



**REPORT ON  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)**

**LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND NATIONAL DIALOGUE**

**HELD ON TUESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017  
AT UFUNGAMANO HOUSE, NAIROBI.**



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## Introduction

The 2030 Agenda, which sets out the Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs), is a plan of action for people, the planet earth as well as for prosperity. The Agenda is composed of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets. These are designed so as to assist the international community free the human race from challenges such as hunger, oppression and poverty. Therefore, it is the objective of the agenda to secure the planet earth through local, regional as well as international co-operation. The goals aim to stimulate engagement and dialogues for a clear plan of action from 2015 to 2030.

September 2015 marked the start of a global transformation towards sustainable development. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted during the 70th United Nations General Assembly comprise a set of 17 goals addressing cross cutting sectors that aim towards the realization of sustainable development globally: economic prosperity, social welfare, political development and environmental sustainability. With its broad inputs, the 2030 agenda for sustainable development opens access and inclusivity to ensure no one is left behind and that all development actors are collectively engaged during implementation. The sustainable development goals (SDGs) provide a framework for development actors to collaboratively advance various issues such as environmental sustainability, clean energy, education, food security, health including sexual and reproductive health and rights, poverty eradication, peaceful and inclusive societies, advance gender equality, and address inequalities within and between countries.

The SDGs Kenya Forum applauds the efforts of the Kenya government to localize the process as envisaged by the launch of the national implementation plan for the Sustainable Development Goal by the government through the Ministry of Devolution and Planning. In doing so, the government has indeed expressed commitment that ‘no one will be left behind’ in the economic and social prosperity of the country.

The SDGs Kenya Forum supports these efforts by government and notes that the country is at a critical juncture where the various actors should collaborate to develop mechanisms towards

implementation, tracking indicators' progress, collecting and analyzing data, strengthening national accountability structures and mobilizing financial resources.

The SDG Kenya Forum is now desirous of partnering with the Ministry of Devolution and Planning in launching a forum for national dialogues on SDGs. The launch is envisaged as a call to action that will focus on the national roadmap as an entry point in setting credible mechanisms that will focus on finalize the formulation of indicators to track progress, implementation, financing and monitoring.

Such a national dialogue called **LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND** was held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> of May, 2017 at Ufungamano House, Mamlaka Road, Nairobi. The forum brought together representatives from The SDG Kenya Forum, Government, Media, United Nations Development Program, other Non-Governmental Organizations and grassroots leaders from counties to discuss the status of the SDGs in the country. This report presents the proceedings of the meeting.

### The Objectives of the National Dialogues

- Consolidate feedback from the 5 county dialogues on Leave No One Behind so as to scale up the initiative to the other 42 counties
- Create awareness and foster ownership on the SDGs framework at both National and County level and what it articulates
- Create a platform of collaboration between government and CSOs in priority setting, implementation and monitoring.
- CSOs Voluntary National Review Report Validation

*(The Key questions were related to how citizen can be at the forefront of the SDGs implementation process and how government plans to operationalize the national SDGs roadmap: how will these happen? What can be the key ask from CSOs? Financing? Devolving SDGs to counties)*

## First Session

### Presentation by Florence Syevuo, SDGs Kenya Forum



The SDGs Kenya Forum coordinator, Florence Syevuo, welcomed everybody and mentioned that it was indeed a great day for SDGs. She applauded visitors from the counties for travelling all the way to Nairobi for the national dialogue. According to her, it is very important if everybody at the grassroots level is informed on SDGs. To ensure that this is a success, they have been able to reach five counties namely Machakos, Kajiado, Meru, Kakamega and Nakuru. The purpose of reaching the counties is to;

- Ensure domestication and ownership of the SDGs at a community level.
- Foster citizen lead accountability mechanisms and an informed county representatives at the grassroots level.
- Push for alignment of The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the County Integrated Development Plans

