerism and community service, and fostering environmental social enterprise. Moreover, it aims to establish benchmarking sites within host institutions to meet the 30% forest cover target. The tree species distribution targets 60% indigenous, 30% fruit-bearing, and 10% exotic trees, maximising carbon absorption to significantly reduce emissions.

The OLCGS, in partnership with the Kenya Forest Service, Chemichemi ya Wanaume (Komarock), Chemichemi ya Mazingira Bora and Equity Bank, has planted approximately 25,000 trees around Komarock Shrine, in Kiamba Primary School, and the environs.

The Chandaria Tree Nursery is an ongoing initiative funded by the Chandaria Foundation and implemented by the KEPSA Foundation and the Global Peace Foundation Kenya with an aim of supporting the President's Agenda of planting 15 billion trees by 2032. The Campaign's objectives encompass ecosystem and biodiversity restoration, fostering robust youth involvement, nurturing volunteerism and community service, and fostering environmental social enterprise. We have currently established 12 tree nurseries of 50,000 capacity each, planted over 2 million trees and generated KES.3,042,360 for the beneficiaries' schools through the sales of the seedlings. The Global Peace Foundation, extend heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Manu Chandaria and the Chandaria Foundation for their impassioned support in environmental conservation and engaging youth in proactive climate mitigation. Our appreciation also goes out to our committed partners as we continue this vital endeavour.



Chandaria Tree Nursery in Schools



Starehe Girls Centre



Alliance Boys High School



Kenyatta' High school Mwatate



Namunyweda Mixed Secondary



Daystar University



Kaptagat Girls High School

BEST PRACTICE

The Chandaria Tree Nursery initiative, a collaborative effort between the Chandaria Foundation and the Global Peace Foundation Kenya, aligns with the President's Agenda of planting 15 billion trees by 2032. It addresses the goals outlined in the 2015 Paris Agreement, aiming to limit global warming and promote ecosystem restoration. Additionally, it supports the objectives of the African Union Agenda 2063 by mitigating the effects of climate change and fostering sustainable development.

This initiative prioritises the growth of indigenous and fruit-bearing trees, maximising carbon absorption to reduce emissions. With 12 nurseries established across 9 counties in Kenya, including Nairobi, Kiambu, Kilifi, and others, over 2 million tree seedlings have been planted and nurtured. Moreover, the initiative has generated 3.2 million shillings through the sale of tree seedlings, promoting economic sustainability.



The Chandaria Tree Nursery model emphasises community involvement, youth engagement, and environmental stewardship. By fostering environmental social enterprise and volunteerism, it not only contributes to climate change mitigation but also empowers local communities and promotes a culture of environmental responsibility. Through such initiatives, Kenya can make significant strides towards achieving its climate goals while fostering inclusive and sustainable development for future generations.

15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world

15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development

15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species

15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed

15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products

15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species

15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts

Kenya is integrating ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies, and accounts through various initiatives. For instance, the government has established protected areas like the Maasai Mara and Amboseli National Parks, promoting biodiversity conservation while supporting tourism, a significant contributor to the economy. Additionally, community-based conservation projects, such as the Northern Rangelands Trust, empower local communities to manage natural resources sustainably, thereby fostering biodiversity conservation while alleviating poverty. Moreover, the integration of biodiversity considerations into policies like the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) demonstrates Kenya's commitment to mainstreaming biodiversity into development agendas.

15.a Mobilise and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems

15.b Mobilise significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation

15.c Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities

GAPS

1. Limited awareness and understanding of biodiversity's importance.
2. Competing land-use interests.
3. Insufficient funding for conservation initiatives.
4. Inadequate enforcement of environmental regulations.
5. Socio-economic pressures, such as population growth and urbanisation, further strain natural resources, making it challenging to strike a balance between conservation and development objectives.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. *Ensure inclusive stakeholder engagement.*
2. *Develop and implement biodiversity-friendly policies.*
3. *Increase funding for conservation efforts. Consider affording green climate financing opportunities to counties and communities.*
4. *Develop a legal framework towards elimination of hazardous toxic trees (such as Eucalyptus trees) and other invasive species (such as Mathenge). Efforts should be made to replace these species with climate-friendly trees.*
5. *Enforcement of environmental regulations.*
6. *Incorporate biodiversity considerations into development projects and poverty reduction strategies.*
7. *Enhancing public awareness through education campaigns about climate change and biodiversity conservation is crucial. This can be achieved through school curriculums (4K Clubs), community workshops, and media platforms (at the grassroots level).*
8. *Strengthen institutional capacity and coordination among government agencies, civil society organisations, and local communities is vital. This involves developing clear policies, frameworks, and action plans that align with SDG and A.U Agenda 2063 targets and integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies into national development frameworks and policy priorities.*
9. *Promote sustainable land management practices and conservation initiatives is essential. This includes reforestation efforts, ecosystem restoration, and promoting climate-resilient agriculture practices.*
10. *Establish and operationalize Community Forest Associations (CFAs) as well as strengthening umbrella conservation bodies such as NACOFA and KeNaWRUA as an opportunity for enhanced advocacy.*



GOAL 16 – PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

Women Challenged to challenge (WCC) conducted various activities geared toward realisation of SDG 16. Activities include: Trained a total of 40 women with disabilities to participate in the national political process. The organisation engaged 20 members of Kenya women parliamentary association (KEWPA) with sensitization of disability inclusion in order for them to mentor one woman with disability, in addition to working Kilifi County to make their 2023 GBV policy inclusive.

Transformative Effective Disability Development Organization (TEDDO) in West Pokot County has been advocating for peace including for persons with disabilities, highlighting the importance and need for cohesiveness and accommodation of them as people. This has happened even with neighbouring communities, such as in Marakwet. The Kenya Union for the Blind in Busia County has been holding workshops for peacekeeping advocacy. The Mwea Disability Network in Kirinyaga County has been mobilising communities and conducting awareness creation; they are also part of the sub-county peace committee.

The United Disabled Persons of Kenya in collaboration with VSO conducted a study on Sexual gender-based violence in Nairobi and Kilifi counties and developed policy briefs, identifying gaps and barriers to accessing SGBV services and spotlighting advocacy opportunities to promote inclusive approaches to SGBV. The initiative expanded the capacity of 50 young persons with disabilities on matters of SGBV. Young persons after the training conducted a review of the National Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy and developed a memorandum to address the identified gaps.

CIC-K has been engaging with the justice system in addressing barriers to access justice and get possible solutions like providing reasonable accommodations, provision of legal aid, Initiate mediation

and alternative dispute resolution between persons with psychosocial disabilities and their families, if needed, especially in the case of forceful, involuntary acts like institutionalisation.

16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

With a view to protect children the World Vision Kenya has been implementing various programmes recording varying progress as shown below.

OUTPUT INDICATOR	ACHIEVED
Number of children or adolescents that have completed a life skills curriculum (9 months or longer)	48,309
Number of community members participating in attitude/behaviour change sessions on child protection issues	17,266
Number of community members engaged in a Citizen Voice and Action community gathering on child protection issues -	12,333
Number of Children Adolescent & Youth (CAY) who meaningfully participate in actions that support ending violence against children, by sex and age	311,080
Number of parents trained in courses/workshops that tackle positive discipline	88,364

16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

The intersection of Mental Health and Mental Illnesses is visible in almost all the 17SDGs, poverty, health, sanitation, education, gender inequalities, environment. Infrastructure including justice systems. Access to Justice for persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities is essential for protecting the rights of individuals, resolving disputes, and ensuring that vulnerable populations are not marginalised or mistreated. Doing this will Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. People with mental health challenges suffer a miscarriage of justice and are being left behind due to stigma and criminalization of mental health. Our laws create barriers and exclusion in accessing judicial services. This is manifested in the criminal procedure laws, penal code, family laws, succession laws, matrimony laws.

Decriminalization of suicide will promote better health seeking behaviour, destigmatization of mental health and reduce mortality envisioned in SDG 3. The Coalition Action for Preventive Mental Health Kenya (CAPMHK) has implemented various interventions. These include: CAPMHK is an interested party in a petition to decriminalize attempted suicide filled by the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights. It has also created awareness among various stakeholders on effects of criminalization of attempted suicide. Specifically, the organization has engaged five (5) organizations in five (5) counties to create awareness on suicide and better health seeking behaviour, translated infographic into vernacular languages, reached over 2 million listeners on community-based radio stations and TVs, engaged the Inter Religious Council of Kenya, and also engaged the ODPP, NCAJ, Judiciary.

