LOCALIZATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS BY COUNTY GOVERNMENTS IN KENYA

THE GLOBAL GOALS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In 2015, 193 world leaders agreed to 17 ambitious goals to end poverty, fight inequality, and stop climate change by 2030.

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With the financial support of:

European Union.

'This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of Council Of Governors(CoG), County Assemblies Forum(CAF) and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union';

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This document has been financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida. Sida does not necessarilyshare the views expressed in this material. Responsibility for its content rests entirely with the author.

October, 2020

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

ADP	Annual Development Plans
AI	Artificial Insemination
CAF	County Assemblies Forum
CBEFs	County Budget Economic Forums
CBOs	Community-Based Organisations
CCA	Climate Change Act
CCCF	County Climate Change Fund
CCCPC	County Climate Change Planning Committee
CoK	Constitution of Kenya
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
CoG	Council of Governors
CPMF	County Performance Management Framework
CRA	Commission on Revenue Allocation
ECDE	Early Childhood Development Education
GoK	Government of Kenya
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IATWG	Inter Agency Technical Working Group
ICT	Information Communication and Technology
KAM	Kenya Association of Manufacturers
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
KEPSA	Kenya Private Sector Alliance
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MoDA	Ministry of Devolution and ASALs
NCCAP	National Climate Change Action Plan
NDMA	National Drought Management Authority
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
TWG	Technical Working Group
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VNR	Voluntary National Review
VTCs	Vocational Training Centers
WCCPC	Ward Climate Change Planning Committee
MCIDC	Meru Investment and Development Corporation
MDAs	Ministries Departments and Agencies
MTPs	Medium Term Plans
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
OSR	Own Source Revenue
PLWDs	People Living with Disabilities
PFM	Public Finance Management

Foreword by the Chairman of the CoG

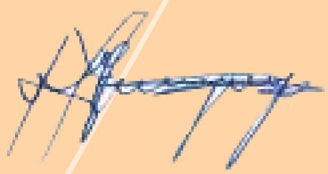
The promotion of socio-economic development at the grassroots level where it most benefits the populace is one of the fundamental objects, strengths and aims of devolution as broadly outlined in the Constitution of Kenya 2010. In this era of global sustainable development, it is thus imperative that devolution mainstreams Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by designing various mechanisms that localize the implementation of the global development agenda.

Like in other developing countries, Kenya is confronted with the challenge of how to make economic democracy and its promises and ideals relevant to the citizens. In any case, this is the prime means for promoting sustainable development locally. Counties, through devolution, remain the best avenue for making this promise a reality.

Solutions and the means for attaining improved planning, mainstreaming and localizing the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) require aligning and enhancing institutional arrangements in the Counties. The main challenges that fall within this scope at the Counties include development of a friendly and pro-investment policy and legal framework. Identification and preparation of sustainable turnaround projects. Generation of reliable data and supportive information and communication technology tools. Human capital development and making County development more inclusive within the Counties.

To effectively localize the implementation of SDGs, it is vital to enhance institutional arrangements in the Counties for sustainable development in Kenya. The central and underlying human, leadership and governance issues need accompanying supportive political economy arrangements necessary for sustainable turnaround development at the Counties.

The SDGs agenda in Counties is not a stand-alone item, but an integral component of the Performance Management Framework for County Governments. County Governments have mainstreamed SDGs in their County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) and are currently developing a monitoring and evaluation framework to support tracking of implementation of the goals. County Governments have also institutionalized SDGs coordination through the appointment of County SDGs Champions to support coordination and monitoring of implementation progress. The coordination between the National Government and County Governments has been enhanced with the establishment of an SDGs Unit at the Council of Governors and the National SDGs Coordination Directorate at the National Treasury, Planning department.



H.E Martin Nyaga Wambora, EGH
Chairman Council of Governors

Foreword by the Chairman of CAF

The focus of SDGs on decentralization of development efforts to the local units gel seamlessly with Devolution in Kenya. Devolution ushered in an era of decentralization of power and resources geared towards improving service delivery. Indeed, the Constitution of Kenya, promulgated in 2010 and which ushered in the new system of governance is widely acclaimed and accepted by all citizens owing to its focus on the principles of devolution of power and resources, representation and public participation. Devolved governments consisting of a County Assembly (the Legislature) and a County Executive for each of the 47 Counties are established and mandated with several responsibilities revolving around social-economic development, to ensure localization of national development agenda.

Further, the SDGs resonated with Kenya's own Vision 2030; which also focuses on the socio-economic development of the nation to improve the lives of Kenyans. Vision 2030, which is implementable through periodical Medium-Term Plans (MTPs) that allow the nation to reflect on progress made and re-strategize on the most effective means of achieving sustainable development and therefore bear a similarity to the specific targets under each goal.

This nexus between the global SDGs and Kenya's Constitution, as well as the national development blueprint, has largely determined the rate of localization of the SDGs due to the ease of acceptance, understanding and customization by policymakers and citizens alike.

It is crucial to embrace the inclusivity brought on by devolution when addressing National Development challenges to accelerate the achievement of sustainable development. This principle witnessed through the proportionate representation of all local communities in their respective Counties through their representatives in the County Assemblies.

The County Assemblies are responsible for reviewing and approving policy (including the County Integrated Development Plans).Legislating in line with the approved procedures. Scrutinizing and approving budgets to ensure that resources are proportionately allocated to developmental projects. Undertaking oversight to ensure that development policies are implemented.

H.E. Ndegwa Wahome, MBS
Chairperson, County Assemblies Forum and Speaker,
Nyandarua County Assembly

Executive Summary

Five years now since the unveiling of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the United Nations and ten years left to the lapse of the period of implementation. Governments around the world are grappling with lots of challenges of implementation of SDGs through local mechanisms.
A policy gaps analysis in 2018 assessed Kenya's preparedness to implement the 2030 Agenda by elaborating how SDGs targets align with the national planning frameworks. It recommended the enhancement of the national policy framework, which informed the need to review the existing and development of new policies.

The multi-stakeholder Inter-Agency Technical Committee set up in 2016 and chaired by the government to coordinate SDGs activities is now co-chaired by the government, private sector the CSO and a subcommittee established as the secretariat. Impressively, County Governments have appointed and trained SDG Champions to steer the SDG implementation process.

Mainstreaming of SDGs in performance contracting, action plans and County Governments through County Integrated Development Plans, 2018 -2022, position Kenya to better implement the SDGs and Agenda 2063 through localized implementation. Kenya established the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (IATC) to spearhead the implementation of the SDGs, to ensure that the SDGs are mainstreamed in the development planning documents, and track and report on implementation progress. This framework is very critical in supporting the 47 County Governments in Kenya in the localization of the implementation of SDGs.

From analysed data & reports from County Governments, stakeholders plus a review of the County Integrated Development Plans from selected counties; it can be concluded that all 47 County Governments in Kenya have mainstreamed the localization of SDGs within their CIDPs and subsequent sector development roadmaps.

Despite the mainstreaming of SDGs in the CIDPs and Annual Development Plans by County Governments, some challenges abound. These include inadequate data for various indicators; time-lag in appraising various indicators; lack of statistical capacity to compute various indicators; lack of available methodology for generating data for multiple indicators; high turnover and change of political and administrative leadership every five years after elections, leading to change of political interests and priorities.

Agreeably, significant efforts are deliberately being made to reach various goals of the SDGs. Nonetheless, there is evident need to scale up advocacy and awareness creation on SDGs at the local levels, to administrative teams as well as to residents of County Governments and ordinary members of the society. Knowledge and information on SDGs is not an elite issue, and therefore there is a need for increased public communication advocacy on SDGs localization and implementation.

The review mainly provides a status on the contribution of Counties in the localization and implementation of SDGs in Kenya. We have selected representative sample of Counties from which to extract case studies on what has worked as well as the primary policy recommendations. We have benefited from using available data and carried out consultations with stakeholders in the Counties for additional statistical literature and case studies.

Annually, there is a need to carry out a study to inform the reporting process for the goals through the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York. This review is coordinated by both Council of Governors (CoG) and County Assemblies Forum (CAF) with support from United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) which has the mandate to report on the localization of the SDGs by sub-national and local governments where they work.

This report has been developed been developed by the Council of Governors and the County Assemblies Forum. The two institutions facilitated data collection and final consolidation of this report.

About the Council of Governors

The 2010 Constitution of Kenya creates two levels of governments, which are distinct and inter-dependent. This system provides for sharing out of National resources equitably across all the 47 Counties and the National government.

Section 19 of the Intergovernmental Relations Act 2012 established The Council of Governors. The mandate of the Council is to facilitate; Consultations amongst County Governments, Sharing of information on the performance of the Counties in the execution of their functions with the objective of learning and promotion of best practice and where necessary, initiating preventive or corrective action, Considering matters of common interest to Counties, dispute resolution between Counties, Facilitating capacity building for governors, receiving reports and monitoring the implementation of inter-county agreements on inter-county projects, Considering matters referred to the Council by a member of the public, and Consideration of reports from intergovernmental forums on issues affecting National and County interests or relating to the performance of Counties.

The Council of Governors has been facilitating the localisation of the global agenda on SDGs. The CoG is composed of the Governors of the 47 Counties. It promotes a forum for consultation, leadership, and a collective voice on policy and governance issues, being the focal point for the County Governments in national affairs. The CoG was formally constituted in March 2013 and currently has 12 sectoral Committees and four support units to guide its operations which include: Education; Gender, Youth, Sports, Culture and Social Services; Human Resource Labour & Social Welfare; Trade, Investment, Manufacturing and Cooperatives; Tourism & Natural Resources Management, Agriculture; Arid and Semi-arid Lands (ASALs); Health; Finance, Planning, Economic Affairs & ICT; Urban Development, Housing, Planning, Energy, Infrastructure and Lands; Legal Affairs, Human Rights, Intergovernmental Relations; Security and Foreign Affairs; Liaison, Management and Resource Mobilization; Sustainable Development Goals Unit; Public participation Unit; Maarifa Centre and M&E and Information Communication Technology Unit.

County Governments are responsible for service delivery and thus play a pivotal role in the implementation of the SDGs at the local level. County Governments are catalysts of change and are best-placed to link the global goals with local communities. Inclusivity from the National Government, County Governments, private investors and civil society is keen on helping create a clear roadmap hastening implementation of SDGs.

The Council of Governors established the SDGs unit to support County Governments in mainstreaming SDGs in their strategies, plans, projects and programmes. The Unit is also supports County Governments to develop an institutional framework for the implementation of SDGs. Further, the Unit is working with County Governments to develop SDG indicator handbook on tracking and reporting on the progress and process of SDGs implementation. The Unit has facilitated the coordination of SDGs between the National Government and the 47 County Governments.

About the County Assemblies Forum

As implementation of Devolution began in 2013, The County Assemblies Forum (CAF) was formed through the cooperation of the 47 County Assemblies in the Republic of Kenya. As their coordinating body, the primary mandate of CAF is to promote networking and synergy amongst the 47 Assemblies, coordinate intergovernmental relations and enhance good practice in legislative development.

CAF has various layered structures of governance including the General Assembly (GA) of all County legislators across all 47 County Assemblies who then elect three members per assembly to the Governing Council that is generally responsible for setting the governance policy. The Governing Council further elects a 24-member Executive Committee which is the board accountable for the management of the Forum. A secretariat composed of professionals in various fields of local governance ranging from public finance to legislative development and project management supports the committee.

To align its functions to the social and economic development of the people of Kenya, CAF focuses on capacity development of legislators and legislative staff to enhance their skills, resource mobilization and knowledge management, advocacy while fostering intergovernmental relations. This includes availing to the 47 County Assemblies a wealth of resources including research, technical advisories and strategic partnerships with other resourceful institutions.

Participating in this review is also part of CAF's coordinating role, as it highlights the best practices for peer learning and benchmarking by the other County Assemblies, undertakes an analysis of the challenges and opportunities for improvement to enable the Counties to realign their programs towards the decade of action.

From the review, it is okay to note that any significant triumph stated is due to the close engagement by the National Government of Kenya and all stakeholders, including County Assemblies and Executives, Civil Society and Private Sector.

The development of this review has benefitted from the contribution of many individuals, a great appreciation to all the teams of officers from County Governments, professionals and experts who were instrumental in developing this report. This review report provides insights on success and challenges in the implementation of SDGs, with recommendations on how existing challenges can be overcome.

Acknowledgement

The Council of Governors and the County Assemblies Forum (CAF) are pleased to present this report on the status of localization of Sustainable Development Goals in the County Governments in Kenya.

This report has been developed with contributions and support from various County Governments and non-state stakeholders. We would like to acknowledge the commitment and guidance provided by the Governors, Speakers and Members of County Assemblies, as well as the dedicated technical officers in both the Executive and Legislative arms of County Governments in implementation of Sustainable Development Goals, which has seen marked improvement in service delivery to citizens in the areas of health care, food production, education, infrastructure development and inclusive social services among others. This report will demonstrate the progress County Governments in Kenya are making in localization of SDGs as a show case of the commitment of sub-national governments in SDGs implementation.

We Acknowledge the technical leadership of both the Council of Governors (COG) and, County Assemblies Forum (CAF) which has spearheaded processes leading to completion of this report. We acknowledge several actors that have been instrumental in the process, including the United Cities and Local Government who provided the technical insights.

The process that led to the development of this report was made possible through the generous financial support of the United Cities and Local Government Africa. Appreciation also goes to the County SDGs Champions and the County Assembly officers led by the Chief Officers and County Assembly Clerks, for their support in data collection for this report.

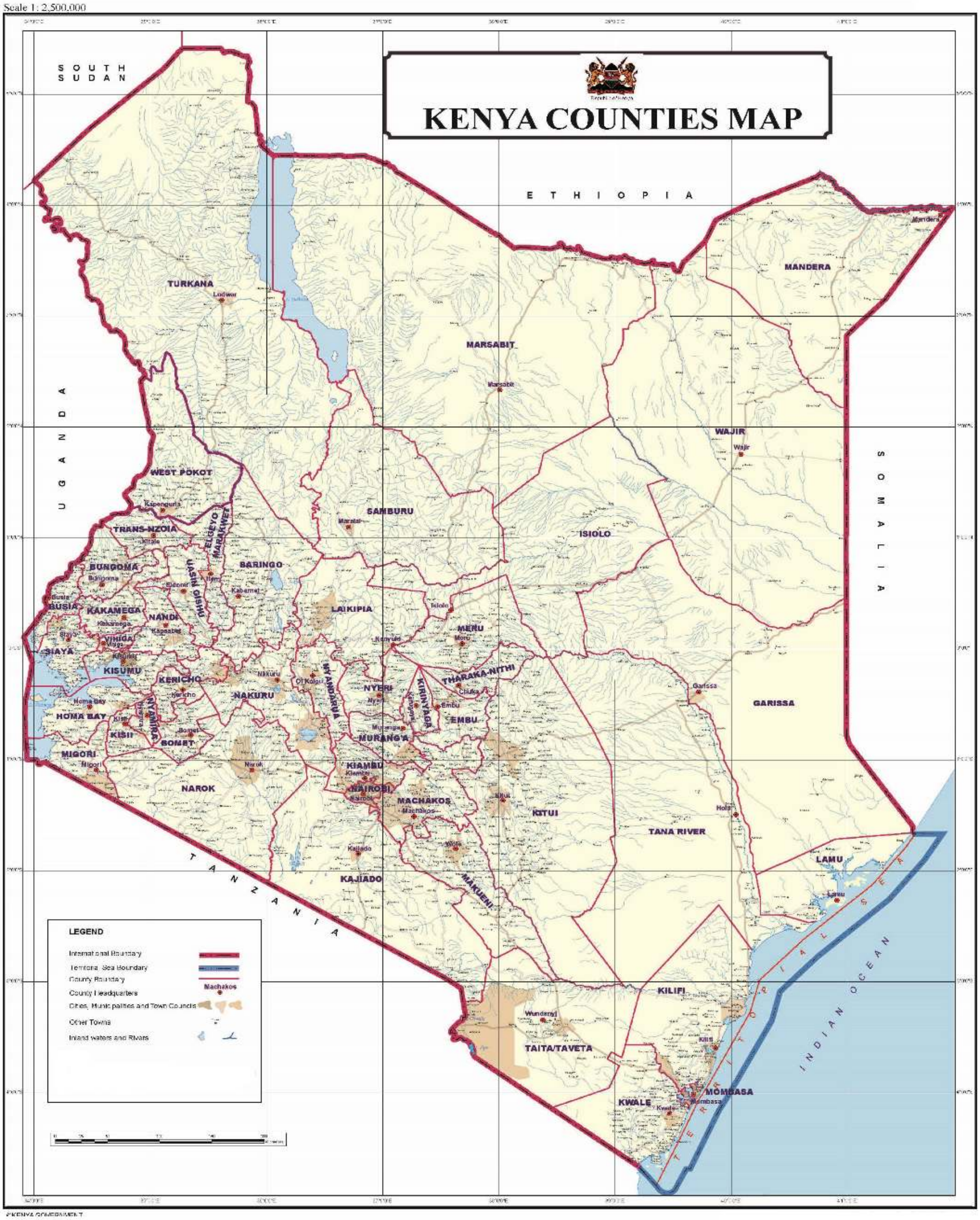
We commend consultant Javas Bigambo who tirelessly worked with the technical team comprising of Ken Oluoch (CoG), Regina Mutheu (CAF), Edgardo Bilsky (UCLG), Anna Calvete (UCLG), Eunice Fedha (CoG), Dorah Wawudah (COG) and Ruth Kiai (CAF - KYMCA); to continuously revise, edit and improve the contents of this report. Their excellent contributions have ensured we developed this reflective report.

Finally, we dedicate this report to all Kenyans, for whom County Governments exist to serve.

