



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

**NINTH SESSION OF THE UN HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL
FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (HLPF 2021)**

COUNTRY POSITION PAPER

**PRESENTED BY
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

JULY 2021

Contents

LIST OF ACRONYMS	11
1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
2.0 GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19	3
3.0 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ACCELERATION	6
3.1 SDG 1 - NO POVERTY	7
3.2 SDG 2 - NO HUNGER	7
3.3 SDG 3 - GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING	8
3.4 SDG 4 - QUALITY EDUCATION	9
3.5 SDG 5 - GENDER EQUALITY	10
3.6 SDG 6 - CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	11
3.7 SDG 7 - AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	12
3.8 SDG 8 - DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	12
3.9 SDG 9 - INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	13
3.10 SDG 10 - REDUCED INEQUALITIES	14
3.11 SDG 11 - SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	15
3.12 SDG 12 - RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	15
3.13 SDG 13 - CLIMATE ACTION	16
3.14 SDG 14 - LIFE BELOW WATER	16
3.15 SDG 15 - LIFE ON LAND	17
3.16 SDG 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	18
3.17 SDG 17 - PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS	18
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ACCELERATION	19
4.0 SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION AS AN ENABLER OF THE SDGS	20
5.0 CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD	22
APPENDIX I: SDGS IN KENYA ASSESSMENT AND TRENDS - 2021	24

List of Acronyms

ASAL	Arid and Semi-Arid Land
AU	African Union
BTSP	Business Turnaround Solutions Programme
CBC	Competency Based Curriculum
CIDPs	County Integrated Development Plans
CIH	Constituency Innovation Hubs
CoG	Council of Governors
COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease 2019
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
ERS	Economic Recovery Strategy
ESP	Economic Stimulus Programme
EU	European Union
FY2020/21	Financial Year 2020/2021
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HLPF	High Level Political Forum
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
KeFS	Kenya Fisheries Service
KICD	Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development
KMFRI	Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
LCPDP	Least Cost Power Development Plan
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MSMEs	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
MTP	Medium Term Plan
PAYE	Pay as You Earn
PPEs	Personal Protective Equipment
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SMEs	Small and Micro Enterprises
ST&I	Science, Technology and Innovation
SWF	Sovereign Wealth Fund
TV	Television
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UN	United Nations
VAT	Value Added Tax
VLRs	Voluntary Local Reviews
VNRs	Voluntary National Reviews
WHO	World Health Organization
WSPs	Water Service Providers

1.0 Introduction

Kenya's economy has been strong and resilient despite some challenging global environment. In 2019, the economy growth was 5.6 percent which was a drop from 6.3 percent in 2018. The slowed growth in 2019 partly reflected the impact of slow agricultural activities due to delayed rainfall in the first half of 2019. During the last financial year 2019/20, the economy was severely affected by various shocks, which in essence have negatively impacted the implementation of planned programmes and projects of the Medium Term Plan (MTP) III. These shocks included drought which was witnessed at the beginning of the financial year 2019/20; unusually heavy rains which destroyed infrastructure and affected agricultural activities from October 2019 to February 2020; invasion by the desert locusts in over 20 counties; and the emergence of the COVID-19 Pandemic across the world towards the end of December 2019. In particular, the emergence of the COVID-19 Pandemic has forced the Government to implement partial or total lockdown measures and as such, some economic activities have slowed down or indeed shut down across sectors leading to loss of lives and livelihoods and thereby affecting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

From the afore mentioned, the Government from the onset prioritized the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and this process began earnestly with an official launch of SDGs in Kenya in 2016 and thereafter development of the Country SDGs roadmap to guide the transition from Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to SDGs. At the heart of Kenya's Vision 2030, the SDGs are mainstreamed at both the National and County levels through consultative and interactive processes with various stakeholders including all levels of government, the United Nations (UN), Development Partners, the Private Sector, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), academia, vulnerable groups and the citizens. The stakeholder engagement is considered a deliberate approach and is prefaced in the strong belief that no government can go far by doing it alone. For example, the private sector in Kenya plays a significant role in the growth and development of the economy and undeniably compliments government in provision of services in key sectors such as Small and Micro Enterprises (SMEs) that generates about 80 percent of jobs. The Government therefore, embraces our partners in revitalizing the economy, expanding public investment, boosting trade, and ensuring targeted support for the people and communities who are more vulnerable to the negative economic impacts including women who often shoulder a disproportionate burden of care and unpaid work.

With the adoption of SDGs in 2015, the Government, in partnership with its partners is fully committed to the full implementation of both Kenya Vision 2030 and SDGs. Indeed, Kenya has a long-standing history in her commitment to an inclusive, sustainable, and resilient development agenda, which is founded on local participatory approach to ensure ownership. This way, the Government has been able to propel the economy into higher level of efficiency and productivity by embracing a holistic, integrated and participatory implementation of social, economic, political, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. This has been possible because, the Country has embraced the principle of 'leaving no one behind' of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which represents a global response to global challenges, jointly with the Country's transformative Vision 2030 that guarantees a high quality of life to all Kenyans.

Since the adoption of the SDGs, the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) has been facilitating their implementation and the 2030 Agenda through a platform of sharing experiences which

is held annually. The ninth session of the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF 2021) will take place under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The meeting of the HLPF in 2021 will be held **from Tuesday, 6 July, to Thursday, 15 July 2021**. This includes the three-day ministerial meeting of the forum **from Tuesday, 13 July, to Thursday, 15 July 2021**.

The HLPF 2021 will address the theme, **"Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the Decade of Action and delivery for sustainable development"**. It will conduct an in-depth review of Goals 1 on no poverty, 2 on zero hunger, 3 on good health and well-being, 8 on decent work and economic growth, 10 on reduced inequalities, 12 on responsible consumption and production, 13 on climate action, 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, in addition to SDG 17 (partnerships for the Goals) which is reviewed each year. The Forum will also consider the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the SDGs. Forty-four countries will present their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) which include various African countries.

Before the pandemic and since the adoption of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Kenya had made significant progress in the SDGs that address people, planet, and prosperity. Some of the areas with notable progress include poverty reduction, health, education, gender equality, provision of clean water and sanitation, electricity, combating climate change, and ensuring sustainable cities as highlighted in the 2020 VNR for Kenya. In some instances, however, the advancement of some SDGs, for example, goals 16 and 17 that address peace and partnerships, respectively are not progressing fast enough and are stagnating while goals 14 and 15 are facing major challenges and are decreasing, whereas goal 13 is the only SDG on track as shown in appendix I. The impact of COVID-19 has affected the progress already made towards achievement of the Goals.

The year 2020 was an extraordinary year in our history because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, which by end of June 2021 had globally taken down about four million lives (3,675 in Kenya), devastated the global economy, and turned upside down all spheres of human life. The first case of COVID-19 in Kenya was confirmed on March 13, 2020. Since then, the effect and impact of COVID-19 Pandemic cannot be underrated since the pandemic brought about socio-economic challenges that disrupted the economy, straining the consumer wallet and business across the Country. With the pandemic still raging in the economy as well as many other parts of the world, the degree to which SDGs have been knocked further off track is not yet fully known. What is clear, however, is that the pandemic has already had a very significant impact on the economy, thus undermining decades of development efforts. With notable support from our partners, the Government is in sync with its people and have remained steadfast and engaged throughout 2020 until now by undertaking and implementing key facilitative and supportive policies and strategies.