Giving the background of the SDGs Kenya forum, she mentioned that the forum is a consortium of Civil Society Organizations whose vision is Kenya Transformed by the achievement of sustainable development goals for all. The Forum objectives include fostering partnerships with Government, Development partners, Private Sector, Media and Academia for sustainable development in Kenya. Secondly, it aims at empowering marginalized communities through citizen-led voices and initiatives in line with the principle of “leave no one behind”. She also requested for support from other organizations which are not members of The SDGs Kenya

Forum, so as to ensure that SDGs are achieved by 2030. The SDGs Kenya Forum has since inception successfully carried out the following initiatives-;

- Comparative Analysis of Kenya's Vision 2030 and The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) the aim was to foster alignment of national blue prints to the SDGs
- Engagement of Members of Parliament as champions of SDGs, the idea is to ensure leaders lead the SDGs implementation process in Kenya.
- County and National Dialogues that Foster citizens' accountability. This is due to the fact that for the goals to be successful all the goals have to be understood and citizens owned. Therefore, successful implementation of the SDGs should be citizens led process.
- The SDGs Kenya Forum offers members open platforms to learn, collaborate and champion the different SDGs Goals through creative initiatives and partnerships.

### **Presentation by Benson Kimani, Ministry of Devolution & Planning**

Representing the government, Benson Kimani began his remarks by stating that SDGs goals were adopted in 2015 but official operationalization began in 2016. He discussed the following as the major steps achieved since then;

- Preparation of goals and reports. This would ensure establishment and the protection of the goals during the SDGs process.
- The Launch of the SDGs at Kasarani as a way of domestication of the goals from New York and hence make it a Kenyan agenda.
- Developing a road map to ensure the transition from the Millennium Development Goals era. For this the agreement was that the advocacy and sensitization would take 3 years from 2016-2018. Institutional framework was also supposed due to be developed.
- Cabinet Memo; This directed government agencies to mainstream SDGs in tracking targets which are within their mandates.
- Kenya will be represented in the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2017 convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, will be held from Monday, 10 July, to Wednesday, 19 July 2017; including the three-day ministerial meeting of the forum from Monday, 17 July, to Wednesday, 19 July 2017. The theme will be "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world". The meeting will take place in New York, USA.

He believes that the people at the county level have to clearly understand the process and stressed the importance of having a common front in achieving the SDGs. He thanked faith based organizations to the fact that such an effort was started in 1958 by national council of churches to ensure industrialization of poor counties. Their goals would only be achieved decades later. He also noted that 32% of Revenue goes to counties and, therefore, during the SDGs era, counties play a very important role. The 14 functions delegated to counties are all important for the SDGs. Some of these functions are Agriculture, health services, Control of pollution, County transport, Education and County public works and services.

### **Presentation by Dimitri Lermytte, United Nations Volunteers**

Representing United Nations Volunteers (UNV), a branch of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Dimitri Lermytte discussed the role of volunteering within the sustainable development goals as well as the overall development and the important role that UNV plays. According to UNV, the element of volunteering is very good and should be transferred to the counties. UNV contributes to Peace, Cohesion and development

He congratulated Red Cross for being in the lead on the element of volunteering by having 80,000 volunteers. He noted that Kenya has the highest number of people engaged in the development sector and thus he believes that they have greatly contributed to development. With this the total contribution of volunteers is at 8%. He also noted that the largest contribution of volunteers can be found in the remote areas.

He discussed the reasons why Kenya is important to UNV as;

- The zeal for economic prosperity and inspiration. For instance the fact that Kenya has good access to Internet connectivity, which provide a good means for the dissemination of information. UNV has many Internet volunteers and Kenya has around 500. With ease to Internet connectivity, the number will increase.
- There is also desire to innovate. This again has also been done through many platforms for example through the Internet. Kenya has been ranked position 3 in volunteering.