The CAPMHK is also supporting review of policies on mental health. As an example, the cannabis sentencing guidelines does not recognize mental illness or impaired functioning of the mind as a mitigating circumstance warranting a more lenient penalty than what would be ordinarily imposed. The Bail and Bond Guidelines notes that accused persons who are mentally ill tend to experience longer periods of detention than their normal counterparts since the judicial process of determining whether they are of sound mind and hence capable of making their defence is not regulated. The Diversion policy defines a vulnerable person as a person who, due to age, gender, disability or other special characteristics, may require the provision of special justice and support.

To the organisation, possession of cannabis of less than one gram attracts a fine of not less than Kshs. 5 million or imprisonment for not less than five (5) years, or to both such fine and imprisonment. This is criminalization of addiction and status that is unsubstantial, unproportional and inappropriate use of the criminal justice system to a public health issue rather than a criminal offence matter.

16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organised crime

16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

UDPK in collaboration with CIP and ADF conducted a study to analyse Kenya's Budget between 2019/20 to 2023/24 concerning budgetary allocation to disability inclusion. Yearly allocation to Disability allocation averages 5 billion /reduces as compared to the GDP.

The Integrated Development Facility (IDF) who works in partnership with Uraia Trust, who are currently the Devolution Warrior Award Winners,2023 under Ndovu Category, for their outstanding work in educating and mobilising citizens to participate in various governance and service delivery sectors in Homa Bay County, embarked on a mission to address the low project completion rates and ineffective service delivery in Homabay County. IDF partnered with County Government Departments of Governance and Finance during the formulation of 3rd Homa Bay County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) and developed a Public Participation Model, that spans the entire county and operates through a structured forum system starting from Village Forums where all members elect representatives for Sub-Location Forums, which in turn elect representatives for higher level forums until reaching the County Validation Forum. Each Forum has specific roles, such as project initiation, prioritisation, negotiation, and approval.

This Approach reached 732,000 residents, disaggregated by sex and age in Homa Bay County, has significantly increased optimism amongst citizens, enhanced involvement in project implementation and currently, project completion rates from 30% to 90%. Implementation involved dividing sub-locations into clusters, identifying projects based on need, and involving various stakeholders, including the public, ward administrators, National Government representatives and technical experts. Currently, this initiative is replicated by County departments and social development partners, considering the unique demographic patterns of their interventions. In overall, the Model represents a successful approach to fostering citizen engagement in governance and development processes, with potential for wider implementation and impact.

Key lessons learned included the importance of involving Ward and Sub-County and National Government Administrators in mobilisation. The Model's sustainability is attributed to its cost-effectiveness and reliance on voluntary participation.

The Public Participation Model was recognized by the Kenya Council of Governance (COG) and IDF was among the Devolution Warrior Award Winners under the Devolution Warrior Award under Ndovu Category for exceptional performance in promoting, protecting and championing devolution in Kenya, by employing creative and effective ways of linking citizen with their county government, hence ensuring productive collaboration in pursuit of shared development priorities.

With Support from the Danish Embassy in Kenya through Uraia Trust, IDF Conducted a Community Score Card (CSC) and Follow Up sessions at Rachuonyo East Sub County, 2020-2023, that has catalysed some paradigm shift in governance dynamics, fostering unprecedented levels of transparency and oversight. By engaging Rachuonyo East Health Service Users and Providers through the Community Score Card process, unnoticed inefficiencies within the pace of constructing the Theatre which was identified as a gap during scoring with the community, were brought to light. Notably, discrepancies in the allocation and utilisation of funds designated for the development of Maternity facilities were identified, echoing concerns raised in the Office of Controller of Budget Report of 2019/2020 that cleared the project as completed. In response to the identified shortcomings, the County Government of Homa Bay swiftly took decisive action. Kshs. 28M was allocated towards completion and its operationalization, and has yielded tangible improvements in health outcomes.

The completion and operationalization of Ramula Theatre in Rachuonyo serves as a successful example of the best practice in action. By engaging local communities in the planning and design process, IDF ensured that the theatre met the specific needs of the community, including providing a space for health education and awareness campaigns. The active involvement of community members resulted in increased ownership and commitment to the project, leading to its successful completion. As a result, the theatre has contributed to a 50% reduction in maternal deaths by facilitating access to maternal healthcare services and promoting health-seeking behaviours among pregnant women.

Action-Oriented Sustained Civic Education in Wangchieng Ward in Homa Bay County, that led to the construction of Seka Kagwa Clean Water Project in Partnership with Japan Embassy and Kenyan Government and, in conjunction with Yamaha Corporation, at least 15,000 people around Seka Kagwa access clean water from a natural water purification system that produces 8,000 litres per day.

In the pursuit of enhancing community engagement and project effectiveness, IDF conducted a series of Civic Education Sessions on Article 43 of the Constitution, 2010, Devolution and Public Participation to residents of Wangchieng Ward which led to a thorough assessment conducted to comprehensively identify the Water Standard needs of the community. This involved engaging local stakeholders such as community leaders, residents, and relevant organisations to gain insights into the challenges of accessing clean water and opportunities available with the Lake Water Subsequently. Through organised co-creation sessions community members actively participated in the planning and decision-making processes for the Seka - Kagwa Water Project. These Sessions fostered open dialogue, idea sharing, and collaboration, ensuring the Water Project is aligned closely with the standards of Article 43(1)(d) of the constitution of Kenya, 2010. Water Act Chapter 372, 2012 and other related Water regulations.

To further bolster citizen engagement, technology was leveraged effectively. Online platforms, mobile apps, and SMS-based systems were implemented to facilitate feedback gathering, idea solicitation, and dissemination of information to a wider audience. Maintaining transparent communication channels was paramount throughout the process. Regular updates on project progress, timelines, and outcomes were provided through various mediums including community meetings, newsletters, and social media platforms. Recognizing the importance of empowering local communities, the IDF focused on capacity building initiatives. Community members were equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge through training workshops, mentorship programs, and technical assistance, thus fostering a sense of ownership over project implementation and decision-making processes.

To ensure efficacy of these efforts, robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms were established. Quantitative and qualitative data were collected to track project performance and measure the impact of citizen engagement initiatives, facilitating ongoing improvements and refinements. Further, IDF embraced adaptive management principles, allowing for flexibility and responsiveness to changing circumstances and emerging challenges. Citizen engagement strategies were continuously reviewed and refined based on feedback and lessons learned from previous experiences, ultimately contributing to the successful implementation of projects and improved service delivery in Homabay County.

By adhering to these best practice guidelines, organisations like IDF can effectively engage citizens, improve project outcomes, and enhance service delivery, ultimately leading to positive social impact and sustainable development in communities.

Target: 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels

United Disabled Persons of Kenya conducted a post-election analysis to evaluate the extent to which the 2022 General elections were inclusive of persons with disabilities. The results indicated that 21 counties across the country did not have a representation of a person with a disability in the County Assemblies. This act went contrary to what is envisioned in our constitutional provisions regarding the representation and political participation of persons with disabilities.

United Disabled Persons of Kenya (UDPK) in collaboration with Uraia Trust developed public participation guidelines. The guidelines detail the best practices for conducting public participation processes to ensure inclusion. Based on the guidelines 200 County government officers drawn from 8 counties were trained and equipped with the capacity to plan and implement inclusive public participation processes. Following the training, the Nairobi County government implemented the training recommendations by ensuring that all 17 sub-counties had Sign Language Interpreters during public participation forums. UDPK, CDRA, and other OPDs developed a memorandum to the Public Participation Bill 2023. The memorandum called for a more inclusive approach toward public participation processes.

16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

The Community United for Rural Development (CURD) build capacities 100 (Male 60, Women 40) county staff⁵ on public participation, civic education and accountability, to ensure they adequately facilitate meaningful citizen public participation in the County governance process. This has resulted in enhanced intentional engagement of citizens in public participation in budgeting/planning and

policy processes in counties. The organisation also supported 3000 residents (Male - 1500, Women - 1500) residents of Kakamega to participate in development of public and civic engagement policies, sensitization, policy dialogue and enhance awareness during finance public participation. Sensitization of communities on policy formulation, planning and budgeting, and other governance processes has enhanced transparency and accountability, resulting in responsive service delivery. It has also increased citizen participation in holding governments to account through development of social accountability tools on conducting social audits and score cards. This has enabled the citizens to interrogate government expenditure. It has strengthened the capacity of 47 counties to promote and ensure sustainable social and economic development in Kenya. This was through X space/meeting and dialogue discussion on topical issues. This resulted to enhance operations of counties and assemblies in Kenya. It has also played a key role in ensuring accountable and inclusive leadership.

The organisation enhanced participation of the marginalised group in the governance process through participation of development and review of learner with disabilities Bill 2023⁶, Persons with Disabilities Bill 2023⁷ and Kenya Sign Language Bill 2023⁸ (both at the Senate). It has also enhanced citizens' knowledge on the need for counties to undertake their operations in transparent manners. This was achieved through mobilisation of citizens to participate in the annual development plan, County Integrated plan and Budgeting processes.

