LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND DIALOGUE

National Dialogue Report

Contents

Introduction:

VSO Kenya in collaboration with SDG-Kenya, ActionAid and Islamic Relief in Kenya are implementing a Leave No One behind Dialogue Project with funding from ICSC. The project ran from September 2018 to March 2019 and has been implemented in Busia, Siaya, Nairobi, Makueni and Taita-Taveta counties. Engagement in Northern part of Kenya and the national dialogue is scheduled for a later date in 2019.

The project aims to identify and empower marginalised groups to actively engage in SDGs dialogue through establishing an officially recognised citizens-led monitoring and accountability framework. This will lead to increased awareness, agency of marginalised communities and generation of community-level data thus fostering government accountability, inclusivity and equality in line with SDGs goal 10.2.

As a global initiative, the Leave No One Behind project enables us to join forces and to amplify the voices of the marginalised and ensure accountability in the SDGs dialogue. The initiative also generates a wealth of data and evidence that is crucial for delivering a better understanding of the problems of marginalized groups in Kenya. This will result in an increase in social accountability of key stakeholders that will trigger responsive action on LNoB.

The project embraces a participatory approach by dialoguing with marginalized groups including persons with disabilities, women, youths, the poor in slums and elderly on SDG implementation. The lead organizations partnered and collaborated with Development Initiatives, Caritas Kenya, Polycom Development, Rural Citizen Network for Development and the Association of Kenya Elders and IPS in the implementation of the LNoB project in Kenya. The national government, state department for planning and national treasury and County government were also involved. Dialogue questions were consultatively designed. The finding revealed high levels of exclusion and marginalization of vulnerable groups particularly persons with disabilities, women, youths, the poor in slums and the elderly. This results in increased inequalities and poses a barrier to the realization of the SDGs. The study thus recommends the creation of a citizen forum for strategic engagement in policy advocacy and influence, promoting inclusive public participation in development processes, improving civic education among marginalized group to meaningfully participate and demand accountability, enhancing information access particularly to PWDs and in local language, ensuring recognition of non-state led data into official reporting in government system including SDGs and promoting use of local media to right consciousness and heighten awareness on SDGs.

Welcome Remarks:

The meeting was kicked off by Mr. Frederick Odinga from VSO. He began by thanking those present for attending the meeting, thanking God for journey mercies for the participants who came from out of town. A participant prayed for the meeting, committing the dialogue to God.

Charles Nyakundi from VSO then conducted a round of introductions. The meeting had representation for multiple counties. As the organization had sent a list of questions for discussion beforehand, Charles encouraged those present to familiarize themselves with them. He expressed happiness at having representation from Northern Kenya as it is a rare occurrence.

Brief overview on SDGs-Kenya Forum and LNoB Project

VSO is a member of network of organizations seeking to implement the Goals. Kenya was a signatory for the goals, and as such, we are committed to implementing them in Kenya. The organization seeks to find ways to strengthen our voices in the concerted effort of implementing

goals. The SDGs Kenya Forum has worked to bring together organizations pursuing the implementation of goals. The Forum has a clear linkage to the government's SDG unit, with representation from all levels- national to grassroots.

There are different vehicles that were used to agree on the structure of the goals, and the Forum was born to create synergy between organizations for ease of implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The Forum is a member of the Inter-Agency Committee, a government institution, and is in fact one of the co-chairs of the agency. It has also been convening champion organizations addressing the various goals. The Forum also convened a caucus on Leave No-one Behind. As Kenya is compiling a VNR report, CSOs have organized themselves according to the goal groups to report on the progress of implementation under the Forum's guidance. It seeks to participate in different platforms nationally, regionally and internationally. The Forum does this to ensure that the government reports submitted internationally match the reports by CSOs. They also do community dialogues in various counties aimed at sensitizing citizens on the goals and the importance of their implementation.

The Forum focuses on research and dissemination of information, as well as carrying out comparative analysis of the SDGs, specifically looking at the linkage between the country development plans and the SDGs. Agenda 2063 outlines a long term development plan for Africa, so the Forum is also looking at the linkage between the goals and Africa's development plan. The Forum also carries out dialogues on Leaving No-one Behind, focusing on the inclusion of marginalized voices. The Forum carried out the dialogues in two phases, visiting Kakamega, Meru, Machakos, and Nakuru in phase 1, and Nairobi, Busia, Siaya, Makueni, and Taita-Taveta in the second phase. The Forum is involved in the generation of data for evidence based programming by seeking out citizen voices. There is a concerted focus on the conscious integration of marginalized voices.

