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NATIONAL TREASURY AND PLANNING

STATE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) COORDINATION DIRECTORATE

A REPORT ON THE KENYA 2021 NATIONAL ANNUAL MULTISTAKEHOLDER FORUM
ON SDGs

HELD AT LEISURE LODGE, DIANI

14TH – 18TH DECEMBER, 2021.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CIDPs	: County Integrated Development Plan
CSOs	: Civil Society Organizations
EPR	: Extended Producer Responsibility
ERS	: Economic Recovery Strategy
GBV	: Gender Based Violence
HLPF	: High Level Political Forum
INFF	: Integrate National Financing Framework
LIC	: Lower Income Country
LMIC	: Lower-Medium Income Country
M&E	: Monitoring and Evaluation
NSS	: National Statistical System
PWDs	: Persons with Disability
SAGAs	: Semi-Autonomous Government Agencies
SDGs	: Sustainable Development Goals
UNDAF	: United Nation Development Assistance Framework
UN	: United Nations
UNGA	: United Nations General Assembly
VNR	: Voluntary National Review
VLR	: Voluntary Local Review
UNRCO	: United Nations Resident Coordinators Office
UNSDCF Cooperation Framework	: United Nations Sustainable Development

Table of Contents

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	i
1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Participants	3
1.3 Objectives	3
2.0 OPENING STATEMENTS	4
2.1 Remarks from Partners	4
2.1.1 Council of Governors	4
2.1.2 SDGs Kenya Forum	4
2.1.3 Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA)	5
2.1.4 United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)	6
2.1.5 UNDP Kenya Resident Representative	6
2.2 Official Opening Statement by the Chief Guest	8
2.2.1 Cabinet Secretary; The National Treasury and Planning	8
3.0 PRESENTATIONS	9
3.1 Key Highlights from The 2021 HLPF/UNGA By The Ministry Of Foreign Affairs (Kenya)	9
3.3 Global Experiences & Strategies to Address the Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on SDGs by the Economic Advisor, UNDP Kenya	10
3.5 Long and Medium Term Economic and Fiscal Policies and Measures to Mitigate Social and Economic Effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic by KIPPRA	12
3.6 Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) by the National Treasury and Planning	13
3.7 Role of the UN in Ensuring Coordinated and Comprehensive Response to the Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic	14
4.0 PANEL DISCUSSIONS AND PLENARY	16
4.1 Private Sector Strategies, Experiences and Opportunities in Fast-tracking SDGs in Covid-19 Era	16
4.2 Ensuring an Inclusive Recovery: Enhancing Social Protection and Access to Essential Services to Ensure No One Is Left Behind	22
4.3 County Experiences in Addressing the Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic Crisis: Gaps And Opportunities.	25
4.4 Promoting Inclusive Green Economy to Accelerate Implementation of SDGs in the Decade of Action.	30

4.5 Post Generation Equality Forum: Gender Statistics as Key Enabler in Achieving Gender Equality	33
4.6 Effective Multi-Stakeholder Partnership in the Context of the Pandemic and Post Recovery: Commitments Needed at All Levels to Ensure Inclusive Implementation, Monitoring and Reviews of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs	38
4.7 Innovative Ways of Financing the SDGs in the Context of Limited Fiscal Space and the Role of Development Partners in Implementation of SDGs.	39
4.8 Leaving No One Behind in Prioritizing the Needs of the Vulnerable Population in the Covid-19 Recovery Period	42
4.9 Data Availability and Reliability for Evidence Based Decision Making Within the Decade of Action	45
5.0 SDGS AWARDS	54
6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS	56
7.0 CLOSING REMARKS	58
8.0 ANNEXES	59
	59

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

United Nations member states adopted the 2030 Agenda and committed to achieving sustainable development for all without leaving no one behind while reaching the furthest behind first. Since the adoption, member states have been conducting reviews to assess the progress made in the implementation of the Agenda. Kenya prepared her second Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2020 and the report highlighted the status of the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Country since the first VNR in 2017. The 2020 VNR indicated that although progress has been made in the implementation of SDGs, the rate of progress is still low. In addition, COVID-19 pandemic has impacted on implementation of all SDGs undermining the progress made. With the pandemic still uncontained, the degree to which the implementation of SDGs has been impacted is not yet known. What is clear, however, is that the Pandemic has greatly affected the lives and livelihoods particularly the poor and vulnerable groups including women, older persons, youth and children, low wage earners, informal sector workers, Persons Living with Disability (PWDs) among others.

As a result of COVID-19, our country has experienced lower economic growth in the first half of 2020, which was aggravated by COVID-19 containment measures (for example, restriction of movement in and out of some counties, closure of learning institutions and businesses, and cessation of international travels) in the second half of the year. Consequently, the economy contracted by 0.3 percent in 2020 compared to 5 percent growth in 2019 (KNBS, Economic Survey, 2021) since the first half of the year was characterized by lower economic activities in most sectors of the economy, growth in inflation and a depreciating shilling. Despite the poor economic performance recorded in 2020, the macroeconomic environment remained fairly stable largely due to deliberate measures taken to align monetary and fiscal policies with the need to cushion the economy from adverse effects of COVID-19. Going forward, the economy is set to bounce back, and the projected growth is built on the assumption that the economy will fully re-open; there will be improvement in projected external liquidity; and full implementation of the post

COVID-19 Economic Recovery Strategy (ERS). However, despite the projected growth in the economy, several downside risks are expected to derail performance. Some of these include possible delays in full re-opening of the economy as the Country fights repeated COVID-19 waves, failure to secure adequate external financing to execute the budget, increase in inflation due to drought and rising fuel prices, slowdown in economic growth and disruptive social conditions in the run up to the 2022 elections.

Notwithstanding the above, the Pandemic has, therefore, challenged our country's resilience with the magnitude in most cases beyond our capacity to cope. In response, the Government has put in place measures including the economic stimulus package to ease the pandemic's social and economic impacts on Kenyans. Although, such measures have helped to lessen the burden, more needs to be done to overcome the impacts of the Pandemic and move the Country back on track to realize SDGs. In addition, there is urgent need to look beyond the Pandemic and develop strategies to accelerate the implementation of SDGs during the Decade of Action.

In line with the above, the State Department for Planning through SDGs Coordination Directorate in collaboration with other stakeholders through the Inter Agency Technical Working Sub Committee on SDGs organized for an annual National Multi-Stakeholders Forum which took place on **15th – 17thDecember 2021** at **Leisure Lodge Beach and Golf Resort, Diani**.

The Forum took stock of the impact of COVID-19 on the implementation of the SDGs and was used for peer learning and exchange of strategies for enhancing resilient and recovery measures in Kenya. It was also used as an opportunity to reflect on the kind of strategies that the various stakeholders are implementing to respond to the Pandemic and its impacts and the extent to which these have been effective in supporting implementation of SDGs. It also recommended policies and strategies for building back better a resilient and sustainable socio-economic development amidst the Pandemic so as to achieve SDGs by 2030 within the Decade of Action.

1.2 Participants

The Forum drew participants from National and County Governments, Parliamentary Caucus on SDGs and Business, Civil Society Organizations, UN Agencies, Council of Governors, Private Sector, Media, Development Partners and Academia.

1.3 Objectives

The main objective of the Forum was to come up with short-term, medium-term and long-term strategies that are necessary to both overcome the pandemic and its impacts and put the country back on track to achieve SDGs by 2030. The specific objectives of the forum were;

- i. To create permanent multi-disciplinary knowledge network for sustainable development;
- ii. To provide guidance and evidence to navigate impacts of Covid-19 and accelerate the implementation of SDGs;
- iii. To create awareness on SDGs; and
- iv. To recognize the efforts of different stakeholders in the implementation of SDGs.

2.0 OPENING STATEMENTS

2.1 Remarks from Partners

2.1.1 Council of Governors

The Council of Governors (CoG) started by highlighting that the SDGs can only be realized with a strong commitment to partnership and cooperation at global, regional, national and local level. This inclusive partnership built upon a shared vision and shared goals that place people and the planet at the center are needed at all levels.

CoG remarked that localizing the implementation of SDGs in Kenya requires aligning and enhancing institutional arrangements in the counties since the County Governments are catalysts of change and are best-placed to link the global goals with local communities. The organization highlighted that the County Governments have mainstreamed SDGs in their County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) and have also developed monitoring and evaluation frameworks to support tracking of implementation of the goals.

In addition, the County Governments have institutionalized SDGs coordination through the appointment of County SDGs Champions to support coordination and monitoring of the implementation progress. The County SDGs Units have also been established to support in the preparation of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) to report on localization, building on their communities' experiences and practices, and involving their population in the achievement of the SDGs.

CoG concluded by noting that, in collaboration with other stakeholders they are undertaking continuous capacity strengthening for County officers to facilitate mainstreaming, tracking and reporting on the progress of SDGs implementation.

2.1.2 SDGs Kenya Forum

The SDGs Kenya Forum welcomed the participants and highlighted the need to accelerate the implementation of SDGs in the Decade of Action through concerted efforts among the various stakeholders in coming up with solutions to the challenges facing the realization of SDGs in Kenya. The organization noted that, the Multi-stakeholder Forum was intended to bring together key stakeholders to showcase ongoing initiatives, reflect on the lessons

learned as well as make new recommendations on how to accelerate implementation of SDGs.

SDGs Kenya Forum urged the Government to prioritize on measures to improve accountability, curb waste and corruption, and be open about their efforts when reporting on SDGs and accounting for resources used to ensure no one is left behind. In addition, they noted that the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) plays a vital role in reviewing progress towards achieving SDGs and they can provide supplementary, citizen-oriented data on national progress or stagnation.

SDGs Kenya Forum concluded by affirming the SDGs Kenya Forum commitment to build consensus and understanding of the SDGs agenda through; ensuring that there is continuous sustainable and effective communication among the stakeholders and targeted audiences; using both traditional and non-traditional media to create awareness around the Decade of Action and SDGs; developing policy briefs for the Government; organizing public participation forums among others.

2.1.3 Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA)

KEPSA noted that the Forum provided an opportunity to reflect on our journey since 2016 when the SDGs were adopted in Kenya as well as a chance to devise recovery and acceleration strategies against the background of the Covid-19 pandemic. The organization highlighted that private sector is a critical player in the realization of a resilient sustainable development and noted that this year on 30th June, the private sector affirmed her commitment to the Decade of Action to accelerate action and delivery of SDGs and Green Recovery.

KEPSA remarked on the private sector contribution towards enhancing resilience during the Covid-19 period whereby many businesses came up with innovative ways to cushion their employees, customers and suppliers, as well as Kenyans at large. The innovations exhibited by the companies especially during the pandemic period shows that we can surmount any challenge that comes our way and that we are capable of accelerating realization of the 2030 Agenda. However, the acceleration process requires strategic and decisive leadership, innovative sustainability solutions for scaling up of impact-based

investments and this can be facilitated by leaders who are open to diverse opinions from different stakeholders.

KEPSA affirmed that the 2021 Forum was a demonstration of the power of coming together for a common purpose and assured the stakeholders that the private sector will continue to provide leadership and coordination of private sector progressive contribution for an inclusive and accelerated realization of the 2030 Agenda in Kenya.

2.1.4 United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

UNICEF remarked that, to achieve SDGs is to make everybody rich and reducing poverty levels improves the quality of people's lives. In addition, SDGs and Vision 2030 were targeted to have been achieved by 2030. However, 36% of the population in Kenya still lived under the poverty line. On that note, UNICEF recommended that there was need to accelerate the implementation of SDGs in the Decade of Action. The organization also noted that one of the commitments of Vision 2030 is to double digit economic growth and sustain it for 20 years consistently.