Fadhili Cancer Support Organization (FCSO) efforts have empowered over 79,500 citizens directly through support Groups with and sustained Civic Education and over 1,000,000 through mass civic education on foundational knowledge of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ESCRs), governance principles, and public participation protocols. By nurturing citizen awareness and capacity, the Organization catalyses demand for accountability and elevates county service standards. The organisation has also been: establishing Social Accountability Cells - with the establishment of 12 Social Accountability Cells, FCSO ensures robust monitoring of service delivery and performance within Busia County. These cells serve as watchdogs, holding governance institutions accountable for their conduct and performance, thus promoting transparency and responsiveness; strengthening capacity through targeted training and strategic mapping of non-state actor organisations, FCSO strengthens the capacity of project implementation teams; engaging and empowering 17 budget champions, FCSO equips individuals with the skills and knowledge to navigate planning and budgetary processes effectively. This fosters fiscal transparency, citizen oversight, and ensures resources are allocated equitably to address community needs; the Organization's engagement and Public Participation Model, aligned with the Kenyan Constitution of 2010, facilitates the localization of SDGs within Busia County. By fostering transparent and inclusive decision-making processes, this model ensures that citizens are actively engaged in identifying, prioritising, and implementing projects aligned with SDGs. Further, through the collection and analysis of data, FCSO ensures that the aspirations of the SDGs are aligned with the needs of the community. This data-driven approach informs investment decisions, prioritises interventions, and ensures that vulnerable populations are not left behind in the pursuit of sustainable development.

⁵ Kakamega, Bungoma, Trans Nzoia, Vihiga, Busia and Siaya

⁶ Learners with Disabilities Bill 2023 - <http://www.parliament.go.ke/sites/default/files/2024-03/The%20Persons%20with%20Dissabilities%20Bill%202023%20Senate%20Bill%20no7%20of%202023.pdf>

⁷ Person with disabilities Bill 2023 (<http://www.parliament.go.ke/sites/default/files/2024-03/The%20Persons%20with%20Dissabilities%20Bill%202023%20Senate%20Bill%20no7%20of%202023.pdf>)

⁸ Kenya Sign language Bill 2023 <http://www.parliament.go.ke/sites/default/files/202403/The%20Kenyan%20Sign%20Language%20Bill2023%20Senate%20Bill%20no9%20of%202023.pdf>

The FCSO's approach ensures the mainstreaming of SDGs in County Annual Development Plans (ADPs), facilitating the seamless implementation of projects geared towards effective service delivery in health matters. By embedding SDGs within county-level planning processes, FCSO contributes to the achievement of global goals at the grassroots level. FCSO's exemplary efforts have been recognized through prestigious accolades such as the Afya Award, presented during the 2023 Devolution Conference. This recognition underscores FCSO's impact in mobilising citizens, fostering partnerships, and catalysing transformative change in governance and service delivery domains within Busia County. Ultimately, FCSO has remained steadfast in its dedication to fostering sustainable development, promoting equitable governance, and championing the rights of all citizens. As FCSO continues to forge ahead, we remain committed to leaving an indelible mark on the socio-economic landscape of Kenya and contributing to the global effort towards achieving the SDGs.

16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance

16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration

16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

According to ARTICLE 19 assessment, Kenya ranked 69 out of 161 countries in the 2023 Global Expression Report⁹ annual review of the state of freedom of expression and the right to information around the world. This marks a slight decline from the previous year (2022), dropping one place since 2022. Similarly, Kenya fell from 69th to 116th in the Reporters Without Borders' 2023 World Press Freedom Index¹⁰, the third biggest fall in that year's Index. ARTICLE 19's analysis highlights a concerning trend: the overall state of protection for journalists, human rights defenders, whistleblowers, and protesters is deteriorating. For instance:

1. *In the period since Kenya's last VNR report, the country had no verified cases of murdered journalists; however, on October 23, 2022, Pakistani journalist Arshad Sharif was shot dead in a remote area outside the Kenyan capital Nairobi by a police officer.*
2. *In April 2023, the Kenya Media Sector Working Group (KMSWG) reported¹¹ an increasing number of journalists being harassed, attacked, and arrested while covering mass anti-government protests in Kenya since March 20. Reportedly, KMSWG documented more than 20 cases of attacks and violations against journalists, including harassment, arbitrary arrests and physical attacks with state actors responsible for or encouraging a significant proportion of these attacks.*
3. *In the same period, the Media Council of Kenya (Kenya's Media Regulator) also reported receiving reports of violent physical attacks on media personnel, including the destruction of their equipment and information collated. Some journalists also lost their valuables. The Regulator warned that police officers attacking journalists undermines press freedom, limits the public's access to information, violates human rights and can cause physical*

⁹ ARTICLE 19 Global Expression Report: <https://www.globalexpressionreport.org/regions-subsaharan-africa>

¹⁰ 2023 World Press Freedom Index, the third biggest fall in this year's Index: <https://rsf.org/en/index>

¹¹ A press statement by the Kenya Media Sector Working Group dated 2nd April 2023: <https://www.theelephant.info/documents/kenya-media-sector-working-group-press-statement-of-2nd-april-2023/>

or psychological harm. They noted that journalists should be able to carry out their work without fear of violence or harassment, and that law enforcement agencies need to be held accountable for any actions that violate their rights or impede their ability to report on events.

4. On 18 September 2023, journalists Mike Ndunda from Kamba TV, Athiani FM's Richard Muasya and Boniface Mutisya of Mutongoi TV were covering a security operation at an illegal alcohol brewing den in Matungulu, Machakos County when they were reportedly attacked by a group of individuals as they recorded the operation.
5. Similarly, on 5 January 2024, five journalists who had accompanied officers from the National Authority for the Campaign against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA). During a raid at the Kettle House Bar and Grill on Muthangari Road, Nairobi were also attacked. Jane Kibira, a camera operator at Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC), and Boniface Bogita, a photographer at Nation Media Group, were attacked, with Kibira stabbed in the back and Bogita stabbed twice in the ribs, as reported by their respective media outlets. Another photographer, Bonface Okendo from The Standard Media Group, sustained arm and leg injuries during the attack, with his camera confiscated. Jackson Kibet, a camera operator also from The Standard, escaped with minor injuries, but his memory card was taken. Lawrence Tikolo, a camera operator at Citizen TV, was punched in the ribs, and his camera was vandalised. Bogita and Okendo received treatment at a hospital, while Kibira was discharged earlier.

16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime

16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

GAPS

1. Need to streamline the case management systems to enable early reporting by communities and victims. These should also be disseminated to stakeholders.
2. Need to engage male and youth as role models for reduced SGBV cases across the country.
3. **Limited Resources to support CSOs:** CSOs in Kenya operate on limited budgets, which constrains their capacity to undertake meaningful projects and initiatives aimed at strengthening institutions. This limitation affects their ability to conduct research, advocacy, and outreach activities effectively.
4. **Government Interference:** CSOs often face interference and harassment from the government, including restrictive regulations, arbitrary arrests, and intimidation tactics. This interference undermines their independence and hampers their ability to operate freely, especially when they criticise government policies or advocate for accountability. This has been rampant in Kenya, seen during picketing called by the opposition, where many citizens were killed.
5. **Lack of Access to Information:** Limited access to accurate and timely information poses a significant challenge for CSOs in Kenya. Without access to relevant data and documents, CSOs find it difficult to monitor government activities, track budget allocations, and hold public officials accountable for their actions.

6. **Capacity Constraints:** Many CSOs struggle with capacity constraints, including inadequate staff training, limited technical expertise, and weak organisational structures. These limitations hinder their ability to develop and implement effective programs for institution-building and governance reform.
7. **Fragmentation and Competition** weakens collective action and coordination among CSOs, reducing their overall impact on institution-building efforts.
8. **Legal and Regulatory Environment:** The legal and regulatory environment in Kenya can be restrictive for CSOs, with laws that impose burdensome registration requirements, limit freedom of expression, and restrict foreign funding. These legal constraints impede the ability of CSOs to operate independently and effectively. For instance, lack of public participation law in Kenya
9. **Inconsistent Efforts and Challenges:** While efforts are made to disseminate civic education messages, challenges such as over-reliance on external forums, limited resources, and political interference persist, hindering effective public engagement
10. **Capacity Constraints:** Devolved units lack sufficient capacity, evident in the absence of well-equipped offices and transport facilities, undermining their effectiveness in facilitating public participation and access to information.
11. **Information Accessibility:** While budget information is available, its accessibility is hindered by the lack of printed copies and inadequate physical infrastructure, affecting citizens' ability to engage effectively.
12. **Challenges and Solutions:** Inadequate logistical and budgetary support, coupled with political interference and negative public perception, pose significant challenges. Addressing these requires enhanced support from the county headquarters, capacity building for administrators, and fostering trust through transparent governance practices.
13. **Lack of Guidelines:** The absence of documented guidelines for handling public compliments and complaints hampers the effectiveness of the mechanism.
14. **Engagement Strategies:** Direct engagement serves as the primary avenue for handling complaints and compliments, yet challenges such as lack of clear protocols and infrastructure persist, leading to delays and dissatisfaction among citizens.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Review the existing laws, develop new laws that will protect the freedom of expression, assembly and assembly.** In the recent, there has been an attempt to claw back the gains by mating violence to people who are picketing to present their issues on issues around governance. The minority groups in Kenya have had a challenge, getting their outfits registered. Other looking at the laws, Kenya should also domesticate the international statute that she has ratified.
2. **Capacity Building and Mentorship to CSOs:** There is a need for stakeholders to continuously enhance the capacity of CSOs on issues of accountability and governance, fundraising to ensure the CSOs can sustain their activities beyond donor funding. Additionally, there is a need to increase networking to ensure horizontal learning (peer to peer). Establish CSO mentorship programmes where experienced CSO leaders can support emerging organisations.
3. **Forster Collaboration:** Facilitate partnerships between civil society, government