The Leave No-one Behind project is being implemented by VSO and the SDGs Kenya Forum, with support from Development Initiatives, the Coalition for Good Governance, The Association of Kenya Elders, and Caritas. The goal of LNoB research in Kenya is to establish a citizen-led monitoring and accountability framework in collaboration with the government. The research hopes to give voice to marginalized groups in the discussion of the goals for presentation at the HLPF. It also seeks to ensure that government plans and actions on Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development are responsive to marginalized citizens' needs. Citizen led data is generated by the media, private sector, civil society organizations, amongst others. The COG have created a framework to streamline the goals into county development plans.

The LNoB dialogues were held in 2 phases. The target groups include women, PLWD, elderly, people living in informal settlement, minority tribes and the government.

Dialogue overview:

We would like to develop the citizens' knowledge on the goals, as well as provide a platform for discussing inequality issues. This begs the question; which are the most marginalized in the counties? Does the data we have reflect the numbers on the ground? How are marginalized groups included in discussions? Is there accurate data reflecting the marginalized in the counties? How are counties identifying and addressing issues of marginalized peoples? This calls for the establishment of a common value in the realization of the goals.

A participant suggested that we look into restructuring the definition marginalization. Marginalization can be defined in terms of literacy numbers, income differences and infrastructure. We should look at marginalization from the national level, the county level, and the sub-county and ward level. Although marginalized counties receive an equalization fund, this hasn't made a difference on the ground. There needs to be a cross-cutting assessment of issues being experienced by citizens in the counties.

As we are in the second phase of dialogues, were the issues raised in first phase addressed? Has there been a change in advocacy and has the change been felt? In the counties, wards that are close to the county headquarters are the only ones improving. We need to be cognizant of the fact that vulnerable people don't leave in towns. Are we able to address their issues through various channels? Is there any record of change? Is there a data report from the counties that the dialogues have made an impact? The idea behind the community dialogues was to address the gap of citizen participation in the implementation of the MDGs. The Forum is involved in organizing platforms for citizens to come together to, and this is an achievement as there wasn't any citizen participation with the MDGs. It is helping citizens own the structures and processes for implementation at the county level, and this will contribute to the building of citizen capacity. The Forum is also involved in the generation of an effective engagement structure for government, citizens and CSOs. They work towards mainstreaming a citizen report system, as well as the formation of a multi stakeholder engagement strategy. All these plans and solutions weren't factored in the implementation plan for the MDGs.

SDGs KENYA FORUM
For Sustainable Development

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Panel Discussion on Integration of Marginalized Groups in SDG implementation - What we are learning from the county dialogues:

The Session was Chaired by Rose Oluoch, the Forum's Program Manager. The panel comprised of representatives from Nairobi, Narok, Garissa, Makueni, Laikipia and Busia counties. The panellists were asked the following questions:

1.   What is the level of awareness on SDGs at the County Level? On a scale of 1-5, what would be your ranking? Where 1 is very low and 5 is very high.

- Nairobi County- Grassroots women organizations have interacted with the goals, but citizens in the community don't know about them. There haven't been enough sensitization forums for citizens. Nairobi County is at a low level of understanding.

- Garissa-There is a need to first address access to amenities before addressing the quality. Garissa county citizens have no access to important amenities, key amongst them

education. Looking at the goals in reference to the needs of the people, the understanding is too low. Citizens have no food, no quality healthcare and no water.

- Makueni-The people don't know what the goals are. The goals are taught at high institution levels, so those who haven't accessed that level of education don't know. However, the county government has developed Vision 2025, a plan for integrating the goals in various programs. The county government is working to ensure the impact of goals is felt by citizens.