A range of restrictions to reduce the spread of the pandemic were put in place, including school closures, restrictions on travel, bans on social gatherings, and limitations on economic activities. On March 25, 2020 a nationwide curfew was enforced together with restricted national and international travel. In April 2020, containment measures were announced in and out of four major counties and a stimulus package was introduced by the Government to improve the health and economic conditions of the people. In November 2020, the

nationwide curfew was extended until January 3, 2021, which is still in force, with more restrictions in early June 2021 in several counties within Nyanza and Western Kenya.

As a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, most households had to implement multiple coping strategies, whereby fewer households relied on savings and more on reducing consumption as the pandemic continues. The impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on business, indicated that 50 percent of businesses experienced high or very negative effect with micro enterprises most impacted with 64 percent reporting high or very high negative effect. Tourism, transport, hospitality and education remained the worst hit sectors. Businesses experienced loss of customers/drop in sales, increased financial challenges, high cost of operation, and inability to pay taxes amid reduced labour productivity. Although food security has started to improve, one in four adults still do not have enough food to eat, and access to services remains compromised due to the pandemic, as few children still do not have access to teachers and health care is still disrupted. Conversely, for the few households that receive remittances, the amounts have mostly increased, and this has cushioned these families against COVID-19 Pandemic.

At the same time, COVID-19 Pandemic has created several opportunities, which include uptake of e-learning, online education, e-governance, and e-commerce. For example, in November 2018, February 2020 and March 2021 the shift by SMEs to mobile money in Kenya was 18 percent, 59 percent, and 62 percent. Other notable opportunities include organizations promoting working remotely hence reduced operational costs; and more people are using home WiFi, as well as use their mobile phones for invoicing. More importantly, youth-owned businesses relied more and still are on digital platforms to reach their customers. Like young people in many parts of the world, Kenyan youth are gravitating toward the gig economy in the face of job shortages among traditional employers. Gig platforms are making the workers more productive, smooth their incomes and obtain better labour and social protections than they might otherwise have access to in the informal economy.

2.0 Government's Response to COVID-19

To mitigate the adverse impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic, the National Government together with County Governments has developed certain policies and strategies that include the Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP), County COVID-19 Socio- Economic Re-engineering Recovery Strategy 2020/21 to 2022/23, and more recently the 2021/22 Budget Policy Statement and 2021/22 financial year budget. All these measures are aimed at an inclusive, sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic and promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development by building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development in the context of the Decade of Action.

Under ESP, the first phase involved enhancing the aggregate demand by removing Pay as You Earn (PAYE) for those earning KSh 24,000 and less; reducing corporate and personal income tax rate from 30 percent to 25 percent; reducing the Value Added Tax (VAT) rate from 16 percent to 14 percent. Besides, turnover tax rate was reduced from 3 percent to 1 percent; and the Central Bank of Kenya lending rate was lowered from 8.25 percent to 7.25 percent in March 2020 in order to support economic activities. The second phase of ESP involved rolling out an 8-point ESP of KSh 56.6 billion so as to jump-start economic activities and

safeguard livelihoods and enable businesses to recover from COVID-19 Pandemic. The specific focus areas were:

- i. Enhancing the role of private sector in financing development;
- ii. Supporting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs);
- iii. Implementing an Economic Stimulus Programme in all the 47 counties;
- iv. Investment in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and digital infrastructure;
- v. Increasing the resilience of the economy to global supply chain shocks;
- vi. Supporting the recovery of key economic sectors;
- vii. Strengthening pandemic and disaster risk management systems; and
- viii. Strengthening monitoring and evaluation systems.

The development of Post COVID-19 ERS 2020 to 2022 was a collaborative effort involving extensive consultations and input within and outside the Government and utilizes the institutional framework for coordination and implementation of Government programmes and projects at the National and County levels. Moreover, it prioritizes close co-ordination and active participation with private sector, development partners, non-governmental actors and communities. Building on the 8-point ESP and the budget for Financial Year 2020/2021 (FY2020/21), the Post COVID-19 ERS is designed to implement measures to mitigate the adverse socio-economic effects of the Pandemic and re-position the economy on a steady and sustainable growth trajectory. It also provides a road map for transition to the MTP IV and a new development framework in the current Kenya Vision 2030. The strategy places priority and focus on several key areas that address SDGs challenges including:

- i. Enhancing budgetary allocations to strengthen the health care system;
- ii. Facilitating the private sector to enhance its role in the recovery and growth of the economy;
- iii. Facilitating the recovery and growth of key economic such as tourism, and MSMEs, manufacturing and transport which have been hit hard by the Pandemic;
- iv. Ensuring a green and resilient recovery and growth;
- v. Investment in ICT and digital infrastructure to support the delivery of public services and facilitate e-commerce;
- vi. Increasing the resilience of the economy to global supply chain shocks;
- vii. Strengthening the National capacity for disaster preparedness;
- viii. Mainstreaming diaspora financial and human resources;
- ix. Enhancing budgetary resources to the police and security related services to enforce compliance to COVID-19 containment rules and regulations;
- x. Strengthening governance and economic management; and
- xi. Expediting implementation of policy, legal and institutional reforms and strengthening monitoring and evaluation systems to ensure its effective implementation.

Regarding the County COVID-19 Social Economic Re-engineering Recovery Strategy 2020/21 to 2022/23 that was developed with the spirit of 'thinking policy together', the process involved robust, independent yet consultative evidence-based research and policy analysis. The pillars of the strategy include boosting private sector activity; strengthening ICT capacity; human capital development; policy, legislative, and institutional reforms; strengthening County Government's preparedness and response to pandemics and disasters; and support to key sectors such as agriculture, water and sanitation, urban development and housing, transport, tourism, health, education, social protection, gender and youth.

In addition, at the County level, the County Governments have remained resolute in the implementation of the SDGs despite the huge challenges caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic. The County Governments are working to ensure that the socio-economic re-engineering strategies are anchored on the SDGs to ensure accelerated implementation of the same and towards this, County Governments have mainstreamed the SDGs as part of the mid-term review of County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs). Besides, SDGs have become an integral part of county performance contracts and have informed performance contract design and target setting for county officers. The SDGs have a review and reporting mechanism through VNR for National Government and Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) for Sub-national Governments and currently the County Governments are undertaking local reporting of SDGs through VLRs. At the same time, the Council of Governors (CoGs) has developed a report on the status of localization of SDGs, highlighting the progress made in SDGs implementation and best practices at County level. However, with less than nine years to deliver SDGs, it is evident that counties need to do more to realize the goals and to this end, the County Governments have developed SDGs acceleration action plans to fast track implementation of the Goals while considering the COVID-19 Socio-economic re-engineering and Recovery Strategy.