- institutions, and the private sector to address common challenges and achieve shared goals. Promote coalition-building among CSOs working on similar issues to amplify their collective voice and advocacy efforts.*
- 4. Create platforms for dialogue and consultation between CSOs and government authorities to enhance transparency, trust, and cooperation*
 - 5. **Public Awareness and Advocacy:** Conduct campaigns to raise public awareness about the importance of civil society in promoting democracy, human rights, and social justice. Advocate for public policies that recognize and support the vital role of civil society in governance and development processes. Utilise various communication channels, including traditional media, social media, and community outreach initiatives, to mobilise support for strengthening civil society and building stronger institutions.*
 - 6. Collaborate with private actors and OPDs to ensure the constitutional threshold of 5 % job quota is realised for persons with disabilities. Current data from public service suggest that we are at 1.4 %.*
 - 7. Collaborate with OPDs and other actors to generate Data for the proportion of youth who experience sexual violence by age 18*
 - 8. Review the National Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy taking into consideration priority areas for youth with disabilities*
 - 9. Enact public participation Bill 2023 taking into considerations submissions made by the UDPK, CDRA and OPDs*
 - 10. The County and National Government should collaborate with OPDs to roll out campaigns and awareness raising regarding elimination of SGBV and support.*
 - 11. Judiciary funds should be operationalized to support community-based paralegals. This should also be coupled with capacity building and knowledge sharing with various administrators of justice on mental health – Police, ODPP, Judiciary, Prisons, Probation*
 - 12. Create standards and guidelines for assessment of persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities in conflict with the law. Additionally, efforts should be made to consider alternatives to incarceration for persons with addictions and mental health challenges.*
 - 13. Refurbish prisons to accommodate and support inmates with mental health illnesses.*



GOAL 17 – PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

ILEPA supported SDGs local voluntary reporting for Narok County in 2024. This report is a key component of the Kenya Voluntary National Report (VNR).

17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilisation, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection

17.2 Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance (ODA/GNI) to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries

17.3 Mobilise additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources

17.4 Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress

17.5 Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries

17.6 Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism

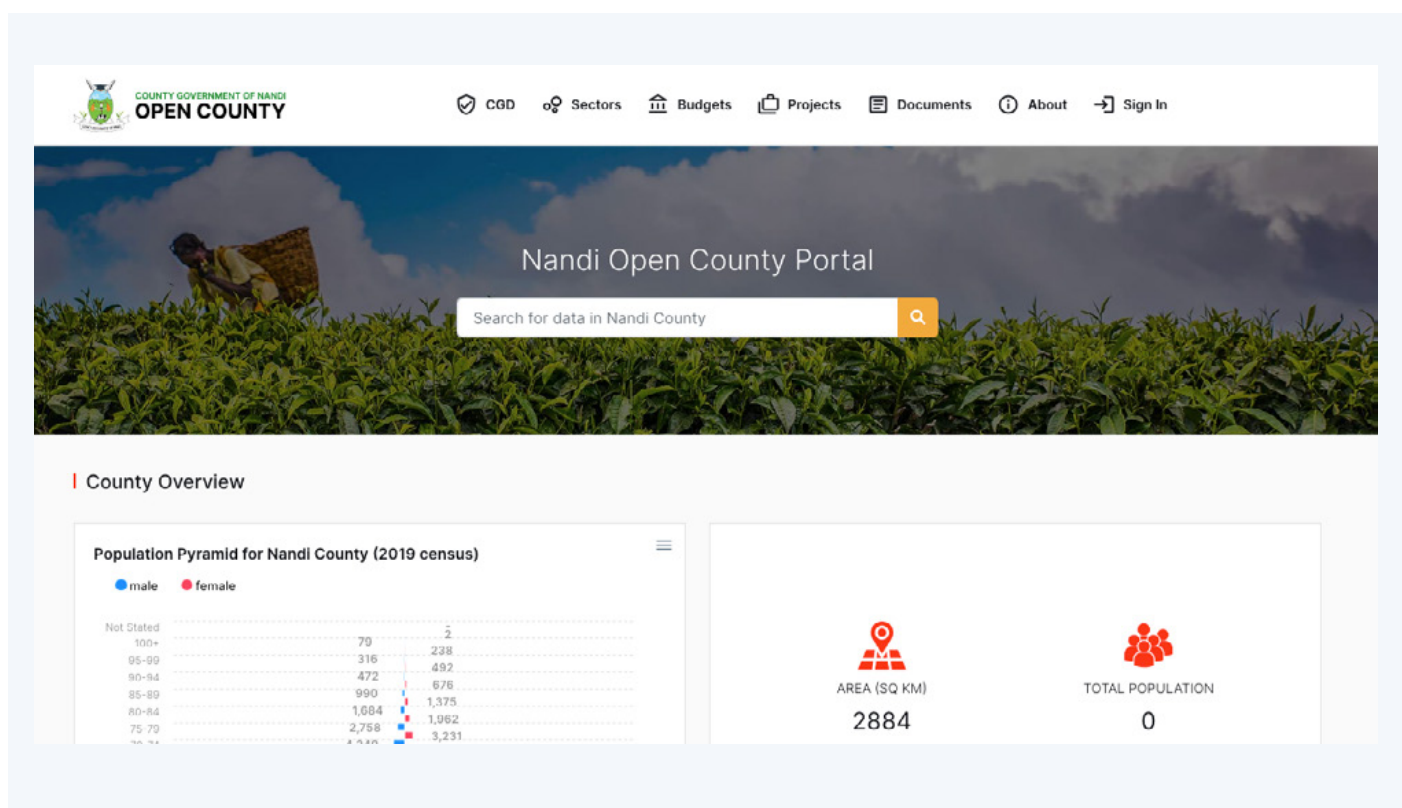
17.7 Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed

17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology

The Open Institute has been working on bringing partners together to ensure the achievement of the Global goals investments and support is needed to ensure innovative technological development, fair trade and market access, especially for developing countries. This partnership must start at the community level as it builds momentum to the global level.

Part of Open Institute broader data governance is to build a pool of data champions at the county level to actively engage in data protection activities. The Institute has offered financial and technical support to a pool of CSOs and CBOs drawn from 11 counties to integrate data protection and data privacy needs in their various thematic areas. These engagements were informed by the curriculum on the rights and remedies of data subjects. Upon successful training, the CSOs then worked collaboratively within their networks and coalitions to conduct community-based training on data protection and privacy.

The Open Institute has created a local support system in Kilifi County that empowers CBOs to come together to collaborate to take part in community development. This system involves local leaders, community-based organisations, and organisers, providing citizens with the knowledge and courage to engage in public processes. This network of social structures and community institutions aims to empower citizens by providing the tools and support they need to actively participate in governance and development. This has seen the CBOs collaborate better with the duty bearers as well as their concerns being taken up in public participation processes



17.9 Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation

17.10 Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda

17.11 Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020

17.12 Realise timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access

17.13 Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence

17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development

17.15 Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development

17.16 Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilise and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries

The Development Initiatives (DI) has created a national disability data inventory, assessed data availability and use, and recommended improvements. DI, supported by the Government of Kenya, has been finding existing sources of disability data, evaluating the current data collection system for comprehensiveness, and building a national registry of disability information. This will improve the quality and accessibility of data on people with disabilities in Kenya. DI's brief contains national disability data inventory which includes information on data sources, producers, collection tools, and available disaggregation variables. It also explores how data is currently accessed and used, highlighting the challenges. The assessment found a more positive outlook than the perception of limited data. Kenya has a growing data landscape with legislation, plans, a technical working committee, and various data sources. Additionally, the report provides recommendations to further improve the ecosystem. These include advocating for legislation to formalise collaboration between government entities, revitalising the technical working committee, securing funding for data efforts, and developing an open data protocol for better data sharing.