### **Presentation by George Awalla, VSO Kenya**

Representing VSO Kenya, George Awalla discussed global trends concerning the SDGs. He majorly noted the following;

- That the private sector, Academia, religious groups, human rights and Non-governmental organizations have been partnering all over the globe to ensure success of SDGs.
- That all 17 goals are important and they have to be achieved.
- That data advocacy is important and such reports would be tabled in New York meeting scheduled for June. Other Relevant meetings are the United Nations General Assembly. This, for instance, is due to discuss the issue of climate change and clean energy. There will also be a meeting on Industrial policy on May in Senegal and African regional forum also in May.

### **Questions**

A member of the forum wanted to know how the country had had benefited from the Millennium Development Goals. In response a member of the panel elaborated on the free primary education. Another member of the panel also wanted to know why county officials were not invited to the forum. The answer from the panel was that such a forum would be held once they had gone to all 47 counties.



## Second Session

Panel Discussion led by County Leaders from grassroots level. Moderated by Benson Kibiti.



### **Nancy Njomo from Kakamega County**

A member of Kakamega women champions, Nancy Njomo discussed matters relating to women in her county. She elaborated that as Kakamega women champions they were focused on achieving goals 1,2,4,5 and 6. The goals are:

**Goal 1;** End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

**Goal 2;** end hunger food insecurity and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

**Goal 4;** Ensure inclusive & equitable quality education, promote lifelong learning opportunities.

**Goal 5;** achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

**Goal 6;** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Some of the programs which they have started to achieve the above goals include;

- Kazi Mashinani Initiative
- Ngombe moja Initiative
- Subsidized fertilizers and seeds
- Scholarships initiative

Some of the **challenges** which the county faces are;

- Poor public participation
- Inequitable distribution of resources
- Poor governance
- Lack of involving women in decision making
- Poor representation of women

### **Recommendations**

- She advocated for joint collaboration of the community, private sector and the NGO's so as to make the community understand the adverse effect of climate change as well combat it. Through this, they will achieve goal number 2.
- The county should upgrade its technical and vocational training institutes so as to equip youth with technical skills. This is tied to goal 4 on ensuring inclusive and equitable education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- There should be effective involvement of women in government and decision making
- Supply of water should be improved
- She also recommended that the Global SDGs be aligned to vision 2030 and SDGs be absorbed into County Integrated Development Plans (CIDP)

### **Joseph Ndoo from Machakos County**

Representing older persons in Machakos, the group has identified the goals within their scope as 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 and 14. Under **goal number one which aims at ending poverty**, elderly people have been divided into subgroups of eight. In their respective sub-groups, they can be provided any necessary help. He also noted that devolution has brought forth access to health care. He however noted that under the health care elderly people are not given access to free medical care as they had hoped would be the case.

**Under education, which is goal 4**, he also noted that some learning institutions are very old and not modernized hence there is need of renovation for learners to be comfortable. In reference to **goal 6 that is under provision of water** he noted that the county had drilled some bore holes but

a good number of them were not operational. Broken pumps are not repaired a fact which pose challenge to the community. However, 55% of the county residents have access to clean water.

The rural electrification programme which falls under *goal 7* has enabled many households to receive electricity and has as well led to improvement in security in the county

### **Alice Ngige and Antony Saidimu from Kajiado County**

Representing youth from Oloitokitok sub-county, Kajiado County, Alice Ngige and Antony Saidimu, they indicated that they had set forth to achieve goals 1, 2, 6, 14 and 15. They explored challenges and potential solutions.

#### *Challenge 1*

The area lack sufficient water despite its proximity to Mt.Kilimanjaro. This has led to residents suffering from water borne diseases as well as poor yield for crops

#### *Recommendation*

More dams and boreholes can be sunk to address the problem. Therefore, there is need for capacity building from NGO's, private sector, county government and faith based organizations to construct more dams and boreholes.

#### *Challenge 2*

Under goal 1, there is challenge of poverty. This has resulted to increase in crime rate, school dropout rate and early marriages.