UNICEF reported that the GDP for Kenya in the 2nd quarter of 2021/2022 financial year had grown by 10% and which needed to be sustained into the future. In addition, women and children poverty levels were 20% above the average hence more actions are required to eradicate poverty in the Country.

2.1.5 UNDP Kenya Resident Representative

UNDP remarked that SDGs are the world's signature Development Framework which rallies all stakeholders from the Global Level to the Grassroots to eradicate poverty and improve the human condition, protect the planet, and set it on a clear path of sustainability and peace while leaving no one behind.

In 2018, through its landmark UN reform resolution 72/279, the United Nations General Assembly elevated the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (**UNDAF**) to be the overarching tool for UN Agencies at the country level to support countries to achieve the SDGs. In Kenya, the current UNDAF (2018-2022), which is aligned to the Third Medium-Term Plan of the Kenya Vision 2030 is premised on three strategic pillars:

Transformational Governance; Human Capital Development and Sustainable and Inclusive Growth which aim to accelerate progress towards the SDGs in the Country.

UNDP reported that the UN in Kenya had embarked on a consultative process with Government and other stakeholders, to develop the next United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). The Framework will replace the current UNDAF and translate the vision of the Country into the UN development system efforts to make it more agile and equipped to achieve the transformative results that UN Member States were demanding. It was to incorporate the findings of the evaluation of the UNDAF (2018- 2022), the development challenges identified in the Common Country Analysis, a detailed LNOB analysis and be aligned with Vision 2030, the Fourth Medium-Term Plan and other national development priorities. The New UNSDCF will be anchored around the 5 Ps of the SDGs.

UNDP in partnership with State Department for Planning supported the Country to develop the National COVID-19 ERS and the County Level Socio-economic Re-engineering and Recovery Strategy which identified measures to be undertaken in key sectors to Build Forward Better.

UNDP reported that UN supported the domestication of the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) as recommended by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The initial step of the INNF which is the Diagnostic Stage popularly known as the Development Finance Assessment Report had been completed. Some Key findings showed that despite being a Lower Middle-Income Country, domestic resource mobilization accounted for 18% of GDP which is below the World Bank recommended average of 22%. The Private Sector financing for development was reported to have been falling. On that note therefore, all development stakeholders should augment their contribution with the CSOs/NGOs, Parliamentarians and the Media amplifying their advocacy role to match past years levels.

In his conclusion, UNDP remarked that the robust discussions, deliberations and resolutions from the conference will be of great value to all development actors in Kenya in the next

medium-term development cycle. It will also provide UNDP with a solid basis for re-configuring the UN system's fitness to deliver the agreed results.

2.2 Official Opening Statement by the Chief Guest

2.2.1 Cabinet Secretary; The National Treasury and Planning

The CS highlighted that, in recognition of the critical role played by various stakeholders in implementation of SDGs, the National Treasury and Planning has a stakeholder engagement framework that guides engagement of various stakeholders in planning, monitoring and reporting on SDGs. This framework not only promotes stakeholder relations in the SDGs process, but also as a means to help build better relationships with our societies, ultimately resulting in improved livelihoods of Kenyans.

The Cabinet Secretary remarked that COVID-19 pandemic had cast a shadow in the implementation of the SDGs. The negative effects of COVID-19 Pandemic have precipitated socio-economic challenges that disrupted global supply chains, businesses and economies, eroding the consumer purchasing power. On that note therefore, the CS emphasized on the need to focus on how to cushion and build resilience to the most vulnerable in our society to the present and future shocks to ensure no one is left behind.

In collaboration with SDGs Stakeholders through the Inter-Agency Technical Working Committee on SDGs, the CS reported that the State Department for Planning developed guidelines for identification, documentation and sharing of SDGs good practices. The Guidelines aims at making selected practices systematically available to other stakeholders in SDGs process in order to avoid re-inventing the wheel. These Guidelines will support annual documentation and sharing of SDGs good practices among different stakeholders hence accelerating implementation of SDGs in the Decade of Action.

To foster multi-stakeholder engagement as recommended during the forum, Private Sector Decade of Action was launched in June 2021 to enable businesses provide an extraordinary boost in realizing the SDGs through innovation, investment, a mass customer base and a global labour force. The CS pointed out that the private sector is well-positioned to bring

new solutions to achieving the SDGs and their targets due to its ground networks and ability to swiftly adapt and innovate.

Inadequate financial resources to implement SDGs was also identified as a critical challenge in implementation of SDGs. Towards this, the CS remarked that the Government had already embraced innovative forms of financing its programmes and projects. These included green climate financing mechanisms and digital finance. Alternative forms of development financing such as south-south and triangular cooperation as well as public private partnerships had been explored towards realization of the SDGs among other reforms.

In his conclusion the CS affirmed Kenyan Government's commitment through the State Department for Planning to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. He also thanked the Inter Agency Technical Working Committee co-chaired by the Government through the SDGs Coordination Directorate, SDGs Kenya Forum and KEPSA, and all other stakeholders for working tirelessly in preparing and supporting the Conference.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Key Highlights from The 2021 HLPF/UNGA By The Ministry Of Foreign Affairs (Kenya)

The representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs made some highlights on the 2021 High Level Political Forum (HLPF) deliberations which took stock of the impact of COVID-19 on the SDGs, providing political leadership, guidance and recommendations to ensure sustainable and resilient recovery.

The HLPF also reviewed in depth some of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that were most closely related to the pandemic, while maintaining a balance between economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The Goals reviewed were; the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 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**, and 17 on Partnerships.

The presenter coined expression of the High Level Political Forum to continued strong commitment in the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on climate change as blueprints for a sustainable and resilient recovery. However, significant concern on poverty and hunger which were on the rise after years of decline, a trend exacerbated by the COVID-

19 pandemic were expressed. Women, older persons, youth and children, migrants and refugees, persons with disabilities & indigenous peoples were among the most deeply affected by the pandemic. The Forum also expressed concerns on increasing inequalities among countries and especially many developing countries whom could be left behind on the path of SDGs implementation.

The HLPF adopted a Ministerial Declaration (E/HLPF/2021/L.2) which strongly reaffirmed the 2030 Agenda as a blueprint for sustainable recovery and the need for strong multilateralism and global solidarity to build more inclusive societies. Member States agreed that, at the center of a global recovery was equitable, affordable access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines for all as well as access to concessional financing and debt relief for developing countries. The Declaration enumerated a number of measures and accelerated actions that needed to be undertaken in all nine (9) SDGs under in-depth review.

3.2 Global & Regional experiences and lessons learnt: The People's SDGs Scorecard by SDGs Kenya Forum

The “People’s Scorecard” is a model developed by a coalition of civil society groups active on SDGs globally, to score progress on each SDG in their countries. The score card was used to enable comparative analysis at the fifth anniversary of the SDGs’ adoption, to assess SDGs progress in 20 selected countries.

A summary of the key issues from the 2017 and 2020 Voluntary National Reports (VNRs) developed by Kenya showed an improvement in 2020 and CSOs contributed to all SDGs except Goal 9. About 65 percent of CSOs were working at National level while 35 percent were engaged at the County level. Most CSOs contributed through advocacy, capacity building and training on SDGs as well as providing direct services. The score card had eight ranking areas from a score range of 1 to 5 (Nothing Existent to Successful Implementation).

One of the key principles of SDGs is Leaving No One Behind. Corruption and lack of disaggregated data are some of the setbacks in the implementation of SDGs. There is a need to translate 2030 Agenda materials into local languages for ease of understanding by communities at grassroots levels.

3.3 Global Experiences & Strategies to Address the Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on SDGs by the Economic Advisor, UNDP Kenya

The presentation briefly touched on Covid 19 cases across the globe clearly showing the four peaks the world has experienced. According to the data presented, America was the most affected continent in terms of Covid 19 cases while the Sub-Saharan Africa was least.

COVID-19 deaths stood at about 5.3 Million globally out of about 240 Million Covid 19 cases or infections and administered COVID-19 vaccine were at about 8.2 Billion.

From the latest SDGs Index report that was launched, The presenter graphically illustrated that Low-income countries tended to have lower SDG Index scores partly due to the nature of the SDGs, which focused to a large extent on ending extreme poverty and providing access for all basic services and infrastructure (SDGs 1–9). Moreover, they also tend to lack adequate infrastructure and mechanisms to manage the key environmental challenges addressed by SDGs 12–15. Yet, before the pandemic, most low-income countries, with the exception of those experiencing ongoing armed conflict or civil war, were making progress towards ending extreme poverty and providing access to basic services and infrastructure.

The COVID-19 pandemic led to reversals of SDG progress in many cases, however before the pandemic hit, the world was making significant progress on SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure).

From the 2021 SDGs dashboard (Levels and Trends) for Sub-Saharan Africa, All countries continued to face major challenges in meeting most of the 17 SDGs. Progress towards socioeconomic goals and access to basic services and infrastructure (SDGs 1 to 9) is poor compared to other regions. In some countries, insecurity and conflict have reversed gains on various goals, including SDG 16. COVID-19 pandemic still threatens to reverse the progress made over decades.

UN Framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID – 19 which puts into practice the UN Secretary-General's Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity report, set forth five intervention points or areas as response: **Health** (Protecting health services and systems during the crisis); **Protecting people** (Social protection and basic services); **Economic Response and Recovery** (Protecting jobs, small and medium sized enterprises, and the informal sector workers); **Macroeconomic response and multilateral collaboration**; and **Social cohesion and community resilience**. Out of the five area of intervention, three funds were created: WHO Emergency Appeal, Humanitarian Response plan, and Response and Recovery Funds.

Lessons learnt and possible strategies for the response to the crisis

- Existence of funding gaps in all the pillars of the response framework – Thus a need to think about options of creating the necessary space for financing Socio-Economic Response Programme (SERP).
- Impactful interventions should be the focus for all interventions. For example, identified gaps in the health and social security systems needs to be addressed.
- The SERP are not sufficient for the recovery considering the COVID-19 impact to SDGs, there is need for a more long-term plan to fully recover.
- Need to restart trade by reducing trade tariffs and open borders for goods, even while they are closed for people.

- Governments should make it easier to conduct business by improving public services and making them accessible through digital technology. They should support small, medium-sized and informal enterprises.
- National Statistical Systems need to be strengthened on 3 Levels
 - SYSTEM LEVEL ADAPTATION through adjusting the legal framework, updating national statistical planning, raising additional funding or developing engagement strategies to collaborate and cooperate with Non State Sources.
 - ORGANIZATION Strategic planning, co-ordination, monitoring and evaluation inside the National Statistical Office, as well as well targeted CO-PRODUCTION with Non State Actors.
 - INDIVIDUAL technical and quantitative capacity building as well soft skills in Communication, Negotiation and Leadership

3.5 Long and Medium Term Economic and Fiscal Policies and Measures to Mitigate Social and Economic Effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic by KIPPRA

COVID-19 resulted in sectoral and economy wide effects specifically on the aggregate economy (growth & employment), health and education, poverty and inequality, labour, social protection, transport, accommodation and ICT.

Some of the macro effects of COVID-19 include; reduced labour productivity, export commodities and in tourism, reduction in GDP accompanied by a depreciation of the Kenya Shilling (Ksh), a reduction of domestic investment and an increase in government deficit by Ksh 17.2 billion, 11 percent reduction in employment and decrease in real income (by 7.9 percent and 6.8 percent for rural and urban households respectively).

In the education sector the pandemic resulted in closure of learning institutions and widening gap in access to quality education and promotion of e-learning programmes. However, only 20-22 percent of pupils had access to virtual / e-learning mostly in private schools. The pandemic also resulted in an increase in food poverty as well as the overall absolute poverty at individual levels.