17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

Development Initiative assisted the State Department of Social Protection with the development and launch of the Inclusive Data Charter action plan in 2021. This action plan establishes a comprehensive framework to promote the comprehension, collection, and utilisation of disability-disaggregated data. By leveraging such inclusive data, we can strengthen informed decision-making and strategic planning processes which will ultimately empower persons with disabilities and ensure their inclusion in national development initiatives. Development initiatives is listed alongside Inclusive Data Charter (IDC) secretariat, Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD), Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Kenya, the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) and Sightsavers as the core group involved with the development of IDC and supporting IDC by fostering open and inclusive environment where various stakeholders can participate.

The action plan will not only empower governments but also different organisations to prioritise inclusivity within their data systems. This enhanced data infrastructure will enable them to gain a deeper understanding of the needs faced by marginalised populations, subsequently facilitating more effective interventions, resource allocation, and progress monitoring for these communities.

Apart from supporting the state department for social protection with the development and launch of the IDC, Development Initiatives worked with the Ministry of Public Service, Gender, Senior Citizens Affairs and Special Programmes to implement key activities outlined in the Action Plan. A critical first step has been conducting a comprehensive disability data audit for Kenya which is an in-depth examination to identify all existing disability data in the country, including its source, location, and current users. The results have provided the ministry with a valuable inventory of disability data resources.

Development Initiatives has been providing data life cycle training since 2020. This initiative aims to improve the inclusion of persons with disabilities in socioeconomic activities by equipping relevant organisations with the knowledge and skills to collect, analyse, store, and present data effectively.

The training programme consists of four modules covering data gathering, analysis, storage, and visualisation. Delivered by experts with over 20 years of experience, the programmes equip participants, including staff from Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) and the government, with the necessary data skills to promote evidence-based decision making. These skills can be applied in their daily work and shared with members and other OPDs, maximising the programme's impact. Based on participant testimonials, the training has benefitted not only OPDs but also a wider network of partners including the government.

17.19 By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries

State department of social protection's commitment to improving data collection on marginalised groups was evident when they joined the Inclusive Data Charter (IDC) in 2018. A significant

accomplishment is the National Inclusive Data Charter Action Plan (2021-2025). This plan outlines specific actions for collecting data categorised by various factors, especially regarding people with disabilities. Development Initiatives has developed modules on data collection, analysis and storage to train policy makers within government and CSO to equip them with needed skills on data. The data literacy programmes have been on-going since 2020 and DI has managed to train at least one government department (State department of social protection) and various CSOs

GAPS

Inadequate capacity for co-creation programming.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Facilitate remittance flows through policies that reduce transaction costs and improve the efficiency of remittance services. This includes leveraging digital remittance platforms and fostering international cooperation to enhance the financial contributions of diaspora communities*
- 2. Provide technical support and capacity building to both government and civil society on the importance of policies around data and data disaggregation both at the national level and county level*
- 3. To maximise the impact of data literacy training, prioritize participation for staff both within government and CSOs who directly handle data in their daily work. This includes personnel involved in monitoring and evaluation, as well as programming teams. By focusing on these key user groups, we can ensure the skills learned are immediately applied to real-world data tasks.*



6.0 NEW AND EMERGING CHALLENGES

6.0 NEW AND EMERGING CHALLENGES

1. Severity and frequency of drought has affected the lives and livelihoods of the most vulnerable groups and wiped out many SDGs. Emphasis on the whole of society's approach to tackle this and future pandemics is critical.
2. Even though there is minimal investment from the CSOs, the emergence of the blue economy has provided an opportunity to invest in marine, rivers and lakes ecosystems and natural/water resources management.
3. Political goodwill has been missing in the implementation of key interventions affecting their sustainability.
4. New technologies such as artificial intelligence, internet of things, big data analytics and crypto-currencies will change existing norms and standards.



7.0 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

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The 2030 Agenda requires requisite means of implementation comprising financing, technology, capacity building and systemic issues which are mutually reinforcing. Donor support is the most predictable and reliable source of financing. Kenya is among the countries finding it difficult to finance the implementation of the SDGs. With a revenue to GDP ratio of 18%, Kenya requires to increase its efforts to raise revenue to finance the SDGs.

A major challenge for Kenya has been the re-classification of the country as a lower middle-income country in 2014. This made access to grants difficult and this is expected to have serious implications for the financing of SDGs related interventions compared to the MDGs era.

The role of the private sector and CSOs as a source of funding for the SDGs is critical. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda calls for incentives to businesses to invest in various sectors. At the same time, Public, private and blended finance can complement each other to support the 2030 Agenda. This calls for integrated national development strategies as a critical nexus across the sectors.

Over the years, the country has experienced high income inequalities. To address this, the devolved system of governance aims at enhancing the delivery of public services for equitable development across the regions. Therefore, the County Governments have a critical role in the implementation of the SDGs as they are in close contact with the community. Since most SDGs represent devolved functions, capacity building of the counties needs to be scaled up.

Successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda calls for a more inclusive, coordinated and harmonised approach and not working in silos. Kenya has a structured coordination and dialogue platform with all stakeholders for discussing national development priorities. Through these dialogues, the Government can tap on all forms of development financing available from all stakeholders to complement its development efforts.



8.0 CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

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Follow-up with stakeholders is critical to ensuring that the findings and recommendations from the inclusive dialogues are put into action. Engaging with government officials and policymakers will be essential to discuss the insights gathered and advocate for the integration of these recommendations into local and national policies. This engagement will help bridge the gap between grassroots perspectives and higher-level decision-making, ensuring that the voices of marginalized groups, youth, women, the elderly, and persons with disabilities (PWDs) are considered in policy formulation. Moreover, fostering strong relationships with these stakeholders will be vital for sustained advocacy and support.

Developing an action plan based on the dialogue report is the next crucial step. This involves identifying and prioritizing key recommendations that can be implemented in the short, medium, and long term. Specific responsibilities will be assigned to different stakeholders and organizations to ensure a coordinated and efficient approach. The implementation of actions will utilize the findings and recommendations to inform policy recommendations for local and national SDG implementation. This will enhance the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process by integrating grassroots insights, ultimately leading to more inclusive and effective SDG strategies. Resource mobilization, project initiation, continuous monitoring and evaluation, and capacity building will be integral to this phase, ensuring that the actions taken are sustainable and impactful. By following these steps, the outcomes of the dialogues will not only influence policy but also drive tangible changes at the community level.



KEY MESSAGES

KEY MESSAGES

ZERO HUNGER KEY MESSAGES

Prioritise child nutrition to save lives and ensure every child reaches their full potential: The Global Nutrition Report highlights that 1 in 3 children under 5 years of age is malnourished, with the most severe consequences observed in low-income and conflict-affected regions. Achieving SDG 2 (zero hunger) is linked to child malnutrition and food security as malnutrition undermines progress towards ending hunger and food security for all. Countries like Brazil have implemented school meal programs that provide nutritious meals to millions of children, improving their health and educational outcomes while addressing food insecurity. ***We urge HLPF to join us in advocating for policies that promote child access to safe and nutritious foods, especially in schools.***

Addressing malnutrition, reducing child mortality, and preventing long-term health complications: Children suffering from severe acute malnutrition are at significantly higher risk of mortality as their weakened immune systems make them more vulnerable to infectious diseases. By reducing child mortality associated with malnutrition, we can make significant strides toward ending child hunger. Initiatives such as Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) have been successful in treating severe acute malnutrition in children, by providing ready-to-use therapeutic foods and medical care in communities. Urge HLPF to join us in the movement to reduce child mortality.

Let's act now to secure a healthier future for our pregnant and lactating mothers, children, and older persons by promoting access to nutritious foods and enhancing long-term healthcare. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that malnutrition is a factor in nearly half of all deaths in children under the age of 5 worldwide. Improving access to nutritious foods and preventive healthcare can help reduce child mortality as reflected by one of the indicators in goal 2. Community-based programmes, nutrition programmes initiatives such as community health worker programs and nutrition education campaigns have effectively improved access to nutritious foods and health services. We implore the HLPF to support initiatives that empower communities, improve access to healthcare facilities, and strengthen health systems to ensure children and pregnant and lactating mothers have an opportunity to thrive.

