

Documenting the community SDG influence in Kenya

Action Aid International Kenya - Community Monitoring the SDGs

26th August 2019

Submitted by Ruth Angwa- Masime, Consultant

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1.0 Background

Kenya is among the 193 countries that has adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Agenda comprises of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets to be implemented between 2015 and 2030. The SDGs builds upon and extend beyond the framework of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that were implemented between 2000 and 2015.

Kenya has, thus, committed to create and implement measures and conditions to ensure the Country achieves SDG set targets by 2030. The goals include: ending poverty and hunger; combating inequalities; achieving sustainable and inclusive growth with decent jobs; building a peaceful, just and cohesive society; promoting gender equality and empowerment of women and girls; and protecting the environment and natural resources. These goals and targets are to be met for all segments of the society while observing the pledge 'Leave No One Behind.'

AAIK's approach to SDG accountability builds on AA's existing HRBA approach and use of social accountability tools as a basis for evidence based policy advocacy. This approach has been condensed into a 6 policy step approach whose objective is to continue the LRP Reflection-Action work aiming at empowering women, local communities, partners and ActionAid staff to hold governments, their institutions and other stakeholders to account on their SDG commitments. This is done through consolidation, documentation of accountability practices applied by the communities living in poverty and exclusion - especially women and young people - to hold the local authorities and national governments accountable. The ActionAid approaches therefore seeks to ensure that those community members who stand to lose or gain the most from the sustainable development agenda are active participants in monitoring the SDGs and are able to challenge and hold their governments and the private sector institutions accountable to implementing the SDGs in a way that is really 'leaving no-one behind'.

This paper forms part of ActionAid's SDGs Accountability and Monitoring framework. This study mainly examines the extent to which delivery of SDGs has been translated into government policy and programme commitments by examining the County planning documents to ascertain the extent to which the plans are advancing the implementation and realization of the SDG, as well as documenting the social accountability practices and tools that citizens have so far used to monitor and hold the government to account in the delivery of the SDGs.

The documentation - learning and good practices from Kenya on SDG accountability - will be used for cross-country learning either via a webinar or a convening/skills-share with other ActionAid countries within the SPA framework.

The specific objective of this assignment is first to examine the extent to which SDGs have been considered in the planning process in Kilifi, Baringo, Mombasa and Migori counties in Kenya.

With special focus on goals 5¹, 8² and 16³. Secondly, to take stock of the community accountability processes (e.g. community scorecards, social audits, expenditure tracking) in the three counties of Baringo, Kilifi and Migori to establish the extent to which the said counties' have lived up to the SDG commitments.

The report is organized as follows; section one is the background, section two is the Integrating SDGs at the National and County planning processes; section three is on community SDGs monitoring frameworks in practice; and thereafter section four gives the recommendation and a conclusion.

2.0 Integrating SDGs at the National and County planning processes

In 2016 the government of Kenya launched the SDG implementation road map. The road map is envisaged to work under five thematic areas, that is: conducting extensive advocacy and awareness creation; mapping-out and engage all stakeholders; mainstreaming the SDGs into National Development Process; domesticating and localizing the SDGs agenda; monitoring and evaluating progress; and, supporting capacity building for devolved governments to implement the process. The government promised that the domestication and integration of the Sustainable Development Goals would be embedded nationally in the Third Medium-Term Plan (2018-22) and at the County level in the County Integrated Development Plans.

Kenya has taken steps to affirm its commitment to achieving SDGs by undertaking measures to align the SDGs to national strategy and policy documents. Unlike the MDGs, the Constitution of Kenya 2010 has an elaborate bill of rights and a devolved system of governance that provide a constitutional anchoring for SDGs. Kenya's long-term national development blue print, Kenya Vision 2030⁴, is built on three pillars, namely, social, economic and political pillars which integrate the dimensions of sustainable development and is, therefore, consistent with the SDGs framework. The economic pillar envisions rapid and sustained economic growth of 10 percent per annum. The social pillar seeks to build a just and cohesive society living in a clean and secure environment. The political pillar espouses a democratic political system founded on issue-based politics, the rule of law, and protection of the human rights and freedoms. The Vision is implemented through 5-year medium term plans.