Mary K. Mwiti
Ag C.E.O, Council Of Governors

Judy Oduma Wangalwa
C.E.O, County Assemblies Forum

The 47 Counties of Kenya



Map showing the 47 County Governments in Kenya

Part 1: Introduction

This report analyses the progress and status of localization and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in County Governments in Kenya.

It highlights critical policy and institutional as well as regulatory measures that have been put in place to create the enabling environment for mainstreaming of the SDGs into national policies and plans as well as programmes along with the necessary coherent coordination.

Sustainable Development Goals provide clear guidelines and targets for all countries to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change while ensuring no one is left behind. They call for action by all countries, both developed and developing, to promote prosperity while protecting the environment.

The census results of 2019 by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics provide that Kenya as a country has a population of about 47 million people. Development plans and initiatives have to factor in the national population distributed around the 47 Counties.

The Kenyan Government has taken several purposive initiatives aimed at mainstreaming the implementations of SDGs into national policy, planning, budgeting and monitoring and evaluation frameworks. These are mirrored in national development such as the Big Four Agenda.

Since the inception of the SDGs in Kenya, there have been several key milestones. Launch of the SDGs process by the Government in 2016; preparation of Voluntary National Report presented during 2017 high-Level Political Forum; preparation of the analytical report on the policy environment for SDGs in 2016; capacity building of various stakeholders; advocacy and awareness creation.

A roadmap for the SDGs in Kenya was prepared to focus on critical milestones that are crucial to the effective transition from MDGs to the SDGs. These efforts can be galvanized through a sustainable and properly crafted stakeholder engagement framework.

One of the broad thematic areas identified in Kenya's SDGs Roadmap is the development of stakeholder engagement and SDGs coordination framework. This was in recognition of the fact that the implementation of the government development agenda, including the SDGs, will depend on strong partnerships with the active engagement of Government (National and County), as well as the civil society, the private sector, partners and the United Nations system.

Appreciating that all of the SDGs have targets directly related to the responsibilities of local and regional governments, and the desired necessity to have the participation of the locals, it follows that localization means absolute inclusivity.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages member states like Kenya to "conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and local levels, which are country-led and country-driven". Given this, periodic assessments are vital.

The domestication and integration of the SDGs is embedded in the National Governments Third Medium Term Plan (MTP III) for the period 2018-2022, Sector Plans and in the County Integrated Development Plans for sub-national governments.

Government policies, projects and programmes outlined in the MTP III have been integrated and aligned with the objectives of all the 17 SDGs. This is an important starting point that opens up room for further action on sector development plans, County annual development plans, budget allocation for projects and programmes in the CIDPs including policy and legislative action by both the Executive and the County Assemblies at the sub-national level.

One of the core elements of the follow-up and review framework of the 2030 Agenda is Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) submitted to the High-level Political Forum, which is the main UN platform for sustainable development.

This year 2020, Kenya is joining the group of other countries around the world in submitting VNRs, focusing on localization of SDGs implementation. This is aimed at demonstrating the manner and extent to which County Governments in Kenya have gone in localization of the performance of SDGs, and the achievements so far.

Propelled by the MTP III (2018-2022) of the Vision 2030, which is the turbine to push the SDGs implementation in the National Government's 5-year period, SDGs has been mainstreamed in the National Government sectors under the theme "Transforming lives; advancing socio-economic development through the "Big Four". The SDGs implementation in Kenya hinges on the planning processes at the national and sub-national levels. At the sector level, SDGs are mainstreamed in sector plans, strategic plans and annual performance contracts. The County Governments have mainstreamed SDGs in their County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs), effectively rolling out the implementation process under the departmental strategies, annual development plans and budgets.

Nonetheless, regardless of the significant exertions that County Governments and stakeholders in Kenya have made to raise awareness and further authentic ownership for the localization process of the SDGs, the 47 County Governments are observably at different stages in the localization of SDGs. Different Counties have made different remarkable strides, results of which are notable points of success.

This report is a culmination of a broadly consultative and participatory process which brought together a slate of stakeholders including line County Assemblies teams, County Assemblies Forum, Council of Governors, County officers, Civil Society Organizations; Faith-Based Organisations, Local Community leadership teams in Counties, Private Sector; youth groups; and women organizations.

Summary of the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process

The outcome document of the United Nations Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda encourages member states to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress (Voluntary National Review) that are Country-led and Country-driven.

In recognizing the critical role played by various stakeholders in the SDGs process, Kenya has adopted a whole society and a whole government approach to the VNR process. Kenya's review process has been consultative targeting increased ownership in the process. The stakeholders include; the National Government, the Council of Governors, the County Assemblies Forum County Governments, Private Sector, Civil Society Organizations, youth, Academia, Parliament, UN Agencies and Human Rights institutions.

For ease of ownership and follow-up due to the large number of stakeholders involved, the entry point except for the National Government was the umbrella bodies for the various stakeholders including Kenya Private Sector Alliance for the private sector, Kenya SDGs Forum for the Civil society, Council of Governors and County Assemblies Forum for County Governments. The government spearheaded the review process through the SDGs Coordinating Department at Treasury and Ministry for Planning. The CoG and CAF are part of the National interagency technical committee representing County Governments in the VNR process.

A series of workshops were organized, drawing participation from all stakeholders, as an initial step, all the stakeholders were taken through the VNR preparation guidelines. This was followed by consultations by the various umbrella bodies with their stakeholders and preparation of the reports for submission to the SDGs Coordinating Department at the State Department for Planning for consolidation.

The SDGs coordinating Department at the National Treasury attended all these consultative meetings to sensitize and train stakeholders on the report preparation. Different umbrella bodies prepared consolidated reports and submitted them to the SDGs Coordinating Department for consolidation. A series of other workshops have been held to review and validate the report. This report on the status of localization of SDGs in the County Governments in Kenya will also be annexed to the Kenya VNR.

Five (5) Counties (Kwale, Busia, Kisumu, Marsabit and Taita Taveta) developed local voluntary reports (VLRs) on SDGs implementation. They were shared during the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) held in New York in July 2019. Voluntary local reporting is intended to demonstrate County Governments' contribution towards the realization of the SDGs. This initiative is planned to be replicated in other Counties.

Objectives Of This Status Report

This assessment report seeks to:

*Establish the extent to which County Governments (both Ex ecutives and Assemblies) have gone in localization of the implementation of SDGs.

*Establish the mechanisms put in place by County Governments to enable effective localization in the implementation of SDGs.

*Deepen advocacy and awareness creation on the localization of the SDGs' targets and implementation by Subnational Units.

*Analyse and establish the challenges faced, and opportunities available and avenues for synergy for County Governments in the localization of SDGs.

*Determine substantive policy recommendations to foster localization of SDGs and propel further support from the National Government or international cooperation agencies/ development partners.

Methodology and Process

Given the analytical nature of empirical data required to meet the objectives of the Status Report, various data collection methods were embraced. These include;

Desktop review of all published reports, guidelines, journals, legislation, policies and County Integrated Development Plans of various County Governments.

Analysis of National and County development programmes and budgets that are inclined to the localization of SDGs.

Administering of data collection template/tools through structured interviews; individual responses from county officers; key informant interviews, and focus group discussions.

Virtual consultative meetings.

Context of SDGs and Kenya Vision 2030

With the localization in the implementation of SDGs in Kenya, the proportion of the population with access to essential services (education, health and social protection) continues to make gradual progress. The achievement of the SDGs in Kenya depends highly on strong National Government and County Governments' actions, co-operation and leadership, embedded in well-coordinated and effective governance systems at the National and County levels, primarily through localization and mainstreaming.

Kenya's President H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta has always affirmed that Kenya is making good progress towards the attainment of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He has indicated on record that the country has fully aligned its national development strategies including the Vision 2030 with SDGs. The President further affirms that the Big 4 Agenda focus areas of food and nutrition security, Universal Health Coverage (UHC), affordable housing and manufacturing are tailored to address most of the SDGs.

For successful localization, SDGs need anchoring in the pivotal national development blueprint. The table below highlights the interlink between the SDGs and Kenya's Vision 2030.

SDGs	Kenya Vision 2030
The SDGs Goals and targets will guide global development cooperation over the years towards 2030 in the areas of **People:** Ending poverty and hunger, in all their forms and dimensions. **Planet:** Protecting the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production. **Prosperity:** Ensuring that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives. **Peace:** Fostering peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence. **Partnership:** Mobilizing the means required to implement this Agenda through a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.	The Kenya Vision 2030 presents a new dawn for Kenya. It is the country's long-term development blueprint. It aims at creating a globally competitive and prosperous country with a high quality of life. KV2030 aspires to transform Kenya into a newly industrializing middle-income country providing a high quality of life to all its citizens in a clean and secure environment by 2030 **Economic Pillar:** To maintain sustained economic growth of 10% p.a. **Social Pillar:** A just and cohesive society enjoying equitable social development in a clean and secure environment **Political Pillar:** focuses on issue-based, people-centred, result-oriented, and accountable democratic political system

Table 2: Specific Alignment between SDGs and Kenya Vision 2030

Area	MTP III Elements	Related SDGs
Poverty	Third MTP aims to reduce poverty from the current 36.1 per cent through various initiatives	1 NO POVERTY
Agriculture & Food Security	This aims at transforming Kenya's agricultural sector to boost food and nutritional security through increased output and agricultural processing; It reiterates the need to enhance Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) through various initiatives.	2 ZERO HUNGER
Healthcare	Kenya's vision for health is to provide 'equitable and affordable health care at the highest affordable standard'. Under the third MTP, the goal is to achieve 100% Universal Health Coverage.	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
Education	• Achieve 100 % Universal Secondary Education. • Improve the teacher-pupil ratio from 1:45 to 1:30 in both primary and post-primary institutions; • Develop TVET infrastructure and equipment; • Increase access to education and training for learners with Special Need and Disability. • Expand the Digital Literacy Programme to Integrate ICT into teaching, learning and training.	4 QUALITY EDUCATION
Gender Equality & Equity	One foundation of the Vision is equity concerning access to education, healthcare, resource allocation, the rule of law. Gender and social equity provision also established.	5 GENDER EQUALITY
Water & Sanitation	• A Nation living in a clean, secure and sustainable environment. • Access to clean water (Increase proportion of people with access to potable water from 60 % to 80 % by 2022, focusing on slums and arid areas). • Environmental Conservation. • Pollution and waste management. • Increase the Land under irrigation by 518,000 acres	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
Energy	Aims at promoting development and use of renewable energy sources to create a reliable, adequate and cost-effective energy supply regime to support industrial development. • Implement the Early Oil Pilot Scheme Construct 840km Lokichar-Lamu crude oil pipeline and commercialize the oil and gas discoveries. • Enhance the storage capacity of petroleum products from 989,000 m3 to 1,222,000 m3. • Develop 20,000MT bulk LPG import handling facility at Mombasa. • Carry out aerial geophysical surveys to establish areas of mineralization. • Establish an Internationally Accredited Mineral Certification Laboratory.	7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
Manufacturing & Infrastructure Development	• The aim seeks to increase the manufacturing share of GDP from 9.2% to 15 % and agro-processing to at least 50% of total agricultural output. • The goal is to develop efficient and effective infrastructure, which is a key enabler for other sectors. The Third MTP also aspires modernization of existing infrastructure facilities.	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
Equality	To reduce inequality within and among the Counties/sub Counties and the countries at global level, the trade sector targets to increase the value of domestic trade to Ksh.650.4 billion and the value of exports to Ksh.2,204 billion by 2022.	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Area	MTP III Elements	Related SDGs
Human Settlements	Aims to provide adequate and decent housing in a sustainable environment and to further offer the population with a high quality of life by 2030. In the third MTP period, the aim is to provide affordable housing by building 500,000 affordable houses in five years across the country.	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
Sustainable Production & Consumption	• Irrigate 1.2 million acres to develop the production; • Expand the area under crop production. • Reduction of food prices to ensure affordability and support value addition in the food processing value chain. • Subsidize a set amount of assorted fertilizer annually under the fertilizer cost reduction program. • Promotion of food and nutrition security, and generation of income by focusing on milk, beef, egg and honey production. • Expand the Strategic Food Reserve Trust Fund to include additional foodstuffs. • Establish livestock disease-free zones and strategic feed reserves built to improve the availability of fodder in Arid and Semi-Arid Land (ASAL) areas during drought.	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
Climate Change	• Developing more resilient interventions for climate change adaptation. • Promote low carbon climate resilient and green growth development. • Strengthen climate change governance and coordination. • Climate change monitoring, reporting and verification, capacity building and public awareness, and formulation. • Implement the Green Economy Strategy and National Climate Change Action Plan.	13 CLIMATE ACTION
Blue Economy	The goal aims at achieving sustainable use of aquatic and marine spaces, including oceans, seas, coasts, lakes, rivers, and underground water.	14 LIFE BELOW WATER
Terrestial Ecosystems	Managing land, water and forest resources for effective management of ecosystems.	15 LIFE ON LAND
Security	Improvement of the status of security; security response mechanisms and policing at the national and county levels.	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
Partnerships	Recognizes the role of development partners and trade partners as well as private, public partnerships.	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Source: Kenya VNR, 2020.

Guided by the objectives of the Status Report as herein earlier stipulated, this report constrains itself majorly to the extent that County Governments in Kenya have gone about localization, and the strides thus far made in the implementation of SDGs, by aligning all County development aspirations captured in CIDPs to SDGs and Vision 2030.

Part 2: Situation analysis of localization and implementation of SDGs

The National Government, through consultations with the Council of Governors, prepares and disseminates the guidelines for the preparation of the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) which County Governments follow to ensure policy and developmental coherence.

The Constitution 2010, under Article 43 of the Bill of Rights guarantees all Kenyans economic and social rights including the right to the highest standard of health, education, freedom from hunger, adequate food and decent livelihoods. The Constitution thus takes an ecological perspective to sustainable development; a perspective geared towards the protection of the environment for ecological reasons as well as for the satisfaction of human needs.

As it is in other developing countries, Kenya has the challenge of how to make economic democracy and its promises and ideals relevant to the common man away from the central concentration of power. In any case, this is the prime means for promoting sustainable development locally. Counties, through devolution, remain the best avenue for making this promise a reality.

Solutions and the means for attaining improved planning, mainstreaming and localizing the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) require aligning and enhancing institutional arrangements in the Counties. The main challenges that fall within this scope at the Counties include development of a friendly and pro-investment policy and legal framework (legislation and oversight). Identification and preparation of sustainable turnaround projects. Generation of reliable data and supportive information and communications technology tools. Human capital development and making County development more inclusive within the Counties themselves.

To effectively localize the implementation of SDGs at the Counties, it is important to enhance institutional arrangements in the Counties for sustainable development in Kenya.

The main and underlying human, leadership and governance issues need accompanying supportive political economy arrangements necessary for sustainable turnaround development at the Counties.

SDGs agenda in Counties is not a stand-alone item, but an integral component of the Performance Management Framework for County Governments.

County Governments have also institutionalized SDGs coordination through the appointment of County SDGs Champions to support coordination and tracking of implementation progress. The coordination between the National Government and County Governments has been enhanced with the establishment of an SDGs Unit at the Council of Governors Secretariat and the National SDGs Coordination Directorate at National Treasury and Planning.

Localization Architecture of SDGs In Kenya

Achieving the broadest conceivable awareness about the SDGs among subnational stakeholders that includes the voices of the most vulnerable populations is a crucial first step in SDGs localization. The constitution requires public participation in key decision-making processes.

Localization of SDGs, therefore, refers to creating a transparent, enabling and all-inclusive environment in the implementation of SDGs by county governments, where all stakeholders including residents, are involved in identification, prioritization and implementation of development projects aligned to the sustainable development goals.

Localization also means taking into consideration the aspirations of the SDGs impacts to communities, households and individuals, particularly to those who are at risk of being left behind.

Mainstreaming SDGs at the sub-national level is done through the 5-year CIDPs, which domesticates the National Government MTPs at the sub-national level. The CIDPs form the basis for planning and budgeting for the period 2018-2022.

1. Kenya VNR 2020, p.309

The plans ensure that the SDGs are localized and mainstreamed into the development processes at the sub-national levels. The creation of County SDGs Coordination Units across all the 47 Counties is instrumental in facilitating the mainstreaming of SDGs in the CIDPs .

To effectively localize SDGs in Kenya, it is imperative to raise proper and full awareness among national and county government officials; amongst the population including the ordinary local citizens, as well as among CSOs, the academia, the private sector and other stakeholders.

The other imperative is to develop and implement a clear communication strategy that leverages traditional and modern communication methods and disseminates targeted and simplified messages to educate the population about the SDGs. Awareness creation is the link that connects the local populations to global SDG strategies.

Leveraging on the gains of inclusivity, implementing subnational agencies have undertaken multi-stakeholder mapping exercises of all relevant government ministries, civil society organizations, faith-based organizations, women groups, community leaders/ elders, youth groups, the private sector, county assemblies, among others, to determine their capacities, resources, influence, geographical location, expertise in the existing development system, and jointly develop a matrix of priorities and implementation programme.

That is why one of the broad thematic areas identified in Kenya's SDGs Roadmap is the development of stakeholder engagement and SDGs coordination framework. This was in recognition of the fact that the implementation of the government development agenda, including the SDGs, will depend on strong partnerships with the active engagement of Government (national and county), as well as the civil society, the private sector, partners and the United Nations system[2].

Kenya's devolved system of governance provides an easy platform and framework for mainstreaming and localization of SDGs through development planning by County Governments through CIDPs and budgeting processes. Once SDGs are mainstreamed in these planning and budgeting processes, especially through the County Integrated Development Plans, action plans for tracking, monitoring and accelerating implementation, through the involvement of relevant stakeholders are also developed.