Some positives were realized because of the pandemic and some of the sectors that positively gained included ICT, construction, manufacturing (sanitizers, gels, PPEs & hand washing soaps), agriculture, and health sector as hospitals were equipped, and more medical personnel employed.

The Government was not the only agent that stepped in to intervene in the wake of the pandemic. Other agencies focused their responses on social protection as well. The various interventions had positive but low impacts on poverty due to inadequate budget allocations to social protection. Thus, the reach of programmes needs to be expanded by

roping in development partners in the medium and long term. Social Protection can be redesigned to focus on **labour activation** i.e., getting working age individuals out of benefits and into decent work. Also, the interventions have varying effectiveness across rural vs urban, and there is also evidence of fragmentation of programmes resulting in diseconomies of scale.

3.6 Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) by the National Treasury and Planning

The representative from National Treasury started by noting that the Government of Kenya committed to undertake an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) assessment in 2020. She further defined INFF as System of policies and institutional structures that the government has put in place to mobilize financing for national development objectives. She also stated that the INFF is to help Government develop and deliver an integrated, results-oriented and aligned approach to mobilize and effectively utilize all resources – both public and private. In addition, she remarked that the first step in the INFF process is the constitution of a multi-agency oversight committee, which is currently in place.

The representative alluded that an Inception Report known as Development Finance Assessment (DFA) was developed and presented to the Oversight Committee on 10th December 2021. The representative stated that the Development Finance Assessment has got four dimensions which are: Assessment and diagnostics, financing dialogues for INFF roadmap, monitoring and review and governance and coordination.

Moreover, she added that during the last meeting of the oversight committee they suggested key steps so as to build a political goodwill and appraise the Government which included:

- Financing dialogues which will lead to development of a financing strategy;
- Consultants to finalize DFA report, develop notes and financing dialogue questions;
- Appoint the INFF Steering Committee;
- Drafting of a Cab Memo to apprise the Cabinet and get high level approval and good will;

- C-opt other members to the Oversight Committee as may be necessary;
- Constitution of a technical committee and Focal point; and
- Drawing up clear milestones and timelines

3.7 Role of the UN in Ensuring Coordinated and Comprehensive Response to the Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic

Consequences of COVID -19 in AFRICA

UNRCO highlighted the consequences of Covid-19 in three categories; economic, social and political as follows;

Economic:

Drop in GDP, trade balance worsened, loss of jobs and livelihood, wealth depletion, increased health and related spending, collapse of domestic supply chain, increased non-formal activity and financial distress.

Social:

Loss of lives, reduction in social spending, breakdown in social services, increased inequalities and victimization of vulnerable groups.

Political:

Erosion of trust, politicization of law enforcement and political unrest.

United Nations System Comprehensive Response to Covid-19

The United Nations Three-point Comprehensive Response

i. The Health response.

The response was guided by WHO and the Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan. The UN health response sets out to control the virus, support the development of a vaccine, diagnostics and treatment, and strengthen preparedness.

ii. Safeguarding Lives and Livelihoods

The UN undertook a wide-ranging effort to safeguard lives and livelihoods with strong emphasis on supporting the most affected and least resilient. The UN pushed for a comprehensive stimulus package amounting to 10% of the global GDP to developing countries.

iii. A Better Post-Covid-19 World

The UN envisaged a recovery process that pursued a better post-COVID-19 world by addressing climate crises, inequalities, exclusion, gaps in social protection systems and many other injustices that have been exposed by Covid-19.

Joint Operational Response Strategies for UN Family and Partners

UNRCO pointed out that the UN had prepared three Covid-19 Pandemic response plans namely; Covid-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP), Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) and UN Socio-economic Response Framework. The SPRP aimed at controlling sporadic cases and clusters and prevent community transmission, reducing mortality rates and developing safe and effective vaccines and therapeutics.

The GHRP aimed at containing the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic and reducing morbidity and mortality, decreasing the deterioration of human assets and livelihoods, and protecting the vulnerable groups. The UN Socio-Economic Response Framework aimed at protecting health services and systems during the crises, supporting social cohesion and community resilience, and to facilitate macroeconomics response and multilateral collaboration.

Proposed Three Strategic Results Areas

Strategic Priority 1: People and Peace: Equitable and high-quality economic, social and human development for all particularly the most vulnerable/marginalized.

Strategic Priority 2: Prosperity and Planet: Achieving Green Development towards a more sustainable and resilient environment and economic growth.

Strategic Priority 3: Partnerships: Engagement to promote innovation and expanded partnership arrangements to accelerate achievement of the SDGs for development at national and devolved levels.

4.0 PANEL DISCUSSIONS AND PLENARY

4.1 Private Sector Strategies, Experiences and Opportunities in Fast-tracking SDGs in Covid-19 Era

The panel of 7 comprised: Dalberg, Lawyers Hub, Kenya Health-care federation, Safaricom, KAM, Global compact and Uni – globe Travel Agency.

When Covid-19 pandemic hit the world, KEPSA did a private survey. The survey showed that Businesses were affected including Tourism which recorded up to 80% of job losses; Transport both Air, Rail and road were disrupted by lockdowns; Education through closure of schools; and that over 96% of MSME were affected with many closed. On the positive side, they noted an increase in health awareness among the population; online transactions like MPESA and other modes went up.

Based on the above, the Private sector said they had to innovate responsive ways to navigate through the pandemic as well to survive it. The panel discussion focused on the following major areas;

- Re-engineering the production systems
- Making the health systems more efficient
- Enhancing the Business cycle with a focus on value and supply chain
- Cushioning MSMEs, Youth and women to be more resilient in times of the pandemic
- Community support and how to enhance the PPP
- Lessons learnt and innovative ways to fast track the SDGs

Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM)

KAM said that they represented the value-add sector normally referred to as the Manufacturing sector. They pointed out that the sector had been affected by the pandemic just like the other sectors and that globally there had been a notable decline in performance. Kenya reported stagnation in the sector during the period and therefore had

to look into acceleration programmes to ensure the sector continued to sustain economic growth.

KAM focused on highlighting the opportunities that arose in the sector following the pandemic. They noted that there were many industries in the 70s and 80s that sustained the economy that unfortunately shut down in the 90s. They commented that the Country needed to be self-sufficient and manufacturing could provide that support just like the Asian tigers had done for themselves.

They also added that COVID-19 Pandemic had placed manufacturing at the top and therefore as Kenyan Manufacturers they looked for ways to remain afloat as well as to support the close to 300,000 jobs in the sector. They reiterated that the sector had a huge potential for growth. They thanked the Government for the support during the period especially through the stimulus programmes that went into maintaining jobs as well as cushioning them against panic in the market.

Among the opportunities highlighted were;

Local sourcing; KAM said that the pandemic provided an opportunity for the support of the local manufacturing. The border closures further forced them to look inwards which led to innovations that resulted in production products like masks and sanitizers.

Preferential Lists that were developed by the Ministry of Industrializations and shared to Government agencies ensured that locally produced goods are promoted through Government tenders.

Industry 4.0 which involves the use of technology was another opportunity. The sector adopted automation and other machines that reduced interaction.

Market access; They looked inwards and had support from the Government in looking for alternate markets like through the AfCFTA agreements.

Kenya Health-Care Federation

KHF said that as the KEPSA- health care sector, the pandemic presented an opportunity to bring back conversations on the health care systems.

Their discussion focused on the 7 pillars of the health systems which were the Human resource, digital spaces, supply chain, testing, vaccines, governance and Health care financing.

Human Resource for health-care, they had lobbied the Government for Kes 1 Million for recruitment of healthcare workers. On ICT and Digital spaces, they had partnered with the Government on innovation for the digital spaces especially in systems that would reduce contact. These included in areas of databases, medical call lines, Toll-free lines as well as in preparing training modules for use in the campaigns.

In regards to the supply chain, they had partnered with local manufacturers as well as the Government in zero-rating the key supplies needed to combat the pandemic. Medical supplies like Masks, sanitizers and medical equipment were considered.

They added that they played a critical role in partnership with KEPSA and Government in terms of testing and screening for covid-19 in the community as well as promoting surveillance in the Country. In terms of Vaccinations, the KHF said that they had been in a conversation with the government and that KEPSA would source for vaccines through the Government for their employees as well as other private sector players.

KHF also noted that in terms of Governance, they had participated in Bills like NHIF E-Health and zero-rating that looked at health care during that period. They concluded by pointing out the last pillar which Health-care financing that included the NHIF and stimuli programs as well as the private insurers refund. Notably they had been key in the COVID-19 Fund Committee that was spearheaded by KEPSA. They pointed that COVID-19 was there to stay for a long time and that it was necessary to plan for the future with that in mind.

Lawyers Hub

The lawyer's hub explained that they specialize in data protection, digital economy, access to justice for all and strategic litigation. They disclosed the strategies they employed in times of COVID-19 to continue providing services and implementing SDGs.

They started first by inculcating SDGs in their organizational structure and processes. This led to opportunities and especially with the start-ups they were handling. They then

proceeded to align with global opportunities especially in areas of data protection and protection policies.

They also encouraged their members to build products that support the SDGs and led policy push in areas of crucial policy gap while recommending solutions to the Government. They said they had also helped their members to develop programmes and other important activities in the push to attain the Agenda.

Safaricom

Safaricom said that they had been able to provide a platform for people to continue with their way of life and facilitated the working from home which ensured continuity despite the pandemic.

They provided support in the set-up of the emergency line in partnership with the Ministry of Health and was operated by their customer care. The line provided support to Kenyans in cases of emergencies arising from the pandemic.

They finalized by pointing out their key role in ensuring the cashless payments through mobile provisions and the zero-rating of the less than Kshs 1,000 value cash transfers.

Dalberg

Dalberg elaborated their work in supporting women and youth and that they are an advisory firm working with KEPSA in localizing policies and programmes.

They pointed out that they had been pushing for acceleration of partnerships especially in areas of vaccines. They recalled that at the start of the pandemic, they had worked with many companies to come together in provision of masks and sanitizers.

They also brought to the attention of the Conference that they were running the Ajira program in partnership with the ICT Ministry, Master-card and KEPSA. They explained that the program aimed at equipping the youths with digital skills and that during the pandemic, in order for them to access the youth, they migrated their delivery method to online. Their programs were intentional and targeted the youths, women and PWDs. They applauded the youth for taking the lead in providing solutions as was noted during the pandemic.

Uni-globe travel Agency

The agency noted that their sector was largely affected by the pandemic in the following areas namely; airlines, hotels and tourism. The pandemic had led to loss of jobs, redundancies and reduced wages in the sector. They therefore adopted the Sustainable tourism (PPP) that focused on people, planet and profit in their effort to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

They lauded the Government for partnering with them in programmes like the special fund which went in to support the staff. They also noted that the conversation within the sector had changed and was now more on conservation of the planet and nature. They are now advocating for measures like use of electric cars in the parks, community involvement in the management of conservation areas.

They regretted the notable skill flight to other sectors as a result of the pandemic. Despite that, they were optimistic since the sector had recorded a positive come-back after the economy re-opened especially in the hotel industry. They have since shifted their focus to the local market to reduce over reliance on the global dynamics.

Global compact

Global compact said they work with KEPSA in pushing the power of values and principles among their membership. They aim to have corporations that are sustainable in terms of values.

They said they had noted how KEPSA were facing challenges in sticking to the 10 principles and therefore they took up the matter to remind the membership and provide guidance on the same. During the period, they said they took part in developing guidelines on the values for the MSMEs and companies. This encouraged response from the membership in terms of reporting and adhering to the values.