#### *Recommendation*

Creating public awareness can solve this problem. Strategies must also be put in place in coming up with affordable food as well as fertilizers for farmers. Sacco's can play a critical role by extending loans to farmers for low interest rates.

#### *Question from the Audience*

A member of the forum wanted to know the successes of the county owing to the fact that it had been rated the richest county. In response they noted that the county had greatly benefited in education. The county government had invested in Early Childhood Education (ECD). There are also sufficient schools in the county. The moderator noted that capacity building need to be done so as to help improve the operation of the county government.

## Frasia Nyota Representing Meru, Isiolo and Samburu County

Goals under focus are 1, 3 6, 4, 5, 7 and 8

The presenter noted that some of the goals had been achieved where as others have not been achieved.

### Achievements from the three counties

#### Improved infrastructure

- Improvement in education
- Procurement for youth and women adhered to as is enshrined in the law.
- Security has also improved notably through the Nyumba Kumi initiative. Dialogue on security has played critical role in addressing insecurity.
- Healthcare has also improved notably with the presence of cancer screening machine.
- Water supply has been improved. Several boreholes have been dug in Samburu and Isiolo. However, it is a challenge in some areas for instance Tharaka.
- Faith based organizations and civil society groups are also doing well in protecting human rights in the three counties.

### Challenges

- Procurement problems especially concerning persons with disability. These persons face restrictions in financing due to disability. The persons with disability have been greatly excluded from county boards.
- The persons with disability have also been alienated through lack of proper dissemination of information to everyone.
- Unemployment without a proper guideline on job placement for the youth.
- Education: Few schools for the disabled. The few existing schools do not have the proper facilities for the disabled.
- In terms of health, the presenter noted that people were paying between 500 to 800 Ksh. so as to be assessed in terms of health.
- Drought has also affected the three counties with maize flour and milk prices being too high.
- Tribalism and nepotism is also an issue especially when it comes to jobs.

### Recommendation

In order to solve these challenges and take the county forward in terms of development, she recommended that;

- Election of visionary leaders should be done
- All information should be disability friendly.
- Provision of water through drilling boreholes should be done.
- Children should be involved in SDGs.
- The mentally challenged should be taken care of through initiatives by the county governments.

### Patrick Moi – Representing Nakuru and Baringo County

The goals in focus are 2, 3,4,5,6, 8and 16.

### Challenges

This member of the panel mentioned the following challenges;

- Hunger especially due to the ongoing drought.
- In education there are no sufficient classes and students are also affected by hunger.
- Water is also a major problem and the county governments have done little to address this problem.
- Health facilities are not sufficient and the available ones do not have sufficient equipment.
- In employment there is a lot of nepotism and tribalism in the counties.
- Major towns are also facing increased crime rate brought forth by rural urban migration.
- Insecurity. People have run away from their farms owing to insecurity.
- Rampant corruption in counties.
- Social economic conflicts.
- Ignorance and a good number of parents are not taking children to school.

### Recommendation

Drilling of bore holes should be done to address water scarcity.

The county government and NGOs should help the community through sinking of boreholes.

### Sadiki Rhidiwani from Taita Taveta County

The presenter noted that UNDP was doing a good job by supporting counties understand the SDGs framework. This is in reference to a recent training at Ugunja. Also noted that the

county has an SDG forum is composed of the private sector, non-governmental organizations, faith based organizations and the county government. Thus they have conducted several SDGs forums.

### Challenges

- Lack of sufficient data and therefore there is no baseline on SDGs.
- Inadequate resources to support development initiatives at community level
- Wildlife human conflict due to the neighboring park.
- Heavy Floods that interfere with livelihoods.

### Recommendations

- He recommended that civic education and public participation should be enhanced in the SDGs Implementation in the spirit of ‘leave no one behind’.
- Sufficient and credible data should be provided as to provide baseline.
- The county governments should ensure proper drainage especially in major towns to mitigate havoc brought by floods.
- He invited members for SDGs Conference to be held at the Kenya School of Monetary Studies on 15, 16 and 17<sup>th</sup> of May.