Ensuring that the SDGs are mainstreamed in MTPs and CIDPs ensures implementing projects and programmes geared towards the achievement of the SDGs. This also helps in ensuring allocation of adequate funds to the SDGs, by focusing on the Annual Development Plans, and ensuring that annual county budgets factor in those development targets. This is what the 47 County Governments in Kenya are presently implementing.

In actuating effective service delivery to citizens concerning SDGs implementation at County level, it is helpful to note that County Governments have so far managed to achieve the following:

a. Establishment of County Complaints, Compliments and Information System (Establishment of Centers and Complaints Handling Committees).
b. Development of County M&E Indicators Handbook.
c. Gender Mainstreaming Initiative.
d. Automated Revenue Collection Systems.
e. Resource Mobilization and Partnership with Development Partners and other multi-level government agencies.

In the overall national implementation framework of SDGs, County Governments have a crucial role to play. The County Government functions under the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution, and it is clear that the successful implementation of SDGs in Kenya is heavily dependent upon effective devolved governance. This explains why "SDGs have been mainstreamed in performance contracting guidelines as a weighted area in the performance matrix. County officers are therefore required to demonstrate how they have mainstreamed SDGs in their plans, strategies, activities, projects and programmes as a performance measure. This has enabled deepening of SDGs implementation in the Counties[3] ".

2. SDGs Stakeholders Engagement Framework for Kenya
3. VNR 2020

Linking SDGs to the Core County Functions - County SDGs Unit Can Leverage on Existing Opportunities

An analysis of the function of County Governments as stipulated in Schedule iv of the Constitution of Kenya shows a clear connection to all the 17 SDGs. This goes to demonstrate the key role County Governments have to play in the realization of SDGs in Kenya.

County Functions – 14 Devolved Functions Under Schedule IV	SDGs Goal
Agriculture	Goals 1 & 2
County health services	Goal 3
Control of air pollution, noise pollution, other public nuisances	Goals 3, 6,11.6 &14
Cultural activities, public entertainment & public amenities	Goals 4 & 11
County transport	Goals 9 & 11
Animal control and welfare	Goals 2
Trade development and regulation	Goals 2, 3, 8, 10 & 17
County planning and development	All
Pre-primary education, village polytechnics, home-craft centres and childcare facilities	Goals 4
Implementation of specific national government policies on natural resources and environmental conservation	Goals 1, 6, 8, 9, 11,12, 13, 14, 15 & 17
County public works and services	Goals 9 & 11
Fire fighting services and disaster management	Goals 1, 2, 11 &13
Control of drugs and pornography	Goals 3
Ensuring and coordinating the participation of communities and locations in governance at the local level and assisting communities and locations in developing the administrative capacity for the effective exercise of the functions and powers and participation in governance at the local level.	All

Additionally, at the Secretariat level, all 12 CoG Committees have mainstreamed SDGs in their work plans to assist Counties in implementation and monitoring. The CoG has in place only 12 committees at the secretariat level, all constituted by governors from the 47 counties. The committees are – Liaison, Management and Resource Mobilization Committee; Health Committee; Agriculture Committee; Arid and Semi-Arid Lands Committee; Education Committee; Tourism and Natural Resources Management Committee; Human Resources, Labour and Social Welfare Committee; Finance, Planning, Economic Affairs, Information and Communication Technology Committee; Trade, Investment, Manufacturing and Cooperatives Committee; Legal Affairs, Human Rights, Intergovernmental Relations, Security and Foreign Affairs Committee; Urban Development, Housing, Planning, Energy, Infrastructure and Lands Committee; and the Gender, Youth, Sports, Culture and Social Services Committee.

Tharaka Nithi County H.E Muthomi Njuki Launching new County Government's road graders for road maintainance in Tharaka Nithi County feb 2018.

Part 3: Institutional framework to facilitate SDGs localization and implementation

The Constitution safeguards the functional relationship between the National and County Governments. Article 6(2) states that the two levels of government are distinct and interdependent and are to conduct their mutual relations based on consultation and cooperation. Further, Article 189 stipulates that each level of government performs and exercises its powers in a manner that respects the functional and institutional integrity as well as the constitutional status of institutions of government at the other level4.

Kenya has a robust national strategy through which to localize and implement sustainable development. In 2016, the government prepared a national strategy to guide the country in the next 15 years in transitioning from MDGs to SDGs.

Kenya's institutional framework for SDGs implementation is designed to ensure the successful localization and implementation of the SDGs effectively through devolved government structures, tied to the National Government support. At the national level, an institutional framework has been approved comprising of:

1. Cabinet sub-committee.
2. High-Level Committee of Principal Secretaries.
3. Inter-Agency Technical Committee (IATC).
4. SDGs Coordination Directorate at the State Depart ment of Planning.
5. Ministry Departments, County Governments, SAGAs, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and stakeholders.
6. Establishment of an SDGs Liaison Office at the CoG.

Of essence is that the "mandate of the IATWC is to spearhead the rolling out of the activities identified in the SDGs road map and further offer technical backstopping for SDGs in the country.

The activities of the IAWTG focus on mapping of Stakeholders and establishing Partnerships, Domestication and Localization, Advocacy and Sensitization, Resource Mobilisation, Capacity Building and Training, Monitoring, tracking and reporting.

The committee is co-chaired by the Government, CSOs and the Private Sector. A sub-committee of the IATC was set up in 2019 to support the work of the larger committee and comprises of representatives from various member organizations including KEPSA, SDGs Kenya Forum, United Nations and Academia with SDGs Coordination Directorate as the secretariat.

The sub-committee supports the SDGs Coordination Directorate in coordinating the annual SDGs activities and shares with the IATC. At the subnational level, through collaboration with CoG, the County Governments have been encouraged to create the County SDGs Coordination Units to mirror the SDGs coordination Directorate at the national level. Although still in their infancy and undergoing continuous capacity building, the Liaison units prepare County SDGs Progress Reports.

In addition, they are expected to work closely with the SDGs Coordination Directorate at the State Department for Planning through the CoG to ensure faster implementation of the SDGs. SDGs monitoring is institutionalized with a comprehensive progress report prepared biennially. At the subnational level, counties have adopted developing Local Voluntary Reports on SDGs6"

The SDGs department at National treasury is the focal point for coordination of SDGs in the country. The Inter-Agency Technical Working Group consisting of officers from the key SDGs, is expected to provide strategic oversight on SDGs programme design and implementation as well as making decisions on strategic programme choices at the national level. It is also responsible for delivering specific goals and targets while ensuring effective implementation and reporting.

The Inter-Agency Technical Working Group is also responsible for ensuring that various MDAs implement the SDGs and report on the implementation progress on time.

SDGs liaison office at the Council of Governors Secretariat will support proper coordination and implementation of the SDGs at county levels, including linkages with the national level. It will provide critical linkages between the County Governments, as well as structures operating at the county level.

The private sector coordination is crucial for SDGs' implementation. Engagement with the sector should be deepened and measures put in place to ensure improved coordination mechanisms to overcome the silo approach.

4. Constitution of Kenya, 20105.

5 VNR 2020

Engagement with the private sector umbrella, Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) as well as the Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) and the Kenya Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) will therefore be strengthened.

A similar coordination framework is proposed in the county governments comprising county executive committee memmbers,chief officers, sector department leads, civil society and private sector.

The Government through the State Department for Gender has established a National Gender Sector Working Group that comprises of Government (All Ministries), Development partners, CSO, Private Sector and Faith-Based Organization. Under this are four technical Committees namely; Women in Leadership and Decision Making, Gender-Based Violence, Socio-economic Empowerment and Financial Inclusion and Women in Peace Building and Conflict resolution. Counties have also established County Gender Sector Working Groups with a similar structure as the National Government. Gender Statistics Inter-Agency Technical Committee has been established to enhance generation, usage and dissemination of gender statistics in all sectors 5.

The national strategy framework focuses on critical milestones that are important to the successful take-off of the SDGs in the country.

The process of its preparation was consultative and with contributions from the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), Civil Society Organizations, Academia, think tanks and research institutions, Private Sector and Development Partners.

Civil society, faith-based and community-based organizations are also critical stakeholders in the SDGs, and their linkage will be through their umbrella
organization
Kenya SDGs Forum. Associations of vulnerable groups such as children, persons living with disabilities (PLWDs) and the elderly also fall under this cluster. The organizations will facilitate engagement of grass-root communities in the SDGs implementation processes.

The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics is leading the process of alignment of global indicators and development of the SDGs indicators to fit the country context to support local tracking and reporting. Table 3 summarizes the specific roles of identified stakeholders in the implementation of SDGs implementation and tracking.

Traders selling their wares in Bomet new market.

Part 4 : Devolution and its principles as an enabler of localization of SDGs by County Governments

The Constitution of Kenya 2010 (CoK 2010) ushered in a system and structure of governance that established two levels of government, i.e. the National and 47 County Governments. The Legislature and the Executive are devolved to the 47 Political and Administrative Counties as provided for under Article 6 and specified in the First Schedule.

The primary objective of decentralization is to devolve power, resources and representation down to the local level. To this end, various laws have been enacted by Parliament to create strategies for the implementation framework and the adoption of which objectives of devolution can be achieved.

Other than the Constitution of Kenya 2010, specifically through Article 174 and Article 175 that set out the objects and principles of devolution respectively, there are key statutes that guide the National and County Governments in enabling devolved governance. These include the County Government Act 2012 , The Transition to Devolved Government Act 2012, Public Finance Management Act 2012, the Intergovernmental Relations Act 2012 , as well as the Urban Areas and Cities Act.

Intergovermental Relations

The relationship between the two levels of government is provided in the Constitution of Kenya 2010. Article 6(2) states that the two levels of government are distinct and interdependent and are expected to conduct their mutual relations based on consultation and cooperation. Article 189 makes it imperative that each level of government performs and exercises its powers in a manner that respects the functional and institutional integrity as well as the constitutional status of institutions of government at the other level.

The Intergovernmental Relations Act, 2012 establishes the legal and institutional framework for consultation, cooperation and dispute resolution between the national and county governments and amongst the county governments.

The Act establishes the following intergovernmental relations bodies: National and County Government Coordinating Summit, the Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee and the Council of County Governors. The Public Finance Management Act 2012 creates the Intergovernmental Budget and Economic Council as a forum for consultation and cooperation between the two levels of government on fiscal matters.

The Inter-Governmental Relation Act 2012 provides for the establishment of intergovernmental sector forums on sector issues of common interest to the national and county governments. There are, however, several challenges concerning the establishment of these forums. They include but are not limited to, the following:

a. Absence of administrative procedures for establishing and managing intergovernmental sector forums;

b. The decisions of the forums are not binding; Absence of enforcement mechanism for forum decisions.

7. The County Government Act, 2012, s 3 provides as follows: The object and purpose of this Act is to— (a) provide for matters necessary or convenient to give effect to Chapter Eleven of the Constitution pursuant to Article 200 of the Constitution; (b) give effect to the objects and principles of devolution as set out in Articles 174 and 175 of the Constitution; (c) give effect to Article 176 (2) of the Constitution in respect of further decentralisation; (d) provide for the removal from office of the speaker of the county assembly in accordance with Article 178 of the Constitution; (e) provide for the powers, privileges and immunities of county assemblies, their committees and members under Article 196 of the Constitution; (f) provide for public participation in the conduct of the activities of the county assembly as required under Article 196 of the Constitution; (g) seek to ensure that the community and cultural diversity of a county is reflected in its county assembly and county executive committee as contemplated in Article 197 of the Constitution; (h) prescribe mechanisms to protect minorities within counties pursuant to Article 197 of the Constitution.

8. The Act creates two main institutions to assist with intergovernmental consultation, learning and cooperation. These are the Summit and the Council of Governors. Section 12 of Intergovernmental Relations Act 2012 provides for the functions of the Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee. However, regulations to give effect to the Act have not been developed, making it difficult for the committee to discharge its mandate effectively.

Key Issues under County Governments Functions

The County Governments are mandated to facilitate citizen engagement by creating mechanisms for consultations, ensuring that the necessary information is available to the public notwithstanding building the capacity of the people to engage effectively with the County planning and budgeting processes.

The Constitution of Kenya 2010 provides for the effective public finance management framework in Kenya. The Constitution institutions with varying powers and responsibilities over the management of the public finance, at the national and county levels of government. Article 215 establishes the Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA), with the responsibility to make recommendations on the criteria for equitable sharing of national revenue and other matters relating to financial management by county governments.

Article 228 establishes the Office of the Controller of Budget to oversee the implementation of the national and county budgets by authorizing withdrawals from public funds under Articles 204, 206 and 207. Every four months, the Controller of Budget is required to submit to each House of Parliament a report on the implementation of the budgets of the national and county governments.
The Constitution splits the Controller and Auditor General's Office by establishing two separate independent offices: the Auditor General's Office and the Office of the Controller of Budget. The Controller of Budget exercises controls over the expenditure of the national and county governments. The Office is also required to prepare, publish and publicize statutory reports, conduct investigations and conduct alternative dispute resolution mechanisms to resolve disputes.

The Constitution further gives parliament budgetary oversight powers. For instance, the Senate (at Article 217) is mandated to determine the basis for allocating among the counties the share of national revenue that is annually allocated to the County level of government. Revenue Bill and County Allocation of Revenue Bill must be introduced in Parliament at least two months before the end of each financial year.

The County Budget and Economic Forum

The PFM Act, 2012 establishes the County Budget and Economic Forum to provide a means for consultation by the county government on the preparation of county plans, the County Fiscal Strategy Paper and the Budget Review and Outlook Paper for the County. This Forum also discusses matters related to budgeting, the economy and financial management at the county level. The membership of this important consultative body is drawn from organizations representing professionals, business, labour issues, women, persons with disabilities, the elderly and faith-based groups at the county level.

Kenya Devolution Policy

The approval of the Devolution Policy by the Cabinet in October 2016 was particularly significant. The policy is founded on the Sovereignty of the People of Kenya, Supremacy of the Constitution, National Values and Principles of Governance, the Bill of Rights, the Objects of Devolution and the Principles of Devolved Governments. It intends that devolution will attain its stated objects under Article 174 of the Constitution, which are to: Promote democratic and accountable exercise of power; foster national unity by recognizing diversity; give powers of self- governance to the people and enhance the participation of the people in the exercise of the powers of the State and in making decisions affecting them; recognize the right of communities to manage their affairs and to further their development; protect and promote the interests and rights of minorities and marginalized communities; promote social and economic development and the provision of proximate, easily accessible services throughout Kenya; ensure equitable sharing of national and local resources throughout Kenya; facilitate the decentralization of State organs, their functions and services, from the capital of Kenya; and enhance checks and balances and the separation of powers.

Devolution Policy Interlinkages

The Values of the Devolution Policy

D Development First.
E Equitable Sharing of National Resources.
V Vigor and Vitality in the pursuit of the Objects of Devolution.
O Open and Accountable Governments
L Leveraging on the strength of each County.
U Unity of Purpose.
T Tapping into local resources
I Involvement of all Kenyans in their Diversity.
O Organised and Effective Governance
N No turning back on Devolution.

The Policy is anchored on 11 Inter-linked Pillars

1. Capacity Building for Devolved Governance.
2. Leadership and Governance.
3. Decentralized (Devolved) Units.
4. Public Service Transformation.
5. Public Finance Management
6. Inter-Governmental Relations.
7. Public Participation in Governance
8. Civic Education.
9. Public Communication.
10. Equity and Inclusivity.
11. Management of Transfer of Responsibilities, Powers, and Functions between the National and the County Governments.

The Devolution Policy is an exceptionally vital enabler that serves to facilitate smooth implementation of functions by the National and County Governments toward meeting the objects of devolution, and as enabled by statutes.

The policy, therefore, creates and sustains a clean enabling environment for county governments in development processes, including the implementation of SDGs.

The County Governments have a great responsibility in the provision of key services, most of which are essential to the attainment of SDGs targets. With the increased allocation of resources to the Counties, it is expected that County Governments will sufficiently address SDGs through the formulation and implementation of County Development Plans that give priority to the off-track SDG targets in their respective Counties.

According to the 2019 State of Devolution Address as delivered by the Chairman Council of Governors, in the last one-year County Governments made significant strides in sustaining devolution gains. Among the key highlights are:

a. A sustained track record of smooth leadership transition by the Council of Governors.
b. Improved intergovernmental relations between both levels of government.
c. A successful Annual Devolution Conference which continues to set the agenda for delivering on the delivering the big 4 development priorities of the government for this period and devolution promise to all Kenyans.The components of the Big 4 Agenda implements various SDG projects.

In the agriculture sector, for instance, County governments can support agricultural production and local economic growth by strengthening extension service to farmers and by providing basic transport infrastructure and markets to promote good exchange in local food chains. Counties have made remarkable achievements towards the realization of 100 per cent food and nutrition security. To achieve this, County Governments have focused on improving both crop and animal productivity. Some of the key interventions are:

i. Empowerment of farmers through the mechanization of production systems evidenced by the purchase of 366 tractors and equipping of 26 Agriculture mechanization stations offering lease services to rural farmers.
ii. Distribution of over 2 Million 50-kgs bags of subsidized fertilizer.
iii. Under the County subsidies arrangements, 1400 greenhouses have also been purchased and distributed to farmers in the year under review.
iv. Enhanced uptake of commercialized agriculture through construction of over 140 markets that provided direct access to markets for farmers.
v. Vaccination of 46 Million Livestock and construction of over 500 cattle dips that has improved disease control and surveillance.
vi. Provision of over 1 million recorded Artificial Insemination Services to livestock farmers and purchase of over 300 Milk coolers distributed as input subsidies to farmer's cooperatives. In return, this has enhanced animal productivity and value addition on raw products.
vii. Overall, County Governments have allocated on average 6.7 % of their total budgets to the Agriculture sector.