They pointed out that they took part in mobilization of the financial and in-kind contribution by KEPSA during the Covid-19 pandemic and also provided guidance in line with the principles. They advocated for transparency in the utilization of the resources

collected as well as adherence to the code on human rights. They pushed for a funds committee to look at issues of women and other marginalized groups.

In conclusion, they said that the KEPSA fund had been well utilized. They raised concerns on the public spending during the period and agitated for disclosure on the same. They articulated their new 3-year strategy called accelerator program that aimed at accelerating SDGs and so far had trained over 200 companies. They provided a platform for sharing for the businesses and that partnership and solidarity was a way forward in tackling the pandemic.

Plenary

Financing gap is a challenge facing the implementation of SDGs. What is KEPSA's contribution towards reducing/closing this gap?

KEPSA said they make their contribution in financing SDGs through providing in-kind support and sometimes monetary. They gave an example of Ajira where they provide a platform. They added that their in-kind support includes skills and technology transfer. They pointed out the PPP which they felt needed a redefinition especially in terms of service rendered. The sector, they said, participates in CSR activities as well as in Social enterprises that aim at building communities. They however felt there was a need to seal the leakages occurring through corruption and wastage both in the public and private sector for better results and sustainability.

To Global compact, if there were policies guiding the usage of funds contributed by the private sector?

There was no common policy to manage the CSR funds and that each private company policies guided their individual activities. Global compact noted that there was an opportunity to develop one to help redirect the funds to priority areas.

What discussions are there to address the digital divide as we move online?

Lawyers hub agreed that the digital divide existed and that the Government in partnership with the private sector could take up the challenge and provide a strategy to address the same.

Comments

The pandemic was there to stay for a long time and therefore there was a need to plan for the future with that in consideration. There was a need for stronger partnerships especially between the private players and Government in the period of building back better and recovery. Companies were encouraged to take part in philanthropy and especially in sustainable programs that promote the SDGs.

The initiatives by KAM and other sectors need to be reported as part of Kenya efforts towards attaining SDGs. The manufacturing sector were now reporting on the SDGs in partnership with Denmark and that they have adopted the reporting tool especially in key areas like Clean energy. Companies were encouraged to adopt diversity in recruitment of their staff. They were urged to include the women, youth and PWDs.

4.2 Ensuring an Inclusive Recovery: Enhancing Social Protection and Access to Essential Services to Ensure No One Is Left Behind

The session had 4 panelists which included: Volunteer Service International, Women Empowerment Link, and State Department for Social Protection, Senior Citizens Affairs and Special Programme and UNICEF.

The discussion was guided by questions from the moderator and responses from the panelist as discussed below.

Is Kenya allocating enough resources towards Social Protection and what should be done?

UNICEF

UNICEF stated that the resources allocated to social Protection are not enough. He further recalled that Ghana is allocating 1.7% of their GDP to social Protection while Kenya allocates 0.3% which illustrates that the need is too much compared to what is being allocated. He also gave recommendations on what could be done in terms of the resources which included: reprioritization of allocations, efficiency gains and effective targeting.

Role of Volunteer Services International in regards to Social Protection and Access to essential Services?

Volunteer Service International (VSO)

VSO has undertaken a rapid analysis to be able to identify people who have been left behind in regards to social protection and other areas of essential services. The representative remarked that from their findings its noted that persons with disability are mostly affected and they are coming up with policies on how to engage them in their operations.

What are some of the strategies that can be adapted to accelerate women Economic Recovery?

Women Empowerment Link

Women Empowerment Link noted that their organizations deals with women economic empowerment, prevention and response to violence against women and girls and transformative leadership and governance. She also stated that the COVID-19 pandemic has immensely affected women's livelihoods through job loss and that the affected women are now seeking their ways to the informal sector. Moreover, they alluded that a lot of gaps exist in the stimulus package for economic recovery in reaching to women in the informal sector due to the unregistered nature of such businesses.

How is the State Department for Social Protection assisting the vulnerable households?

State Department of Social Protection

State Department of Social Protection stated that they mainly deal with the vulnerable groups specifically the orphans, children, PWDs and older persons. They further mentioned that they have a cash transfer programme which works through the national sentiment program known as InuaJamii. She also alluded that they have 34,536 PWDs to whom they provide Kshs2000 monthly cash transfer to help cushion them from extreme poverty. Moreover, they noted that they also empower PWDs by providing grants to self-help groups to help empower them economically.

Do you think Kenya is adequately covering the number of people with the need to be protected?

UNICEF

UNICEF started by remarking that based on Sector review report 2017 on social protection which illustrated that the number of Kenyans that are covered in the national safety net program are about 1.5 million people which is basically 10% of the people who need protection in Kenya. UNICEF further mentioned that about 16 to 17 million people actually need protection, in which 13 million are children of which only 12% are covered. They alluded that about Kshs 500 billion is required to protect families in Kenya; and that currently the Government contributes 10% to social protection while the remaining 90% comes from development partners which illustrates that sustainability is a major concern.

How do you ensure that PWDs are not left behind?

Volunteer Service International

Volunteer Service international noted that it's important to understand PWDs, their needs etc and further stated that various methods have been introduced which will help in the mapping out of PWDs e.g. Washington Group of Questions. He also acknowledges KNBS who have been in the forefront in implementing those techniques to track down PWDs. In addition, they suggested that using a more detailed Vulnerability Assessment was key in order to know the issues affecting PWDs. VSO also remarked that based on the study done around factors affecting the poor in Kenya which it also touches on the PWDs, four things came out and of which included:

- Ensuring access to food and other social amenities;
- There is need to put in place policies that enable the poor which includes PWDs to thrive;
- Ensuring that they are involved in all key processes; and
- There is need to ensure how they adopt coping strategies i.e access to loans, skill acquisition.

What does the State Department do in terms of ensuring that the vulnerable people achieve their education outcome?

State Department for Social Protection

The panelist from Social Protection department reported that they have a presidential bursary scheme for the orphans and vulnerable children. They also stated that they have supported 22200 pupils in the year 2020/2021. In addition, they have also supported PWDs by providing them with educational bursaries to fund their studies.

Plenary

How does State Department for Social Protection ensure that Persons with mental disability are not left behind in terms of benefiting from the social protection funds?

The representative from State Department for Social Protection noted that they have a SAGA known as street rehabilitation transfer which deals with integrating and re-socializing people who are in the streets

How does the State Department for Social Protection protect the mentally challenged persons from the hands of the law?

State Department for Social Protection responded that they do have policies which some of them are awaiting validation. She further stated that they are trying to ensure that the vulnerable persons are well covered by those laws.

How does the State Department for Social Protection intervene to ensure the older people access universal health care?

The State Department noted that they have been ensuring that the vulnerable members of the society have access to universal health program; and it's through the NHIF program.

Comment

Women Empowerment link suggested that we should invest in sectors where women are. This is due to the fact that women and vulnerable persons are our only way to achieving the SDGs.

Volunteer Service International stated that diversity and inclusion should be at the heart of each corporate organization.

4.3 County Experiences in Addressing the Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic Crisis: Gaps And Opportunities.

The session had 5 panelists from the following counties namely, Embu, Taita-Taveta, Kakamega, Busia and Marsabit.

The discussion was guided by questions from the moderator and responses from the panelist as discussed below.

County Government of Embu

What is the Status of SDGs implementation and are we on track in terms of hitting the Agenda 2030?

Embu County alluded that SDGs have been anchored in the CIDPs and that there is a framework to implement, and an M&E tool to track and monitor the SDGs implementation. He further added that COVID-19 pandemic posed greater challenges which affected the following areas:

- Budget Process
- Planning

In addition, the County has put more efforts, and came up with initiatives to address the pandemic; i.e immunization and vaccination and also commented that they have an indicator handbook which illustrates the progress made in the various areas.

What are the measures in place to strengthen data collection in the counties in collaboration with CSOs and KNBS?

The County has a unit in charge of statistics, data collection and Research and that they have been working closely with KNBS, development partners e.g. Plan International and Embu University. KNBS has been of great help in terms of data verification, quality control of the data to ensure that the data is authentic.

He lastly recommended on the opening of satellite centres in the counties to work on data.

County Government of Kakamega

How has the Counties responded to the Covid-19 pandemic?

County of Kakamega reported that COVID-19 pandemic has to a larger extent affected their operations in the counties. He further added that the County had diverted funds from projects like Infrastructure and channeled the resources to Health, Agriculture and other sectors that are majorly affected.

In addition, a policy was issued that all the meetings were to be held in Kakamega town so as to promote and revive the hotel industry which had been closed for a while. They also stated that in order to promote food security the county has upscaled provisions of farm input subsidies such as fertilizers, seeds and mechanization by doubling the budget allocation to Kshs900 million.

They also noted that labor-based initiative have been set rolling to ensure that the limited resources are distributed to the unemployed youths and other citizens. Moreover, tax reliefs have been issued to businesses to enable them operate during the pandemic time and lastly under the concept of living no one behind, the County has come up with a youth service which is a 3 years contract targeting the youth, basically engages youth in some kind of employment and provides a stipend which tend to boost their income levels as well as livelihoods.

How are they exploiting the Lake region growth and what are the opportunities that have arised?

The panelist from Kakamega stated that they have strived more in dairy and maize farming and has also established milk and tea factory. He also mentioned that in the Agriculture sector, they have come up with local vegetables for exports, support fresh vegetables plantation and improved on sorghum and millet production.

County Government of Taita – Taveta

What is the current status of the county in terms of SDGs implementation?

County Government of TaitaTaveta has made a positive progress has been observed in the following SDGs namely (6,9,11,13,16, and 17) at 64%. They further mentioned that the county had strengthened the institutions through implementations of various interventions such as:

- Partnering with National Government, donor communities and other governments to help in provision of finances, build technical capacity and enhance and improve cooperation;

- Strengthened the internal M&E Department both by capacity building for the purpose of Tracking and Reporting; and
- Incorporation of Training and awareness creation in performance management.

How has E-NIMES helped in SDGs implementation in the counties?

They noted that they use the E-NIMES to track all the implemented programs and that at the departmental level they have SDGs focal person who help in the monitoring and drafting of the reports.

County Government of Marsabit

What is the county initiative in addressing the issue of leaving no one behind?

They stated that they have reallocated projects and plans to address the pandemic and also equipped the health system i.e. ICU section, health structures and also employed more health workers. In the context of Social Protection, Marsabit recently prepared a social protection policy to address the vulnerable people and also developed a gender policy to address the existing inequalities.

How are the counties responding to the issues of climate change effects i.e. Droughts especially among the Pastoral communities?

Marsabit county remarked that a climate change and adaptation policy has been developed to handle matters of climate action and that 2% will be allocated to address that challenge. Lastly, they concluded by remarking that sustainability is key in all areas and the Country at large.

County Government of Busia

What are some of the initiatives in place to strengthen Partnerships?

Busia County noted that COVID-19 pandemic has brought shocks in their County such as loss of lives, strain of health sector, increase poverty and loss of Business. In addition, cross border traders who mainly are women have been affected by the lock down since they depended on the cross-border trade thus increase Gender Based Violence in most households. In order to strengthen human rights and track down the GBV the county has

partnered with Trade Mark East Africa to help women access trade capacity and improve their income levels.

They remarked that in order to achieve SDGs, there is need of creation of an avenue to finance SDGs which could be done through:

- Mapping out of revenue streams that have not been exploited yet potential;
- Making of Business easier by putting simple regulations with the integration of Hudumacentre the process is; and
- Investment policies which are friendly and discourage CSR.

How is Performance Management been linked to SDGs?

Busia is a member of Lake Region Economic Block and the County supports agriculture to promote food security and propertrition.