In the budget for fiscal year 2021/22 under the theme ‘building back better: strategy for resilient, sustainable economic recovery and inclusive growth’ delivered on June 10, 2021, the Government is committed on the economic recovery in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic which has resulted in increased poverty and vulnerability levels across the Country. The focus of the budget is to strike a balance between stimulating economic recovery and responding to the health challenges caused by the Pandemic. The KSh 3.63 trillion budget is optimistic that economic growth will bounce back in Kenya from the real growth rate of 0.6 percent in 2020 to 6.6 percent in 2021 supported by stable macroeconomic environment, expected favorable weather and on-going COVID-19 vaccinations. This growth will also be supported by ongoing investments in strategic priorities of the Government under the “Big Four” agenda and the implementation of the ERS. As the 2021/22 budget sets a path for a “building better” recovery, Government will closely monitor economic growth in light of the third wave, and other factors such as limited fiscal space against expenditure demands such as post COVID-19 economic recovery, debt repayments, and general elections in 2022. Further, the Government will work towards managing macro-fiscal capacity; strengthening productivity and competitiveness; transforming government and public service delivery as well as strengthening accountability measures across all government functions.

The Government recognizes that there is an opportunity to leverage on the resources, skills and knowledge of the private sector to accelerate implementation of SDGs, and to recover from the negative effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic. In this decade of action and green recovery businesses will provide additional boost in realizing SDGs through innovation, investment, partnerships and collaborations for sustainability and resilience. As a result, the Government acknowledges the benefit of working with the private sector towards its agenda of ‘building back better: strategy for resilient, sustainable economic recovery and inclusive growth’ as spelt out in the budget for fiscal year 2021/22. During the launch of ‘accelerating the private sector decade of action, delivery and green recovery in Kenya’ on June 30, 2021, the private sector affirmed its commitment to the implementation of SDGs and green recovery through the following key actions:

- i. Accelerating transition to a green growth and circular economy pathway;

- ii. Policy coherence for competitiveness and ease of doing business through public private dialogue platforms, legislature, executive and judiciary as well as the County Government;
- iii. Supporting accountability and reporting of 2030 Agenda; and
- iv. Strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships in delivery of investments directed towards sustainable investments in SDGs.

The Government is fully committed to working with the private sector on the resilience, delivery and green recovery for sustainable development. It is important to note that in response to COVID-19, local companies are becoming innovative and have ventured into the manufacturing of face masks and preventive gear to combat threats posed by the Pandemic. Companies are adapting existing manufacturing capacity towards the production of medical supplies.

3.0 Sustainable Development Goals Acceleration

The breadth of the 2030 Agenda implies a need to go beyond silos and take an integrated approach to development interventions. Realization and taking into account the inter-linkages and integrated nature of SDGs cannot be gainsaid and it is in this spirit and the recognition that we are in the last decade of SDGs and notwithstanding effects of COVID-19 Pandemic, that the Government, in partnership with all stakeholders will develop an acceleration strategy for SDGs. This roadmap to accelerate progress at both the National and County levels will focus on those SDGs currently seen as unlikely to be achieved by 2030. Further, SDGs Acceleration Strategy will provide national and county stakeholders with a systematic approach to identify and analyse bottlenecks that are causing SDGs to veer off-track or to advance too slowly. In addition, the Strategy will generate shared diagnostics, and recommend comprehensive, collaborative and focused actions, based on prioritized 'acceleration' solutions.

The Strategy will identify and analyze the connections and synergies across the Goals and highlight how action in one area draws dividends in others and what the trade-offs are, and this will take us forward more quickly across a broader range of interlinked goals. Leveraging on SDG Accelerator and Bottleneck Assessment (ABA) tool, the Government will identify catalytic policy and/or programme areas or 'accelerators' that will trigger positive multiplier effects across SDGs and targets, and solutions to bottlenecks that impede the optimal performance of the interventions that enable the identified accelerators. This will entail a five-step process that will include:

- i. Step 1: Identifying 'accelerators' and drivers that enable progress across SDGs, and the national development goals;
- ii. Step 2: Identifying and prioritizing interventions that drive progress on the accelerator;
- iii. Step 3: Identifying and prioritizing bottlenecks to acceleration;
- iv. Step 4: Identifying and prioritizing bottleneck solutions; and
- v. Step 5: Preparation of an implementation and monitoring plan for bottleneck solutions as well as an accountability matrix, a resource plan and an implementation scorecard.

As a Government's priority, this will be done within a period of six months.

The overall objective of SDGs Acceleration Strategy will be to accelerate progress on the lagging SDGs in Kenya. More specifically, the Strategy will:

- i. Identify the synergies of the goals and targets to accelerate progress on the lagging SDGs;
- ii. Identify bottlenecks which impede progress on particular SDGs;
- iii. Address data gaps to support the “leave no one behind” principle of 2030 Agenda;
- iv. Enhance the application of evidence-driven integrated policy programming to advance implementation of SDGs across all the pillars of sustainable development;
- v. Strengthen coordination mechanisms for implementation and monitoring of SDGs to ensure a whole of government and society approach to SDGs implementation and monitoring; and
- vi. Enhance the role of the National Assembly, county assemblies and key stakeholders in SDGs implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

Impact of COVID-19 on the Goals and the COVID-19 response for each goal.

3.1 SDG 1 - No Poverty

SDG 1 aims to end poverty in all its forms everywhere. Its objectives include ensuring that the entire population and especially the poorest and most vulnerable have equal rights to economic resources, access to basic services, property and land control, natural resources and new technologies.

Impact of COVID-19 on the Goal

The 2030 Agenda acknowledges that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. The level of poverty has actually increased occasioned by COVID-19 pandemic. This is as a result of closure of businesses and job losses.

Strategies

Increasing amount of cash transfers to vulnerable groups, provision of farm inputs to farmers to promote cash crop production, expansion of programmes aiming at creating employment e.g. Kazi mtaani, reduction of tax rates to enable SMEs acquire funds to help recover from impacts of COVID-19 and implementation of the Big Four Agenda will help create employment opportunities hence reducing high levels of poverty.

3.2 SDG 2 - No Hunger

SDG 2 aims to end all forms of hunger and malnutrition by 2030, making sure all people—especially children—have sufficient and nutritious food all year. This involves promoting sustainable agricultural, supporting small-scale farmers and equal access to land, technology and markets.

Impact of COVID-19 on the Goal

The global COVID-19 pandemic affected implementation of all agricultural activities by various value chain actors and contributed to low project implementation rate.

Restriction of movement led to decline in export trade of high value products like horticultural, tea, coffee etc. The low hides and skin market prices and the closing of China market severely affected the hides and skin value chain in Kenya.

The lockdown due to COVID-19 slowed down the implementation of most programmes, and reduced access to inputs due to limited cash flow, high cost and restricted movement in addition to loss of jobs along livestock value chains.

The Country is heavily dependent on imports of key components of livestock feed raw materials (cereals, additives and premixes) from other countries, hence the global restriction on movements severely affected the livestock industry.

The COVID-19 pandemic affected the trade in crops, livestock and livestock products through the closure of the markets and restriction of movements; reduced demand for food products due to closure of most restaurants, hotels and learning institutions as well as halting of social events; reduced demand for high value products which are commonly consumed at tourist hotels due to lockdown e.g. butter, cheese, ghee, cream, sausages and bacon.

Budget rationalization to fund the COVID-19 interventions led to budget cuts of key interventions.