The first medium term plan covered the period 2008-2012 and it integrated the MDGs. The second medium term plan covered the period 2013-2017. Currently, Kenya has concluded the

¹ Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

² Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

³ Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

⁴ Sessional Paper Number 10 of 2012 on Kenya Vision 2030 is the National Policy Economic Blueprint that entrenches Kenya Vision 2030 as the long term development strategy for Kenya. The Kenya Vision 2030 aims to transform Kenya into a modern, globally competitive, middle income country providing a high quality of life to all its citizens.

preparation of the third medium term plan for the period 2018-2022, which outlines national development priorities for the next five years. In so doing, Kenya used this opportunity to map the SDGs targets into the MTP III and has developed appropriate indicators and baseline for SDGs as presented in the Kenya Voluntary National Review report 2017. The MTP111 were launched in November 2018 and it may be too early to determine the degree of its implementation. However, with national government directives the Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs) have mainstream the SDGs into annual polices and plans, budget, monitoring and evaluation systems and processes. The degree of the mainstream will thus need a thorough study and examination of relevant national government MDAs policy, plans and budgets.

Important to note is that the Ministry of Devolution and Planning coordinates the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs in Kenya. The SDGs focal point within the Ministry offers technical backstopping for SDGs within government and also among stakeholders. Also an Inter-Agency Technical Committee drawn from membership from the line Ministries, National Council for Population and Development, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, representatives from the civil society organizations, private sector among others has been set up. Mechanism of coordination between the County government and National government has been worked out with the establishment of SDGs Liaison office within the secretariat of the Council of Governors (COG). The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics has mapping and identified 128 indicators out of the 230 global indicators that Kenya can measure within 1-2 years with minimum effort. The 8 indicators in this Action Aid pilot program are included.

At the county level, Vision 2030 is implemented through the 5 year County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs). The counties have finalized and just launched the second CIDPs since inception of counties, to serve as the county implementation blue print for 2018-2022.

The county governments were, therefore obligated to use the guidance of MTP III in their second planning - CIDP development process - with a view of streamlining and sustaining commitments towards the achievement of the laid down targets under each SDG goal.

2.1 County Development Planning Processes

The County Governments are required to prepare the County Integrated Development Plans to enable prioritisation of socio-economic development issues at the local level. This is a mandatory process that triggers annual plans and budgets thus funding allocation to county projects and programmes. The CIDPs as with the MTPs are realized through the Annual Development plans which then inform the County annual budget making process.

All the four counties of Migori, Mombasa, Kilifi and Baringo in chapter two of their CIDP documents indicate the linkages of their planning process with the MTP III, SDGS, other plans and the constitution as legally required. The four counties have shown the extent of their SDG consideration by itemizing how they will translate the 17 SDG goals into action. It is important to note that looking at the public participation notes on the CIDP, most of the counties

considered SDGs within the CIDP framework as a requirement of law and as guided from the national government and not a demand from the public. While confirming this aspect with communities in the four counties - communities indicated that they expressed their views at the public forums clearly indicated the sectors, programmes and target groups that needed attention although not in the SDG language of goals, targets, indicators *per se*.

According to the CIDP, Migori County government on goal 5 aspires to be a model county in matters of gender equality by ensuring that there is a non-discriminatory approach to service delivery and fair employment practices. The CIDP further indicates that the county government shall put in place strategies to eradicate harmful practices such as gender based violence, early and forced marriages and female genital mutilation. To enhance gender parity in matters of education, programs such as distribution of sanitary pads in collaboration with the national government shall be implemented. The county government will improve and sustain enrolment and retention of girls in schools so as to achieve the two-thirds gender rule effectively allowing more women to access formal employment and occupy positions of leadership to enable them effectively participate in decision making processes.

On goal 8, the County Government of Migori is keen to provide gainful employment by encouraging investments in manufacturing and value addition, construction of SME and industrial parks and sustainable tourism to enhance employment choices. The county government will, therefore put in place strategies to increase the pace of diversification from agriculture to other sources of livelihood like trade and mining as well as equip youth polytechnics for increased skilled labour and entrepreneurship.