County governments are in the ideal position to identify people living in poverty at the grass-root level and to target resources and services to help them overcome deprivation and dehumanizing poverty. This is demonstrated by the 'One Cow Campaign Programme' by Kakamega County, aimed at bolstering dairy farming by local livestock farmers.
It is further demonstrated by Narok County, which rolled out high breed livestock farming by distributing high breeds of dairy and beef cattle to each ward across the county.
To boost high breeds for better yields across the county. In Murang'a County, Governor Mwangi Wa Iria officially launched the Murang'a Avocado Farmer's Co-operative Union Limited at the Matenjagwo Stadium – Kandara Sub-county in February 2020. The union is now the umbrella body for the eight avocado farmers' cooperative societies in Murang'a County will ensure stability in the sector by safeguarding the interests of the avocado farmers, enhancing proper business practices and also increasing productivity in the sector for profitability.
Secondly, County Governments can use healthcare services and Early Childhood Centres (ECDs) to identify and tackle child malnutrition. The health sector is devolved, and the County governments have a huge responsibility of ensuring the local communities have access to good quality health care and live a healthy life, such as ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.
In the health sector, County Governments are committed to strengthening health systems towards the implementation of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) which was launched by His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta in Kisumu County early in the year. It has been piloted in Nyeri, Machakos, Kisumu and Isiolo Counties. Key highlights this year are:

i. Sustained an average allocation of 20-30% to the sector in the year.
ii. Currently, we have 7,894 doctors, 26,561 nurses, 160 dental officers, 418 pharmacists and 19,000 clinical officers across the Counties. However, a total of 834 doctors are on study leave, thereby unavailable to offer services – This remains a challenge Counties have to balance between training and workforce availability.
iii. Functional health facilities grew from 9,858 to 10,820 in 2018.
iv. Sustained this trend with health allocations averaging between 20-30% in the current year.
v. Increased expenditure is attributed to hiring health workers.

9 Resolution number 16 of the Communique of the Sixth Annual Devolution Conference held from 4th to 8th March, 2019, Kirinyaga University, Kirinyaga County.

Similarly, in implementation of SDG4, County Governments are responsible for early childhood development (ECD) that form the basic foundation for education. As such, they are well placed to identify and tackle the barriers to school attendance in our communities. County Governments can integrate technical and vocational training programmes into local economic development strategies, making sure training is valuable to labour market opportunities. County Governments are particularly well placed to reach out to vulnerable and marginalized individuals and communities and to ensure they have access to education and training that meet their needs.

Under Water and Sanitation, County Governments have been working towards the realization of universal access to water. Both levels of government (National and County) in 2019 committed to develop a policy to guide water resource sharing across Counties and increase investment in water infrastructure9.
Notably;
* Water coverage has now increased to 57%.
* Sanitation coverage is now at 16%.
* Non-revenue water is now at 41%.
* Six (6) Counties now have water Master Plans from the previous two (2).
* Fourteen (14) Counties have water policies.
* Six (6) Counties have operational Water Laws.
* However, in the coming year County Governments have committed in their plans to put greater effort into improving sanitation since so far only one (1) County has a County strategic plan on sanitation.
* viii. Whereas there is a lot of investment in the water sector by development partners, little or no money trickle down directly to the County Governments for investment in this sector.

From this perspective, it is instrumental to note that devolution of governance through effective delivery of services enhances localization of SDGs through multiple sectors.

Part 5 : Stakeholders engagement as a pillar for localization of SDGs

The SDGs multi-stakeholder engagement framework is a first step in the process of creating an enabling environment to facilitate the involvement, participation, harmony and synergy among all the stakeholders in the process of SDGs localization and implementation. It is therefore designed to ensure that no one is left behind.
Successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 2030 Agenda will require a more inclusive, coordinated and harmonized approaches at the country level[10].

By ensuring inclusivity, the framework allows stakeholders to monitor, evaluate and learn from the success or otherwise of the implementation of SDGs. It is also designed to enhance cooperation among SDGs actors and to share knowledge and information on SDGs, their targets and indicators.

One of the broad thematic areas identified in Kenya's SDGs Roadmap is the development of stakeholder engagement and SDGs coordination framework. This was in recognition of the fact that the implementation of the government development agenda, including the SDGs, will depend on strong partnerships with the active engagement of Government (National and County), as well as the civil society, the private sector, partners and the United Nations system.

Stakeholders' participation is important in guiding decision-making and supporting it in achieving its strategic development objectives. Whereas the responsibility of coordinating the implementation and tracking of the SDGs is within GoK's mandate, the actualization of the same is a shared responsibility among all stakeholders.
The Council of Governors has for the past seven years of devolution organized, in cooperation with relevant UN agencies and MODA advocacy campaigns such as SDGs campaigning, Development Cooperation Seminars, and other efforts.
In addition, it has ensured liaison with the National Government and effective advocacy of SDGs activities in close consultation with key stakeholders.Toward this end, the CoG also developed a joint strategic plan 2017-2022 focusing on strengthening relations between the two levels of Governments as well as enhancing inter-county collaborations.

Mechanisation of agriculture in Kilifi County.

10 VNR 2020.

The strategic plan identifies five (5) Key Performance Areas (KPAs): Good Governance, Adequate resourcing for devolved functions, building a strong CoG, Knowledge-driven performance, and strengthened intergovernmental relation that will enable the Council to strengthen its mechanisms for contributing towards improving the enabling environment for counties to implement the devolved functions and enhance the delivery of services to citizens.

The SDGs liaison office at the Council of Governors Secretariat supports proper coordination and implementation of the SDGs at County levels, including linkages with the National level. It provides critical linkages between the County Governments, as well as structures operating at County Government level.

These initiatives are in line with the Constitution adopted in 2010 that attributes responsibilities and competencies to the County Governments, especially in terms of developing specific economic, environmental and social plans for each County Government.
The CoG developed a template and circulated to all Counties to guide them in SDGs reporting. The consultations resulted in evidence-based from the Counties, whose reports constitute the content of this very report. They were as well shared with the National Government for incorporation into Kenya's VNR, which was eventually validated by the County Governments. The report from CoG included diverse, relevant information, such as;

a) The Counties' progress in implementation of SDGs, including statistics, when available;
b) Measures planned for the attainment of SDGs;
c) Areas for cooperation between Counties and National Government, and between County to County; and
d) Best practices, lessons learned, emerging issues and areas for which support was required.

Moreover, the CoG supports the County Governments in mainstreaming the SDGs in their programmes, projects and activities by preparing and disseminating the guidelines for the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs). The CIDPs mirror the priorities of the MTPs at the national level and seek to ensure that the SDGs and Africa's Agenda 2063 are mainstreamed and fast-tracked, reducing or eliminating existing regional disparities.

The development of the SDGs Multi-Stakeholder Engagement Framework is geared towards providing direction in the stakeholder engagement and communication using accountable and
transparent processes.

The engagement framework provides a broad framework to harmonize and galvanize efforts by all actors, including County Governments in the SDGs process. There is also a need for stakeholders in the implementation and tracking of the SDGs to engage. In addition, the stakeholder engagement framework represents the Government of Kenya's commitment to work effectively with all stakeholders, to listen and learn, and to continue to improve on performance management. The engagement framework seeks to:

1. Place stakeholder engagement as core business for the Government and the State Department for Planning (SDP);

2. Facilitate effective collaboration and knowledge sharing among multiple actors and players in the SDGs process;

3. Communicate mutual and shared commitments to stakeholders;

4. Establish a consistent approach to stakeholder engagement across the government/SDP;

5. Support improved planning and informed policies, programmes and services;

6. Elaborate the stakeholder coordination structures and their functioning;

7. Strengthen stakeholder engagement and coordination experience;

8. Expand the reach of stakeholder engagement;

9. Improve stakeholder engagement responsiveness;

10. To support in working out on modalities on the SDGs multi-stakeholder engagement.

Benefits of stakeholders engagement

Effective stakeholder engagement enables better planned and more informed policies, projects, programmes and services. Stakeholder engagement can be mutually beneficial for the stakeholders. The benefits of engagement include the opportunity to contribute as experts in relevant fields to policy and programme(s) development, have stakeholders' issues heard and participate in the decision-making process.

Some benefits of stakeholder engagement for both stakeholders and the government are summarized below (Table 1).

Benefits for the county departments	Benefits for the stakeholders
• Higher quality decision- • making. • Increased efficiency in and effectiveness of service delivery. • Streamlined policy and program development processes. • Greater engagement with stakeholder interests – ensuring services are delivered in collaboration with stakeholders and provide outcomes which meet community needs. • Enhanced community confidence in projects undertaken. • Enhanced capacity to • innovate.	• Greater opportunities to contribute directly to policy and programme development. For example, in Narok County, farmers' cooperatives contributed to the decision by the county to purchase and distribute high breeds of cattle. • More open and transparent lines of communication. • Increasing the accountability of government and driving innovation. • Improved access to decision-making processes, resulting in the delivery of more efficient and responsive services. • Early identification of synergies between stakeholders and government work, encouraging integrated and comprehensive solutions to complex policy issues.

Several institutions are involved in the SDGs implementation process. The specific mandates, resources and accountability relationships that translate this network of institutions into action on the ground is what is important. Of particular importance is the complexity of County relationships with National policy leadership on the SDGs while the responsibility for implementing key actions is mainly at the local level.

Public participation process

Public participation is an integral part of governance in Kenya, as provided for by the Constitution of Kenya 2010, and other enabling legislation, such as the County Government Act (2012). It intends to promote democracy by providing the public with the opportunity to take part in decision-making processes at the national and county levels. Public participation in Kenya is especially important in the budget process and the legislative processes. Remarkably;

(i) 34 Counties have enacted legislation that promotes public participation while the remaining are at various stages of enactment. Additionally, there are designated and operational Public Participation offices in 45 Counties.

(ii) 40 Counties have established County Budget Economic Forums (CBEF) which engage the public on the preparation of County budgeting and planning. Moving forward, Counties will establish a structured mechanism for feedback from the public.

(iii) Mainstreaming and localizing the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires aligning and enhancing institutional arrangements in the Counties. County Governments have mainstreamed SDGs in their CIDPs and are currently strengthening local coordination mechanisms through the establishment of County SDGs Units.

(iv) All County Governments have appointed and inducted SDGs Champions to steer the process of implementation. The champions have currently embarked on County level capacity building for other County officers and will lead the process of SDGs tracking and reporting.

(v) With support from the Council of Governors five (5) Counties have volunteered to submit County voluntary reports on SDGs implementation guided by the UN guidelines for SDGs Voluntary reporting. County voluntary reporting is intended to demonstrate to the world how County Governments in Kenya are contributing towards the realization of global commitments such as the SDGs. There is, however, need for continuous capacity building for County Governments in SDGs tracking and reporting as well in strengthening local level coordination of SDGs implementation to support effective implementation.

Focus Issues for County Governments in Localization of SDGs

1) There must be full, effective and continuous advocacy and awareness to local stakeholders on the SDGs and their relevance in the transformation of the people's lives.

2) Public participation must be an integral part of localization of SDGs.

3) A County Government has to establish a subnational advisory committee to undertake stakeholders mapping, database management, meeting stakeholders, communication management, and advocacy on SDGs localization as well as implementation.

4) A County Government should ensure that all the relevant information on the relevant SDG issue will be generated in a manner that is easily understood by the local community.

5) A County Government has to ensure effective public communication through adverts are created to help relay information to the public and targeted stakeholders using various media.

6) A County Government has to ensure that a convenient venue to the public and relevant stakeholders is identified for the agreed date for participatory engagement.

7) Absolute transparency on development funds budgeted for, and expended on the development projects inclined to specific SDGs must be embraced.

8) Delays, time-lapses or challenges faced in the implementation of projects being localized must be fully communicated to stakeholders.

Mainstreaming of SDGs in County Performance Management Planning

Mainstreaming and localizing the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires aligning and enhancing institutional arrangements in the Counties. County Governments have mainstreamed SDGs in their County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) and are currently strengthening local coordination mechanisms through the establishment of County SDGs coordination frameworks.

The Performance Management Framework (PMF) is an intergovernmental, multi-stakeholder initiative aimed at promoting accountability in service delivery by ensuring that tasks are performed efficiently, effectively and economically. It also provides a mechanism for citizens to engage and evaluate the performance of their County Government.

The Council of Governors developed the County Performance Management Framework (CPMF) for County Governments. SDGs have been mainstreamed in the CPMF components including in planning, performance contracting and M&E.

The CPMF seeks to provide strategic alignment to key National and County plans and their implementation to ensure that the entire country is pulling in the same cohesive strategic direction. In the financial year (FY) 2018/19, the "Big Four" agenda was incorporated into the MTP III and the CIDPs.

County Governments were required to integrate the governor's manifesto and global sustainable development goals (SDGs) in their second generation CIDPs. The CPMF seeks to eliminate the 'silo approach' in the management of public affairs and create harmony in planning and utilization of public resources.

The CPMF also seeks to ensure that the logical hierarchy and linkage of targets and policy outcomes are aligned to resources for the achievement of the intended results.

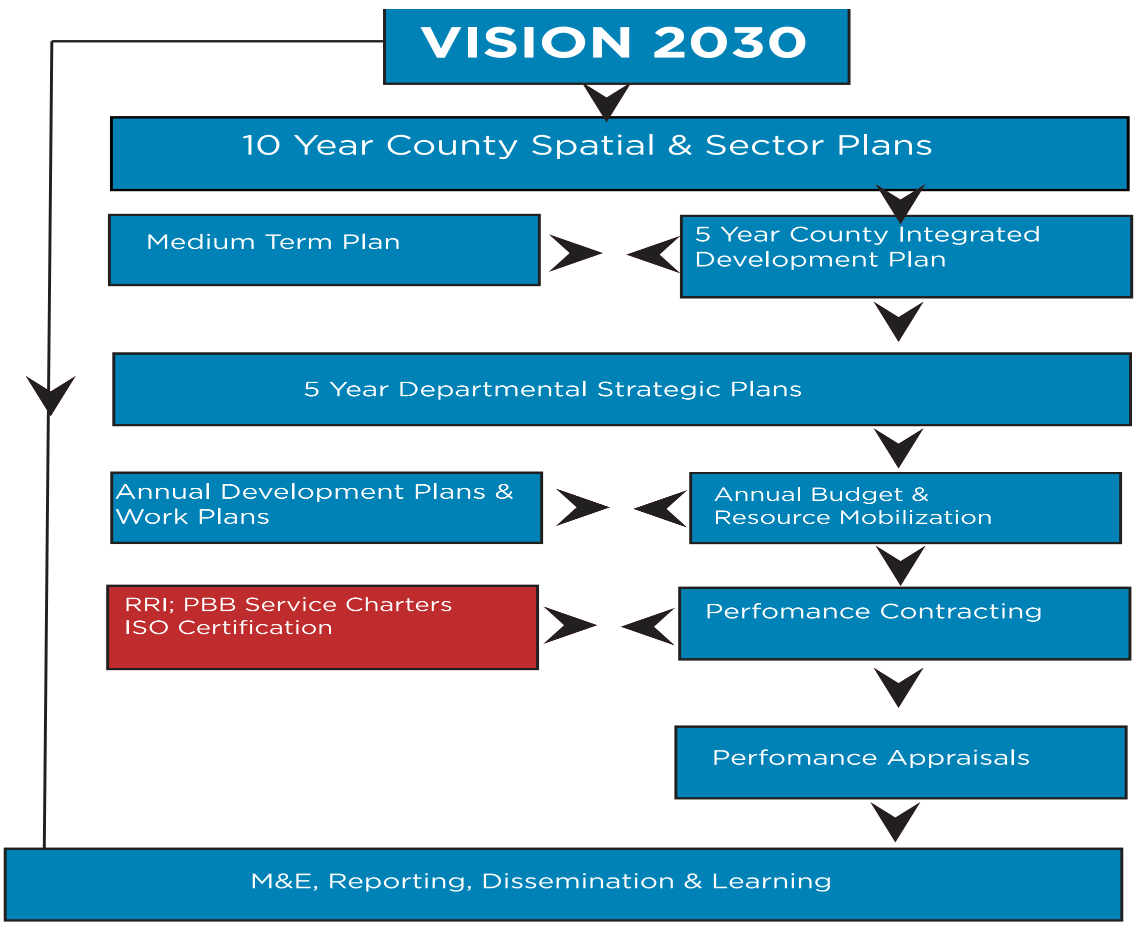


Chart showing the County Performance Management Framework
Source: County Performance Management Framework 2017

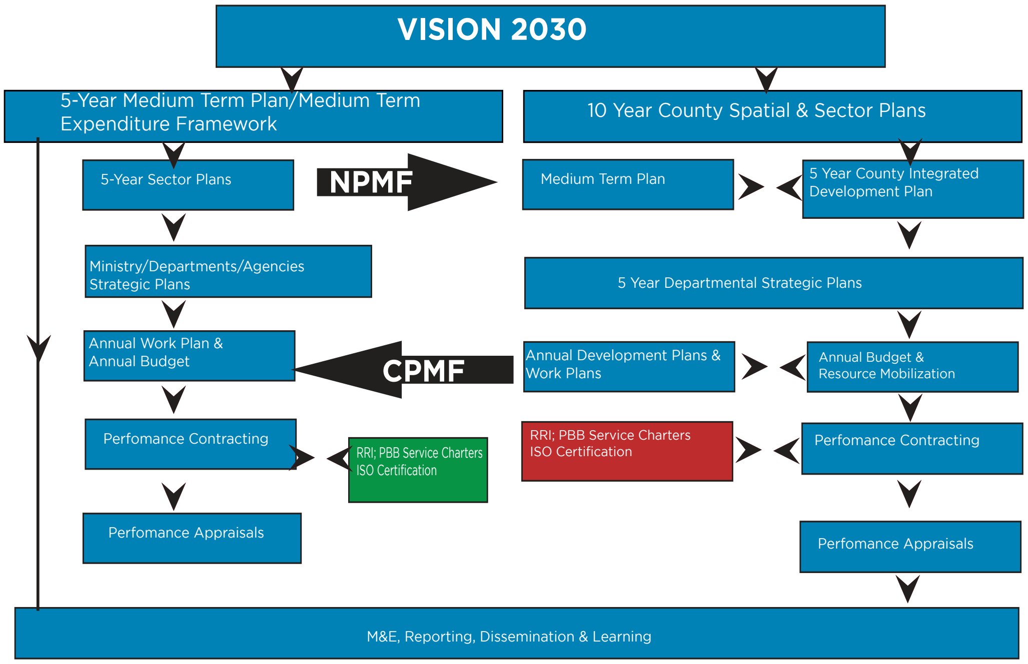


Chart showing Harmonized National and County Performance Management Framework

Source: County Performance Management Framework 2017

The Council of Governors resolved that all County Governments should sign performance contracts as a way of enhancing service delivery and accountability to Counties. Guidelines have been developed to guide County Governments in the operationalization of performance contracts. The guidelines have mainstreamed SDGs and indeed in the performance matrix mainstreaming of SDGs by County Officers is one of the weighted performance areas. In the 2018/2019 financial year, a total of 24 Counties signed performance contracts. Progressively more Counties are embracing performance contracting as a management tool.