Mobilising communities to support local farmers and food producers in accessing productive resources, strengthening food systems, and reducing dependency on imports. Many local smallholder farmers and food producers face challenges in accessing productive resources such as land, water, high quality seeds, and capital. Strengthening local food systems reduces dependency on imports and enhances food security and ensures nutritious and culturally appropriate foods for members of the community. Adoption of agro-ecological and sustainable farming practises enhances the productivity and resilience of local food systems while minimising reliance on external imports. ***We implore the HLPF to support us in mobilising communities to support smallholder farmers and food producers in an endeavour to enhance farmer cooperatives, markets, and other community-led initiatives that empower local producers and promote sustainable food production practices.***



**PEACE, JUSTICE AND
STRONG INSTITUTIONS
KEY MESSAGES**

PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS KEY MESSAGES

PRIMARY MESSAGE 1

Urgent need to decriminalize suicide

Evidence of the problem

- *The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates more than 700,000 people die due to suicide each year and that almost 77% of all global suicides occur in low and middle-income countries (LMICs). The World Bank estimates that in Kenya, suicide rates is at 6.1 people per every 100,000.*

Impact

- *The intersection of Mental Health with SDGs is visible and influences almost all the 17 goals including poverty, hunger, sanitation, education, gender inequalities, work, environment, nutrition, Infrastructure including justice systems.*
- *Persons attempting suicide suffer retributive and punitive justice law regimes that perpetuate stigma and leaving the vulnerable behind.*

Success Stories

- *In Singapore suicide rates reduced after decriminalization. There were 166 deaths by suicide from January to September in 2020, down from 304 during the same period in 2019.*
- *This was attributed to the creation of a network of 43 community outreach teams to provide basic emotional and psycho-social support and service linkage for persons with mental health issues across Singapore.*
- *Over 220 general practitioners were trained under the Mental Health General Practitioner Partnership Programme to identify, diagnose and manage those with mental health issues in the community.*
- *The ministry also released a Tripartite Advisory guide to employers on good workplace practices to promote workers' mental well-being in the year.*

Call to action

- *Parliament of Kenya to repeal section 226 of the penal code.*

PRIMARY MESSAGE 2

Urgent action is needed to decriminalise cannabis possession for personal use to protect the rights of vulnerable populations marginalised or mistreated within the justice system. Doing this will Promote peaceful and inclusive societies to achieve SDG 16 by 2030.

Evidence of the Problem:

- *Cannabis is one of the low hanging drugs that is mostly used by youths in Kenya and globally. Possession of cannabis of less than one gram, leads to a fine of not less than Sh5 million or imprisonment for not less than five years, or to both such fine and imprisonment.*
- *More often marginalised youths are jailed for possession of low amounts this curtails their education, breaking further impoverished families with fines and legal fees, eroding police and communities' interactions, overcrowding and congestion prisons and extra burdening the exchequer in inadvertently amounts to punishing poverty and status.*

Impact on SDGs:

- *An adversarial justice system is counter progressive and undermines development of SDGs.*
- *Exacerbates poverty in families, low education success rate, stigma and discrimination on seeking help, affects future economic and social capital due to criminal records.*

Success Stories:

- *In 2022 the South Africa Supreme court decriminalised possession of cannabis by children. The court viewed that the best interests of the child should be addressed through social and public health interventions and not by the restrictive and archaic laws.*
- *Restorative justice transforms communities and directs investments and resources into community based preventive interventions in schools and neighbourhoods.*

Call To Action

- **Parliament to Kenya to repeal Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act**

PRIMARY MESSAGE 3

Need to adopt policies that outlaw age discrimination

Evidence of the problem

- *The latest National Crime Research Centre report of 2020 indicates that Kilifi County leads in the number of reported murders at 58.2 percent of the crime reported in the county against the national average of 24.8 per cent. According to the report dubbed the 'Aged on Edge' by Haki Yetu Organization, that laid bare the magnitude of the problem in Kilifi County as an example, at least 138 killings of older persons between 2020 and mid-2022 on allegations of practising witchcraft.*

Impact:

- *Age discrimination has led to killing of older persons in Kenyan counties on witchcraft allegations, acts that remain retrogressive to sustainable development goals clarion call of leaving no one behind and achievement of a society that is fit for people of all ages*

Success Story:

- *In 2022, Ageing Concern Foundation implemented The Kenya Age Equality project through a national consultative process that adopted a Technical Working Group on Age Discrimination that analysed various policy documents, identified twenty-nine (29) A age discriminative legislative gaps and submitted to the Older Persons Organizations for expanded advocacy.*

Call To Action

- *The government of Kenya to consider establishment of a National Council for Older persons in the 2024 older persons Bill that would steer addressing age discrimination in all sectors for improved well being of older persons.*

PRIMARY MESSAGE 4***Need to operationalize public participation to ensure access to information to the public*****Evidence of the problem**

- *There is currently no public participation framework which hinders access to information to the public.*

Impact

- *Without open access to information and public participation structures, it becomes difficult for citizens, civil society organisations (CSOs), and other stakeholders to effectively advance the goals of SDG 16 (SDG 16.3, 16.6, 16.7, 16 A & 16 C). These goals include promoting inclusive societies, ensuring access to justice for all, and building institutions that are both accountable and effective.*

Success Stories

- *South Korea - South Korea has made significant progress in recent years in developing its public participation framework. The Freedom of Information Act was enacted in 2009, and the government has established a number of online platforms for public consultation. There are still some challenges to overcome, but South Korea is moving in the right direction.*
- *Ireland - Ireland has a well-developed legal framework for access to information, including the Freedom of Information Act 2014. This Act gives citizens a broad right to access information held by public bodies, with limited exceptions. Ireland also has a strong tradition of public consultation on policy matters.*
- *Slovenia - Slovenia has a comprehensive legal framework for public participation, including the Access to Information Act and the Environmental Protection Act. These laws guarantee the public's right to access information and to participate in decision-making processes. Slovenia also has a well-developed system of e-government, which makes it easier for citizens to access information and participate in government.*

Call to Action

- *We urge HLPF member states to enact relevant legislations particularly for public participation*

PRIMARY MESSAGE 5

Urgent need for responsive and inclusive representation

Evidence of the problem

United Disabled Persons of Kenya conducted a post-election analysis to evaluate the extent to which the 2022 General elections were inclusive of persons with disabilities. The results indicated that 21 counties across the country did not have a representation of a person with a disability in the County Assemblies.

Impact

- *In the spirit of leaving no one behind, exclusive of persons with disability slows down the achievement of SDG 16.*

Success Stories

- *Kenya has 26 counties that have nominated persons with disabilities among them, Nyeri County has top ups of persons with disability in the county assembly*

Call to Action

- *We call upon HLPF member states to ensure compliance of laws and policies that requires disability inclusion the decision-making spaces*

PRIMARY MESSAGE 6

Urgent need to end corruption at the county and national level

Evidence of the problem

- *Kenya was ranked 126/180 countries on the corruption perceptions by Transparency International with a score of 30%. increasing. Kenya runs one of the most expensive elections in Kenya (WFD 2021), despite efforts to pass political parties finance bill before the 2022 election, was shelved as it was time barred. In Kenya Corruption comes in the form of bribes, abuse of office, favouritism, nepotism and deliberate delay in service provision are perceived as the leading forms of corruption and unethical conduct in public service.*

Impact

- *Misappropriation of funds at both levels of governments have led to reduced and strained development hence increasing poverty*
- *Giving bribes to voters and ignoring the rule of law has increased election of leaders with questionable characters into the parliament.*

Success Stories

- *Government of Kenya has ordered all those with fake papers in public service to resign and return all benefits they received*
- *The spirited effort in fighting corruption through high level arrests of key public servants implicated in corruption.*
- *There is increased interest of citizens in the budget making process through public participation as included in the budgeting process.*

Call to Action

- *Pass Political Parties Campaign Finance Bill before 2024 election*
- *Develop a policy to give EACC powers to investigate and prosecute.*
- *Enact and operationalize public participation bill*
- *Implement PBO Act to increase the participation of civil societies in Kenya*
- *Fully implement chapter 6 of the 2010 constitution on leadership and integrity*



PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS KEY MESSAGES

PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS KEY MESSAGES

Funding that focuses more on capacity building and grants giving programs to equip community-based organisations to invest in self-sustainable projects: Despite receiving donor funding, many projects undertaken by CSOs and CBOs are often abandoned post funding and regress, due to lack of sustainable activities and programming. Partnerships, especially with the government and other CSOs are key to achieving SDGs goals - targets in a collaborative way that promotes sustainability. This also makes sure the organisations are not working in Silos and, therefore greater Impact is achieved. Open Institute builds the capacity of CSOs and CBOs drawn from 11 counties to integrate data protection and data privacy needs in their various thematic areas and has collaborated with Nandi and Kilifi counties to set up data dashboards online. These CBOs are using data from the dashboards to advocate for the priorities of their communities and to hold the county governments accountable for implementing programs that are specific to the data gaps generated.

We call upon HLPF member states, our governments, international donors, and the private sector to join forces in transforming development outcomes in Kenya and beyond.