Strategies

The agriculture sector will implement the post COVID-19 Stimulus programme on temporary support to cushion horticulture producers, with emphasis on flowers to access international markets as well livestock farmers in international trade in livestock and livestock products. It will continue to support farmers with e-voucher system subsidized inputs to ensure the maize, rice, coffee and Irish potatoes value chains, livestock farmers and pastoralists are reached to increase access to a range of inputs for food security to be realized in the Country.

Some of the proposed programmes include: provision of milk chilling coolers, grain driers, milling and storage facilities; establishment of milk testing and disease diagnostic laboratories; and embryo transfer facilities; develop/rehabilitate livestock markets, holding grounds, outspans and livestock water infrastructure among others. The Ministry of Agriculture established the Kenya Food Security War Room to tackle emerging issues affecting food availability, market access, input supply and food prices.

3.3 SDG 3 - Good Health and wellbeing

SDG 3 aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages by reducing the burden of priority diseases, reducing mortality and achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC). UHC will ensure access to health services by protecting vulnerable populations from catastrophic health expenditure and promoting equity.

Impact of COVID-19 on the Goal

The Pandemic has affected the Health sector in many ways: There was reallocation of funds earmarked to implement health programmes to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The health facilities, personnel and resources have been stretched to cater for the COVID-19 patients, therefore, the patients having other conditions are not getting the required treatment and this may lead to poor health outcomes.

Strategies

Based on the Country's risk assessment, efforts towards COVID-19 preparedness measures have been initiated and will continue. The measures prioritize prompt case detection, infection prevention and control, risk communication and community engagement, point of entry

screening, laboratory confirmation, quarantine and isolation measures including mechanisms to offer effective supportive case management.

Further, there are plans to recruit additional critical targeted skill mix health care workers, capacity building of health workers in skills and competencies needed to achieve UHC and enhancing regular telemedicine sessions in health care service delivery.

There is a need to establish and strengthen partnerships with Private Sector and Development Partners and explore innovative financing options towards increased resource mobilization. Investment in research and Innovation for provision of data for evidence-based decision making in the health programme is critical. Local industries have been encouraged to start producing Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), facemasks and ventilators.

3.4 SDG 4 - Quality Education

SDG 4 aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all – plays a central role in building sustainable, inclusive and resilient societies.

Impact of COVID-19 on the Goal

There were long running education institutions closures which has interfered with the established calendar. COVID-19 has led to significant school dropout cases mainly due to migration of households due to the effects of the pandemic on economic activities. There was also increase in teenage pregnancies due to prolonged school closures. Face-to-face learning was also disrupted and shift to alternative instructional platforms, including digital platforms, was adopted in most of the learning institutions. Learners were affected by disruption of the school calendar in addition to loss of incomes and jobs among education staff. Learning institutions were affected by loss of capital/income. Government's Agenda on expansion and equipping of institutions was also affected with the resultant delays in completion of ongoing capital projects since part of the sector budget was redirected to the Health Sector to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. The roll out of the Competence Based Curriculum (CBC) has been hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Strategies

The Education COVID-19 Emergency Response Plan covers the time period from 1 June 2020 to 30 December 2021. It spells out short-, medium- and long-term mitigation measures in the Education Sector. In the short-term, it focuses on ensuring access to learning through remote, alternative and distance learning solutions. In the medium-term, it aims to assist learners that are behind in their learning. In the long-term, it is designed to develop capacities to mitigate future shocks to education. These include;

- i. Guidelines on Health and Safety Protocols for Re-opening of Basic Education Institutions were developed and implemented;
- ii. Training modules on COVID-19 prevention, management and control were developed and used for sensitizing education officials, teachers, non-teaching staff, and boards of management, parents/ caregivers and the entire school community;
- iii. Re-orientation of school reopening calendar for institutions of learning and national examination calendar;

- iv. Sensitization of learners, education staff, teachers and communities on COVID-19 management and control;
- v. Establishing referral systems for the provision of mental health and psychosocial support for learners / trainees and staff;
- vi. Constitution of County education response teams, sub county and institutional based COVID-19 teams with focal persons at each level;
- vii. Strengthening linkages with partners, alumni, private sectors (Banks, Safaricom, foundations, development partners, individuals) to mobilize resources for COVID-19 recovery efforts; and
- viii. Provision of isolation rooms in each institution for learners and staff.

3.5 SDG 5 - Gender Equality

SDG 5 provides an impetus and clear targets in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. This is in recognition of the fact that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls make a crucial contribution to progress across all SDGs. Women are a critical national asset with great potential to shape, influence and contribute to all spheres of development, and that empowering them strengthens the family, society, and the Nation at large.

Impact of COVID-19 on the Goal

In Kenya, there is an unprecedented upsurge in the cases of Gender Based Violence (GBV) including child pregnancies, Female Genital Mutilation and domestic violence from the time the 1st COVID-19 case was announced. A study by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics on the Economic impact of Covid-19 on households in Kenya showed that 23.6 percent of Kenyans have witnessed or heard cases of domestic violence in their communities since the introduction of COVID-19 containment measures. Most women and girls were also not able to access sexual reproductive health services during the lockdown period. The COVID -19 pandemic has had major impacts in the lives of women, especially those living in unplanned settlements, rural areas, and hard-to-reach parts of the World. In Kenya, the majority of women (13.1 million) live in the rural areas and depend on small-scale agriculture and the informal sector for their livelihoods. Because of the gender roles and responsibilities assigned to women during times of emergencies including taking care of the sick, children and the older members of society, rural women have endured the greatest brunt of COVID-19 pandemic. Restriction measures put in place by the Government increased the burden of care and contributions to unpaid labour.

Strategies

- i. Inclusive and gender responsive COVID-19 socio-economic recovery strategies;
- ii. Social protection mechanisms for vulnerable members of society; Women, youth, PWDs, elderly, children, those with chronic illness, living in rural and informal settlements;
- iii. Nationwide media advocacy campaign against GBV through the development of TV and radio advertisements, various media engagements (interviews/panel discussions with duty bearers) to enhance reporting of GBV cases and inform the public on the referral pathway;
- iv. Operationalization and sensitization of women entrepreneurs on e-commerce digital platform namely, the 50 Million African Women Speak Project;

- v. Grants support to affirmative action groups through bursaries and scholarships to access education and skill training opportunities;
- vi. Development of Mobile App to strengthen the referral pathway for GBV service providers to enhance multi-sectoral coordination;
- vii. Establishment and operationalization of GBV in Emergencies National Working Group;
- viii. Development of e National Gendered Guidelines (and checklist) for COVID-19 response; and
- ix. Review of Public Finance Management Act 2012 – The Public Finance Management (National Government Affirmative Action Fund) Regulations, 2016 to make it more responsive to the needs of the affirmative Action Groups.

3.6 SDG 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation

SDG 6 seeks to ensure safe drinking water and sanitation for all, focusing on the sustainable management of water resources, wastewater and ecosystems, and acknowledging the importance of an enabling environment.

Impact of COVID-19 on the Goal

The pandemic has posed a challenge due to the required provision of additional water supply. There is reduction in revenues collection by Water Service Providers (WSPs) and Rural Water Service provision is adversely affected due to reduced incomes and subsequently non-payment of water bills. Project implementation is also interrupted due to the delays occasioned by the COVID-19 measures hence affecting the contractual agreements that might lead to high cost implications.