On goal 16 and 17, the CIDP indicates that Migori County Government shall allocate resources to support SDGs implementation; forge strong strategic partnerships amongst all stakeholders to ensure synergies with other relevant programmes and interventions. Therefore, the achievement of the SDGs shall depend highly on strong national and county actions and leadership, embedded in a coordinated and effective governance system at all levels, which the county government is cognizant of and has expressed willingness to support. The county government sees the need for advocacy and sensitization of communities to embrace the SDGs at the grassroot level. Although this review did not benefit from the county ADP as it could not be accessed. It is yet to be uploaded on the website.

Mombasa County in its CIDP is rather sketchy in its approach to SDG integration. It indicates that SDGs have been integrated and mainstreamed into its Second CIDP (2018- 2022) and will continue to be mainstreamed in future county integrated development plans. It highlights this further by indicating its willingness to avail adequate resources to the sectors and to programmes addressing SDGs and will also monitor and evaluate the key SDGs indicators. The county was yet to finalize its 1st (within the second CIDP) ADP making process by the time we finalized the review and report.

Kilifi County has also adopted a mainstreaming approach to SDGs and shows where the goals will be served in its sectors and programming. According to the Kilifi County CIDP, Goal 5, 8 and

17 are mainstreamed in the public administration and intergovernmental relations, the general economics and commercial affairs as well as environment protection, and the water and natural resources sectors.

The Kilifi Annual Development Plan (2019/2020) mission is to provide policy guidance, regulatory framework, and develop institutional and human resources capacities for effective delivery of services to the public. In chapter 3, it sets out priority measures that the County will undertake to achieve its strategic objectives. It lists programmes and sub-programmes proposed for implementation under each sector. The sector on public administration and intergovernmental relations prioritizes the promotions of county investment and trade opportunities with an estimated budget of 2.5m; Dispute Resolution at 93.7m; Public Participation and Civic Education at 8.1m; County Law Office Development at 5.1m; Law Enforcement and public prosecution at 44.5m and Legal Advisory & Research Services at 21.68m.

Some of the key priorities under the sector on Water, Environment, Natural Resources and Solid Waste Management the most amount of money has been allocated on water resource development and water harvesting; solid waste management; mapping of County mineral deposits; and capacity building of communities in natural resource management. It also maps out its stakeholders and their specific roles including Action Aid to offer technical, policy and financial support towards the realization of the planned programmes. However, the Annual plan lacks specific programs that can accelerate attainment of goal number 5 targets. It also fails to make a direct linkage to the goals and the targets.

Baringo County government through the CIDP has prioritized 16 goals except goal 10. Its approach is more of a problem analysis. The CIDP shows the county sex ratio as 1:1, and the major causes of gender disparities which include ignorance, illiteracy and retrogressive cultural practices whose direct consequences are under- development and high levels of poverty.

It further indicates that the education and social protection sectors, and culture and recreation sectors will align their programmes as well as take affirmative action, awareness and education to address gender gap in wages and in leadership. According to the CIDP goals 8, 16 and 17 will be realized through the relevant sector programmes, as well as the value chain development approach, public private partnerships framework, partnership with development partners, cross sector coordination, industries development, and promotion of policies that encourage entrepreneurship and job creation. The Annual Development Plan goes ahead to illustrate these in its mission – “to transform the livelihoods of Baringo residents by creating a conducive framework that offers quality services to all citizens in a fair, equitable and transparent manner by embracing community managed development initiatives for environmental sustainability, adaptable technologies, innovation and entrepreneurship in all spheres of life”.