To achieve this:

- 1. Invest in Capacity Building:** Support initiatives that build the skills and capabilities needed to leverage technology for sustainable development.
- 2. Provide Cutting-Edge Technology Access:** Ensure all stakeholders, especially Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and other Non-State Actors (NSAs), have the tools needed to drive innovation and change.
- 3. Promote Open Data Policies:** Advocate for policies that ensure data transparency and accessibility, enabling CSOs and NSAs to utilise technology effectively for greater impact and accountability in the pursuit of all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a focus on SDG 17.
- 4. Strengthen Local Partnerships:** We urge collaboration with county governments to make financial commitments and create a supportive environment that empowers local and national CSOs to thrive.

"Together, we can harness data and technology to create a more equitable, sustainable world. Join us in this critical mission."



ANNEXES



ANNEX I: COMMUNITY DIALOGUES

Background

The SDGs Kenya Forum is a national platform that facilitates structured engagement between civil society organizations, governments, citizens, and other stakeholders to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The forum plays a crucial role in bridging the gap between grassroots communities and policy-makers, ensuring that marginalized and vulnerable groups are heard and included in decision-making processes. Over the years, the SDGs Kenya Forum in partnership with local community-based organizations, has conducted over 25 community dialogues across the 47 counties in Kenya. The primary purpose of the community dialogues is to sensitize the grassroots communities and create awareness on the SDGs processes at the national and global level. They also provide a platform to gather insights from underrepresented communities left behind, understand the effectiveness of current strategies, and tailor solutions to meet diverse local needs.

Rationale

The rationale for conducting community dialogues is to integrate grassroots perspectives into the national SDG implementation framework, ensuring that no one is left behind. This approach captures diverse localized insights necessary for tailoring effective solutions and enhances the inclusivity and responsiveness of policies across Kenya's varied regions. The dialogues aim to ensure that community voices are inclusive, participatory, and effective in addressing the multifaceted barriers to sustainable development and in developing context-specific strategies that address the unique needs of different communities.

Methodology

The approach involved conducting inclusive dialogues that targeted diversity and inclusion, ensuring active participation from marginalized

groups, vulnerable populations, youth, women, the elderly, and persons with disabilities (PWDs). It was participatory, valuing all voices. The methodology included stakeholder identification and invitation, encompassing local leaders, community members, government officials, CSOs, and representatives from marginalized groups. The agenda addressed the objectives and reviewed SDGs 1, 2, 13, 16, and 17, featuring panel and plenary discussions on key SDG topics. Trained facilitators and rapporteurs guided inclusive and constructive dialogue, while note-takers and audio recordings ensured accurate documentation. The dialogues were conducted in Makueni, Nyeri and Malindi counties.

Findings

The Voluntary National Review (VNR) dialogues in Kenya highlighted several key insights on SDG implementation progress:

I. Inclusive Governance and Public Participation:

a). Best Practices: Makueni County's public participation model was praised and recommended for replication to ensure all citizens have a voice in decision-making.

b). Engagement Challenges: Concerns about low public engagement in counties like Nyeri led to calls for increased awareness and more inclusive forums.

II. Addressing Marginalization:

a). Inequalities: Kilifi County discussions underscored ongoing marginalization and the need for targeted interventions in education, healthcare, drug abuse and economic opportunities.

b). Localization: There was a strong push to tailor SDG efforts to the unique challenges of each county.

III. Data and Monitoring:

a. Data Gaps: Significant gaps in data collection and analysis were identified, highlighting the need for stronger data systems and disaggregation to track progress and disparities.

b. Evidence-Based Decisions: Emphasized the importance of using data to inform policies and monitor SDG progress.

IV. Capacity Building and Resource Mobilization:

a. *Local Capacities:* There was a call for more training and resources to empower local governments and communities in SDG implementation.

b. *Funding:* Highlighted the need for increased resource mobilization to support SDG projects, particularly in under-resourced areas.

V. Human Rights and Gender Equality:

a. *Human Rights:* Stress on integrating human rights principles into SDG efforts.

b. *Gender Equality:* Focus on addressing gender disparities and empowering women and girls.

VI. Sustainable Economic Development:

a. *Inclusive Growth:* Emphasized the need for economic strategies that promote job creation and support SMEs.

b. *Rural Development:* Highlighted the importance of agricultural development to address rural poverty.

VII. Environmental Sustainability:

a. *Climate Action:* Urged stronger policies to address climate change and promote sustainable resource management.

These insights reflect the need for an inclusive, data-driven, and localized approach to SDG implementation in Kenya.

Specific Findings and Recommendations

Table 1: Key findings and Recommendations from the dialogue

OBJECTIVE	KEY FINDINGS	RECOMMENDATIONS
General Awareness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Participants recognize that the SDGs are indivisible and interconnected. SDGs are Local actions for achieving global sustainability. Despite progress, challenges such as policy coherence, insufficient funding, and data gaps persist. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Develop comprehensive national strategies that align with SDG targets and integrate them into local development plans. Increase Investment in Sustainable Development Strengthen Partnerships Promote Accountability and Monitoring
Enhance Understanding and Participation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of sufficient knowledge about the SDGs among citizens, especially marginalized groups. Grassroots organizations face resource and capacity constraints. High interest in SDG participation, but need clearer information and more opportunities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Develop user-friendly, culturally relevant materials on SDGs. Increase support for grassroots organizations through funding, training, and capacity-building initiatives. Establish local SDG education and action centers for information dissemination and community engagement.
Elevate Voices and Representation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Vulnerable and marginalized groups feel underrepresented in public discourse and political forums. Existing platforms for participation are not adequately inclusive. Need targeted efforts to ensure that these groups' voices are heard. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Create inclusive platforms and forums for vulnerable and marginalized groups. Ensure representation in decision-making bodies through quotas or dedicated seats. Conduct outreach programs to engage underrepresented communities actively.

OBJECTIVE	KEY FINDINGS	RECOMMENDATIONS
Incorporate Citizens' Views	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Citizens' views and experiences are not sufficiently integrated into SDG agendas. 2. Gaps in mechanisms for collecting and incorporating grassroots feedback. 3. Local experiences are often overlooked in national and international assessments. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop formal mechanisms for collecting and integrating community feedback into SDG planning and reporting. 2. Encourage participatory approaches in policy-making involving community members. 3. Implement feedback loops to inform communities how their input influences policies.
Facilitate Exchange of Information	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of effective platforms for information exchange among sub-national stakeholders. 2. Communities benefit from shared learning but need structured opportunities. 3. Key stakeholders often work in silos, limiting collaborative efforts. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish regional SDG networks for regular exchanges of information and ideas. 2. Organize periodic sub-national conferences and workshops to share best practices. 3. Utilize digital platforms and social media to broaden the reach of information sharing.
Enrich the VNR Process	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community dialogue insights are valuable but not effectively utilized in the VNR process. 2. Local challenges and successes need better representation in SDG assessments. 3. Systematic incorporation of community feedback is needed. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Integrate community dialogue outcomes systematically into the VNR process. 2. Create transparent processes for tracking and reporting how community inputs are used in VNRs. 3. Encourage international bodies to prioritize and support grassroots perspectives in global SDG assessments.
Personal Reflection, Future Outlook and Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Over 95 % of participants recognize that the SDGs are indivisible and interconnected. 2. Participants emphasized the importance of local actions in achieving global sustainability. 3. Participants appreciate how each goal is essential for creating a balanced and resilient world, integrating perspectives on environmental, social, and economic dimensions. 4. Individuals expressed a commitment to concrete actions in support of the SDGs. This includes advocating for sustainable policies, raising awareness in their communities, integrating sustainable practices into daily life, and supporting organizations working towards SDG achievement. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhancing Policy Coherence 2. Increase investment in sustainable development through innovative financing mechanisms. 3. Multi-stakeholder collaborations involving governments, civil society, private sector, and academia are crucial. 4. Embracing technology and innovation can enhance data collection, monitoring progress, and scaling up successful SDG initiatives. 5. Participants envision a world where poverty and hunger are eradicated, education and healthcare are accessible to all, gender equality is realized, clean energy powers economies sustainably, ecosystems thrive, and justice and peace prevail. Sustaining momentum towards SDG achievement beyond 2030 requires ongoing commitment, innovation, and collaboration at all levels.

ANNEX II: CSOs SCORE CARD

Background

The Kenyan Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have prioritized the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Since the official launch of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2016 and thereafter the development of the SDGs Roadmap to guide the transition from Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to SDGs, the CSOs have played a key role in ensuring no one is left behind. Participatory tracking on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda has been a key tenet in CSOs operations. Towards this, the People's Scorecard has been developed by Action for Sustainable Development (A4SD) as a strategic tool for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to systematically track and provide context to the progress of SDG implementation within their countries. It serves as a framework for rating the effectiveness of various policies and initiatives aimed at achieving the SDGs (implemented alongside the Voluntary National Review process). The goals of the People's Scorecard include: Improving the inclusivity of CSOs' activities; providing a standardized approach for evaluating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and reporting bottlenecks and lessons learnt; and facilitating transformative change. Importantly, it is an integral part of the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). This integration of civil society perspectives into the VNR process helps to create a more holistic and accurate picture of a country's progress toward the SDGs, ultimately driving more effective and inclusive policies.