- Busia- The county government has been implementing the goals without knowing what they are. The county government and its people do not know them. However, after going through them, he will now be sensitizing his colleagues on the work they are doing and how it links to the goals

- Laikipia- The panellist gave Laikipia a 2.5 rating; a lot of sensitization still needs to be done. The new county government tried to link the goals to the CIDP, focusing on how to mainstream them. There is minimal awareness of the goals, and this calls for more sensitization forums

- Narok- Rate 1. Awareness is low. From interaction with communities, the reality is they don't understand these things. MPIDO and ILEPA have been implementing a project, and did a baseline survey that revealed that people do not know about the goals. Telling them they have rights to some of these amenities that seem out of reach shocks them. There are high levels of illiteracy, and facilitators struggle with translating goals to Maa. There are no attempts to create awareness in those communities. From the organization's experience with the baseline, the county government is very afraid of data collection. Any attempts at discovering whether they know about goals makes them shut down

2. What are county government's proposed actions to implement the SDGs?

- Busia- The Coalition for Good Governance is made up of CSOs from various sub-counties. The Coalition trained 7 facilitators who were then sent out to sub counties to disseminate information on the goals

- Makueni- Public participation is the key method used to communicate with the government. The county government can work with CSOs to reinforce awareness creation

- Laikipia- The county government should form a technical working group of CSOs and CBOs who will be tasked with the mandate of reaching out to grassroots communities. We should also maximize the use of social media. We should also invest in more community dialogues. The county government should take responsibility in educating its citizens.
- Garissa- County and sub-county stakeholder groups should be used to disseminate information. However, who is responsible for spreading the information; is it up to the government or CSOs?

- Nairobi- In order to address the people at the grassroots level, we should employ the use of chief's barazas, although we first need to create awareness in the administration. Moreover, there is need for more stakeholder engagement. We should also translate the information to Kiswalhili for ease of understanding.

- Narok- The panellist suggested we develop easy to read publications on SDGs that are translated to the local languages for ease of understanding. Moreover, he called for more active engagement with the SDG champions. There are three of them in Kajiado and Narok, and yet they don't talk about the goals. He also suggested the use of radio, a very powerful for building and provoking discussions. He also suggested we implement pilot projects after doing a thorough community assessment of needs. NGOs and the county government should then implement the projects based on SDGs. He went on to say that the government does not like to build citizen awareness because this will lead to empowerment, and empowered people are difficult to lead. Let us focus on engaging more actively with communities.

- Busia- County government officials say they are implementing them but they don't understand the goals; how then can effective implementation occur?

3. What are the actions taken in the county on SDGs
   - Makueni- The county government may not list the goals in their development projects, but the goals are linked to Kenya's Vision 2030, and the CIDPs are based on Vision 2030.

   - Busia- The Ministry of Agriculture is trying to address 3 goals, namely, SDG 1, 2, and 14. They are also trying to settle disputes over Lake Victoria. To prevent any disputes, the county government developed a fish farming program for fishermen, where they provide fingerlings and food. They also provide farm inputs to youth, women and elderly- they bought tractors and subsidized the rates in all sub counties. The county government is also working to implement UHC, while addressing SRH and maternal mortality rate. The government will fund the construction of ECD centres and VCTs, and they will cost share with the national government to refurbish polytechnics. It is working to address the

stigma behind polytechnics, as people think polytechnic training is only for failures. Busia is also pursuing goal 17 via trade partnerships by importing goods from Uganda. However, this has resulted in a trade imbalance. Busia county is implementing the goals because they cut across multiple county development projects.

- Garissa-If Garissa county citizens are still dependant on nearly inaccessible resources, is the county government really doing anything? When other counties are talking about quality education, there isn't any access to any education, let alone quality access. Islamic Relief Kenya is working within the county to improve access to education, clean water and health amenities.

- Narok- The panellist has not heard the county government say they need to realign county budgets with the SDGs. The main focus of the county government is the Big Four, especially agenda 4. There is too much confusion on which development plan to follow. According to him, the county government hasn't made deliberate efforts to include SDGs in their development plans. The main problem facing the goals is implementation. According to the national government, Narok is the top county in terms of CIDP allocation. However, this is not reflected on the ground.

4.   What do you suggest should be done to accelerate implementation?
- Garissa- Citizen awareness is too low, and so no, the citizens aren't empowered. Moreover, the county government is elected based on clans and tribes
- Nairobi- We need to raise awareness at the grassroots and the county government
- Garissa- Awareness is key, and it should be cascaded to the grassroots levels. We should aim at empowering the community by giving them information.
- Makueni- We need to raise awareness amongst citizens, while using the empowerment systems in place such as AGPO
- Busia- It is important to garner political goodwill by engaging with the political class
- Laikipia- We must repackage the goals for ease of understanding. We also need to raise awareness, both at the county government and in the community.
- Narok- Evidence-based lobby at the county government level is important. We should also employ the use of dedicated social media bloggers who will disseminate this information broadly. For effectiveness, let us work with both levels of government. However, the people don't trust their government. This means we need to look for another alternative, such as the use youth leaders to spread information more effectively. We also need to engage with more stakeholders and streamline these efforts from the village level to the national level.