They added that E-CIMES is linked to NIMES and vision 2030, and that when they report on those systems they automatically report on SDGs. He concluded by stating that all counties should embrace performance management, since it drives improvements in service delivery.

Plenary

These were some of the issues that came up at the plenary and the responses;

Question: If there are SDG units and if they are operational at the county level?

County of Embu said that they have an established M&E unit and with support of UNDP and SDP they have an E-NIMES which was operational.

Question: How are counties working with Civil society in formulating CIDPs

The counties pointed out that on the issue of Civil Society, they involve all stakeholders when formulating the CIDP and therefore they are part and parcel of it. They are consulted during collection of information and also after consolidation at the county level.

Question: How the counties are gateways in terms of information collection but they rarely translate to planning purposes and also if counties have done mapping of resources?

Resource mapping is a key function of the M&E and that it looks at the County basket, monitors utilization of funds as well as check the E-revenue. They are discouraging the use of cash transactions of the revenue collection.

Question: How are counties approaching the issue of own revenue sources towards enhancing county revenue management?

Some counties like Busia use the resource mobilization strategy to close the financing gap as well as generate revenue. The reporting tool helps them to make informed decisions.

Question: The challenges at the border counties especially with insecurity, lockdowns?

The border counties agreed that there were sometimes issues at the border and that in such cases they escalated them to National Government for resolution.

Question: How is Gender based issue addressed in the Indicator framework and the aggregation?

The counties responded that the issues of Gender had been mainstreamed in their systems.

Question: If they could comment on the status of the “The social Recovery strategy” they did in support with UNDP?

The counties said that on the issue of Disaster preparedness resulting from Climate change and other causes, they have an emergency and disaster fund set aside to address it when the need arises. They also had a committee that is set for disaster preparedness. They concluded by emphasizing that SDGs units were key to them and therefore, all that was needed was political goodwill.

4.4 Promoting Inclusive Green Economy to Accelerate Implementation of SDGs in the Decade of Action.

This session was moderated by a representative from Environment for Development, Kenya and consisted of three panelists drawn from:

- National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)
- ACCESS Coalition

- Indigenous Livelihood Enhancement Partners (ILEPA)

The discussion was guided by questions from the moderator and responses from the panelist as discussed below.

Why should Kenya care about low carbon emissions?

NEMA responded by indicating that the rate of urbanization has been on the rise. An increase in urbanization, population growth, and economic expansion generates a mounting quantity of solid waste hence the need for regulation. In addition, NEMA highlighted that there is a need to set new trajectories for Sustainable Development by controlling the amount of carbon emissions.

Why champion for renewable energy?

ACCESS Coalition stated that renewable energy promotes social inclusion. Renewable energy is key to a sustainable future. But beyond its environmental impacts, renewable energy can also contribute to social development, inclusion, diversity, and equity around the World.

Renewable energy helps to decarbonize Kenya energy systems, drive transition to more sustainable, reliable, and affordable energy systems as well as help to achieve SDG 7 on affordable modern and clean energy.

How can we reduce carbon emission by 30% by year 2030?

ILEPA responded by highlighting that technological and scientific advancement should consider indigenous knowledge on environmental conservation through holding intergenerational dialogues on climate change issues.

Including indigenous peoples and local communities in environmental governance and drawing from their knowledge enhances the quality of life. It also improves conservation, restoration, and the sustainable use of nature, which benefits society at large.

How can we balance growth and efficient use of natural resources?

NEMA noted that development is possible without destroying the environment. He outlined some ways that ensure a balanced development and use of natural resources. First, Efficient utilization of natural resources; resources should be used in an environmentally and developmentally sound manner. Secondly, minimizing waste production and maximizing on recycling of waste products; use of renewable natural resources should be preferred. Thirdly, Sustainable waste management; waste products should be viewed as a resource but not a pollutant of the environment.

Is Green Economy inclusivity?

ACCESS Coalition pointed out that there are disparities between urban and rural areas. 100% of the population living in the urban areas have access to clean energy while only 50% of the population in rural areas can access and afford clean energy. The organization also recommended for public participation in Projects promoting green economy to ensure no one is left behind.

How can the Government engage stakeholders in development Agenda?

Stakeholder engagement is key in policy formulation, creating public awareness and advocacy for public self-responsibility. The panelist alluded that the Government should establish partnership with indigenous people since 80% of conserved areas belong to them. Indigenous people encompass practical ways to ensure the balance of the environment in which we live, so it may continue to provide essential products.

How can we make waste management more effective in Kenya?

NEMA advocated for mental reengineering where waste products can be viewed as a resource and not a mess. Recycling of waste products should be viewed as an income generating opportunity. Reuse and recycling help to conserve resources and protect the environment.

Plenary

Should we incentivify or decentify the green economy?

NEMA responded by stating that Green economy is about social, economic and environmental dimensions of SDGs hence the need to maximize on their synergies.

What is the progress in the ban of plastic bag in Kenya?

NEMA reported that the ban of plastic bags in Kenya is still effective though there is need to harmonize policy ban within neighboring countries.

Who is responsible for mitigating negative social effects of development Programs?

NEMA revealed that they are responsible for conducting environmental assessment audit. The audit aims at mitigating the social impacts of a project to the society. In addition, the contractors should always avail the environmental assessment reports when requested to do so.

How to promote transition from use of non-renewable to renewable energy

Access Coalition recommended for Policy harmonization; the Government should develop renewable energy policy and develop a roadmap to develop energy supply options and increased exploitation of renewable sources of energy. In addition, there is need to innovate and invest more in renewable energy.

Is there an environmental stakeholder engagement framework at the county?

NEMA reported that there is a County Environment Committee working closely with CoG to deliberate on environmental issues

Are the environmental indicators mainstreamed in the performance contracting?

NEMA reported that MDAs and Private Sectors have mainstreamed green economy in their performance contracting.

4.5 Post Generation Equality Forum: Gender Statistics as Key Enabler in Achieving Gender Equality

Generation Equality Forum is an international platform convened by United Nations Women (UNW) and co-hosted by Mexico and France with an aim to achieve

transformative change on gender equality at all levels. The forum seeks to accelerate implementation of the gender equality commitments in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPFA) of 1995.

Post Generation Equality Forum therefore scales up implementation and financing of evidence-driven prevention strategies including strategies on gender-based violence against women and girls in national policies by 2026.

The panel moderated by Maureen Gitonga from UN Women was composed of four panelists from the State Department for Gender, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), SDGs Kenya Forum and GROOTS Kenya. Their submissions were as follows;

State Department for Gender

- Gender Equality and SDGs

Focus was on SDG number 5 which zooms in unequal power relations between women and men by addressing issues of discrimination and violence, and also structural barriers that hold back progress for women and girls among many other issues. The panelist also added that, inclusion of SDG 5 in the development agenda recognizes the intrinsic value of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the context of a human rights-based and equality-based approach.

SDGs-Kenya Forum and KNBS were echoed as they were working together in incorporating gender perspectives across all the 17 goals to ensure inclusivity. The UN was also recognized by revising the gender related SDG indicators from 48 to 80 across 14 out of the 17 Goals. The State Department has in place SDG 5 Strategy (2020 – 2025) which is aimed to ensure attainment of the SDG 5 targets and indicators by the year 2030.

- Gender Statistics as a Key Enabler

Gender Statistics was said to be the biggest transformer and enabler for achieving sustainable development because the 2030 Agenda has put gender equality and women's empowerment at the center. It was also clear that Gender is also aligned with the National Reporting Frameworks to address intersectionality. Gender Statistics therefore;

- I. Provides information and assesses effects on the potential impacts of existing policies and interventions on women and men
- II. Provides evidence for the development of policies, legislation, programmes, and projects
- III. Monitors progress on the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness for both women and men

Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS)

KNBS through their representative submitted that they had developed SDG Gender factsheet 2021 with support from UN Women. The factsheet which provides precise information to national stakeholders, who tackle the main constraints faced in reporting SDG Gender indicators, also raises the reporting rates and ultimately contributing to furthering the achievement of the SDGs. The bureau has also updated Gender statistics indicator handbook to 80 indicators from 54 indicators.

Gender statistics was considered important and a key enabler in achieving Gender Equality as it helps Data Users to know those who are left or lagging behind and thereby enabling the Data Users take some necessary actions.

GROOTS Kenya

Groots Kenya is a Civil Society Organization (CSO) with a primary role in advocacy. They highlighted some of the Investments Organization has made so far in Gender Data. GROOTS had focused on sustainability of Gender Data by doing more investment on Gender Statistics in terms of resources, capacity and more partnerships. It was also noted that part of their work and other CSOs like SDGs Kenya Forum was to make sure that Gender Statistics remains a priority in development.

They targeted and held trainings together with UN Women to Gender Directors in Counties and showed them data that is inexistent and also got feedback on their struggles and challenges.

In their undertakings as a CSO, they use data to do advocacy and action. They have worked with Kiambu County in carrying out a research on gender impact of climate change in the county which then was used to develop a climate change policy in the county. They have also a gender dashboard where they visualize data on gender.

SDGs Kenya Forum – Gender Equality Forum

From the Gender Equality Forum, the panelist stated that, the commitment to gender equality arises from the international obligations emanating from the treaties, protocols ratified and commitments by the Government. The Beijing Platform for Action, adopted

at the Fourth World Conference on Women, recognizes gender equality and women's empowerment as essential for addressing the central development concerns of poverty and insecurity, and achieving sustainable, people-centred development.

SDGs Kenya Forum did a baseline study which they collected data from the key actors – national and county governments to identify key areas of focus in gender mainstreaming. The study recommended Sensitization and creation of awareness on the SDGs at the citizenry level for accountability through a multi-stakeholder approach that would involve the Government(s), CSOs, Private sector, academia and media.

Plenary session (Comments, Questions and Responses)

Question: Most GBV statistics base mostly on women yet men also suffer, where is statistics for men who undergo GBV?

Response from KNBS:

Data for GBV for men is work in progress which they will be getting from the 2022 KDHS. The only data available was for 2014 KDHS.

Response from State Department for Gender:

They too capture data through hotlines and reporting. Some Men have been reporting violence cases to them although very few of them. The State Department is encouraging men to report any case of violence against them.

Question: Where can one find the data for young girls who got impregnated during COVID-19 and where are those who got them pregnant?

Response from KNBS:

Data for pregnant young girls will be provided in the 2022 KDHS report.

Response from State Department for Gender:

The State Department gets data of the perpetrators from the police records every year.

Question: Coordination of GBV statistics is undertaken by various actors like police, gender department, local chiefs and also some CSO, is there a single database or a depository where all the actors converge statistics to avoid inconsistency in National Reporting?

Comment from KNBS:

The data received from Police or any other agencies like for Human Rights is mostly reported data. From the data collected from the demographic health surveys, the bureau samples and gets data from both individuals who have gone through GBV but resist to report to police and those who report. One cannot rely much on reported data alone and therefore need to be more careful when consolidating the information.

Comment from State Department for Gender:

The State Department is manning out all the stakeholders and service providers in counties which report to them what they do. That ensures coordination in the processes. They work with the gender sector groups which are cascaded into counties to bring a unified way of reporting.

Question: Do KNBS have gender disaggregated data?

Comment from UN Women (Session Moderator):

One of the limitations of the SDGs factsheet was pointed out as being guided by the SDGs indicators. Despite that, there are other products that UN Women, Unicef and KNBS have done. Like in 2020 they developed Women Empowerment Index which is the first baseline available that shows women empowerment measure. It looks various aspects or dimensions in determining empowerment. Multidimensional poverty, monetary and non-monetary was shown for all categories in the poverty reports done by KNBS.

Response from KNBS:

They have monographs for disability, urbanization that has categorized various settlements, and Gender.