Mainstreaming of SDGs in Lands, Urban Development, Infrastructure and Energy

County Planning and development is a devolved function

County Governments need to prepare CSPs. The preparation of the county spatial plan is a legal requirement in the county government act. Section 110. It is a 10 year plan prepared by the county executive committee as a component part of the county integrated development plan, approved by the county assembly and reviewed every 5 years. The plan is based on a geographic information system (GIS) and will give a spatial depiction of the social and economic development programme of the county

- Indicate desired patterns of land use within the County;
- Address the spatial construction or reconstruction of the County;
- Provide strategic guidance in respect of the location and nature of development within the County;
- Set out basic guidelines for a land use management system in the County taking into account any guidelines, regulations or laws as provided for under article 67(2) (h) of the constitution;
- Set out a capital investment framework for the County's development programs;
- Contain a strategic assessment of the environmental impact of the spatial development framework;
- Identify programs and projects for the development of land within the County; and
- Be aligned with the spatial frameworks reflected in development the integrated development Plans of neighboring counties.

Counties being required to mainstream SDGs in their development, it was therefore essential that an effective framework is in place. Such a framework would help boost the implementation of public policies through spatial and Land Use planning actions, which will be executed as technology-based interventions and measured through.

To date the growth of our cities and urban areas is exponential. Subsequently Forty-five (45) County Governments have granted municipality status to their urban areas andsubsequently established urban governance institutions (municipality boards) for themanagement of the urban areas and delivery of quality services to the citizens.

Twenty-four (24) Counties have already initiated the process of development of affordable housing with support of National Government.

To enhance integrated and sustainable development in the Counties two Counties have completed, approved and implementing their CSP, at least ten (18) County Governments have finalized the preparation of spatial plans and still awaiting approval by the County Assemblies.

County Governments have also embraced use of geospatial technology like the Geographical Information System (GIS) in mapping and analysing data. In the Energy sector, thirty-five (35) County Governments have prepared their energy plans which are awaiting integration into the National Energy Master Plan and thereafterits implementation. On other infrastructural matters, we have invested in lighting our streets. The street lighting projects are slowly transforming many towns and their environs into 24-hour economies. Businesses are remaining open past 11pm. Security has also improved.

We have made strides in working with development partners in order to ensure effective service delivery for the people of our Counties. Towards this end we are grateful to the Kenya Urban Support programme which has had great impact on our urban areas. To this date County Governments have received over 11.6 Million USD from the World Bank which has been used to fund over 216 projects across various municipalities in our Counties. Counties are beginning to also embrace innovative and advanced technologies like the Probase road construction technology which is cost effective, cheap, durable and easy to maintain. And I must admit, we have accomplished tremendous work in opening up the road network to increase accessibility and motorability of previously inaccessible roads despite all the resource challenges and opposition we have faced in this sector. In energy, Counties have embraced clean energy initiative. Further through development partners Counties have established energy capacities by supporting use of solar technology ,wind energy and other renewable sources of energy to drive electrification of households (including host communities), enterprises, community facilities and water pumps.

SDGs Localization by County Governments

With less than 10 years to deliver the 2030 agenda, it is evident that the progress being made is not fast enough. The decade of action inaugrated by the UN Secretary General António Guterres is envisaged to increase the momentum. Voluntary Local Reporting (VLR) has been identified as important vehicle to accelerate local action. The COG, in collaboration with UNDP Kenya initiated VLR among county governments in Kenya in 2019. In this initiative 5 counties participated in development of VLRs. The 5 counties (Busia, Kisumu, Marsabit and Taita Taveta) developed voluntary local reports on SDG implementation. Below are the highligths of the reports from Busia, Marsabit, Taita Taveta and Kwale.

Means of Implementation

*Building capacity of County staff on SDGs.
*Creating advocacy on the SDGs through sensitization of citizens and all other stakeholders.
*Converting stakeholder interests into relevant policies.
*Mainstreaming SDGs on County planning documents, i.e. CIDP, ADP and Budget.
*Allocating and distributing resources to comply with the policies but based on the County's resource envelope.
*Tracking, monitoring, evaluating, reporting and learning to improve performance on the SDGs.

Lessons learnt/ Way forward

*There is a need to create more advocacy on SDGs at the local level.
*There is a need to integrate M&E into County policy processes.
*The County should boost its revenue sources/ streams to mobilize resources to support SDG implementation agenda.
*There is a need to build the capacity of the County Assembly and Executive on SDGs.
*There is a need to establish and operationalise County SDGs coordination units

1.County Government Of Busia: Tackling SDGs 1, 2, 8 and 16

The County Government of Busia has been implementing Sustainable Development Goals and Vision 2030 through a multi-stakeholder approach system by designing programs that advance the three dimensions of SDGs namely: Economic Growth, Social Inclusivity and Sustainable Environmental Protection. Data from the KNBS report for 2017 placed the County at a poverty index of 67.6. This is driven by the inequalities in resource allocation and distribution, the large size of households and the high number of female-led households, food poverty and poor infrastructure.
To reverse this trend, it has focused mainly on boosting agricultural production, promoting well being and building resilient infrastructure while focusing on environmental protection.

The County is shifting the distribution of incomes to favour the poorer citizens and to strengthen its labour markets. It is also keen on promoting peaceful co-existence amongst its citizens to be able to attract and build strong partnerships that can help finance its development priorities.
For instance, Busia County established cross-border committees to strengthen the labour market which relies largely on Kenya-Uganda cross-border trade. By informing traders on trade development and government requirements such as tax compliance, required licenses and loan opportunities; constructed markets across the wards in the county to boost local trade which provides employment especially for women and youths. A water pan provides water for irrigation to farmers in the Changara area; among other development initiatives.

The County Assembly Committee on Implementation undertook site visits as part of their oversight role to confirm that these projects were done and further engaged the citizens on the implementation and impact of the projects.

Toward fostering social inclusivity and peaceful co-existence, Busia County is inhabited by Luhya, Teso and Luo Communities. In the past, ethnic tensions rose between communities resulting in clashes around Msokoto, Lupida, Changara-Malakisi border and Myanga areas between Luhya and Teso driven by land boundaries and political representation.

Some parts of Busia were initially inhabited by the Teso like Igara but were later hived to Luhya resulting in political tension.
Through the established elders' Council, an MOU was agreed on to guide political positions and resource sharing. Regular meetings are held for the Council of elders to iron out any arising differences. An alternative dispute resolution mechanism has been developed with the elders at the centre. Cultural activities such as the Iteso, Luhya and Samia Cultural events have helped to promote cohesion and integration.

2. County Government Of Marsabit: Tackling SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6

County Government of Marsabit was among the first Counties to align SDGs in her first CIDP (2013-2017). The County also aligned SDGs in the second CIDP (2018-2022). This was among the early commitments made to contribute to the acceleration of achievement of the SDGs targets. These SDGs have been cascaded in the MTP and CIDPs to build upon promises already made and contribute to the acceleration of the achievement of the targets, both at the national and county levels. In line with national and global development agenda, Marsabit County has cascaded the Post-2015 Development Agenda at the County and sub-county levels.

The SDGs at the County are being addressed within their respective sectors through different interventions, as indicated in the development priorities and strategies. The County has cascaded the SDGs Agenda at the County and sub-county levels. The goals are being addressed within the respective sectors through different interventions. So far, the following has been achieved:

a) Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
The County absolute poverty level was 63.7%, Food poverty level 55.6% Hardcore poverty level 23.8% (KIHBS 2015/16). Statistics available indicated that in the County Government of Marsabit poverty levels are estimated at 83.2%. Although poverty affects both men and women, women, youth and people with disabilities are worst affected in the County. It is within these lenses that the County endeavours to eradicate extreme poverty levels in tandem with the national aspirations. The County Government of Marsabit has initiated projects and programmes geared towards poverty eradication during the plan period. The County will start projects and programmes that will ensure elimination of poverty at all levels.

Governor H.E Mohamud Ali presiding over a ground breaking ceremony for a fish factory at Loiyangalani.

The County initiated several programmes to address these high poverty levels.

(i) Cash transfer programmes to the vulnerable groups especially most destitute group's, i.e. complete orphans, older persons, disabled among others;
(ii) Established Special funds (Enterprise funds) to Support disadvantaged groups in the County, i.e., Women and Youths and PLWDs.
(iii) Established scholarships (194 Students from poor households) & Bursary funds (1300 Beneficiaries) to support disadvantaged groups to access education, this will eventually break the poverty cycle.
(iv) Distribution of farm inputs, e.g., seedlings & fertilizers to the farmers to reduce food poverty.

As a result, this will build the resilience of the poor and other vulnerable groups and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.

b) Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
The County will continue to support agricultural production and local economic growth by strengthening extension service to farmers, including women agriculturalists and by providing basic transport infrastructure and markets to promote good exchange in local food chains. Further through use of healthcare services to address the nutritional needs of women and children and Early Childhood Development Education Centres (ECDEs) to identify and tackle child malnutrition the County ensures that everyone can enjoy a safe, nutritious diet, all year round. Some of the programmes rolled out already include;

(i) Improvement of agricultural crop production-3850 acres under crop production- Provision of 10MT of drought-tolerant crop seeds, pesticides, herbicides and farm tools.
(ii) Construction of water pans & dams to support agriculture and livestock; (105.5 acres of rehabilitated Kalacha and Songa Irrigation schemes support to rehabilitated Walda-65 acres.
(iii) Expansion of Log logo-from 5 to 20 acres and Kinisa-from 6 to 20 acres Irrigation projects.
(iv) Rehabilitation and expansion of existing irrigations schemes and establishment of new irrigation schemes in areas with irrigation potential;
(v) Distributed farm inputs, e.g., seedlings & fertilizers to the farmers to reduce food poverty.
(vi) Supporting fish production in Lake Turkana- Improved fish catch (2400MT Fresh fish and 4400MT Dry fish achieved).

c) Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. The county initiated the following programmes to improve healthcare.
i) To promote Universal Health Coverage (UHC), the County improved enrolment in NHIF health insurance cover by supporting over 10,000 poor households. This will continue in the next five years to ensure full coverage.
ii) Provision of specialized equipment's-Dialyses machine, CT Scan in MCRH & Moyale Hospital.
iii) Establishment of Renal unit and capacity building of 3 HCW in Renal services; 10 patients dialyzed per week at County referral hospital. • Functional Health care service delivery points have increased up to 117.
iv) Strengthen existing facilities to minimize the number of referrals.
v) Equipped existing health facilities;
vi) Improved immunization coverage from 67.5% (KDHS 2014) to 84%.
vii) Increased early testing and treatment through integrated HIV testing services during outreaches;
viii) Improved Health service delivery: Skilled deliveries (4846 out of 7994), ANC coverage (3921 out of 10039).
ix) Improved access to health services through infrastructural development, NHIF enrollment, free ambulance services, renal health services and Essential Medicines Medical Supplies (EMMS).
x) Recruitment and deployment of skilled human resource-CHAs, Nutritionists, Gynecologist, surgeon and renal specialist (980 Medical professionals).

d) Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
i. Provision of free Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Education to ensure our youths acquire necessary skills for employment creation.
ii. Increased access to Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE)- Increased learners enrolled in ECDEs up to 14,000.
iii. Provision of Bursaries to the needy and vulnerable groups (Colleges & Secondary schools).
iv. Full scholarships for secondary schools -194 Students from poor background.
v. Improved the quality of ECD education by recruiting additional 202 ECDE Teachers. This translated to an improvement of teacher-pupil ratio to 82:1.
vi. Introduced Four Uni-Huts Mobile ECDE Centres to address the nomadism challenges.
vii. Development of schools Infrastructure-Increased construction of workshops for TVTs, Laboratories, administration blocks, dormitories, classrooms among others.
viii. Create Vocational Training Centres in each of the sub-county- 4 Vocational Training Centers (VTCs).

Goal 5: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
Steps taken so far include;
i. Increased water access and availability of water to human and Livestock through the construction of 110 Bore-holes.
ii. Reduced Distance to rural water sources from 20km to 10 km.
iii. Distance to the nearest Urban water source -2Km.
iv. 18 Half Pans constructed & desilted -42000 households and 150,000 Livestock.
v. 15 Underground water storage tanks of 100m3 constructed.
vi. 50 Underground rock catchments developed.
vii. 16 Masonry Tanks constructed to harvest rainwater.
viii. 16 Gen sets for boreholes.
ix. Purchase & Distribution of 1000 plastic tanks.
x. Increased tree cover -5000 tree seedlings per year.
xi. Developed County Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan.

New Mother & Child Complex, Renal Unit & Dialysis Centre and a fully functional CT Scan in Marsabit County.

Lessons Learnt

a. Through a participatory approach/engagement, the County was able to know the desired needs of its people.
b. Through the improved partnership, the County has enhanced its capacity in developmental planning monitoring evaluation.
c. There was enhanced service delivery as a result of good planning that engaged community/stakeholder participation.
d. Capacity building for Members of County Assembly enhanced their efficiency on oversight roles.

3. County Government of Taita Taveta. Tackling SDGS 4, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17

All SDGs have targets that are directly or indirectly related to the development of the County Government of Taita Taveta, and the County has considered all SDGs and mainstreamed them in the development of projects and programmes in its CIDP. The County Government of Taita Taveta undertook a review of the implementation of the SDGs.

Per 2019 Voluntary National Reporting Theme on "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality", the County Government of Taita Taveta reviewed in depth its efforts towards implementing the following goals;

a) Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
b) Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
c) Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.
d) Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
e) 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.
f) Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

The County Government has so far implemented several projects and programmes across all its sectors in line with its CIDP. This has mainstreamed the President's Big Four Agenda, the Governor's Manifesto, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Kenya Vision 2030, Medium Term Plan (MTP) III 2018 to 2022, the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and other long-term planning and policy documents. All the implemented projects have been documented and consolidated through the Monitoring and Evaluation Division for ease of tracking of progress and evaluation of the attainment of the expected objectives.

Analysis of the implementation of County projects & programmes

Data from the County Projects and Programmes has been put in an SDGs M&E Reporting Matrix for efficient and effective tracking of SDGs implementation. Comparative analysis of "before and after" the various interventions is then done. This informs strategic decisions by the County Leadership for better service delivery to the people, and more so, commitment to the implementation of SDGs.

Prioritization of SDGs localization in CIDPs and ADPs

County Governments prioritize localization of SDGs by factoring in the SDGs in the local development agenda through the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) and Annual Development Plans (ADPs). Effectively, the CIDPs constitute development plans for five years, from which the ADPs are developed.

This points to the fact that the ADPs are the annual road maps for actualizing the CIDPs. In this section, we review CIDPs and ADPs from two model County Governments, namely Kwale County and Makueni County.

Article 220(2)(a) of the Constitution states that national legislation shall prescribe the structure of development plans and budgets for National Government and County Governments and that the preparation of annual budgets shall be governed by integrated development planning.

Mainstreaming of SDGs in the County integrated Development Plans

This section analyses progress of county governments in mainstreaming SDGs in the CIDPS from select county governments. Baringo and Makueni have been analysed to highlight the efforts made by county governmnets in mainstreaming SDGs in local planning frameworks.

Review of Baringo County's CIDP and ADP 2019/20 with regard to SDGs Localization

The Baringo County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) (2018 – 2022), Annual Development Plans and Sector Plans have integrated some of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in its development programmes.

In many cases, especially for poverty and economic indicators, the variables are on the collection process and making the indicators more accurate. In some cases, however, the collection and reporting might take a longer period. The Department of Finance and Economic Planning continually consults with relevant departments to determine data cycle for each indicator. The County statistical officers need capacity building to be well equipped and supported to take on new data challenges and responsibilities. Observably, this requires substantial investments in county statistical systems.

The Baringo County CIDP provides a panoramic of the approach to localization of SDGs in the County's development agenda and gives performance assessments measures through indicators and specific departments responsible for the implementation process.

From this perspective, it brings out the fact that implementation of SDGs at the local level is not just mainstreamed in the CIDP and ADP, but that the implementation process can be tracked at the departmental level. This makes follow- up easy, and this also makes sector-based stakeholders easy to engage.

Review of Makueni County's CIDP & ADP 2019/20 with regard to SDGs Localization

Makueni County's 2019/20 ADP adopts a holistic and cross-sectoral government approach to development planning and projects prioritization.

It focuses on improving livelihoods through increased agricultural production, empower youths to participate in economic activities, enhance quality health care for all and enhance the contribution of communities to development. This is aimed at improving coordination and cooperation among the various stakeholders in the delivery of the intended objectives.