The plan under chapter four has strategically prioritized a few sectors in 2019/2020 which include Energy, infrastructure and information, communications and technology Sector; Health; Environmental protection, Water and natural Resources; General economics and Commercial

affairs and Agriculture. A general look at all the sector's specific priority programmes, Goal 8 seems to be well served. For example, the General economics and Commercial affairs sector is focusing on making direct contribution in the establishment and growth of local businesses, industries and cooperatives; promoting an enabling environment for business enterprises to thrive; attracting and retaining local and external investments in Baringo County; promoting expansion of local markets and facilitating access to external markets for local products and services; and protect consumers by enabling fair trade practices. But with a deeper analysis one realizes that the plan fails miserably in planning for the youth as a target group and the women in equal veins. Goal 5 is not mentioned in any of the prioritized sectors neither does the plan show how the county government plans to establish linkages and sector synergies to realize Goal 16 as well the entire spectra of goals.

3.0 Communities Monitoring the SDGs

Action Aid International Kenya has been working to ensure public services are effectively delivered to the public efficiently and in a timely manner. One of the ways to actualize these has been the community monitoring of the public service delivery processes. In this regard, AAIK has been involved in advocacy on SDG accountability in 2017 and 2018 through community empowerment - especially women and young people - on their role in monitoring and holding the local authorities and national governments accountable in delivery of SDGs. These has included the use of different social accountability tools such as citizens report cards, score cards and development of demand charters as vehicles to deliver community concerns and, subsequently, demand for accountability. The focus for these initial engagement was SDG 5, 8 and 16 with specific targets of interests being 5.2.1⁵; 5.4.1⁶, 8.5.1⁷, 8.6.1⁸, 16.5.2⁹, 16.6.1¹⁰, 16.6.2¹¹ and 16.7.2¹². The approach has been the use of the Six Steps Methodology¹³ that underpins AAIK's engagement on SDGs and is geared towards empowering communities and

⁵ Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age

⁶ Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location

⁷ Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and persons with disabilities

⁸ Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training

⁹ Proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months

¹⁰ Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)

¹¹ Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services

¹² Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group

¹³

ensuring accountability of governments at all levels, against SDGs commitments. By applying the six steps into their current Reflection-Action and local accountability work, the communities in Kilifi, Baringo, and Migoris have confirmed that the current accountability mechanism is rooted in the experiences of people living in poverty and exclusion as well as positively influencing the delivery of the SDGs at both the local and national level of governance in Kenya.

3.1 Community in Kilifi County demand involvement in the SDGs implementation agenda setting monitoring SDGs in Kilifi County

Kilifi County is one of the five counties in the coastal region of Kenya and one where AAIK accountability work is at an advanced stage. AAIK, therefore, partnered with Kilifi Citizen Forum to monitor the SDGs from November 2017 to February 2018. The communities focused on monitoring the SDG Goal 16 and used a score card to establish the status and level of certain parameters touching the said goal as well as the charter of demands to hold the government accountable on SDG delivery.

The main focal areas in the score card included; community's awareness of SDG; service delivery at the county level; community inclusivity and participation in the governance processes; access to information and gender parity and how it impacts on participation. The findings confirmed that most citizens were aware of what the SDGs may mean, although their understanding and awareness was very limited. Almost a half of respondents indicated that there has been a condition¹⁴ to every public service sought while 26.9% of this population said they have been forced to give a bribe as a condition to access public services. This confirms that corruption is rife, although there exist policies to counter corruption, majority see laxity in their implementation. Majority of the population wanted public participation institutionalized in revenue collection and expenditures; as well as, making the information public and funds budgeted and utilized for intended purposes. Also citizens scored highly on the automation of revenue collection mechanisms which had stalled thereby increasing leakages of county revenue. The analysis of the score card finding established that women inclusion and participation in the governance processes is still minimal.

AAIK in partnership with Kilifi County Forum (KCF), armed with the findings above, developed a Charter of demands with a number of clear recommendations to the County government. The charter was handed to the county government Kilifi officials, on 27th February, 2018 for implementation. So far approximately 70% of the recommendations have been implemented by the county government. For example, through the charter AAIK in partnership with KCF demanded for enhanced public awareness on the SDGs as well as establishing a focal unit in charge of implementation of SDG. Currently, the county government has established a

¹⁴ Most of the time the condition has been to give a bribe to the public service providers, but sexual favors has equally been part of the conditions demanded from the women.