Question: Whether KNBS has included participatory aspect on data quality control?

KNBS took note of not involving UN agencies and other stakeholders in data processes and therefore looking forward to improve on that.

Question: Inquiry if there is Data on unpaid care domestic work and its quantification in the GDP?

KNBS is undertaking Data collection for quarter 4 which the Country will use to report on SDGs indicator 5.4.1 on the question of unpaid care domestic work. Data collection has been ongoing since January of 2021 and expected to end in 31st of December to allow for data analysis in 2022.

4.6 Effective Multi-Stakeholder Partnership in the Context of the Pandemic and Post Recovery: Commitments Needed at All Levels to Ensure Inclusive Implementation, Monitoring and Reviews of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs

This session was moderated by a representative from Academia and consisted of three panelists from:

- Media Council of Kenya
- The Standard Group
- Parliamentary Caucus

The discussion was guided by questions from the moderator and responses from the panelist as discussed below.

What are some of the strategies that would help in ensuring inclusive implementation of SDGs?

Media Council of Kenya pointed out some of the commitments that would help to ensure inclusive implementation of SDGs. They included; - creation of a conducive environment for journalists to enable them air SDGs, Media Council to work with human rights institutions to advocate for national mechanisms for safety and protection of rights of journalists, leveraging on capacity building through partnering with judicial and academic institutions to train journalists on SDGs.

How can SDGs be financed through partnerships?

Standard Group responded that SDGs can be financed through pulling of funds and prioritizing on the goals as well as mapping of development partners in a specific region to avoid duplication of resources.

How do we fund SDGs at county Level?

Media Council highlighted that building strong partnership between county governments and other stakeholders would help in mobilizing resources to finance the SDGs.

How to mobilize resources domestically as opposed to external borrowing?

Parliamentary Caucus remarked that mobilizing resources domestically can be realized through the following ways; encouraging local borrowing through treasury bonds, encouraging counties to account for revenue collected and formalizing our tax regime to contribute to revenue collection.

Plenary

What is the role of Media Houses in capacity building on SDGs?

Media Council highlighted that Media houses allocate specific journalists to specific SDGs though it's not sustainable due to high level of employee turnover. In addition, mainstreaming of SDGs in journalist education curriculum have been done to improve the level of awareness.

What is the role of Media in holding the Government accountable?

The Media Council responded that Media identify and air out existing development gaps in the society though they do not have enforcement mechanisms.

4.7 Innovative Ways of Financing the SDGs in the Context of Limited Fiscal Space and the Role of Development Partners in Implementation of SDGs.

The panelists were UNDP, African Platform and Oxfam.

The UNDP stated that the SDGs financing required an estimate of \$3.9 Trillion annually. They pointed out that there was annual investment of around \$1.4 Trillion leaving out a

gap of \$2.5 Trillion. Of that, Sub-Saharan Africa had the highest gap of \$1.2 Trillion which was approximated to be 20% of their GDP. They added that Africa also experienced revenue to GDP gap of between 5-8%, with a notable decline on ODA and that the cost of revenue had almost doubled.

On the Domestic Financing in Sub-Saharan Africa, UNDP noted that the SDGs financing gap was between 25%-30% of GDP. They disclosed that more than 50% of African countries collected less than 16% of tax to GDP. They remarked that FDI had risen to the highest in 2018 to \$46 Billion but slowed down by 11% after 2020 due to the pandemic. Remittance peaked in 2019 to around \$48 Billion but slowed down in 2020, development assistance slowed down. They raised a concern on the rising debt levels with 22 African countries being in debt distress. They noted that Kenya had an estimated 51 Million people in 2021 with Tax revenue of \$16.6 Billion. They called for innovative ways to finance the gap and that there was a need for mobilization of resources by the private and other sectors towards development and SDGs. They suggested for African countries like Kenya to look into their Revenue systems and collect efficiently to the recommended 22% revenue to GDP rates.

African Platform

The Africa Platform started by reminding the Forum that there was a need to review the actions on financing from the previous year, what was done and what was achieved. They said that would inform progress on the financing of SDGs. They said that the challenge Africa was facing was lack of self-belief and that they gave credit to foreigners at the detriment of their own.

They said it was important to look at population and the wealth share of a nation in determining its richness. They argued that Africa was wealthy especially if valued in terms of agriculture and minerals. The biggest challenge they noted, was that the continent was not exploiting its resources efficiently therefore lacking behind. They urged the participants to look at practical and innovative ways of solving challenges facing the continent.

On the issue of taxes, the African platform urged the CSOs to focus on providing actionable solutions instead of criticizing all the time. They recalled how 15 years back they had in partnership with Capital Markets Authority and other players came up with unit trusts. They also noted that the Debts were not the issue but the focus was on the quality. They cited countries like Japan and Germany that were highly in debt but sustainable. They argued that the main issue facing African countries was unfair Global fiscal policies. They pointed out that the western countries could borrow in their own currencies whereas Africans could not. They asked the participants to look into ways of addressing the unfair policies for better sustainable financing. They concluded by commenting on the development partners. They pointed out that the challenge in development aid was that African got less in aid as opposed to what they lost in skewed trade and exploitative policies. They said there was a need to balance the amount given and what they took out of the continent as aid.

Oxfam

Oxfam noted that the main challenge gripping the financing of SDGs was the systemic issues. They asked the CSOs to focus on the attainment of the goals. They noted that there were many goals that required non-monetary support for it to be achieved. They cited the issues like Equal pay for equal work, Eradication of violence against women and girls, responsible production and consumption and equality. These and many other areas, they said, would easily be achieved without necessarily waiting for monetary support. They added that there was a need to focus on what could be achieved with whatever resources were at disposal.

Oxfam also commented on the illicit financial flows in and out of the continent. They lauded The National Treasury for putting measures to combat the activity. They said that the money lost to tax havens cost the economy and that tax strategies to curb them were welcomed. They remarked that fighting corruption was a collective effort. They urged the Judiciary to do better and convict the corrupt so as not to discourage the efforts.

Plenary

Question: Why are we looking externally for financing instead of local, and also can we have more allocation to the counties?

Private sector was said to be key in money making so that the Government could collect more. Therefore, there was a need to focus on the Commerce with an example given of Cape Verde. They said that OECD countries had no interest in financing development for Africa. Study by the Platform said that 87% of successful businesses in Africa were multinationals and they paid little to no taxes.

County Governments were encouraged to spend the allocation they got prudently and that they should also focus on policies that would support businesses in the counties for better growth. They concluded by saying that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda looked at local financing of SDGs which are currently covered by the INFF.

Question: Election Financing challenges and how they can sanitize it as Civil Society?

Campaign Financing is a political issue and only citizens could provide guidance on how they wanted it done.

4.8 Leaving No One Behind in Prioritizing the Needs of the Vulnerable Population in the Covid-19 Recovery Period

This session aimed at sharing strategies that were employed by different organizations to support vulnerable groups during Covid-19 period. The session was moderated by a representative from Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) and included four panelists from:

- **Polycom Development**
- **African Institute for Children Studies**
- **United Nation Resident Coordinator Office**
- **Kenya National Commission on Human Rights**

The panel discussion was moderated through guiding questions and responses from panelists as discussed below.

What did your organizations do to support the vulnerable groups during covid-19 period?

Polycom Development

Polycom Development pointed out that her Organization produced and distributed masks to schools in kibera and to the vulnerable groups. In addition, Polycom Development took

care of pregnant young girls, organized women to start their own businesses, negotiated for allocation of kazi mtaani jobs to women and vulnerable groups, distributed food to the disabled persons and children, and established innovation Centre for girls and women.

Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR)

The KNCHR alluded that Protection of human rights is always at the central of their operations. During Covid-19 pandemic period, KNCHR conducted some policy review with the Senate and the National Assembly houses of parliament to ensure inclusion of vulnerable groups in government programs.

KNCHR Conducted research and prepared three reports of nationwide survey on impacts Covid-19 on human rights. Some of the findings of the survey included:

- Labour employment was affected during Covid-19 Pandemic;
- 70% of the vulnerable groups could not access food;
- water access was inadequate;
- Housing eviction in Ruai and kibera areas of Nairobi affected vulnerable groups, tenants and landlords; and
- Access to education facilities was not universal. Online platforms were not affordable to vulnerable groups

United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office

UNRCO highlighted that UN came up with response strategies to address the impacts of Covid-19 to different sectors and conducted Covid-19 impact assessment. In addition, UN conducted research on who was left behind i.e Women, youth, disabled persons and elderly.

How were children supported during Covid-19 period?

African Institute for Children Studies stated that the institute created a web map to show support given to children by different organizations. In addition, the institute did capacity building in terms of budget advocacy for children. The institute also conducted research

on children participation on SDGs in the continent and also how children were impacted by Covid-19.

What were the Lessons learnt in supporting institutions, governments and the vulnerable groups?

UNRCO

- Need for Emergence preparedness strategies;
- Need for partnership;
- Methodology of bringing people together;
- The importance of Value of coordination between various stakeholders; and
- Need to invest in digitalization.

Polycom Development

There is need to develop flexible programs to accommodate dynamics in the communities.

KNCHR

KNCHR pointed out that there are 26 groups of people being left behind. These groups advocate for their involvement in programs meant for them ie. “Nothing about us without us”. In addition, she emphasized on the role of media in safeguarding human rights

African Institute for Children Studies

- Resources are inadequate to deal with emergencies hence the need to advocate for more resources to deal with contingencies
- Development planning should start with vulnerable groups
- Need for children harassment data
- Community engagement is critical in dealing with children issues

Plenary

Is there available data for Intersex persons?

KNCHR responded that intersex data was availed during 2019 Population and Housing Census and there was an establishment of intersex implementation committee to do

sensitization and rescuing of intersex persons. In addition, KNCHR is working closely with KNBS in programming and disaggregating intersex data.

Is data for Gender Based Violence victims available, and do the victims get justice?

KNCHR reported that the commission has been following on court judgments of cases that resulted from police harassments during Covid-19. The commission also confirmed that the data for the victims was also available. In addition, the victims of GBV usually get justice though the process is painful and slow.

4.9 Data Availability and Reliability for Evidence Based Decision Making Within the Decade of Action

The session was moderated by Dr. Robert Simuyu from UNICEF Kenya and comprised three panelists from KNBS, UN Women and Kenya Land Alliance.

The following were the submissions;

Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS)

Data availability was defined simply as accessibility of information or the timeliness and reliability of access to and use of data. It encompasses existence of dataset reports and other data presentations of various indicators. KNBS role is to make sure Data is available.

KNBS is mandated under the statistics act of 2006 to plan, authorize, coordinate and supervise all official statistical programs that are undertaken within the National Statistics Systems (NSS). Establish standards and ensure the use of best practices and methods in the production of National statistical information across NSS. KNBS is also mandated to collect, compile, analyze, publish and disseminate official statistical information for public use. In addition, it coordinates monitors and supervises the NSS.

Sources of their data are; Sample Surveys, Censuses and administrative data. They are also exploring other sources like Citizen generated data. KNBS hosts or has a National Indicator Framework for monitoring SDGs. The framework which monitors 131 indicators is updated after every one year. The key surveys that provide data for SDGs are; Kenya Population

Housing Census (KPHC) which is done after every 10 years, Economic Survey, Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (done after 5 Years), Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey (done after 5 years), Kenya Continuous Household Survey Programme (KCHSP) (done continuously after every 3 months), FINACCESS SURVEY.

For data reliability, the bureau adopts and promotes the use of international statistics standards and methods. They are also developing Data Quality Assessment Framework i.e. Kenya Statistical Quality Assurance Framework. They already have Kenya Strategy for the Development of Statistics. The bureau monitors and validates statistics through the Statistical Technical Working Committees. KNBS also promotes collaboration and partnerships among them, producers and users of statistics.