The ADP takes into consideration the challenges and issues identified through consultative forums and pillar working groups/technical officers. This participatory process also incorporated the inputs of the County Budget and Economic Forum (CBEF).

The CIDP is specific on the synchronization of planning, and budgeting is important as this ensures that projects are not under-budgeted or over-budgeted for in the process. There are projects in the County that stalled awaiting reallocation through the supplementary budget. This results in delayed development and also an indication of poor planning and implementation by the County Government.

The Makueni County CIDP 2018-22 focuses on actualizing socio-economic transformation as envisaged under the Makueni Vision 2025 based on the background laid out under CIDP 2013- 17. The rallying theme of the 2018-22 CIDP is "Increased Household Income for Sustainable Livelihoods". This will be delivered through interventions in five thematic areas, namely:

1) Community economic empowerment.
2) Water resource management.
3) Lands, urban planning and development.
4) Socio-economic development.
5) Enablers (infrastructure, cooperatives, financial infrastructure, energy, ICT, institutional capacity, market infrastructure).

The County's 2019/20 ADP Objectives cover five key aspects:

1. Community Economic Empowerment: Increasing agricultural productivity through adoption of appropriate and modern technologies; Promoting value addition and agriculture commercialization and improving food security; Reducing post-harvest losses; Enhancing industrialization (agro-processing, cottage industries); Ensuring inclusive participation in economic activities; Enhanced land security and utilization, and ensuring sustainable natural resource management.

2. Water Resource Management: Increasing availability and access to safe water within 2 Kms; improving water governance mechanism and improving water catchment management.

3. Lands, Urban Planning and Development: Improving urban planning and infrastructure development; Improving land information management (GIS, digitization of land registry); and Increasing HHs with secure land tenure system.

4. Socio-Economic Development: Transforming health standards of the health system to achieve quality health care for all; Reducing morbidity and mortality through enhanced health emergency response; Upgrading and equipping health, education and sporting facilities; Attracting and retaining qualified medical staff; Reducing dependency rates; and enhancing a cohesive society through sports, culture and provision of quality education and training.

5. CIDP Enablers 2018 – 2022: Improve access to markets through efficient road network and communication; Enhance access to reliable energy; Improve institutional development and knowledge management; Effective citizen engagement; Improve access to ICT; Enhance fiscal responsibility and accountability and Improve urban and market infrastructure.

Makueni CIDP 2018-2022 identifies key enablers that will contribute in delivering the programmes in the plan for enhanced socio-economic development in the County. These include:
a. Improved access to ICT, Infrastructure and Energy.
b. Governance, institutional capacity, citizen engagement, Enhanced fiscal responsibility and accountability.

Revenue Performance 2013-2017 CIDP and Analysis of the 2018-2022 CIDP Fiscal Matters for Makueni County

The County funded its budget through transfers from the national government and its own-source revenue. The National Government transfers included equitable share and conditional grants.

In the period under review, the County received a total of Kshs. 28,796,038,697.00 as equitable share and mobilized its own source revenue amounting to Kshs. 1,162,389,753.55. The equitable share increased by 56 per cent from Ksh. 4.366 billion in 2013/14 financial year to Ksh. 6.825 billion in 2017/2018 financial year. Further analyses show that the increase has been increasing at a decreasing trend where the increase between financial years 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 was 18.9 per cent compared to 5.95 per cent between financial years 2016/2017 and 2017/2018.

Therefore, to implement the development projects in the 2018-2022 CIDP, County's resource mobilization strategy will have to revolve around internal and external mobilization to fill up the fiscal basket. The internal strategy should focus on enhancing the County's own-source revenue while the external strategy shifts the attention towards engaging external partners to finance implementation of the 2018-2022 CIDP. The external strategy has to involve deepening engagement with bilateral and multilateral agencies, public-private partnerships, private foundations and diaspora engagement (fundraising).

Towards domestication and localization of SDGs, in addition to the SDGs road map, County Governments in Kenya have prioritized SDGs and their respective targets in local development plans.

A review of the CIDPs from Makueni and Kwale Counties below is a clear demonstration that County Governments in Kenya have mainstreamed SDGs in their local development plans and budgets, supported by the SDGs Inter-Agency Technical Committee (IATC) at the national level.

Agreeably, setting up institutional frameworks, capacity building, advocacy and, mainstreaming of SDGs in policy and planning including the performance contracts and Strategic Plans, as well as CIDPs and ADPs, is a clear indication of the seriousness and commitment County Governments have given to SDGs localization and implementation.

Looking at it broadly through multi-agency coordination, supported by the constitutionally created Equalization Fund; provision of free primary school education and tuition-free secondary schools managed by the National Government, as well the expansion of Technical and Vocational Educational Training (TVET) institutions to the village level managed by County Governments, demonstrates the need for strengthening synergy between the National and County levels of government.

Other relevant and functional entities include the Women Enterprise Fund, Youth Enterprise Development Fund, UWEZO (Ability) Fund, Procurement Preferences and Reservations (30 per cent affirmative action policy for women, youth and persons with disabilities) in public procurement, National Youth Services Capacity Building Initiatives and the Kenya Youth Empowerment Project (KYEP).

These programmes aim at addressing the plight of the less disadvantaged in society, combat poverty, and promote equity, and thus feed into the targets that inform the realization of SDGs implementation. Both the National and County Governments committed during the Sixth Annual Devolution Conference in 2019 March to make a substantial investment in the cottage and agro-processing industries to create employment and wealth generation for women, youth, people living with disabilities, and marginalized groups[11].

11 Commitment number 9 of the Communique of the Sixth Annual Devolution Confrence held from 4th to 8th March, 2019. Kirinyga University, Kirinyaga County.

Kalamba Fruit Processing Plant in makueni County

Review of Kwale County's CIDP and ADP 2019/20 with regard to SDGs Localization

The Kwale County Annual Development Plan for 2019-2020 financial year was developed through a participatory and inclusive process involving the local communities, civil society organizations, development partners and other stakeholders.

Public participation fora were conducted by the County Economic Planning Unit where views, memoranda and submissions were collected for incorporation into the plan. The process was also informed by lessons learnt in the implementation of the previous FY 2017/2018 budget and the First Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2013-2017.

The County Annual Development Plan 2019/2020 mirrors the strategic priorities and objectives of the County Integrated Development Plan 2018-2022. The plan proposes high impact programmes which are linked to attainment of the Governor's manifesto, objectives of Kenya's Vision 2030 Third Medium Term Plan (MTP III) and the Big Four Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The County Government of Kwale prepared the current Annual Development Plan (ADP) to be implemented in the financial year (FY) 2019/2020.

The County Government in the financial year 2019/2020 anticipated revenues amounting to Ksh 9,553,419,246.00 from all sources. In terms of economic classification and allocation, Ksh 4,582,247,054.00, which translates to about 48.0 per cent of the total revenues would be allocated to development programmes. Recurrent expenditures would receive the balance of Ksh 4,971,172,192.00, which amounts to 52.0 per cent of the total funding.

A comprehensive review of the County's CIDP and CADP indicates that the County Government is firmly committed to pursuing the implementation of its five-point strategic priorities namely: -

(i) Enhancing education to create a robust and skilled human resource base. This will be achieved through the establishment of a County Government sponsored apprenticeship programme and expansion of the scholarship/bursary scheme.
(ii) Guaranteeing access to universal healthcare through the continued expansion, equipping and adequate staffing of health facilities and facilitating health insurance cover through the NHIF Bima Afya initiative.
(iii) Investing in infrastructure such as the upgrading and tarmacking of key roads, improvement of water supply and sanitation systems, establishing agro-based industrial plants, markets construction and energy connectivity.
(iv) Expanding food and agricultural production through strengthening farm mechanization and extension services, provision of farm inputs, improved livestock breeding and disease control and promotion of the Blue Economy.
(v) Strengthening the land tenure system to settle the landless and marginalized sections of our society, undertake spatial planning for improved livelihood and protecting and conserving the environment for sustainable development

Department	Sustainable Development Goals	Strategies addressing the SDG Goal
Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries	SDG1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.	Promotion of high-value crops, Livestock breed improvement, Development of livestock and fish markets, Establishment of dairy processing centres, Promotion of beekeeping
	SDG2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.	Promote drought-tolerant crops Upscale dissemination of appropriate technologies. Provision of appropriate fishing gears, Promotion of seaweed farming
Environment and Natural resources	SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.	Facilitate renewable energy generation and use such as solar, wind, hydropower and biogas. Also, encourage the use of alternative energy-saving solutions like energy-saving jikos and stoves
	SDG11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive safe, resilient and sustainable.	Establish a Spatial plan, and appropriate land use plans land
	SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.	Develop climate change financing schemes such as carbon credit schemes in forest and Payment for Ecosystems Service schemes to enhance environmental protection and mitigate impacts of climate change

Department	Sustainable Development Goals	Strategies addressing the SDG Goal
Environment and Natural resources	Goal15: Protect restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems sustainably manage forests combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.	Protect and conserve the environment and land management through adequate policies to regulate charcoal burning, conserve forests, planting of trees, environmental assessments and audits on infrastructure development, waste management
Water services	SDG 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	Improve the availability and supply of clean and treated water by constructing large water dams and pans, drilling of boreholes, pipe reticulation, water testing and treatment facility
Education	SDG 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.	Promote early childhood education, youth training and sponsorship/bursary programmes
Social Services and Talent Development	Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.	Empowering women, youth and People with Disabilities through strengthened table banking, enhancing on loan issuance program (YOWEPEF) and capacity building on governance and socio-economic programs
	SDG 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.	Enhance civic education on mainstreaming of youth, PWDs and gender issues through sensitization to county departments to incorporate gender issues in planning, budgeting and implementation of their programmes.
	SDG 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.	Enhance socio-cultural heritage and social integration by organizing county/inter-county cultural activities/programs, community cultural centres and documentation of tangible and intangible assets
Roads and Public works	SDG 13: Take urgent action to compact climate change and its impacts.	Make an expanded road network more resilient to weather patterns
Tourism and enterprise development	SDG 8: Promote sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.	Promote SME growth in trade, tourism, mining, Co-operatives, energy and ICT
Health care services	SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages.	Promotion of preventive and curative Health care services
Finance and Economic Planning	SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.	Deepening stakeholder participation and partnerships in county service delivery
County Executive Services	SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.	Strengthen governance structures and intergovernmental relations
Public Service and Administration	SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.	Empower the public through coordination and public participation and civic education in County laws, regulations and policies and programmes
County Public Service Board	SDG 8: Promote sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.	Operationalize equal opportunity employment.
County Assembly	SDG 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.	Facilitate inclusivity, accountability and the rule of law.

Table: Linking the Sustainable Development Goals within the County thematic areas and proposed programs and projects
Source: County Department of Finance and Economic Planning.

County Governments in Kenya have institutionalized SDGs coordination through the directors of planning and economic affairs. This is evident in the development matrix captured in CIDPs and ADPs, such as the Kwale County ADP above.

A critical review of the above highlights the extent to which Kwale County Government has gone to mainstream SDGs in the CIDP, and operationalized in the ADP. This is demonstrated by how departmental projects mirror specific SDGs and their goals, across all the 17 SDGs.

Part 6: Financial management and fiscal concerns by county governments

Kenya's County Governments are highly dependent on vertical equitable share transfers received from the National Government. County Governments receive a minimum of 15 per cent of nationally raised revenues as a fair share, which accounts on average for 81 per cent of County Government total revenues.

Own-Source Revenue (OSR) by County Governments

A sound revenue system for subnational governments is a critical prerequisite for the success of fiscal decentralisation in Kenya. Government budgets are at the core of sustainable development. The budget is the government's most powerful economic tool to meet the needs of its people, especially those of poor and marginalized communities. Budgets enable fiscal responsibility and accountability. Each of the 47 County Governments has executive and legislative authority to budget for and perform devolved functions.

The need for County Governments to have reliable revenue is a key principle of Kenya's devolution. This is contained in Article 175(b) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010. The devolution arrangements also feature political and administrative devolution, as well as fiscal decentralization. Counties are allowed to impose:

a) Property rates;
b) Entertainment taxes;
c) Charges for services they provide;
d) Any other tax or licensing fee authorized by an Act of Parliament

The PFM Act provides guidelines for the management of County revenues, including banking arrangements and appointment of revenue receivers and collectors.

To give effect to Article 209(3) of the CoK, Counties enact specific laws such as the annual county finance acts that authorise tax collection and receipt of other revenues. Counties also enact sector or source specific legislation such as trade licensing, liquor control and property rating/valuation laws that allow them to regulate various sectors through licensing and permits that are acquired at a fee.

Adequate mobilisation of OSR is the key to Counties' improved ability to provide various public goods and services to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development goals.

Currently, most Counties levy cess not only on agricultural products but also on non-agricultural commodities, including natural resources such as sand and timber. Most Counties treat cess as a revenue stream that can be used for any expenditure rather than revenue earmarked for improvement of agricultural production as was envisaged under the repealed Agriculture Act. However, in Busia cess is earmarked for road maintenance, whereas in Nyeri cess is earmarked for maintenance of infrastructure in tea growing areas.

In a bid to increase their OSR, County Governments have created several regulations to enable them to collect more revenue through multiple licenses and permits. For instance, transporters of agricultural produce are often required to pay multiple cess charges as they cross County boundaries to reach various markets.

This remains a challenge because it leads to high distribution costs that are often passed to consumers and undermine the efforts by the National Government to create an environment that is conducive for business and investment. In addition, double taxation resulting from weak coordination of tax measures that affect cross County trade discourage private investment.

OSR volume as a percentage of the Gross Domestic Product

Own Source Revenue (OSR) across Counties is still little in volume and as a percentage of the national gross domestic product (GDP). OSR volume has been decreasing since 2016/17. In the first five years of fiscal decentralisation (2013/14 to 2017/18), OSR was less than 1% of national GDP.

In 2014/15, the amount of OSR collected by the 47 Counties increased by 29.1%. However, it increased by only 3.5% in 2015/16. In 2016/17 and 2017/18, OSR reduced by 7.1% and 0.1% respectively. The limited available literature attributes the decrease in OSR mobilisation to poor revenue collection practices and significant revenue leakages.

Available data indicates that OSR is concentrated in ten Counties that have high levels of urbanisation and diverse economic activities. Specifically, Nairobi, Mombasa, Nakuru, Kiambu, Narok, Machakos, Kisumu, Uasin Gishu, Nyeri and Kajiado accounted for 72.8% of the total OSR raised by the 47 Counties between 2013/14 and 2017/18.

Tharaka Nithi, Elgeyo Marakwet, Nyamira, Marsabit, Garissa, West Pokot, Wajir, Mandera, Lamu and Tana River had the lowest OSR, with a combined share of 2.8% in total County OSR raised over the five years. Six of these Counties, i.e. Marsabit, Garissa, West Pokot, Wajir, Mandera and Tana River also have a high incidence of poverty, with over 50% of their populations living below the national poverty line.

Looking at individual Counties, Nairobi has the lowest level of fiscal dependence, given that 45.3% of its total revenue for the period 2013/14 and 2017/18 came from own sources (Figure 2). Among the top five Counties – Nairobi, Mombasa, Narok, Nakuru and Kiambu – OSR accounted for at least 18% of total revenue for the five years reviewed.

By contrast, OSR accounted for less than 1.5% of total revenue in the bottom five Counties: Garissa, Turkana, Wajir, Mandera and Tana River. Overall in the period of focus, only 11 Counties were able to raise at least 10% of their total revenues from own sources.

Analytical perspective

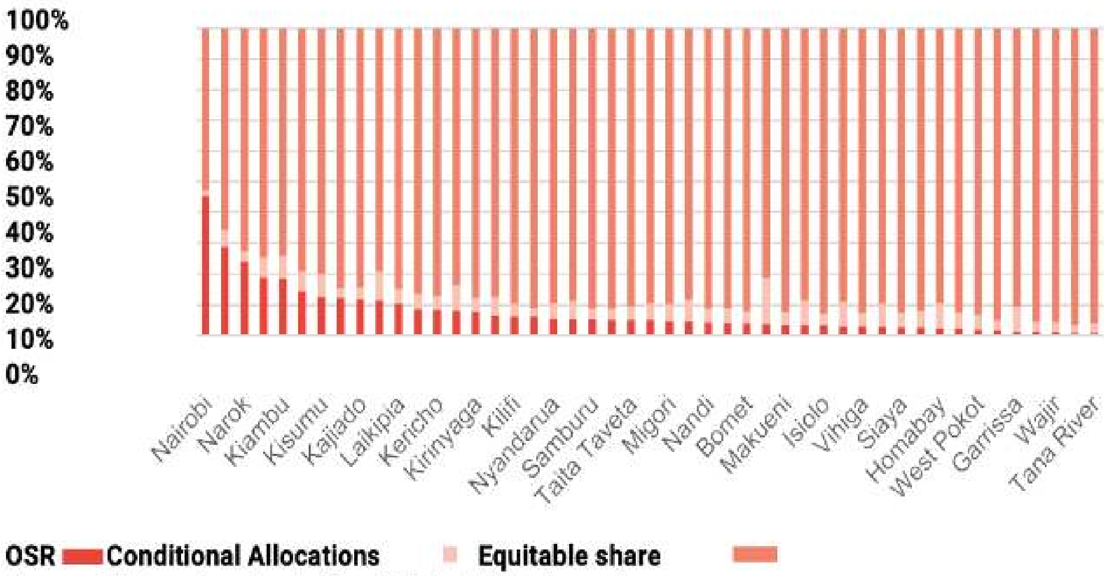
From the information above, County Governments that meet their annual targets of OSR have more fiscal capacity to finance projects that fall within SDGs than those that face periodic fluctuations or fail to meet more than 50% of OSR targets.