Methodology

The development of the Score Card was encompassing and involved a systematic data collection approach, engaging multiple SCOs

working in all the 47 counties through a purposive sample. A total of 24 CSOs working on different SDGs provided data that informed the scorecard. A too, with both qualitative and quantitative sections was administered online. The process involved extensive data validation to ensure completeness, accuracy and reliability. The diverse responses were systematically analyzed to identify common themes, trends, and unique insights. Most of the interviewed CSOs had a foothold in Goals 2, 3, 4, 5 and 13. There were no responses on Goals 1, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, and 15.

Findings

According to the CSOs, over the past three (3) years, significant progress has been observed across various Goals. To them, notable advancements include: Improvement in health infrastructure and a reduction in maternal mortality rates (as presented in KDHS, 2022), attributed to enhanced health systems and better access to prenatal and emergency care. Efforts to increase access to modern contraception have led to a significant decline in unintended pregnancies and maternal deaths. Additionally, entrepreneurial training and financial literacy programs have empowered youth and women, reducing economic inequalities and boosting confidence levels among marginalized groups. Further, enhanced social protection measures and improved food security initiatives have albeit bolstered resilience among vulnerable populations. Initiatives such as the introduction of high-yielding maize varieties and training caregivers and peer educators have contributed to reducing malnutrition in children under five years. Educational campaigns have led to increased school enrolment for girls and reduced absenteeism through menstrual health management. Women's participation in decision-making spaces has increased, and policy advocacy has supported the proportion of seats held by women in both National Parliament and County Assembly.

The survey findings indicated that Kenyan CSOs have a moderate or low level of satisfaction with the progress of SDGs implementation across various thematic areas. To them, implementation progress and the level of commitment by government agencies was rated as weak or very weak (46.8% and 40.6%, respectively). Availability of policy or legal frameworks, plans and strategies was rated as average or above (71.9% and 78.1%, respectively), with a minority indicating very strong frameworks or plans exist. This suggests that while foundational policies and strategies might be in place, there are gaps in active implementation and clear leadership by government agencies. Capacity building, and monitoring, evaluation, and reporting received mixed reviews, with notable percentages indicating weak or non-existent efforts (43.8% and 53.1%, respectively). Transparency and accountability also scored low, with half of the respondents rating them poorly, indicating a perceived lack of openness and integrity.

Overall, progress of SDG implementation was rated as average (53.1%), with a small percentage acknowledging strong progress. These findings highlight the need for strengthened implementation efforts, enhanced capacity building, robust monitoring systems, and improved transparency to ensure the effective realization of the 2030 Agenda. It was also felt that Governments, local communities, CSOs, and religious institutions must come together to tackle issues such as violence, insecurity, conflicts, corruption, and bribery. By embracing inclusivity and ensuring participation of all citizens, these diverse groups can work towards building peaceful and accountable societies that enable sustainable development.

The CSOs reported that climate change had significant effects on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, presenting a complex array of challenges. It exacerbates existing vulnerabilities and disrupts progress across multiple SDGs, particularly those related to poverty, food security, water availability, and economic stability. The adverse effects of climate change include frequent and prolonged droughts, erratic

rainfall, and extreme weather events such as floods and landslides. These conditions have led to severe agricultural losses, water scarcity, and displacement of communities, directly undermining efforts to achieve SDGs related to zero hunger, clean water, and decent work. To mitigate for these effects, it calls for concerted efforts from all actors.

It was reported that Kenya has moderately adhered to the goal of limiting global warming as per the Paris Agreement was (59.4%). Whereas this is a suggestion that Kenya has made some efforts to limit global warming, these efforts have been moderate or moderate in their effectiveness.

Towards reducing inequality and ensuring no one is left behind, CSOs are actively working to ensure marginalized groups are included in Kenya's development processes.

Despite these milestones, a number of challenges had been faced and include: Inadequate financing for social protection, education, health and pro-poor initiatives; continuous perpetuation of discriminatory tendencies (such as unfavourable policies towards the elderly); inadequate policy and legal frameworks – coupled with subdued implementation; insufficient accountability among stakeholders (both state and non-state), leading to inefficiencies and ineffective execution of programs; weak coordination mechanisms; inadequate skills and expertise necessary to efficiently manage and coordinate implementation SDG-related programs. For example, (small holder) farmers still lack ready access to local farming extension information from county governments; lack of a robust monitoring and evaluation systems (for state and non-state actors) to demonstrate the effectiveness of interventions; significant gaps in the availability and quality of data, which impedes the effective tracking and evaluation of SDG progress.

Conclusion

The active involvement of CSOs in Kenya's SDG agenda has demonstrated the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships in driving sustainable development. The lessons learnt emphasize the need for comprehensive strategies that address financial constraints, policy improvements, capacity enhancement, infrastructure development, and effective data management. By fostering inclusive and collaborative approaches, Kenya can continue to make significant strides towards achieving the SDGs, ensuring that no one is left behind in the pursuit of sustainable development.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTING CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

Serial Number	Organisation's Name
1	Access Coalition
2	Article 19
3	Art Affair For Development Goals
4	Ageing Concern
5	Ahadi Achievers
6	Ahadi Governance and Research Consultants (AGREC)
7	Akili Dada
8	Association of Media Women in Kenya (AMWIK)
9	Brooke East Africa
10	Champions 4 SDGs Youth
11	Clean Cooking Association of Kenya (CCAK)
12	African Institute for Children Studies/Children Agenda Forum (CAF)
13	Community Implementing Initiative
14	Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW)
15	Community United For Rural Development (CURD)
16	Coalition Action for Preventive Mental Health (CAPMHK)
17	Development Initiative
18	Dream Achievers Youth-Dayo Kenya
19	East Africa Philanthropy Network
20	Fadhili Cancer Support Centre
21	FAWE Kenya
22	Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE)
23	Greening Mua Environmental Initiative (GMEI)
24	Groots Kenya
25	Global Peace Foundation
26	Hami Imani Africa
27	Jesuit Haki Imani
28	Help Age
29	Hennet
30	Local Development Research Institute(LDRI)
31	International Centre for Reproductive Health(ICRH-Kenya)
32	Indigenous Livelihood Enhancement Partners (ILEPA)
33	Integrated Development Facility (IDF)

34	Integrated Community Development Program
35	KUDHEIHA
36	Kenya Climate Change Working Group (KCCWG)
37	Open Institute
38	Ogiek People Development Program (OPDP)
39	Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)
40	Ngutwa Men Diplomats
41	Our Lady Of Charity Good Shepherd Congregation(OLCGS)
42	OXFAM
43	Save the Children Kenya
44	Sight Savers
45	The Fred Hollows Foundation
46	Usawa Agenda
47	Uzalendo Africa Initiative
48	United Disabled Persons of Kenya (UDPK)
49	Teachers 4 SDGs
50	Usalama Reforms
51	Polycom Girls
52	Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)
53	Wangu Kanja Foundation
54	World Vision
55	Women Challenged to Challenge
56	Zamara Foundation

LIST OF CONSULTED CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

Serial Number	Organisation's Name
1	Action Aid Kenya
2	Akili Dada
3	Amref Health Kenya
4	African Youth Commission
5	AWAK
6	AWEIK
7	Alternatives Africa
8	Association Of Women In Agriculture Kenya

9	Badili Africa
10	Caritas Kenya
11	Citizen Network For Rural Development (CRNFRD)
12	Community Empowerment and Development Centre
13	Cheshire Disability Services Kenya (CDSK)
14	CBM Global Disability Inclusion
15	CSUDP
16	Elimu Kwanza Initiative
17	EACHRIGHTS
18	East African Tax and Governance Network
19	Fredrich- Eberrrt-Stiftung(FES) Kenya
20	FEMNET-Kenya
21	FIDA Kenya
22	Gem Trust
23	Homabay Paralegal
24	Islamic Relief Kenya
25	Indigenous Information Network
26	Integrated Community Development Program
27	Jamaa Resource Initiatives
28	Kenya National Commission of Human Rights
29	KEWASNET
30	KELIN
31	KEFEADO
32	Kenya Association of the Intellectually Handicapped
33	MUC
34	Niara Empowerment Hub
35	Neighbours Initiative Alliance
36	Pamoja CBO
37	The East Africa Centre for Human Rights
38	Talent Warriors
39	Women Empowerment Lead (WEL)
40	WWF-Kenya
41	We Forest International
42	Voice Of Dagoretti CBO

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