monitoring and evaluation Unit and in consultation and collaboration with KCF developed M&E tools by November 2018 and the monitoring of development projects cascaded at the lowest administrative units scheduled to commence with the 100% inclusion of community members. Secondly, communities demanded that the Ward level Administration officers be trained on public participation as well as SDG. In fulfilling this demand, the county government of Kilifi requested KCF to train all the ward level Administration officers on the areas mentioned, which has enhanced partnership of government and community members. Thirdly, and as a feedback to the charter, the county has automated the revenue collection processes, although survey is yet to be done to establish the percentage of revenue saved from the leakages post automation of revenue collection period. Fourthly, the county government has enacted the Public participation bill which was pending in the county assembly as demanded in the charter. Communities have confirmed their involvement in the County Integrated Development plan process as well as the annual development planning process through submission of their change plans which were to a great extent considered in the planning process. The county has also shared the progress of implementation reports with the communities as well as the County Budget Review and outlook paper. This too was one of the demands in the charter.

3.2 Communities in Baringo County demand for accountability from the County Government - monitoring SDGs in Baringo

AAIK partnered with Bare Care Centre – a Civil Society organization based in Baringo County to conduct the SDG monitoring exercise. The exercise as in Kilifi County started run from September 2017 to December 2017 and focused on goal 16. Using the policy analysis information developed to establish the status of SDG implementation in Kenya, communities in Baringo County were made aware of the SDGs and their responsibility to oversight the service delivery processes with the intention of establishing conversations around the implementation of SDGs in Baringo County. More intense sensitization was done in the five wards out of the 30 wards directly reaching 400 people, coupled with a dissemination of 1000 Information, Educational and Communication (IEC) materials. Baringo County, like all other counties in Kenya, was concluding its firsts CIDP implementation process and planning for another five years. In this regard it was very vital that the team use a score card to establish the level of corruption in the Police department, health and education sectors due to their centrality to human life and development.

According to the score card, communities scored highly on two accounts; that the county has enhanced public participation in the budgeting process. They have done this by devolving public participation to the villages all over the county and using the chiefs to mobilise women and other vulnerable groups to attend public participation forum currently being held at Chiefs Barazas.

Secondly, Information on plans and budget is easily accessible to the public as the popular version of the budget documents are developed and distributed to the citizens, active usage of local radio stations whose population coverage is high and serves as an effective communication channel for information that needs to reach communities. On this account, the county has also developed a very active and interactive website and uploads most of the necessary documents for citizen information and feedback and a good tool in effective citizen participation agenda. However, the communities indicated that inclusive, effective and quality participation is yet to set pace and the AAK and Bare care Centre are working towards this.

From the score card, community's verdict on two accounts was one of poor performance. First, communities expressed their dissatisfaction with how the county government was dealing with corruption. There was still high level of bribery collection in the sectors sampled. Young people and women were denied access to contracts and therefore unable to benefit from the 30% affirmative action in the procurement sector as a government policy, although the scientific data and figure were lacking to establish the magnitude of the problem. Nonetheless, as a result of community's demand for accountability, the county has restructured its procurement department and recruited new employees as well as enhanced its project and process monitoring and evaluation which might highlight the gaps and or fill the gaps witnessed. The county system on collection of packing fees and other levies have been digitalized, thus a good step towards improving accountability and reducing corruption.

The second account was the manner in which licensing of business is done. As expressed in the words of Maccah Hamisi, a community member from Baringo from County "the licensing regime was and is still very oppressive with no consideration of how much one makes from the business....they should analyse the amount of money one makes from her business for them to determine how much the vendor/seller can pay for with regard to licensing, and also be used to determine the classification – pay for the license annually or monthly or even daily" In light of the above, communities developed a charter of demands highlighting all the above and other gaps identified as a blockages to SDGs realization, and shared with the bigger CSOs network in Baringo County for validation and buy-in. In concerted effort with other County CSOs - the charter was then handed to the County Deputy Governor for action.

3.3 Communities in Migori County enhancing gender responsive Public service delivery – SDG monitoring

AAIK partnered with the Migori Activistas and the Kuria Social Accountability Network (Kusan) in July to implement SDG community monitoring in Mogori County in July 2017 to Dec 2018.