Investing in full automation of revenue collection and management is an opportunity to increase OSR by improving transparency, minimizing leakages and ensuring efficiency. However, some counties have reported reduced revenue after automation.

Kiambu, Kisumu, Bungoma, Mombasa and Taita Taveta are good examples of Counties that have automated their revenue collection systems. In Kiambu, OSR collection doubled between 2013/14 and 2015/16 in part due to automation of revenue collection and management. Similarly, automation contributed to increased OSR collection in Bungoma Mombasa and Kisumu Counties.

County Governments need to do more to ensure a sustained increase in OSR and ensuring they meet the annual OSR target or at least be above the 80% mark. And to ensure the adequacy of fiscal resources locally to supplement the revenue allocation from National Treasury, to meet their development goals, including implementation of SDGs.

Table: Share of OSR in total county revenue for the period 2013/14 to 2017/18



Source: DI based on Controller of Budget data for various years

Overall, only five Counties – Kericho, Homa Bay, Baringo, Bomet and Nyandarua – achieved at least 70% of their annual OSR targets for the last six years.

Part 7 : Examples of initiatives by county governments in localization of SDGs

1.(a) Makueni Fruit Juice Processing Plant/ Value Addition (SDG 1,2 & 8)

The Plant is set up at Kalamba Ward in Makueni County. The Plant can process five metric tons of raw mangoes producing 3,000 litres of Puree (Mango concentrate) per hour. A litre of the concentrate fetches KES 150 at the market place. The farmers are the primary stakeholders of the plant.

Opportunities emerging from the plant;

» Curb wastage.
» Stabilise prices by increasing the value of mango in the County from what was currently projected to be KES 3billion.
» Local farmers and investors own a stake and grow wealth.
» Learn new technologies learn about value addition to increase.
» Increased household incomes, job creation in both farm and factory, improved quality, pricing and living standards.
» More employment opportunities for women, youth and experts.

In Makueni County, the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries enhances the quality of fruits by control of the fruit fly and farmer education to ensure that the fruits processed in the plant are compliant with European Union (EU) standards.

(b) Makueni Milk Processing

Kikima Dairy Farmers Cooperative Society has the capacity of processing and packaging 300 litres per hour and 6600 litres in a day. The dairy plant-based in Mbooni Sub-county and owned by the Kikima Dairy Farmers Cooperative Society makes Makueni County the first to sell its own branded milk dubbed Makueni Fresh milk which is sold in local supermarkets. The plant has increased milk processing in the country from 17 million litres of milk to 18 million litres annually, which is still below the consumption demand of 340 million litres annually. Farmers are required to pay only Sh300 per service whereas the government through the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries settles the balance. The project has dramatically improved income for the farmer.

(c) The Makueni County Universal Healthcare Project

The County Government of Makueni is already investing in the health care building blocks driven by health programmes and investment areas. The building blocks are adequate human resources for health, efficient service delivery system, adequate health infrastructure, access to essential health products, sufficient health information, and proper health financing and comprehensive health leadership.

The County also has a healthcare programme where citizens register into the healthcare plan with Ksh 500 per year which covers the principal beneficiary, their spouse(s) and direct dependents below the age of 18 or 24 for school going dependents. The service aims at the provision of a package of quality essential healthcare services free of cost in all County public health facilities. The plan that covers for ten days' morgue fees as well covers overs over 200,000 people in the County. Old citizens (above 65 years) receive medical treatment for free.

All three initiatives are aimed at improving the livelihood of Makueni citizens. Through the Fruit and Milk processing plant, one of the significant outcomes is increased household income which in turn has enabled the Makueni citizens to afford the health insurance by the County Government.

The Governor of Makueni County H.E Kivutha Kibwana joining workers at the Kikima Dairy Processing Plant in Makueni.

2.(a) Kakamega County - 'Oparanyacare' Programme for Maternal Child Health

The high incidence of maternal and child mortality is of great concern to poor rural residents. Like many Counties in Kenya, Kakamega has never been free from the scourge of maternal and infant mortality, a problem fuelled mainly by poor nutrition and poverty.

"However, with the introduction of devolution we have focused our energy and commitment on addressing this problem regardless of many hurdles on the way mainly related to inadequate resources as well as legal and policy bottlenecks," says Governor Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya.

Back in 2003, Kakamega had some of the worst health indicators that painted a grim picture for a large rural population estimated at 1.8 million people. The maternal mortality then was 880 per 100,000 live births, double the national figure, which was 440 per 100,000. Most of the mothers lost their lives for the simple reason that they were not delivering in hospitals mainly because of poverty. They could neither afford hospital fees nor transport cost to health facilities, thus excluding them from quality health care services, including immunization programmes. There is no doubt that a broken health services infrastructure seriously weighed down the population.

This dire situation informed the County Government's decision to introduce a programme called "Imarisha Afya ya Mama na Mtoto" popularly known as 'Oparanyacare' for the vulnerable mothers. This initiative was introduced by governor Oparanya barely two years after coming into office.

How it works

The initiative is a conditional cash transfer programme that focuses on improving the uptake of antenatal Clinic care, skilled deliveries, postnatal care, immunization and family planning. The County Government of Kakamega fully funds it with technical support from UNICEF.

To date, about one million US dollars per year has been committed to support the programme. The results are encouraging.

Over 55,000 mothers have been registered, 28,041 of receive at least two payments. Skilled deliveries have improved from 33 to 63 per cent. Fully immunized coverage has also improved. From 63% in 2014 to 78% in 2019.The programme further intends to create linkages for mothers to social protection programmes both within the National Government and County Government.

The Governor Kakamega County H.E. Wycliffe Oparanya (in the middle) and the Speaker Hon. Buluma Morris(on the left) with some of the registered mothers in the programme and their children.

The governor, who is the brain behind this remarkable programme, is convinced that many mothers from poor backgrounds will eventually be economically empowered to take control of their households' health care and economic needs. Thus the programme seeks to achieve integration of other critical community-based initiatives including family planning, community health services, nutrition as well as social welfare.

Establishment of referral mechanism for beneficiaries to enjoy social protection services, including NHIF and NSSF is one of the critical objectives of the programme to ensure sustainability.

The ongoing establishment of community administration structures for efficient decision making and enhanced participation is also a key support pillar for Oparanyacare Programme. It is envisaged that within this structure, there will be opportunities for recruitment of beneficiary mothers into community health volunteers' programmes.

(b) One Cow Initiative Program Set to Revolutionize the Dairy Industry in Kakamega

Kakamega County is famous for bullfighting, a ceremony that is deeply rooted in the culture and entertainment of the people of western Kenya, the "Mulembe Nation."

There is no doubt that the bulls enjoy the limelight as the highly charged fans in Ikolomani, Shinyalu and Lurambi sub-counties – the epicentres of the game - prepare the ground for titanic confrontations of the well-fed and battle-hardened domestic monsters.

Sooner than later, it is observed that the cows remain in the background leaving all the cheers for the bulls. However, the story gets complicated when the cheering fans go back home to empty gourds as the cows don't produce enough milk for the community.

Back in 2015, Kakamega Governor Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya paused to ask a fundamental question: why do we put too much premium on bullfighting instead of milk production? It indeed makes more sense to economically empower the people than merely entertaining them on empty pockets! This is how the One Cow Initiative Programme was conceived.

It was recognized that Kakamega County, with a population of nearly two million people, was milk deficient. The County Government then embarked on this programme to introduce quality animals with superior genetics to improve milk production for consumption and commercial purposes. Exotic (grade) cows are preferred to the indigenous zebu variety, which forms 70% of the total population.

The programme was implemented in three phases. Ten animals per ward were given out in the first and second phases and eight per ward in the third phase

In 2015 1,790 in-calf heifers were distributed to farmers who were selected from all the 12 sub-counties of Kakamega. Farmers were required to raise the heifers for a while until they calf before handing over the offspring to the next beneficiary. So far, 1,201 heifers have been successfully passed on to farmers.

The entry of the improved variety of cows in Kakamega County has dramatically changed dairy production capacity for households. Whereas the indigenous cow on average produces 2 litres of milk per day, the improved variety produces 8 litres. So far nearly 3000 exotic cows have been brought into the programme. Kakamega farmers now produce nearly 250,000 litres of milk per day of which 135,000 litres are available to the market for sale.

The County Government of Kakamega recently embarked on the construction of a dairy processing plant in Malava Sub-County whose superstructure will cost Shs110 million. On installation of processing equipment, the plant will process fresh milk, fermented milk products and UHT milk through a single line of 50,000 litres capacity which will be upgraded to four active lines as it expands.

The County Government is confident that through the provision of subsidized AI services to farmers aimed at further upgrading the existing animal stock. Plus active membership in dairy cooperative societies for effective marketing of milk and milk products, the dairy sector's future in Kakamega is promising.

The Governor of Kakamega County H.E. Wycliffe Oparanya (on the right) handing over a heifer to a beneficiary in the One Cow Programme.

3.Public Participation by Kajiado County Assembly

Kajiado County Assembly has incessantly made various efforts to engage County residents in public participation. Over time, the County Assembly has continued to engage the public through various departments on issues of public interest.

In 2015, the County Assembly had established forums known as Bunge Mashinani (Grassroots Parliament) as a structure for public participation where the assembly engaged with the citizens.

The Bunge Mashinani platform helps residents to inclusively deliberate on and participate in the budget-making process. Discussing draft Bills for legislation by the County Assembly, as well as giving their input in prioritization of development plans.

The Bunge provided an opportunity for the citizens to be apprised on the mandate of the County Assembly and various County Assembly initiatives. Although the Assembly has had plans to continue having such platforms for citizen engagement in successive financial years such as (2019/2020), the Assembly continues to face budgetary constraints, logistical and administrative challenges.

Kajiado County Assembly has, also, made considerable efforts toward public participation practices through the use of advertisements in the leading national dailies for awareness creation, social media (Facebook; WhatsApp) and the local radio station – Mayian FM.

Other County Assemblies that have rolled out localized public assemblies include Samburu County Assembly, Makueni County Assembly, and Kwale County Assembly. However, these other counties have not made them as elaborate as Kajiado County Assembly.

A Bunge mashinani session, Kajiado County

4.Meru County Best Practices in Legislation; Meru County Investment Development Cooperation & Youth Service

Meru County pioneered for County Governments in Kenya a legal framework for establishing investments collaborations and partnerships with the private sector. Through the Meru Investment and Development Corporation (MCIDC) creation of an Act of County Assembly in 2014, the County intended to promote local investments through the facilitation of the private sector participation. Over the years, MCIDC has lived true to its mandate and is a leading institution for the efficient and effective management of Strategic County Government assets and investments.

Under Part II, clause 5 of the MCIDC Act, 2014 which details functions of the corporation, the corporation is responsible for undertaking for the County Government any development initiative with a business or social purpose. In this light, The MCIDC has recorded impressive milestones as follows;

- Opened up Mt. Kenya to tourism opportunities and investments through the Meru Mountain Running Championship held on 26th February 2020. The Corporation is currently finalizing on measures to institutionalize this event into the annual County calendar.
- At advanced stages for the Financial closure in the Development of the Meru County Energy Park-MCEP through a Public-Private Partnership with leading global renewable energy developers Windlab and Eurus Energy for the development of Africa's first large scale hybrid wind, solar PV and battery storage project.
- Completed the feasibility study and development of the Master Plan and Design drawings for the Meru International Convention Center
- Construction of the New Meru County Headquarters which has been leased to the County Government.
- Operationalization of the Thimangiri Slaughterhouse in Meru Town.
- Revitalization of the Meru Coffee Mill and implementation of the cherry Cash model.

These strategic investments promote local economic growth, job creation and the flow of incomes to households participating in various value chains in the areas of investments across the County.

In addition, the Corporation is poised to be a key driver in the delivery of the Meru Vision 2040 in the areas of Manufacturing, Agro-Processing, Real Estate and Tourism. The institution has elaborated and attractive incentives packaged to attract investments in these areas.

On the other hand, Meru County has also made extensive progress in the area of Youth Empowerment through the Flagship Meru Youth Service Programme. The Youth Service is a programme by the County Government of Meru focusing on socio-economic empowerment of the Youth in Meru County. The programme was designed to deal with youth unemployment, poverty and apathy along with challenges such as youth radicalization, crime, alcoholism and drug abuse by empowering the youths through skills for self-reliance and entrepreneurship.

The first cohort of 1000 youth received life skills training, with a focus on personal discipline and behaviour change training for one month to rehabilitate the youths. The youths were thereafter offered a choice between being engaged in community service after training or taking up vocational training in the local polytechnic, paid for by the County. Four hundred youths chose to be placed in the community service programme and were placed in the health promotion activities on a part-time basis.

As part of an ambitious five-year programme themed 'Build the Youth, Build the future' the 400 are involved in County development projects at a stipend of Ksh. 400 per day. They have been involved in the County greening project to plant trees as well as in the Community Health Volunteers (CHV's) programme. This is not only effectively changing their lives for the better but also playing a vital role in the County development process.

On the other hand, the programme has enrolled 600 of these youth for vocational training to equipping them with skills and competence for self-career development. In this arrangement, the programme has attracted the support of partners, enabling the County Government to raise additional funds.

The KCB Foundation has provided funds for a scholarship programme in a joint shilling-for-shilling plan, and the youths under the programme have received training in building and construction. UN-Habitat is also supporting the initiative with the purchase of brick making machines and training, while Manu Chandaria Foundation is supporting training for the youths in essential ICT and entrepreneurship skills.

Additionally, the programme has continued to sensitize and mobilized the youth into forming and registering self-help groups to benefit from the affirmative action funds. One notable success story in this regard is the birth of ROMA Security Company, founded by 15 graduates of the MYS. This venture, among others, represents the possible outcomes from youth empowerment.

Meru Youth service passout ceremony

5. Ushanga Project in Narok County

This is a project aimed at empowering women from the pastoral communities through Community Based Tourism Enterprises Framework (and Sustainable Tourism Enterprises Project) by mobilizing women through cooperatives and marketing their products.

Creative cottage industries provide unprecedented opportunities for women and young people, and this is one such initiative that will lift our women. They will immensely benefit from the work of their hands.

Through this project, the County is rising to celebrate art in the eyes of culture and is keen to explore this endeavour through tourism, both domestic and foreign.

With and through this Ushanga & Shanga programme, women have the authority, the legitimacy, the commitment to build their capacity, economic strength and cultural heritage in a valuable.

The project is pegged on the need to sustain traditional artistry productively, and pass it on to next generations so that their children too can have a future, derived from our long admired heritage.

Display of some of the handmade products by the women under the Ushanga project

6.Positioning Narok County as the Livestock County of Choice

Capacitating livestock farmers to respond to the sub-sector's growing demands so that they take part in, and benefit from the demands is a guiding factor in the County's development plan for the livestock sub-sector. This is against the backdrop that Narok County historically up to now is predominantly pastoralist, and livestock farming is highly valued.

Statistically, about 60% of Kenya's livestock herd is found in the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs), which constitute about 80% of the country, and Narok County is one such contributor.

Most residents of Narok County depend on their livestock for livelihood and economic stability. This informs the County's prioritization of support for the sub-sector.

Constraints about that limit optimization of livestock farming in Narok, include:

a) Limited access to productive resources, including land, water and credit.

b) Limited access to market information and market prices.

c) Poor quality breeds

The County Government has heightened its focus in this sub-sector to accentuate modern livestock farming strategies and boost livestock breeds for the locals.

This livestock project is intended to create an avenue and opportunity for farmers to acquire knowledge on the livestock value chain and replicate at the farm level. It will unlock the business opportunities on the livestock front.

Consequently, it will attract private sector investments and create a market place for breeders, buyers, traders, processors, service providers to interact and close deals. As a result, there will be a transfer of knowledge & expertise to local farmers and create interlinkages between hay, breeds and trade.

Narok Women profiling their beadwork products to the Cabinet Secretary for Tourism Najib Balala.

The President of the Republic of Kenya H.E Uhuru Kenyatta and Governor Narok County Samuel Tunai at the inaugural Narok Livestock show.

7.Managing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence by Mombasa County

Cases of gender-based violence have been reported to have increased across the country due to the stay-at-home directive and the curfew imposed by the government. In this period of the pandemic, the County Government of Mombasa noted a declined in the number of reported cases at the GBV Rescue Center at the Coast General Hospital and the police stations.

However, there was a slight increase in cases that were being reported through other stakeholders within the Mombasa County GBV Technical Working Group (TWG). For example, in the month of March and April, the GBV RC at the Coast General Hospital reported thirty-five (35) cases and fifteen (15) cases were reported at the police station as opposed to sixty-seventy (60-70) cases that were being reported through other stakeholders. The sharp decrease in reported cases was linked to the curfew, stay-at-home and social distancing directives. GBV cases are sensitive in nature, and privacy is required during the reporting of such cases.

However, with social distancing, it meant that victims would have to speak loudly, especially in a case where they have visited a police station, and social distance is required between the two parties. The low numbers in the reported cases were also attributed to the relocation of the rescue centre at the Coast General hospital to a different wing which was necessitated by the need to have a quarantine centre within the hospital. The County through the GBV TWG saw the need to have a toll-free number that will support calls and SMS' for the residents.

The County reached out to partners within the TWG to support the toll-free calling and SMS line to support residents during this Covid-19 pandemic. The County also saw the need to set up a situation room to deal with the cases and to make the urgency of the cases known.
The situation room acts as a call centre and also deals with victims who walk in to report cases of GBV.

Sauti ya Wanawake (Voice of Women) through their donors will be supporting the toll-free calling and SMS line for a period of three (3) months from May to July 2020. The County is expected to budget for this initiative after July for sustainability. The process of acquiring the toll-free number took a maximum of two weeks for it to be fully operational. To ensure efficiency, the County has ten (10) people working in the situation room. It has also linked the number to various extensions for people within the TWG to ensure that there is no point when a victim will miss someone on the line. Six (6) of the workers at the situation room are employees of the County while the other four (4) are volunteers from the community.