On data dissemination and access, they have a comprehensive policy which stipulates that data users can request data in writing to the bureau. Dissemination is done through publications, seminars, electronic media, website, KNBS data portal and many other ways.

The major challenge for KNBS in Data Collection was majorly mentioned as receiving inadequate budget allocation and budget cuts given the fact that collecting data is very expensive. Inadequate staffs also posed as a challenge to them due to retirements. Skills gaps, court battles (census challenge) and Covid 19 which slowed down implementation of various activities were among other challenges.

UN Women

The UN Women presented how they use data and gender mainstreaming to map progress on the SDGs and how they produce and promote the use of gender data to influence policy actions during the pandemic. They gave progress of SDGs (The Gender snapshot) from different publications they did yearly.

Together with KNBS they produced and promoted the use of gender data to influence policy actions by carrying out Rapid Gender Assessment during COVID 19 which established an increase in the Gender Based Violence (GBV). Based on the assessment findings, UN Women engaged governments to continue investing in Gender based violence.

They also partnered with Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) with support from FAO and the European Union and conducted/launched a baseline survey that covered 24 out of 47 counties to better understand women's access to agriculture finance through the Governments' Women Affirmative Access Window (WAAW) project, which seek to advance more accessible credit to women farmers. One of the results of the partnership was the revision of AFC's gender mainstreaming policy to include enabling workspaces such as lactation rooms in all AFC branches. Importantly, the survey's findings led AFC to pledge to mobilize 1 billion Kenyan Shillings (US \$10 million) to support women farmers.

In collaboration with CoG and KNBS, UN Women developed and published 10 County gender data sheets providing baseline data for the first time that can be used to track progress on gender equality at the county level. The County datasheets which were expected to inform gender mainstreaming strategies during the mid-term reviews of the CIDPs triggered three concrete legislations in beneficiary counties such as Kitui County. This includes;

- A County Gender Policy, which is currently being developed;
- An Empowerment Bill, which will allow the county to deliberately target women in income-generating activities; and
- A Mainstreaming Bill which will ensure that all action by the county takes gender into consideration, including in the allocation of resources.

They were able to develop the Women Empowerment Index (WEI) from the 2014 Kenya Demographic Health Survey (KDHS) with recommendations on how to improve the 2022 KDHS gender related questions which were adopted by KNBS and ICF in the year 2021.

Another way which they translated data into policy was the production of the comprehensive poverty report which made the Government do the first official attempt to compare multidimensional and monetary poverty across different age groups and assess extent they are associated.

UN Women also took part in the development of the first ever National SDGs Gender Indicators Fact sheet. Based on the publication, 53% of the minimum set of Gender

indicators (42 out of 80 SDG minimum set of Gender indicators) have been produced and published. In addition, out of the 131 indicators of Kenya SDGs National Indicators framework (2020), the gender indicators comprise of 42 and out of the 42 (26 of them, which is 61.9%) have been produced and published. The fact sheet provides precise information to the NSS on the SDGs gender related indicators data status.

Kenya Land Alliance

The Kenya Land Alliance (KLA) which was founded in 1999 is an umbrella network of CSOs and Individuals committed to effectively champion for the reforms of policies and laws governing land, environment and natural resources in Kenya. It is a membership organization with individual members, Community Based Organizations, UN, Government agencies, Local and International Non-Governmental Organizations and Academia.

The presentation which highlighted the status of Land Policies driven by evidence and data, defined land according to the constitution article 260, Land includes; the surface of the earth and the subsurface rock; any body of water on or under the surface; marine waters in the territorial sea and exclusive economic zone; natural resources completely contained on or under the surface; and the air space above the surface. Article 61 of the constitution also classifies land as Community, Public or either Private. KLA pointed out in their presentation also some of the publications they developed and influenced policy. Presentation was tied to “accurate data as a driver of land justice”.

One of their strategic objectives that anchors the seven-pointed publications is the contribution to the body of knowledge. How they actualize knowledge driven interventions in the land sector. Other strategic objectives were to; Support social movement of land marginalized groups, Advocate for a democratic framework for management of community land, promote secure and equitable land rights, Research, document and disseminate information about land, and Enhance KLA’s membership and institutional systems.

Accurate data according to them is important to Land Governance and justice because it;

- Contributes to the development of Policy responses to coordinate human activities with environmental conservation - alongside suitable financial, legal and technical support;
- Helps in Planning to facilitate cumulative impacts of future development;
- Contributes to land use and spatial planning in supporting sustainable land use and management;
- Protects/rehabilitates natural resources and biodiversity; and
- Addresses potential Resource conflicts between sectoral interests and potential uses.

Kenya Lands Alliance (KLA) have been an active agency of Land marginalized groups, they have strengthened land governance and done knowledge driven interventions in the land sector.

PLENARY SESSION (Comments, Questions and Responses)

Comment from the participant

- In the context of evidence/data generation, one of the participants added that organizations do data collection and analysis well but fail in data dissemination and utilization. Organizations when they do launch reports say they have disseminated reports which is not the case. Dissemination according to the participant is going to different audiences with data that is analyzed and presented in the usable formats by audience so that they can utilize. Data is there but we don't utilize it.
- Data dissemination was one of the areas that Organizations need to improve. When planning for studies, they should plan up to dissemination and also create capacity to utilize data in decision making.
- KNBS should find ways on how to bring the data users and producers together to discuss what they need and how they can be able to collect data and how they can utilize the data. Suggestion was that KNBS to have forums for Data users and producers.

Comment from Ken Oluoch on the state/capacity of data use in counties to influence policies (Efforts at County level to improve generation and use of data)

- Data has been one of the challenges in county governments in terms of tracking and reporting on SDGs and that is based on all the reports that counties have generated particularly the Voluntary Review Processes. CoG has however, seen a shift from the norm from two counties that have initiated the process of developing county statistical abstracts that is Laikipia and Makueni Counties. That is the approach the council is seeking to move because that will enable County Governments generate specific statistics that address the local issues and which provide baseline and also makes it easy for counties to track progress towards the implementation of SDGs.
- Poor coordination between the data producers and users was also highlighted as another challenge in the counties. KNBS launched a national strategy for management of statistics which has created various platforms even at the county level to enhance the linkage between the county governments and KNBS and other data producers and address the challenge of data coordination.
- The development of the norms and standards for citizen generated data and administrative data by KNBS will also lead to enhance the quality of data generated by counties since they produce a lot of administrative data.
- The county statistics act is believed to be a game changer to counties if enacted because it will create a county statistics office which will store and manage data at county level.

Question to KNBS: Why do the bureau not analyzing administrative data yet for example the Ministry of Land has got a lot of information on owners of land in the country.

KNBS stated that most of the records in the Ministry of Land are incomplete and that's the reason they don't publish their data. But with the current digital land registration by the Ministry, it will be easier for them to get accurate information.

SDGs Implementation in Uganda and Tanzania

This session was moderated by a representative of SDGs Kenya Forum, and consisted of three panelists drawn from: Government of Tanzania, Uganda National NGOs Forum and United Nations Association of Uganda

The discussion was guided by questions from the moderator and responses from the panelist as discussed below

Briefly describe your organization, as well as mention your roles and responsibilities?

Tanzania

Tanzania started by remarking that the Parliamentary group on sustainable development was formed in August 2016, to enable members of parliament discuss matters related to Sustainable development. They further mentioned some of the core objectives of the group which include:

- To advise the Government on the importance of ratifying the contingency and international resolutions and enacting laws for implementation;
- To ensure policies and legislations that are enacted are in line with international and regional objectives of SDGs;
- To advice the parliament committee to enhance sustainable development in their daily operations;
- To engage stakeholders such as Academicians, private sector and development partners on the debates concerning SDGs; and
- To mobilize resources for SDGs implementation.

Tanzania further noted that Parliamentarians are also SDGs champions and have a huge role in advocating and promoting SDGs in the parliament. She acknowledged the support of other Development partners and UNA in ensuring that they move the Agenda forward.

In addition, she described some of their roles which include:

- Law making to ensure that they reflect on the Human Rights principles;
- Ensuring meaningful national ownership of SDGs to all stakeholders and citizens; and
- To ensure that SDGs are mainstreamed in all Budgeting processes

She lastly remarked that with the help of UNA they are developing a strategic plan for better implementation of their activities.

What can we learn as Kenya civil society from the Uganda National NGO Forum?

Uganda National NGO Forum

The representative from the Uganda National NGO Forum started by noting that they are a platform for CSOs and an umbrella body for over 678 organizations both at national and sub national level. She went ahead and stated that their key role is to provide a channel to amplify the voices of CSOs in Uganda, which is done in four areas namely: civil society Strengthening, policy advocacy and engagement arm, civic space and government monitoring and sustainability, resource mobilization and philanthropy for government. She stated that they have a good working environment with NGO bureau which oversees the work of NGOs and that in 2016 the Bureau in collaboration with the NGO Forum revised the NGO Act. In addition, she alluded that they organize quarterly meetings with the Ministry of Internal Affairs to discuss on issues affecting NGOs and how to find a lasting solution.

Describe the SDGs Processes in place in your country?

Uganda National NGO Forum noted that they have an SDGs secretariat posted by the office of the Prime Minister and they do work hand in hand to support each other and build the partnership needed to implement the SDGs.

They also reported that they collaborate with the Government to produce an annual report on SDGs. She further mentioned some of the progress they have made in terms of SDGs implementation which included: fully coordinated SDGs national framework, launched of second national SDGs Roadmap, working on developing SDGs localization manual, Uganda parliament forum and youth coalitions on SDGs.

She lastly remarked that they have different technical working groups and sector working groups and that civil society have a seat in each of the groups.

Role of UNA in SDGs implementation?

United Nation Association (UNA)

UNA mentioned that they work with different mandates but they majorly work with young people since they believe that the young person are the future of today. They further stated that they have 190 UNAs which are governed by a mother organization known as World Federation of United Nation Association. She also mentioned that UNA tends to bring soft skills to the younger persons and listed some of the areas they deal with which are: peace and security, sustainable development, human rights, Global citizenship and youth empowerment.

What has Uganda Bureau of Statistics done to integrate SDGs indicator to the National system?

Uganda National NGO Forum

Uganda National NGO Forum mentioned that in terms of data Uganda Bureau Statistics works closely with civil society and that the bureau has ensured that SDGs indicators are incorporated in the NSS. They also remarked that Uganda Bureau of Statistics has been collaborating with other government entities, private sectors and CSOs and they have developed the 3rd plan for national statistical involvement.

Plenary

How is the government of Tanzania working to ensure the pregnant students go back to school?

The Member of Parliament from Tanzania responded that the reentry policy was accepted by the President and all pregnant students will now go back to school.

Role of Internal national human Rights institution in the SDGs process?

Tanzania: The representative mentioned that they have a strong collaboration and work closely to ensure that the Agenda moves forward.

Uganda: The representative from Uganda mentioned that the Human Right Institutions play an important role to ensure that SDGs are integrated in most of their activities.

Comments

A representative from the UN noted that they are impressed by the increase in the number of indicators that Uganda is reporting on.