The communities in Migori county focused on goal 16 putting more emphasis on the realization of gender parity in SDGs implementation process, partly also tackling goal 5. Just like the two other counties, they used the policy analysis information developed to establish the status of

SDG implementation in Kenya and conduct community sensitization and awareness creation in the 4 out of the 27 locations in Migori County. Important to note that the locations covered were sampled to reflect a good coverage of the county.

The communities used a survey to establish the status of service delivery from a gender perspective. The team developed several questions related to gender sensitivity in the planning and budgeting process, projects implementation, governance and leadership and employment. The survey findings established that out of 193 interviewed as having participated in the County Integrated Development Plan making process, only 35.2% women participated while 20.2% were youth. Majority of Participants of the county budget making process too were men at 40.8%, women at 36.7% and youth at 20.8%. Majority across the gender divide blamed the lack of access to simplified and timely information on the county planning and budgeting process. Nevertheless, it is important noting that as a result of communities demand, the county government website is active and running; and there is also increased use of the community radio stations to pass important information and educate the communities on their role.

On County service delivery, a majority of the 343 community members sampled for interview indicated that they have received service from the county albeit poor in a few instances. The youth had the lowest number (20.9%) in this category as well as amongst the category of people who have effectively interacted with their leaders and were aware of the projects being implemented in their communities. Women came in second while men took lead in all aspects. With regard to employment, the youth felt there has been improvement in the manner the county government has appointed and /or employed people to senior position. They indicated that a number of positions are held by the youth. However, the women interviewed felt that the county is yet to arise to the gender sensitivity benchmark in the employment sector as most appointments and or employment posts are held by Men.

The team conducting the SDGs monitoring in Migori convened the wider stakeholders, the County CSOs and the Migori County government and shared the findings. Migori government officials who turned up and appreciated the survey analysis report as feedback from community members. The county has since increased the number of youth in employment in the county government but we could not establish the exact magnitude. Also, the team indicated that accountability boards and service charters are increasingly being displayed in government offices and public project sites.

3.4 Tools employed

- a) Charter of demands as was the case in Kilifi County
- b) Score Card as was the case in Baringo and Kilifi Counties
- c) Survey as was the case in Migori

It was also very clear that communities can deploy as many tools as possible depending on the agenda and urgency of the matter at hand; the objectives to be fulfilled and the window of opportunity that has been availed. Komora from the Civil Society Forum in Mombasa indicated that they have used several tools i.e petitioning the courts on various public related matters, although most of the cases are yet to be concluded. The tools can be deployed at various stages of the campaign or may be combined to reach wider stakeholdership. I.e the Charter of demands can be used in tandem with the social and mainstream media, as well as round table meeting to push the agenda and ideas home in a manner that can result to expected actions like what Kilifi Citizen forum has done. Some of other tools include:

1. Writing **letters (Memoranda or petition)** and sending to the government as employed in Mombasa county
2. Attending and giving views during **public participation forums** e.g public baraza, public debates and public meetings
3. **Peaceful demonstration, boycotts and strikes or go-slow**
4. **Legal actions or filing cases in courts** of law
5. **Members of Parliament/County Assembly forums** - giving the concerns with elected members of Assembly
6. Sharing concerns with the **media** through press conferences. Participating in talk show or letters to the editor
7. **Elections**- voting for the right people
8. Reports to the **public complaints handling offices** mainly the constitutional commissions and independent Offices
9. **Sector working groups** like the **County Budget expenditure forum (CBEF)**, and Public budget hearing

3.5 Tools communities indicated as beneficial that could be used

- a) Social Audit
- b) Round table meetings with the government and other public service providers
- c) Petitioning the Courts on specific issues
- d) Social media

3.6 Challenges

- Lack of political good will from some counties which then instill fear into some community members and community organization.
- Lack of government devolved structures to the village level in a majority of counties making the community monitoring of SDGs an expensive process.
- Most counties still do not have the public participation policy to guide the process and resources.