Questions and comments arising from the session:
- A participant from Kajiado county asked whether the county SDG champions are individuals or organizations. He recommended the appointment of organizations over

individuals as they have a clear plan of implementing. He also suggested that we repackage the goals for easy consumption by simplifying and translating the goals, as 17 goals are too many to process.

- What are CSOs doing to monitor and evaluate the CIDPs? We should win the county governments over by linking their development projects to the goals and their targets. This will also boost their confidence and improve relations.
- A participant from Kajiado County emphasized that there is no way to shy away from leaders. We need to engage with leaders at the county and national level on matters concerning public participation
- A participant suggested we call SDG Champions peer educators or the Train of Trainers. Leaders are hesitant to empower citizens to take part in public participation. It is therefore up to us to sensitize citizens on the benefits of public participation. There is also a need for coordination of implementation efforts at all levels. We should not fear leaders; we must stand up and advocate for the truth.

Gaps in legislative framework to support Non-state led data into official reporting system

Florence Syevuo, the Country Coordinator of the SDGs Kenya Forum gave participants insight into the available legislative frameworks to support the officiating of non-state led data, and the gaps in the framework. She emphasized the importance of the adoption of unofficial data by the government.

Official statistics can simply be described as statistics produced and published by governments or government agents. Their publications have to be approved by a person of a certain designation in the government, such as a head of a selected government office.

Non official statistics are produced by non-government organisations and/or departments, such as independent research bodies, academic research, commercial and market research organisations. At times they are produced by some government departments as well at different levels for their own consumption.

The implementation of the MDGs failed in Kenya due to lack of evidence which was caused by various reasons. We need to advocate for collection of data at the county level. Countries that use official and nonofficial data develop more. State and non-state data needs to be

complementary: any government or institution needs to use both information gathered by itself and other actors to be able to manage its business more effectively and efficiently.

Laws should recognize gaps in the official statistics and allow non-official sources to plug the gaps. They do not portray the situation on the ground due to periodicity of collection; lagging behind the needs. The County Statistical Bill is on the floor of the Senate for its second reading. The focus of leaders on tribal statistics is not proper. We must ensure that the registered statistics match the situation on the ground. Inflation of numbers to ensure larger resource allocation should be a thing of the past.

CSOs have been collecting data through their M&E departments, but the government doesn't recognize its efforts. To present any reports to development partners, we need to collaborate with the government. The Forum and other like-minded organizations are negotiating with the government to allow the use of non-official data. Will it be a policy to be implemented, or are there provisions in their mandate to allow for use of unofficial data.

A participant asked how we as CSOs can influence the upcoming census. The Forum was given an opportunity to analyse the census tool after much lobbying. The tool was reviewed by expert members, and recommendations were given. However, pilot programs have already taken place, so questions cannot be added. However, the experts suggested that the Bureau considers rephrasing some of the questions. We also need to remember to work within government deadlines, though it is a challenge; the deadlines are non-negotiable. The Director General of the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics is the chair of UN Statistical Commission. This space pushes him to accept the use of unofficial data as many other member organizations have long since adopted the use of unofficial data. However, many governments don't recognize unofficial data because they see it as a criticism of their work.

Plenary Discussion- Question and Answer

This session was conducted by Maureen Nderitu from Islamic Relief Kenya. The participants were arranged into three groups, each tasked to answer two questions each. The participants were asked what the existing background conditions for political, economic and social exclusion and marginalization. They cited cultural issues, strictures of a patriarchal society, high levels of poverty, unequal distribution of resources, low levels of literacy, climate change and national calamities as some of the causes of marginalization.

They were also asked to state what enabling conditions there are for inclusive development, and they felt that the current constitution and various policies enabled inclusivity, as well as national and global frameworks. They also felt that national platforms for peer learning enabled inclusivity. When asked which marginalized groups are being left behind at county level, they said that women, youth and PLWDs are the ones left furthest behind. The participants felt that they are excluded the most in education, employment opportunities and access to information

The participants then discussed what can be done to make their voices and needs heard, and concluded that creation of awareness among stakeholders on their needs is prudent. They felt that the government should form more institutions to address the needs of PLWDs. They also though that an increase in resources allocation for these groups would address exclusion. There was a call for inclusion of marginalized groups in existing institutions of education, as well as the provision of internship and employment opportunities.