### SECOND SESSION; Panel Discussion 2



### Presentation by Davis Adieno

Davis Adieno of CIVICUS World Alliance was the moderator of this session. CIVICUS is an international alliance dedicated to strengthening citizen action and civil society around the world. In order to do so, it focuses on three priority areas which are; protecting the rights of civil society, strengthening civil society good practices and increasing the influence of civil society. CIVICUS undertakes a variety of long and short-term projects in each of these areas. In addition, several of its projects, such as the Civil Society Index and the World Assembly, cut across these areas and provide a platform for further strengthening civil society. In all its projects, CIVICUS works in close partnership with relevant organizations to achieve the joint objectives.

Davis noted that as mentioned above, there is need of strengthening the civil society across the board. Thus there should be a global focus of leaving no one behind. He noted that online survey had indicated discrimination and violence on specific groups of people. According to the survey children ranked the highest with 2000 respondents. The ranking was as follows;

1. Children .....2000 respondents
2. Physically disabled
3. Older persons
4. Women
5. Mentally disabled
6. Those with communicable diseases
7. The unemployed.

He noted that something had to be done in a bid to reduce inequality which is brought forth by discrimination targeting the above mentioned groups.

### Presentation by Ann Mawathe- Media Personality

Being a media personality, she discussed the role of Media in SDGs. She noted that the media plays a very critical role since it is the first means of dissemination of information to the people. Therefore, it can be in fore front in advocating for achievement of the sustainable development goals. She retaliated that through everyday coverage the media ought to advocate for focus so as to achieve the goal. For instance is when a TV bring cases of people dying as a result of floods or even hunger. This passes information to government, private sector, non-

governmental organizations as well as faith based organizations to address the relevant challenge as is enshrined in the SDGs.

She however highlighted that a key challenge for the media personality in generating human development is the obsession of Kenyans with politics. According to her observation Kenyans love politics so much such that for instance a political rally will be preferred for over a national dialogue on SDGs and hence main TV editors do not give priority to the later. She however believes that the media has a key role to play in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals especially when it comes to eliminating poverty, hunger, climate change and advocating for a just and a peaceful society for all.

#### [Presentation by Steve Kenei](#)

The member of the panel gave a brief overview of Kenya's Country Profile on Leave No One Behind. He mentioned that the country profile is produced by Development Initiatives to support the National Dialogue on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As one of the founding partners of the Leave No One Behind partnership, established in July 2015, the role of Developments initiative is to provide data at a national level to help track progress against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) so it can be ensured sure that no one is left behind.

Steve noted that inequality has been increasing all through the country. In analyzing Kenya's Country Profile carried out by Development Initiatives (DI), he noted for instance, that the poorest people in the country come from Turkana County. Kakamega County has the largest number of poor people at 44%. On the good side, he noted that the county governments are playing a pivotal role in elimination of poverty. He concluded this due to the presentations from the counties.

Steve noted that Kenya's recent history is one of steady economic growth. However, unlike similar emerging economies in Africa, poverty has been on the rise in Kenya, worsened by growing inequality. Economic growth has resulted in an emerging and growing rift between urban and rural populations both in terms of income and availability of basic social services. He also insisted that there was need to engage the National Bureau of Statistics so as to capture the correct data of the people with disability. This way a proper record will be made so as to ensure that no one is left behind. The data will also provide a good baseline for planning by all stakeholders involved. Much more, he noted that the civil society groups, private sector and academia need to continue collecting data.