Strategies

In response to COVID-19 pandemic, Government Agencies and stakeholders have put in place a robust approach to address the COVID-19 threat by installing public hand washing points especially in major urban centres. In addition, the Government will invest a further Ksh 5.0 billion through World Bank to extend a conditional liquidity support grant to further assist water utilities meet their operational and minor capital expenditure to enable them recover from the impact of the Pandemic. Key strategies to be implemented include:

- i. All Water Service Providers (WSPs) are providing free water to informal settlements and vulnerable groups;
- ii. Sensitization and provision of hand washing points which are accessible in strategic locations and serve needy communities;
- iii. Securing the water sources and bulk water transfer and treatment to major cities and medium towns;
- iv. Water and sewage network improvement and last mile connectivity targeting 200,000 new water connections and 350,000 new sewer connections (for about 3.2 million people) annually;
- v. Water Supply and Sanitation in low-income settlements;
- vi. There is introduction of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation programme; and
- vii. Water resources quality assessment.

3.7 SDG 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy

The goal focuses on ensuring access to clean and affordable energy for all.

Impact of COVID-19 on the Goal

The effects of COVID-19 have caused both supply and demand shocks across the sector and put existing energy systems under pressure. This has resulted to hard economic times occasioned by COVID-19 containment measures that have made it harder for low-income customers and business to pay their electricity bills resulting to financial strain on energy utilities. There are adverse effects in power dispatch and system stability has greatly affected the utilization of the base load capacity. This has led to resource (geothermal, fuel, water) wastage as the system operator tries to manage the system. Kenya has encountered challenges in contract and projects implementation in the energy sector due to disruption of the global supply chain. This has resulted to delay of projects implementation which has led to projects cost overrun and scale down of projects implementation or some projects put on hold due to rationalization of budget resulting to interference with project completion schedules.

Strategies

- i. Kenya is reviewing the long-term demand projections under the Least Cost Power Development Plan (LCPDP)-2019-2039 to obtain optimal demand-supply balance and cushion the sector against the excess supply;
- ii. System operator to be given more leeway in ensuring grid stability and authorization to prioritize grid stability over the merit order when grid stability is at risk;
- iii. Proposed budget support to cover system operation and supply costs due to reduced electricity revenue for both grid and off-grid utilities;
- iv. Review the contracts where applicable. This may include adjusting the timelines and costs of projects as appropriate;
- v. Kenya has enhanced operations and maintenance activities to ensure uninterrupted supply of electricity. Some of the measures to support this include:
 - The Country has adopted innovative ways of undertaking public participation to meet the regulatory requirements;
 - Up scaling automation and use of ICT among other measures to minimize person to person contact; and
 - Pursuit of various demand creation activities such as energy storage facilities, international power trade, special economic zones and industrial parks, electric light rail system, and rebate programs to support the manufacturing sector.

3.8 SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth

SDG 8 promotes sustained economic growth, higher levels of productivity and technological innovation. Encouraging entrepreneurship and job creation are key measures to eradicate forced labour, slavery and human trafficking. The goal aims to achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men by 2030.

Impact of COVID-19 on the Goal

Domestic trade was affected by cessation of movement in and out of some counties, curfews, ban on public gatherings and enforcement of social distancing measures. On the other hand,

cross border restrictions and limitations in international passenger travel to contain the spread of the disease resulted in closure of businesses and decline in both domestic and international trade.

The Labour and Employment sector of the economy has also been severely affected by the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Pandemic is affecting the health of the workers and exposing more Kenyans to unemployment and underemployment. The Pandemic has further affected the quality of work in the Country and resulted to major shifts in the job market. These include; working from home; teleworking; emergence of new jobs and elimination of others. Quarterly labour force survey 2020 indicates that in quarter 1 2020 (January-March), just before COVID-19 pandemic, total employment in the Country was estimated at **17.5 million**. This however dropped to **15.9 million** in quarter 2 2020 translating to a loss of **1.7 Million jobs**. Unemployment rate in Kenya also doubled to **10.4** percent during this period.

Major sectors of the economy have been hit hard by the Pandemic in terms of job losses. These include: tourism and hospitality; agriculture (horticulture and floriculture); manufacturing; wholesale and retail trade; transport especially aviation; Education and the informal sector, which employ the highest number of workers in the Country. Some employees in these sectors have suffered salary cuts; temporary layoffs which have gone on for months; while others been on unpaid leave.

Strategies

- i. Improving Liquidity of SMES;
- ii. Profiling of emerging skills in the Labour Market;
- iii. Establishment of Job Centres in counties to act as a one-stop-shop on all matters relating to employment;
- iv. Establishment of the proposed Unemployment Insurance Fund to provide short term relief to members and their dependents arising from loss of employment/ livelihood through circumstances not of their own making; and
- v. Business Turnaround Solutions Programme (BTSP). The Programme will target businesses that have been affected by the pandemic and have either closed or are struggling to remain afloat with an aim of saving at least 30,000 jobs. The targeted sector will include Manufacturing especially within the Export Processing Zone; Tourism (Hotel), SMEs and Agriculture.

3.9 SDG 9 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

The focus of Goal 9 is to develop efficient and effective infrastructure, which is a key enabler for other sectors. It further aspires to modernize existing infrastructure facilities and innovation to create more wealth and employment.

Impact of COVID-19 on the Goal

The COVID-19 global pandemic has presented unprecedented disruption on transport sector. The sector has witnessed significant slowdown in operations arising from the drastic measures adopted by Government to curb further spread of the disease. The Pandemic has also adversely affected the financing and implementation of major transport projects in the sector.

The containment measures had varied adverse effects on the business ranging from; loss of revenue, increased expenditure as a result of activities put in place to fight the spread of the virus, legal challenges on current contractual obligations, delay in project implementation, reduced staff engagement, and closure of businesses.

The global approach towards containment of the disease led to the paralyzing of international air travel. The road and other means of transport have been disrupted to a considerable extent and public transport vehicles have been operating at half capacity, leading to high operation cost with some getting out of business. Such effects have led to the reduction of government revenues. With the lower revenues due to decreased economic activity and the need to accommodate emergency spending, some projects encountered funding cuts thereby derailing implementation of projects causing delays in completion.

Strategies

- i. The Government is mobilizing the necessary key financial resources for implementing the transport sector projects;
- ii. The Government is seeking global partnerships for effective development and co-operations for funding and financing;
- iii. Use of technology- utilization of E-Commerce to mitigate against negative impact on quality of service delivery. Currently, most operations and planning meetings with the Sector clients are conducted virtually; and
- iv. The Government approved emergency construction of a pedestrian crossing facility across Kilindini channel and the Liwatoni Floating Pedestrian Bridge was constructed to minimise crowding in bridges.

3.10 SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities

The Goal aims at reducing inequalities in income as well as those based on age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status within a country. The Goal also addresses inequalities among countries, including those related to representation, migration and development assistance. Further, they address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice.

Impact of COVID-19 on the Goal

In the ICT sector there has been increased demand of the services. The services include conducting meetings online, working from home, online money transactions, using robots in manufacturing industry, cashless payment, online shopping, e- learning and access to online work.