The participants then discussed how the process for implementing SDGs in Kenya can better ensure marginalized groups participate. They were asked to consider what the existing participation platforms are, and how the marginalized groups can utilize them effectively. The

creation of awareness and engagement platforms would greatly increase the participation of these marginalized groups. Moreover, mass civic education on human rights will deepen citizen understanding of their rights as well as the goals

The availability of quality disaggregated data on the marginalized groups was questioned; do the groups collect data on issues that affect them, and how is data being used, moreover, what is the impact? According to the participants, data is collected, but it remains unverified and is therefore unusable. The participants cited the following as barriers to effective use of data:

- Inclusivity
- Cultural barriers
- Violation of human rights
- Health issues
- Lack of education
- Land rights
- Climate change
- Gender issues

Kenya National Report on Leave No One Behind Dialogue

Mr. Fredrick Odinga then took the participants through the findings from research carried out in the counties during the community dialogues. The LNoB engagement in Kenya focused on generation of qualitative data. Therefore, it adopted a dialogue approach as a data collection methodology. With the support of Development Initiative, 6 questions were developed to guide the dialogue meeting. Mr. Odinga gave an overview of the questions asked, and of the responses captured. The questionnaires revealed several gaps.

The population and categories of marginalized group in Kenya is high and varied according to the various counties. A total of 100 people were interviewed in each of the counties. As the counties have a population of over a million people, this might not be a representative sample. It would make more sense to engage a sensible group that is representative of the population. The selection process was also not very clear due to lack of clear criterion. Therefore, some groups, particularly women, were more represented than others. It is prudent to develop a selection criterion that will ensure equitable participation.

The dialogues also found that there is low awareness on the SDGs among marginalized groups. This limited their participation in the dialogue meetings. Sensitization on SDGs to ensure informed participation is highly necessary. Another gap was the lack of definition of an engagement framework with collaborators and partner organizations. Their roles were not quite clear. This burdened the lead organizations. Developing a clear engagement framework will be of high value in the future.

The following matrix gives insight into the findings on marginalized groups and the challenges they encounter, as well as suggested solutions.

Marginalized Group	Sector	Action
1. Women	Land rights, political representation, participation rights	Influence perspective change to embrace legislative implementation to support women including constitution, Participation laws
2. Person with Disabilities	Transport, building and construction, education-access to learning material, Participation rights	Influence implementation and enforcement of Disability Act, Public participation policy, Public Finance Act. Strengthening of Disabled Persons Organizations
3. Youths	Decent employment, education, Health and talent development	Strengthen the voice of youths to influence government plans and actions, review guideline for accessing youth funds, promote development of talent centres, and enhance youth trainings and Education on Sexual Reproductive Health.
4. Elderly	Health, income generation, research	Advocate for their integration to National Insurance Health Fund, participation rights in development process and provision of cash transfers and institute a consultation framework in research process with the elderly
5. The poor in Slums	Water, health, income, food, sanitation, Roads, political representation, education	Advocate for effective implementation of slum upgrading programme including access to land rights, decent housing, education
6. Middle age men	Financial service	Creation of men fund to enhance access to financial resource.
7. Subsistence farmers	Agricultural extension service, marketing, roads	Lobby government to enhance access to agricultural extension services, linkages to market opportunities and construction of road to improve access to markets.

Way forward:

In this session, Mr. Odinga gave the participants an opportunity to craft the best courses of action. The participants shared the following suggestions and requests.

- Team Environment Kenya will be holding an SDGs week between 20th and 25th of May. This event aims at breaking down the SDGs into understandable chunks of information for students.
- The participants requested to have county representatives in the national SDGs Kenya Forum WhatsApp group for better dissemination of information.
- The participants also agreed to host county caucus meetings to disseminate information, as we craft a plan on how best to mainstream SDGs in the counties.
- The meeting agreed that a community dialogue in Garissa is in order for inclusion of the Northern Frontier
- Send IEC materials on SDGs to the counties, especially Busia
- The participants requested that we extend the dialogues to other counties such as Narok