### Presentation by Sandra Musoga-Article 19 E.Africa

Sandra discussed about governance as a key ingredient within the SDGs conversation. The panelist noted that there is poor public participation in counties and the elderly people were not getting what they deserve. Sandra insisted that achievement of Peace and Justice are at the center of development. Therefore, the issues of governance are very important due to the fact that a free society is a very important pillar for sustainable development. Therefore Sandra argued that there should be continuous discussion with all stakeholders, as the framework cannot be achieved by only one entity. Due to this SDGs should focus on fostering good governance at all levels.

### Recommendation

- Violence should be avoided at all cost
- Combating corruption should be a top priority for all stakeholders
- Justice institutions should be strong. This would support goal 16 which advocates for peace, justice and strong institutions. Institutions should henceforth be transparent ensuring that the rule of law is adhered to.

The information law of Kenya passed in 2016 was also lauded due to the fact that it has helped reduce discrimination by ensuring that all citizens can access public information. For this she insisted that a bottom up approach should be applied seeking to improve partnerships in a bid to achieve the SDGs.

### Presentation by Edwinah Orowe-Sight Savers International

Edwinah discussed about social inclusion. She noted that the leave no one behind is a clear elaboration of this. She also insisted that it is very critical to note whoever is being left behind and therefore getting the required data is an essential part of this. For this, participation is very important even for the people with disability. As a result, everyone should be included. She noted that , despite that fact that it is difficult to have 100 percent inclusivity, everyone should play his/her part and all inequalities in the society addressed. Thus the civil society plays an important role to address the inequalities. She mentioned that reducing inequalities that lead to the social exclusion of particular groups is at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals and is a key element in achieving the mandate of the 2030 Agenda – to leave no one behind. She also informed the audience that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Agenda 2030 have much potential to eradicate poverty, hunger, inequality, discrimination and to address social exclusion.

The Pledge to Leave No One Behind is the heart of the SDGs since the success of ambitious goals and targets of SDGs depend on the active participation of marginalized communities at all the levels of its implementation. Therefore according to her, in a just world, progress on sustainable development should include everyone. She further argued that, Leave no one behind is a call to guarantee that the poorest and most marginalized have the opportunity to fulfill their potential by raising their potential voices. Therefore, no person, regardless of income, gender, age, geography, ethnicity, religion, race, caste or other social or economic identity, should be denied basic rights and services.



### Civil Society Voluntary National Review

SDGs coordination unit within the Ministry of Devolution and Planning has engaged the SDGs Kenya Forum in preparation of Kenya's report for the Voluntary National Review that will be presented at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) to be held in New York in July 2017.

The approach in compiling the report entailed participation of different civil society organizations all working under the banner of the SDGs Kenya Forum. The Forum organized a series of face-to-face meetings and online consultations among its members to agree on the

approach, format and standardization, and division of responsibilities to ensure fair representation of SDGs-related efforts by civil society aligned to the focus areas of the VNR in Kenya.

During the National- County Dialogue members present did the following

- Convened in SDG Goal Groups 1,2,3,5,9,14,16,17 to read through and offer final inputs and comments
- The team present agreed to allow 3 days to provide final feedback that will allow final copy of the report to be proof read and adopted as the official CSOs VNR submission.
- The Drafting committee is to present the final copy to The SDGs Unit Ministry of Devolution and Planning.

## Conclusion

Sustainable Development Goals can only be achieved in Kenya if the main strategy is bottom up approach that facilitates a people centered and people owned process. The County Dialogues show cased the importance of a people driven SDGs implementation process. During this National-County Forum participants learned and shared challenges and best practices in line with ongoing interventions on sustainable development. Having held a successful national forum with all major stakeholders in attendance, it can be comprehended that the country has made major strides towards the achievement of the SDGs. Delegates from the counties indeed have demonstrated that devolution is a strategic entry point in the achievement of the SDGs goals. Again from the SDGs Kenya Forum perspective, the meeting highlighted lots of challenges, which need urgent address as Kenya focuses on achieving The 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. Henceforth a united front of the National and County Government, Civil Society Organization, Development Partners, Private sector, Human rights groups, Community and faith based organization is required.