Strategies

- i. Constituency Innovation Hubs (CIH)/ Ajira Youth Empowerment Strategy: the Government will increase the number of established and operational CIH from 190 to 1050 CIH country wide to support youth doing online jobs through access to free WiFi undertake dignified online works;
- ii. Ajira Digital Programme: The Government will expand the youth training on online jobs and connect over 1.3 million youths to dignified online works;

- iii. Digital Literacy Programme: The Government will continue procurement and deployment of digital learning devices to support learners during this COVID-19 Pandemic. So far 1.4 million devices have been distributed to 24,000 public primary school; and
- iv. Education Broadcast Content: The Kenya Broadcasting Corporation will be supported to broadcast education content through Radio and Television in collaboration with Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD). A designated TV channel has been identified for education content.

3.11 SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities

SDG 11 aims to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Impact of COVID-19 on the Goal

Poverty levels have increased among the urban poor especially slum dwellers and Persons with Disabilities. There is also increase in construction costs for all infrastructure projects and delayed completion of projects.

Strategies

- i. Engagement of youths and women through the implementation of National Hygiene Program (Kazi Mtaani initiative) to boost employment for the urban poor; and
- ii. Construction of COVID-19 compliant markets and rehabilitation of existing ones to boost trade and increase access to quality food.

3.12 SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production

This Goal aims to ensure good use of resources, improving energy efficiency, sustainable infrastructure, and providing access to basic services, green and decent jobs and ensuring a better quality of life for all.

Impacts of COVID-19 on the Goal

There is increased pollution of the environment from COVID-19 waste such as face masks, increased production costs and breakdown of transportation links and distribution mechanisms between suppliers, producers and customers which resulted to increase in demand for essential services.

Strategies

- i. Awareness-raising on hygiene measures through production of guidance documents, information posters, radio bulletins (rural communities) and text messages to those with mobile phones;
- ii. Production of guidelines for workers in different sector; and
- iii. Formulation of adequate institution and operational policies for overcoming the production losses and improving the consumption pattern which would further boost economic recovery from COVID-19.

3.13 SDG 13 - Climate Action

Goal 13 focuses on taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts through limitation of global warming to way below 1.5 degrees to ensure more sustainable and equitable societies. It also aims at enhancing the nationally determined contributions by 2020 which is in line with reducing greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. Kenya has been on track in combating climate change but there is still need to strengthen the resilience and utilize immerse opportunities together with right policies to ensure we have environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities, and also help in the economic recovery from the effects of COVID-19 Pandemic.

Impacts of COVID-19 on the Goal

There is increased amount of plastic waste, suspension of reusable items in stores and mixing of infectious waste such as gloves and masks with other wastes leading to exposure to transmission. The overall reduction in human activity such as the decline in planned travel has caused a large drop in air pollution and water pollution in Kenya. The Pandemic has also led to a decline in industry supply chains, reducing demand for commercial activities that exploit natural resources. There is reduced ecotourism rates that are crippling many organizations worldwide that rely on human visitors to feed and care for their animals. Pollution from improperly disposal of single use COVID-19 protective gear also seems to be increasing the Country pollution problem.

Strategies

- i. Proper management of hazardous COVID-19 waste to minimize long-term risks to human and environmental health;
- ii. Good governance and policy formulation in the emergency management cycle to respond to evidence-based recovery from COVID-19;
- iii. Enhance PPEs waste collectors to curb the spread of COVID-19;
- iv. Examining the existing treatment and disposal options for infectious waste management and promote the best available options to mitigate transmission risks;
- v. Sensitization to increase awareness on source segregation and proper storage such as including double-layer bag use, coloured bag use, specific bag distribution and labelling; and
- vi. Discourage use of single use plastic products and encourage use of cloth masks as per World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines.

3.14 SDG 14 - Life below Water

SDG 14 focuses on life below water. Specifically, the Goal focus on oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. Oceans and fisheries support the global population's economic, social and environmental needs. Oceans are the source of life for the planet and the global climate system regulator. They are the world's largest ecosystem, home to nearly a million known species. Oceans cover more than two-thirds of the earth's surface and contain 97 Percent of the planet's water. They are essential for making the planet liveable. Rainwater, drinking water and climate are all regulated by ocean temperatures and currents. Over 3 billion people depend on marine life for their livelihood. However, there has been a 26 percent increase in acidification since the industrial revolution.

Effective strategies to mitigate adverse effects of increased ocean acidification are needed to advance the sustainable use of oceans. Kenya has good progress towards the achievement of the goal as highlighted in the 2020 VNR.

Impacts of COVID-19 on the Goal

Reduced fishing activities, marketing of fish affected by closure of markets, distribution of inputs (seed, feed and labour) disrupted, closure of hotels and restaurants affected demand and consumption, demand for processed fish and fish products increased, negative effects to the environment (water pollution) by the disposal of personal protection equipment's (face masks, hand gloves), increase in transport costs as a result of closed and restricted boarder, delays in custom and health inspections and COVID-19 has slowed down the implementation of projects.

Strategies

- i. Designating Fishers, processors and distributors as 'essential workers';
- ii. Development of protocols and guidelines to facilitate the operations of agricultural/fisheries input providers, producers, traders, processors and consumers in the food supply chains;
- iii. Support for research on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on fisheries;
- iv. Prioritizing the most vulnerable in programmes and projects;
- v. Blended online and in-person activities to actualize projects; and
- vi. Economic incentives.

3.15 SDG 15 - Life on Land

SDG 15 focuses on conservation and sustainable use of forests, other terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity, including halting desertification and land degradation and combatting illegal trade in endangered species. The Goal is one of the more ambitious and wide-ranging SDGs because many of the targets, inspired by and aligned with the Aichi Targets, have 2020 as the year of achievement, and wide-ranging because it encompasses all types of land based ecosystems and biodiversity.

The indicators in this Goal draw heavily from the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, which has focused on indicators towards the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for the seven biodiversity related conventions.

Impact of COVID-19 on the Goal

COVID-19 Pandemic has led to increased deforestation, reduced revenue in tourism, illegal mining and wildlife poaching.

Strategies

- i. Rehabilitation and protection of water towers and catchment areas;
- ii. Forest Conservation and Management programme to increase forest cover;
- iii. Encouraging tree planting including public institutions to contribute towards achievement of 10 percent forest cover;

- iv. Construction/ rehabilitation of wells, water pans and sand dams which hold water all year round in the ASAL areas;
- v. Forest research and development programme: through developing latest forest research technologies, production and distribution of tree seedlings, developing new tree products, incubating new tree products and linking them with small and medium businesses, and building capacity for enhanced forestry research;
- vi. Land Reclamation Programme: Increase area of reclaimed land by 50,000 ha by 2022;
- vii. Enhance community/ household irrigation; and
- viii. Put in place flood mitigation and control measures.

3.16 SDG 16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Goal 16 aims at promoting peaceful co-existence by reducing all forms of violence, strengthening the rule of law, reducing the flow of illicit arms, and working with communities to find lasting solutions to conflict and insecurity. These are considered as key elements in promoting peaceful coexistence thereby promoting sustainable development.

Peace, justice and strong institutions have been acknowledged as important enablers for sustainable development. To this end, the Government has made large investments in the security sector. Progress has been made in on the seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments.

Impact of COVID-19 on the Goal

The outbreak of COVID-19 has negatively impacted the security sector. The measures put in place by the Government to cope with the Pandemic have resulted in massive unemployment, high poverty levels leading to increased insecurity incidences particularly petty crime and tension due to loss of livelihoods.