The reason for the mix was also attributed to the fact that those coming from the community have experience drawn from the community and have a certain level of awareness of some of the issues that are reported. The workers can complement each other well and work together effectively. The County has also had to give an allowance to the workers at the situation room to cater for their lunch since they work throughout the day.

To ensure awareness creation for the initiative, the County has been involved in a series of sensitization throughout the sub-counties through various platforms. They include door to door sensitization through social workers and use of local radio stations.

Through this initiative, the County is now recording more reported cases, and they can work on referral effectively through the support of other stakeholders within the TWG. So far, the County has been able to reach out to the victims who have calling and also visiting the centre for support and also has an efficient referral system in dealing with reported cases. This also led to the County receiving calls from neighbouring Counties from victims of GBV.

Part 8: Climate Change management by County governments

More than 70% of 'natural' disasters in Kenya are related to extreme climate events. On average, Climate Change caused 56.7 deaths and GDP losses of 0.33% per year in Kenya between 1998 and 2017. People in poverty are likely to be left behind in the absence of adequate investment in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and Climate Change adaptation.

Counties are developing County Spatial Plans to guide investments, including investments in climate change programmes. Counties have mainstreamed Climate Change in the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs).

Counties have designated officers responsible for climate change and are currently finalizing establishment of County Climate Change Units. At least 8 (Makueni, Isiolo, Kitui, Garissa, Wajir, Vihiga, Tharaka Nithi and Turkana) with many other Counties in advance stages. Counties have established Climate Change Policies and Climate Change Financing Mechanisms allocating upto 3% of their development budget to support climate action. Counties have invested in diverse climate change programmes including supporting emergence of SMEs that supply input for forest cover conservation, Non-motorised transport in many urban centres, Greening urban areas in Kenya, and Wider adoption of solar lighting in urban areas

The CCCF mechanism has been piloted successfully in five Counties of Isiolo, Garissa, Kitui, Makueni and Wajir and its expansion is one of the priorities in the National Climate Change Action Plan, 2018-2022. Drawing on the success of the pilot, the CCCF mechanism is currently being scaled out to Vihiga, Nandi, Bomet, Kisii, Kakamega, Kisumu, Narok, Siaya, Taita Taveta, Tharaka Nithi, Embu, Machakos, Kilifi and Kwale.

County governments have developed climate change fund mechanism allowing for dedication of a percentage of annual development budget to address climate change. The County Climate Change Fund (CCCF). The mechanism is implemented by the National Drought Management Authority through the Adaptation (Ada) Consortium facilitates the flow of climate finance to Counties. It integrates climate change into planning and implementation. CCCF is geared towards addressing community climate change priorities, building resilience and fostering sustainable economic growth.

The CCCF is fully aligned with the policy and legislative framework for climate change in Kenya, as articulated in the Climate Change Act (2016), and is a priority in the current NCCAP (2018-2022). The mechanism operates within the framework of devolved governance established by the Constitution of Kenya (2010), and per related legislation such as the County Governments Act (2012) and the Public Finance Management Act (2012).

Ward Climate Change Planning Committees (WCCPCs) and County Climate Change Planning Committees (CCCPCs) constitute one of the four components of the County Climate Change Fund (CCCF) mechanism. These committees are established through the CCCF legislation. The WCCPC are elected at the community level and consult the communities on their climate change priorities.

The WCCPC are elected publicly and according to their standing in the community. The law mandates that the Ward Administrator be a member of this committee.

The County Climate Change Planning Committees (CCCPCs) gives technical support to the WCCPCs, approves their proposals and decides how to allocate the County-level proportion of the fund available for County-wide investments. Its membership is drawn from technical departments of the County and National Government, WCCPCs and other stakeholders.

Climate Change Interventions in Makueni County

SDG 13 Localisation in Makueni County

Makueni could be emulated as a leading County Government in Kenya on localisation approaches on issues of mainstreaming climate change into planning. This directly corresponds with SDG 13 on climate change. The community members consciously and effectively participate in the prioritisation of investments that build their resilience to climate change.

The passing of the County Climate Change Fund (CCCF) regulations has enabled Makueni County government to fast track on its financial commitment to the CCCF kitty of contributing 1% of her development budget to the kitty.

The legislation also ensures proper coordination of activities among different stakeholders, improves local participation and enhance accountability in the usage of the fund as communities know upfront the amount of money available for the investments.

This inventory will help Makueni County to track the cost and benefits of the different investments and will be crucial in planning for other assets within the County as it will reduce the cases of redundancy, and ensure that county resources are used efficiently.

Through the CCCF mechanism, communities' capacity to develop proposals and advocate for investments that are in line with their needs has been enriched. Their ability to work with the County Government has also been strengthened.

The process demonstrates that devolution is working and that communities can determine what builds or deter them from adapting to the changing climate.

The achievements in Makueni County have been made possible through the collaboration between technical people at the County level, community members and partners at the local, national and international level.

Consolidated Gains by County Governments

1. By June 2019, the 47 County Governments had cumulatively employed 7,894 doctors, 26,561 nurses, 160 dental officers, 418 pharmacists and 19,000 clinical officers. On gender parity, each of the 47 Counties has met the two-thirds threshold with three Counties of Kilifi, Nyeri and Kericho attaining a 50-50 representation.
2. All the 47 County Governments have at least nine fully equipped and functional ambulances.
3. All County Governments have a fully equipped Level Five (5) Referral Hospital.
4. County Governments have allocated on average 6.7 % of their total budgets to the Agriculture sector. This is just 3% less of the 10% recommended allocation as per the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) Malabo declaration.
5. Counties have continuously adopted several innovations and significantly improved health service delivery, such as:

i) integrated Mobile Maternal Health-Geographical Positioning System (GPS) which enables tracing of expectant mothers

ii)Group ante-natal care that offers counselling and health education on safe and skilled delivery to cohorts of expectant women. This has improved Ante Natal Care, delivery and postnatal follow-ups, among others.

Source: Speech by H.E HON. FCPA WYCLIFFE AMBETSA OPARANYA[12] , EGH, CGJ. on 26th June 2019 during the State of Devolution Address

6. County Governments have been working towards the realisation of universal access to water. Notably;

   Water coverage has now increased to 57%
   Sanitation coverage is now at 16%
   Non-revenue water is now at 41%
   Six (6) Counties now have water Masterplans from the previous two (2)
   Fourteen (14) Counties have water policies
   Six (6) Counties have operational Water Laws

7. Forty-five (45) County Governments have granted municipality status to their urban areas and subsequently established urban governance institutions (municipality boards) for the management of the urban areas and delivery of quality services to the citizens.
8. In the Energy sector, thirty-five (35) County Governments have prepared their energy plans which are awaiting integration into the National Energy Master Plan and thereafter its implementation.
9. Forty-four (44) Counties have developed County Strategic Environmental Action Plans (SEAPs), 4 Counties have established landfills while 30 Counties have designated dumpsites to manage waste properly.
10. Forty-five (45) County Governments have designated County Executive Committee Members and Directors to coordinate Climate Change programmes at the County level.

Part 9: Priority setting in SDGs implementation in the face of Covid-19 in Kenya

Following the registration of the first case of Covid-19 in Kenya on 13th March 2020, the National Government and County Governments have instituted various measures to curb the spread of the disease.

The measures include 7 pm to 5 am curfew in the whole country (which is periodically reviewed), cessation of movement in and out of select Counties (Nairobi, Mombasa, Kwale, Kilifi and Mandera Counties (regularly reviewed). Council of Governors has provided a central point for coordination of County Governments' COVID-19 response measures.

The County Assemblies Forum supported county legislatures through the development of guidelines on business continuity and model County Emergency Fund legislations to ensure that they continued to undertake legislation on emergency response; budget allocation and approval of funds especially for Covid-19 response; and oversight and accountability over public funds.

Through use of local media (TV interviews and radio shows), use of short message services (SMS, and Social media platforms County Assemblies were able to continuously engage the citizens and sensitize communities on public health guidelines on Covid-19.

The cessation of movement has since been lifted), closure of restaurants and bars, closure of markets, strict guidelines on the use of public transport, etc. The measures have had a significant impact on socio-economic development at the County level. It is instructive to note that the steps stated above keep being varied from time to time, depending on the state of infections upon assessment by the Ministry of Health's advise to the President.

The Council of Governors developed a model regulation on County emergency fund, 2020 to enable all County Governments to customise the same and re-engineer their budgets to address Covid-19 for approval by respective County Assemblies. The fund consists of all monies allocated by County or donated to County towards Covid-19 emergency response.
As at 29th April Counties had committed a total of 6.2 billion out of which 15 County Assemblies had approved a supplementary budget of 2.347B for expenditure on emergency response, this has changed by now.

The Council of Governors also set up a fund to support Counties affected by floods where each County is contributing 200,000 to the kitty.

The President provided further 5 billion shillings to County Governments to address Covid-19 and CRA has been able to divide among all the 47 Counties using a formula. However, Counties are yet to receive the allocation.

All Counties have established Emergency Operation Committees co-chaired by Governors and County Commissioner Coordinate County response.
Several committees have been formed at the National level and which incorporates County Governments in ensuring a Nationally coordinated response to Covid-19 and they include:

i. National Coordination Committee on the response to the coronavirus pandemic (NCCRCP) (Includes Chair, Vice-Chair and Whip of CoG).
ii. Security preparedness and response committee (H.E Joseph Jama Ole Lenku, EGH).
iii. County Governments coordination and food Supply committee (H.E Hon.Muthomi Njuki).
iv. National Emergency Committee (H.E Mohamed Kuti, EGH and H.E Hon Prof. Peter Anyang' Nyong' o EGH).
v. National Economic and Business Response Committee (H.E Hon. Wycliffe Wangamati).

Narok County Referral a fully equipped Hospital for Covid-19 management in Narok County

The Council of Governors is currently coordinating the process of development of County socio-economic re-engineering and recovery strategy to support County Governments to bounce back from the impacts of Covid-19 across all sectors. It shall include detailed analysis on the following sectors; agriculture, trade, manufacturing, transport, finance, health, gender, water, urban development, education, youth and social services. A county Covid-19 socio-economic re-engineering and recovery strategy has been developed and currently county specific and county regional economic blocs socio-economic re-engineering and recovery strategy are being finalized

On 15th March 2020, President Uhuru Kenyatta directed that the following measures to curb COVID-19 be implemented.

a) Travel from any countries with any case of Coronavirus be restricted.
b) Only Kenyan Citizens and any foreigners with valid residence permits will be allowed to come into the country provided they proceed on self-quarantine or to a government-designated quarantine facility.
c) All schools and higher learning institutions be closed by Friday 20th March 2020.
d) "Government and businesses people start working from home; except essential services.
e) Cashless transactions over cash. Cost of transactions reduced.
f) No congressional meetings – weddings, malls, night clubs, churches, limitation of visits to hospitals.
g) Hospitals and Shopping malls to give soap and water/hand sanitisers, and regular cleaning of facilities.
h) Cargo vessels, aircraft or ships can come into the country provided they are disinfected at point of departure, and the crew quarantined on arrival.

To curtail the spread of COVID-19 public order of the cessation of movement into the Nairobi metropolitan area and the Counties of Kilifi, Kwale, Mombasa and Mandera and the nationwide dusk to dawn curfew are currently in force. Further, the National Emergency Response Committee directed an extension of cessation of movement in and out of Eastleigh in Nairobi and Old Town in Mombasa until Saturday, the 6th June 2020.

With regard to preparedness at the County level, County Governments are enforcing the precautionary guidelines stipulated by the Ministry of Health.

Additionally, County Governments, through the County Assemblies, have passed supplementary budgets to avail funds for financing activities aimed at stopping further spread of the deadly Coronavirus. Such project activities include procuring of masks; buying sanitisers; buying water talks and buying of soap.

County Governments have diverted development expenditure budgets to the health sector, with a view of guarding against the spread of Coronavirus.

For example, The County Government has acquired 16 additional ventilators for the Intensive Care Unit at the Narok County Referral Hospital as part of enhanced preparations for effective interventions and managing of possible Corona Virus infection in Narok County.
They have state of the art Phillips critical care beds with life-saving equipment, including a central control system, ventilators and cardiac monitors.

Governor of Narok H.E Samuel Tunai commissioning a water tank at a public hanwashing point.

Key Observable Challenges to SDGs Localization and implementation by County Governments

Counties have made some strides in SDGS implementation. However, Counties are at different levels of awareness on SDGs, and this is manifested in the different levels of implementation of the SDGs. They continue to face some challenges in SDGs implementation. One of the biggest challenges in this review of SDGs implementation progress across Counties is the lack of statistical data on the progress made by Counties in most SDGs. To address the challenge, there is a need for close collaboration with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics to support capture and validation of data. There is also a need to strengthen SDGs implementation monitoring and evaluation at the county level.

To address the challenges above, there is a need for continuous sensitisation and awareness creation programmes amongst County officials on SDGs. There is also a need for training amongst the technical staff at the County Government level on mainstreaming of SDGs in the existing departments. There is a need to scale up information sharing between County Governments and National Government on SDGs related interventions. Further, there is a need for adequate resource allocation for SDGs related activities at the County level. Proper coordination is also required both within Counties and between Counties to promote learning and replication of acceptable practices in SDGs implementation. Nearly every County has;

1. Shortage of technical staff: The skills gaps and inadequate number of specialised teams have hampered the operation of some department, e.g. ICT operation and maintenance personnel, extension services to the community and various health professionals.
2. Low budget allocation/budget cuts: Some County projects and programmes are capital intensive, and therefore funding remains a considerable challenge. For example, the total revenue collections were low, with only Ksh 385 million, collected between 2013 and 2017. The limited revenue led to delayed implementation of the programmes and led to the implementation of micro-projects over larger projects with long-term impacts. Sometimes, some funds initially budgeted for agriculture, livestock and fisheries development were diverted and used for emergencies like drought. Also, due to weak monitoring of projects and funding sources, some funding from development agencies were not captured during planning or project implementation.
3. Inadequate facilities: Insufficient or dilapidated infrastructure and inadequate facilities, such as offices affect discharging of duties and functions. Some essential facilities missing are well-equipped hospital laboratory, holding ground for livestock, training centres for energy and agriculture, among others.
4. Weak adherence to CIDP: commitment to approved County Integrated Development Plan, results from inadequate monitoring and evaluation unit in the County and emergencies during extreme droughts that lead to shifting of the budget from a priority project to attend to emergency food and water supply and implementation of projects outside CIDP.
5. Political interference in the implementation of projects: Some projects have a preference to the executive than others or driven by political or territorial interests. This lead to some fewer priority projects implemented over most important ones. Inadequate project supervision, monitoring and evaluation: Project supervision, especially on roads and other infrastructures, are weak, leading to low quality. Also, when projects are not closely supervised, the salutary lessons are not captured; hence, replicable projects and approach is lost.

In addition to the five thematic challenges above, this review exercise revealed observable challenges in the SDG implementation processes. The localisation and mainstreaming of SDGs in policy, planning and budgeting and programmes face the following challenges.

i) Inadequate linkages/coordination between the National and sub-national Governments.
ii) High political turnover/ change of administration and political priorities at the County level every five years.
iii) Poor coordination between stakeholders.
iv) Inadequate data for some indicators.
v) Time-lag in updating some of the indicators.
vi) Lack of statistical capacity to compute some of the indicators.
vii) Inadequate capacity on the SDGs/ technologies on the implementation of SDGs.
viii) Poor policy coherence.
ix) Problems of enhancing infrastructure.
x) Lack of funds for implementation of SDGs.
xi) Poor/ weak M&E structures.
xii) Standardisation and verification of data is difficult.

The present successful efforts in the localization of implementation of SDGs are attributed to the National and County ownership and leadership of the processes; Inclusive and participatory development approach bringing together various stakeholders; and a commitment to leaving no one behind based on a human rights-based approach.

However, there are existential bottlenecks in the localization of SDGs. These include;

1. Inadequate investments that would translate to huge job creation.
2. Rural and urban dimensions of poverty.
3. Regional disparities within the country and regions.
4. Socio-cultural practices that impede the re-orientation of production systems.
5. Perennial droughts in most parts of the country coupled with the resultant hunger especially. In the Arid and Semi-Arid regions (ASAL) exacerbates the already high rates of school dropouts of children.
6. Weak data collection and management practice in some of the water sector institutions and the counties limits the availability and accuracy of data.
7. The continued existence of gender inequalities with on access and control of resources, economic opportunities, political as well as power.
8. The investment in water supply and sewerage is not coping with population growth and the demand for services.
9. The high cost and long lead time in the development of energy generation projects.
10. Lack of reliable and adequate data on climate issues within counties.

Key Recommendations

1. Strengthening partnership and collaboration between National Government, County Governments, Private Sector, Academia and Civil Society Organisations in capturing and validating data on SDGs, and in accelerating the implementation of SDGs.
2. Accelerated implementation, monitoring and evaluation at the County level through continuous capacity building, sensitisation and peer reviews amongst County officials on SDGs.
3. County Governments should ensure value for money for taxpayers by providing quality services to enhance willingness to pay taxes. Counties should also sensitise taxpayers on the importance of OSR and demonstrate its positive impacts to improve voluntary tax compliance.
4. Promoting public and private investments in the form of transformative, inclusive and viable projects by creating a sustainable legal and policy environment that supports development.

Conclusion

County Governments in Kenya have made tremendous progress in enabling localisation and implementation of SDGs, as well as utilising the stakeholders' engagement framework to enhance accountability processes. The benefits of these are evident in the existing CIDPs and ADPs, and the extent to which stakeholders are at the centre of implementation processes.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLIES FORUM

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