- Access to timely and simplified information regarding the public expenditure management processes is still a challenge.
- Most counties have not established the SDG targets/indicators monitoring and evaluation unit and structures and thus inadequate and clear articulation of SDG implementation and results framework in the plans, budgets and M& E framework.
- All counties sampled looked at SDGs from the goal level without planning at the targets nor the indicator level

3.7 Lessons Learned

- Many communities are not aware of the SDGs goals and targets as assumed.
- Most county governments are still not clear on how to mainstream the SDG implementation as articulated in their Plans.
- That 17 goals that are SDGs are highly depended on each other and effort must be taken to ensure achievement is made in all the 17 goal areas.
- Capacity building to CSO and communities members is very paramount and should be a continuous and consistent process

4.0 Recommendations

To the National Government:

The national government mainstreamed SDGs through its third set of Medium Term Plans and set in motion in November 2018 as stated above. The Ministry of Devolution and Planning coordinates the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs in Kenya. The SDGs focal point within the Ministry offers technical backstopping for SDGs within government and also among stakeholders. Also an Inter-Agency Technical Committee drawing membership from the line Ministries, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, National Council for Population and Development, representatives from the civil society organizations, private sector among others has been set up. This means civil societies and communities have official spaces to voice their concerns and track the implementation of SDGS. However, the national government still needs to:

- Sensitize the public more on the SDGs, especially in the rural areas
- The local national government offices need to be equipped with simplified information on SDGs as well as the progress made so far for the local communities to interact with on a daily basis. This will ‘get the SDGs out of the boardrooms where they have been for a while now into the field in the hands of local communities’
- Develop quarterly progress reporting forums at the local or county levels as opposed to 1 – 2 years progress reports

The County Governments:

As noted, looking at the public participation notes on the development of CIDP process, most of the counties considered SDGs within the CIDP framework as a requirement as opposed to bottom up demand from the public. This implies that the counties themselves may yet to be in a position to fully understand, guide and set in motion structures to bring the SDGs to fruition, as well as ably sensitize the local public. Therefore:

- Counties governments need to be supported to enact the public participation policy and civic education units to enhance community's awareness on SDGs.
- County governments to further simplify and widely dissemination SDGs information to communities so as to enhance increased access and palatability/understanding. In so doing communities can easily relate with the SDGs and be able to identify and link how the SDGs may impact their lives.
- To advance greater accountability by reporting on progress in implementation of the SDGs
- County governments to set up Liaison offices with officers to track implementation of SDGs in the Counties
- Youth and women to be specifically targeted as active participants.

To the Communities and Civil Society Organizations:

Communities and civil societies play an important role in ensuring a bottom up planning, policy and budgeting. A bottom up process takes care of communities demands in a manner that enhances inclusion in all its facets. Thus communities and civil societies must:

- Establish working partnership with the county government to enhance result oriented approaches.
- With the Access to information Act in place- communities ought to demand for establishment of information units and the county government level as well as policies.
- Capacity building to CSO and communities members is very paramount exercise in SDGs implementation process and should therefore be a continuous and consistent process
- Utilise the law provided official spaces i.e the SDG platform, CBEF, the sector working committees, public forums and elected offices to advance their agenda as well as monitor the very agenda to a conclusive end that ensures effective service delivery to the citizens
- Utilise and deploy as many tools as possible depending on the agenda and urgency of the matter at hand; the objectives to be fulfilled and the window of opportunity that has been availed so as to effectively influence positive progress on SDGs.
- Support by way of technical assistance to the planning and budgeting processes in order to effectively articulate the targets and indicators of various key SDGs in the county government plans and budgets.

5.0 Conclusion

SDGs is a 2030 agenda and it is currently on its third year of implementation in Kenya. National government has fully integrated the SDGS through the MTP III, county government has also attempted to integrate the SDGs through the County Integrated Development Plans with varied success. And if Kashero Chinyanga from Kilifi County's words are anything to go by "I have realized that counties are fumbling with SDGs, they still do not exactly know how to integrate them in a manner that adds value to the achievement of the stated indicators yet" then CSOs and other stakeholders have a bigger role in supporting communities awareness, understanding and enhanced monitoring that adds value to the SDGs realization process.