Strategies

- i. Facilitation of interfaith dialogue in the local communities as well as involvement of local leaders to mediate conflicts cases among families and communities;
- ii. Building capacity of law enforcement officers through online training to restore trust between the police officers and the public; and
- iii. Recruitment and training of additional security personnel will also help in increasing the police population ratio thereby ensuring adequate protection of people and property.

3.17 SDG 17 - Partnership for the Goals

SDG 17 is on "partnerships for the goals" and involves strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development. The SDGs can and will only be realized with strong inclusive and sustainable partnerships and cooperation between governments, private sector, civil society, and communities. In addition, the essential links and cross partnerships between SDGs are key to a better future, especially in the context of COVID-19 pandemic that has presented unprecedented challenges, reversing decades of development, and causing global recession since the great depression. This means that strengthening partnerships and securing the next 10 years of collaboration for sustainable development and strong

international cooperation is needed now more than ever to ensure that countries have the means to recover from the Pandemic, build back better and achieve the SDGs.

Impact of COVID-19 on the Goal

Global Goal 17 was designed to strengthen the means of implementation of the SDGs and build stronger local and global multi-stakeholder partnerships and bring together national governments, the international community, civil society, the private sector and other actors to realize the SDGs. However, all of these actors are threatened by the current public health emergency caused by COVID-19 Pandemic. This, therefore, places a strong case for enhanced partnerships at national, regional and multilateral levels to manage and mitigate effects of the Pandemic.

Strategies

Kenya supports mutually beneficial African cooperation and in bilateral and multilateral partnerships at the global level. Properly coordinated multilateral and regional initiatives are critical in achieving Kenya's national transformative agenda and in furthering the global discourse on post-COVID-19 sustainable development.

In this regard, partnerships have been built around: mobilization of requisite resources; research and development of vaccines; and monitoring the pandemic situation in different countries through Kenyan Missions abroad and other diplomatic channels to inform the gradual opening up of political, economic and social engagements.

To enhance coordination of multilateral and regional collaboration initiatives to address the Pandemic and support economic recovery, the Government has deployed the following strategies:

- i. Continued advancement of economic and commercial diplomacy through virtual and in person meetings;
- ii. Consolidating and voicing the position of developing countries at various multilateral forums and the UN Security Council, including advancing the need for stronger international partnerships in fighting COVID-19;
- iii. Discussion with the Paris Club and other Development Partners on the Debt Service Suspension Initiatives (DSSI) and debt swaps to enable adequate planning for debt repayments and improve fiscal and liquidity challenges caused by the pandemic;
- iv. Continued engagements with the UN system, International Organizations, and other Development Partners on resource mobilization for development financing; and
- v. Provision of incentives to tap Diaspora resources for investment in key sectors of the economy such as health, ICT, digital infrastructure, housing, education and manufacturing, and in clean energy and green projects.

Sustainable Development Goals Acceleration

The breadth of 2030 Agenda implies, more than ever, a need to go beyond silos and take an integrated approach to development interventions. Realization and taking into account the inter-linkages and integrated nature of SDGs cannot be gainsaid and it is in this spirit and the recognition that we are in the last decade of SDGs and notwithstanding effects of COVID-19 Pandemic, that the Government, in partnership with all stakeholders will develop an acceleration strategy for SDGs. This roadmap to accelerate progress at both the national and county levels will focus on those SDGs currently seen as unlikely to be achieved by 2030.

Further, SDGs acceleration strategy will provide national and county stakeholders with a systematic approach to identify and analyse bottlenecks that are causing SDGs to veer off-track or to advance too slowly. In addition, the strategy will generate shared diagnostics, and recommend comprehensive, collaborative and focused actions, based on prioritized 'acceleration' solutions.

The strategy will identify and analyze the connections and synergies across the goals and highlight how action in one area draws dividends in others and what the trade-offs are, and this will take us forward more quickly across a broader range of interlinked goals. Leveraging on SDG Accelerator and Bottleneck Assessment (ABA) tool, the Government will identify catalytic policy and/or programme areas or 'accelerators' that will trigger positive multiplier effects across SDGs and targets, and solutions to bottlenecks that impede the optimal performance of the interventions that enable the identified accelerators. This will entail a five-step process that will include:

- vi. Step 1: Identifying 'accelerators' and drivers that enable progress across SDGs, and the national development goals.
- vii. Step 2: Identifying and prioritizing interventions that drive progress on the accelerator.
- viii. Step 3: Identifying and prioritizing bottlenecks to acceleration.
- ix. Step 4: Identifying and prioritizing bottleneck solutions; and
- x. Step 5: Preparation of an implementation and monitoring plan for bottleneck solutions as well as an accountability matrix, a resource plan and an implementation scorecard.

As a Government's priority, this will be done within a period of six months.

The overall objective of SDGs acceleration strategy will be to accelerate progress on the lagging SDGs in Kenya. More specifically, the strategy will:

- xi. Identify the synergies of the goals and targets to accelerate progress on the lagging SDGs;
- xii. Identify bottlenecks which impede progress on particular SDGs;
- xiii. Address data gaps to support the "leave no one behind" principle of 2030 Agenda;
- xiv. Enhance the application of evidence-driven integrated policy programming to advance implementation of SDGs across all the pillars of sustainable development;
- xv. Strengthen coordination mechanisms for implementation and monitoring of SDGs to ensure a whole of government and society approach to SDGs implementation and monitoring; and
- xvi. Enhance the role of National Assembly, county assemblies and key stakeholders in SDGs implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

4.0 Science, Technology and Innovation as an Enabler of the SDGs

The 2030 Agenda positioned Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) as a key means of implementation of the SDGs. Member States committed to adopt ST&I strategies as integral elements of the national sustainable development strategies. The ST&I players can help drive progress on the SDGs in multiple ways which include:

- i. Advising on challenges related to SDGs;
- ii. Providing indicators for monitoring progress of projects and programmes;

- iii. Advising on relevant policies and actions essential in pushing the SDGs Agenda forward;
- iv. Searching for innovative solutions to various challenges faced in the implementation of the SDGs; and
- v. Ensuring every country has a robust science-policy interface.

ST&I plays a critical role in enhancement of all aspects of the economy. Indeed, it is a critical enabler in fast-tracking the achievement of international, regional and national goals. All of the 17 SDGs require scientific innovations and solutions in one way or the other in order to be achieved but more so the SDGs on: Health; Water and Sanitation; Affordable and Clean Energy; Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; Climate Action and Life below Water.

The recognition that ICT can be used to accelerate the eradication of poverty has encouraged Kenya to embrace ICT in SDGs related activities. Below are some of the areas where ICT is being used to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs:

- i. Improving agricultural livelihoods and economic development through automated Market Information System (MIS) improves collection, processing and dissemination of market information on real time basis;
- ii. Improving the quality and access to healthcare by using mobile phone that allows one to save, send and spend funds for medical treatment covering the uncovered especially the low income earners(M-TIBA);
- iii. Ensure access to quality education through the Digital literacy programme to make teaching and learning processes more effective for teachers and pupils in primary schools by providing an alternative platform for accessing curriculum support materials;
- iv. Establishing hotlines improving reporting by victims of GBV and the public;
- v. LVCT one2one youth 1190, Kimbilio GBV 1193, Child line Kenya 116, and Police 999 and 112 to achieve Gender Equality and empower all Women and Girls;
- vi. Digitalised e-water portal to improve data collection and information management for effective planning and decision-making in the water sector to improve quality of access to water;
- vii. Use of Mkopa Solar product that enable off-grid communities to leap from using non-renewable energy to affordable and sustainable practices, while cutting down on pollution. It combines embedded GSM + mobile payments to revolutionise asset financing in emerging markets to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. The use of digital money platforms e.g. MPESA to pay power bills is on the rise;
- viii. Mobile money has led to near complete financial inclusions, increased credit availability to small traders through digital platforms, thereby reducing costs associated with mobility and processing of credit further eased business across distant physical locations and thereby increasing employment opportunities;
- ix. Government's Ajira Digital online work programme which increases participation in online work and reduce unemployment for youth; and
- x. Mobile phone data collected in several landing sites at the Coast, where fisheries, Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) and Kenya Fisheries Service (KeFS) officers submit data directly to the KeFS database to facilitate efficient fish data collection for planning and informed decision-making.

5.0 Conclusion and Way Forward

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015 was a pivotal moment in articulating a new collective vision for development - a plan of action for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership and sets a vision for wealth creation, achieving sustainable development and leaving no one behind. At its core, therefore, is the integrated and indivisible nature of 17 SDGs, which balance the three dimensions of sustainable development that is economic development, social development and environmental sustainability. However, the breadth of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development imply, more than ever, the need to go beyond silos and take an integrated approach to development interventions. Undeniably, the inter-linkages and integrated nature of SDGs is imperative in ensuring that the purpose of the Agenda is realized.

The principles of sustainable development are the same as those of Kenya's national development agenda and, therefore, SDGs implementation in Kenya is hinged on the planning processes at the National and County levels. At the sector level, SDGs have been mainstreamed in sector plans, strategic plans and annual performance contracts, whereas at the County level, SDGs have been mainstreamed in CIDPs. Besides, SDGs have become an integral part of county performance contracts and have informed performance contract design and target setting for county officers.

Going forward, the Government of Kenya is fully committed to the implementation of SDGs as demonstrated by various initiatives under the auspices of 'leaving no one behind'. So as to do this and taking cognizance of socio-economic impact of COVID-19 Pandemic, as well as fiscal constraints, the Government will undertake the undermentioned in the short, medium and long terms. In the short-term the Government will:

- i. Fast track implementation of programmes and projects under the "Big Four" agenda to enhance food and nutrition security; achieve universal healthcare; provide affordable housing; and support growth of manufacturing sector for job creation;
- ii. Maintain macroeconomic stability, ensure financial sector stability development as well as enhance security to foster a secure and conducive business environment;
- iii. Scale up development of critical infrastructure in the Country in order to reduce the cost of doing business and ease movement of people and goods as well as promote competitiveness;
- iv. Fast track Public Private Partnership Bill 2021 as an option for closing the financing gap;
- v. Enhance investment in key economic sectors for broad based sustainable recovery by promoting agricultural transformation, growth in manufacturing, environmental conservation and water supply, stimulating tourism recovery, and sustainable land use and management;
- vi. Expand access to quality social services in health, education and appropriate social safety nets for the vulnerable population;
- vii. Support the youth, women and persons living with disability through Government funded empowerment programmes that leverages on partnerships with private sector organizations;
- viii. Support county governments through transfer of sharable revenues to strengthen their systems and capacity in service delivery;

- ix. Implement various policy, legal and institutional reforms, improve governance and sustain the fight against corruption in order to enhance efficiency of public service delivery;
- x. Strengthen public debt management, especially adhering to expenditure ceilings as presented so as to manage and stabilize public debt;
- xi. Enhance tax administration procedures, and in particular revenue collection so as to ease tax administration; and
- xii. Develop, with its partners the SDGs acceleration strategy.

In the medium term, the Government will:

- i. Develop MTP IV 2022 to 2027 and CIDP III, which will, among other things ensure that interventions to fast-track implementation of SDGs are incorporated;
- ii. Build resilience against climate change by adopting green growth and circular economy;
- iii. Digitalize the economy - the rapid technological advancements portend great potential to catalyse economic recovery, create jobs, and improve lives and livelihoods of the people; and
- iv. Enhance various policy, legal and institutional reforms, improve governance and sustain the fight against corruption.

In the long term, the Government will:

- i. Create and operationalize a Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF) comprising of money generated by the Government from the Country's surplus reserves. The SWF will cushion the economy and in times of pandemics like COVID-19 Pandemic as well as generate wealth for future generations; and
- ii. Start the process of developing the next vision for the Country that will be informed by other visions, such as, East Africa Vision 2050; AU Agenda 2063; and subsequent international community development agenda when the current 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development comes to an end by 2030.

The SDGs can and will only be realized with strong inclusive and sustainable partnerships and cooperation between governments, UN, development partners, private sector, civil society, media, and communities. In addition, the essential links and cross partnerships between SDGs are key to a better future, especially in the context of COVID-19 Pandemic that has presented unprecedented challenges, reversing decades of development, and causing global recession since the great depression. Never has there been a more critical time for strengthening partnerships and securing the next 10 years of collaboration for sustainable development and strong international cooperation to ensure that countries have the means to recover from the pandemic, build back better and achieve the SDGs.

Ensuring the realization of SDGs as well as the aspirations of the Kenya Vision 2030 has not been an easy process considering the prevailing weak business environment. Moving forward and working together the policies and strategies as pointed out in this position paper on implementation of SDGs will be realized to achieve the envisaged economic recovery that will lead to improvement of the welfare of the people. The Country leadership and commitment to protection of lives and livelihoods through implementation of a host of measures have not only reduced the fatalities caused by COVID-19 Pandemic but also supported economic activities.

Appendix I: SDGs in Kenya Assessment and Trends - 2021

OVERALL PERFORMANCE

COUNTRY RANKING

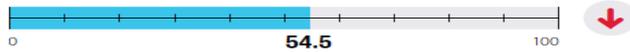
Kenya
118 /165

COUNTRY SCORE

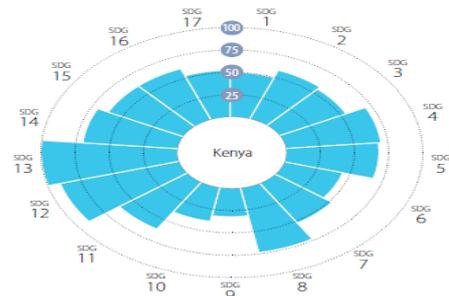


REGIONAL AVERAGE: 51.9

STATISTICAL PERFORMANCE INDEX
0 (WORST) TO 100 (BEST)



AVERAGE PERFORMANCE BY SDG



SDG DASHBOARDS AND TRENDS



Notes: The full title of Goal 2 "Zero Hunger" is "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture".
The full title of each SDG is available here: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sustainabledevelopmentgoals>

Source: Sustainable Development Report 2021: The Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals Includes the SDG Index and Dashboards. By Jeffrey D. Sachs, Christian Kroll, Guillaume Lafortune, Grayson Fuller, and Finn Woelm - 2021