5.0 SDGS AWARDS

In the last day of the Conference there was an SDGs Awards ceremony presided over by the Principal Secretary State Department for Planning. Key SDGs Awards nominees from identified categories were awarded based on a set criterion. The Nominees under each category were as follows:

S/No.	Stakeholders' Category	Criteria	Nominees
1.	National Government	Ministries, Departments, Agencies and parastatals that can showcase a best practice in accelerating the implementation of the SDGs by implementing projects that have an impact at the community level.	Winner: The Anti-Female Genital Mutilation Board 1st Runners Up: National Environment Management Authority 2nd Runners Up: Kenya Power and Lighting Company
2.	County Governments	County Governments that showcased appropriate budget allocation towards various SDGs, held SDGs trainings and meetings, and formed taskforce on SDGs	Winner: Makueni County 1st Runners Up: Meru County 2nd Runners Up: Narok County
3.	Parliament	Members of parliament who are championing for the localization and implementation of SDGs Agenda	Winner: Committee on Health National Assembly 1st Runners Up: Justice and Legal Committee National Assembly 2nd Runners Up: Finance and National Planning Committee

S/No.	Stakeholders' Category	Criteria	Nominees
4.	Private Sector: Corporate Category	Company that has mainstreamed SDGs in their business models and is demonstrating positive impact with economic growth, environmental and social pillars.	Winner: Safaricom 1st Runners Up: Darlborg 2nd Runners Up: Kenya Breweries Limited
5.	Private Sector: Small and Micro Enterprises Category	Company that has mainstreamed SDGs in their business models and is demonstrating positive impact with economic growth, environmental and social pillars.	Winner: Sanergy Limited 1st Runners Up: Let's Go Travel Limited 2nd Runners Up: Lawyers Tech Hub Limited
6.	Civil Society Organizations	Civil Society Organization that is innovative and creative in SDGs processes, has reasonable budget allocation towards SDGs implementation, monitors, reviews and showcase leadership in advancing SDGs.	Winner: Dream Achievers Youth 1st Runners Up: African Institute for Children Studies 2nd Runners Up: Alliance of Civil Society Organizations for Clean Energy Access
7.	Media	Stories published, reported in line with SDGs implementation, monitoring and review in 2021 as well as mainstream and digitized media programs seeking to advance SDGs.	Winner: Mr. Timothy Otieno, KTN News. 1st Runners Up: Ms. Viola Kosome, Peoples' Daily. 2nd Runners Up: Ms. Catherine Ekombe, Ata Nayeche FM.

The Conference was officially closed by the PS, State Department for Planning Mr. SaitotiTorome. In his speech he appreciated the support provided by UNDP, UN WOMEN, SDGs Kenya Forum and KEPSA, in making the Forum a success. He acknowledged that if SDGs are to be achieved by 2030 there is need for increased cooperation, engagement, and partnerships among various stakeholders from national to sub-national levels. This is important because it helps in guiding decision making, policy formulation and attainment of strategic development objectives. The PS also acknowledged the role played by the private sector in responding to the pandemic by filling the gap in the health sector.

The State Department for Planning will use the recommendations from the Conference to inform the development of the SDGs Acceleration Strategy and Fourth Medium-Term Plan

(MTP IV). The State Department has already embarked on a roadmap to develop MTP IV (2023-2027), and nationwide stakeholders' consultation forums will be embarked on. The Government urges all stakeholders to come up with sustainable solutions in the Decade of Action as well as use their comparative advantages to accelerate implementation of SDGs. Thus, National SDGs Awards were introduced in 2019 to motivate stakeholders to implement SDGs during the Decade of Action. He concluded by declaring that the Government of Kenya was committed to working with all stakeholders to deliver to the people what it promised in 2015 i.e, **"A better life for all"**.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director of SDGs noted that from the 3 days forum there have been good practices which have been illustrated and which can be replicated, and that we have suggested good recommendations but there is still need for more suggestions on how to accelerate their implementations. She further recalled the presentation on made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and that the reason for the presentation was to give the outcome of the HLPF. In addition, she stated that there are certain things that need to be addressed before moving forward. She remarked that as State Department for Planning they are yet to develop the acceleration strategy for the SDGs but before doing so she would like to get suggestions and recommendations from the different stakeholders.

Below are the members' recommendations:

- There is need of looking at SDGs which have a multiplier effect since the SDGs are interlinked;
- There is need of strengthening the SDGs institutional arrangement from the COG, and county SDG establishment since these are the areas that will help coordinate the SDGs work;
- It was suggested that we should have a county stop shop development partners coordination forum which will support the county inter agency committee and county SDG unit establishment;
- Developing a county partnership framework by the county government, Academia, Private sector, CSOs and media which help push through the idea of the decade of action;
- There is need for a strategy/framework on the integrated financing on SDGs;
- We should enhance regional cooperation e.g. Kenya and Uganda which will allow us learn some of their best interventions and improve on certain areas;
- Holding a prior forum for the young persons to discuss issues on SDGs before the holding of the Annual Multi-stakeholder forum;

- Developing a dashboard that is government lead which will help track SDGs, MTPs and CIDs commitments and if possible we should work closely with the MED directorate to ensure that the Dashboard is effectively tracking SDGs;
- There is need of having a sensitization program to help increase awareness to the people in the communities on SDGs;
- Enhance and strengthen the SDGs implementation framework;
- Bridging the financial gap on SDGs- how can the private sector help to achieve this target;
- There is need in checking into the SDGs Multi-stakeholder engagement framework so as to know what needs to be improved so as to achieve the desired results;
- We should emphasize on collective multi-stakeholder accountability;
- We should invest in digital infrastructure/ pathways so as to assist with Data integrity and also make SDGs accessible to people country wide;
- Domestication of SDGs is crucial such as Translation of SDGs into different languages; and
- We should commit as individuals and corporate to live SDGs on a daily basis and hold each other accountable.

7.0 CLOSING REMARKS

The Conference was officially closed by the PS, State Department for Planning Mr. SaitotiTorome. In his speech he appreciated the support provided by UNDP, UN WOMEN, SDGs Kenya Forum and KEPSA, in making the Forum a success. He acknowledged that if SDGs are to be achieved by 2030 there is need for increased cooperation, engagement, and partnerships among various stakeholders from national to sub-national levels. This is important because it helps in guiding decision making, policy formulation and attainment of strategic development objectives. The PS also acknowledged the role played by the private sector in responding to the pandemic by filling the gap in the health sector.

The State Department for Planning will use the recommendations from the Conference to inform the development of the SDGs Acceleration Strategy and Fourth Medium-Term Plan (MTP IV). The State Department has already embarked on a roadmap to develop MTP IV (2023-2027), and nationwide stakeholders' consultation forums will be embarked on. The Government urges all stakeholders to come up with sustainable solutions in the Decade of Action as well as use their comparative advantages to accelerate implementation of SDGs. Thus, National SDGs Awards were introduced in 2019 to motivate stakeholders to implement SDGs during the Decade of Action. He concluded by declaring that the Government of Kenya was committed to working with all stakeholders to deliver to the people what it promised in 2015 i.e, **“A better life for all”**.

8.0 ANNEXES

Annex 1: Programme



***Theme:** Sustainable and Resilient Recovery: Accelerating implementation of SDGs in the
of Decade of Action*

2021 SDGs NATIONAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS FORUM

15TH TO 17TH DECEMBER, 2021

TIME	ITEM	FACILITATOR	MODERATOR
DAY 1: TUESDAY, 14 TH DECEMBER 2021- Arrival in Mombasa			
DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, 15 TH DECEMBER 2021			
08:00 – 08:30	Registration & Introductions	Secretariat	SDGs Coordination Directorate and SDGs Kenya Forum
08:30 – 10:20	Climate Setting	COG, SDGs Kenya Forum, KEPSA, Parliamentary Caucus on SDGs & Business, UN Women & UNICEF	Ms. Katherine Muoki- EPS
	Remarks from Partners		
	Address by UNDP Resident Representative	Mr. Walid Badawi	

TIME	ITEM	FACILITATOR	MODERATOR
	Welcoming Remarks	PS State Department for Planning	
	Official Opening	Cabinet Secretary – The National Treasury and Planning	
	Launch of the SDGs Coordination Directorate Website and the Decade of Action SDGs central portal		
10:20 – 10:30	Forum Objectives	Ms. Sarah Muui – Director, SDGs Coordination Directorate	Mr. BhekiBhembe - Economic Advisor, UNDP
10:30-11:00	TEA BREAK	ALL	
11:00 – 11:20	Key highlights from the 2021 HLPF/UNGA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	
11:20– 11:50	Global experiences & strategies to address the impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on SDGs	UNDP	
11:50-12.20	Global and Regional experiences and lessons learnt: The Peoples SDGs Score Card	Florence Syevuo, Festus Odingo - SDGs Kenya Forum	
12:20 – 13:00	Plenary	Moderator	
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH		
14:00 – 15:00	Private Sector strategies, experiences and opportunities in in fast-tracking the SDGs in the COVID-19 Era Panel Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Dalberg● Lawyers Hub● SAFARICOM● KAM● Dr. Wala	Mr.PatrickMaingi- Public Private Partnership Specialist, KEPSA
15:00 – 15:20	Plenary	Moderator	
15:20 – 16:20	Ensuring an inclusive recovery: Enhancing social protection and	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Youth for SDGs● Akili Dada	Plan International

TIME	ITEM	FACILITATOR	MODERATOR
	access to essential services to ensure no one is left behind Panel Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">State Department for Social Protection, Senior Citizens Affairs & Special ProgrammesDr. Robert Simiyu, UNICEF	
16:20 – 16:40	Plenary	Moderator	
	EVENING BREAK		
DAY 3: THURSDAY, 16 TH DECEMBER 2021			
08:30 – 09:00	Recap of Day one	Rapporteurs	
09:00 – 10:00	County experiences in addressing the impact of COVID-19 Pandemic crisis: Gaps and opportunities Panel Discussion	County SDGs Champions <ul style="list-style-type: none">Robert Papa - Busia CountySamuel Mukindia – Marsabit CountyIsaac Ritakou - West Pokot CountyLawrence Nzioka - Embu CountyStanley Maigacho-TaitaTaveta County	Mr. Ken Oluoch - CoG
10:00 – 10:30	Plenary		
10:30 – 11:00	TEA BREAK	ALL	-
11:00 – 12:00	Promoting Inclusive Green Economy to accelerate implementation of SDGs in the Decade of Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none">NEMAUNEPPACJAACCESS Coalition	Environment for Development, Kenya
12:00 – 12:10	Plenary	Moderator	
12:10 – 13:10	Post Generation Equality Forum: Gender Statistics as key enabler in achieving gender equality. Panel Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Memory Kachambwa – FEMNETState Department for GenderFridaGithuku – GROOTS, KenyaSDGs Kenya ForumKNBS	Maureen Gitonga, UN Women

TIME	ITEM	FACILITATOR	MODERATOR
13:10-13:30	Plenary	Moderator	
13:30 – 14:30	LUNCH	ALL	-
14:30 – 14:50	Reforming and transforming consumption and production systems to arrest climate change and reduce waste	KEPSA	Dr. Rose Ngugi, KIPPRA
14:50 – 15:10	Plenary	Moderator	
15:10 – 16:00	Effective Multi-Stakeholder partnership in the context of the pandemic and post recovery; commitments needed at all levels to ensure inclusive implementation, monitoring and reviews of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs Panel discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Mr. David Omwoyo, CEO - Media Council of Kenya● Mr. Benedict Omollo, Chief Officer- Operations & Strategy, The Standard Group● SDGs Kenya Forum● KEPSA● County AssembliesForum● Parliamentary Caucus on SDGs and Business● Mr. BhekiBhembe - Economic Advisor, UNDP	Prof. WainainaGituro
16:00 – 16:10	Plenary	Moderator	
16:10 – 16:30	Long and medium term economic and fiscal policies and measures to mitigate social and economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic	Dr. Rose Ngugi – Executive Director, KIPPRA	EverlynAnupi, Director of Planning
16:30 – 16:50	Plenary	Moderator	
	EVENING BREAK		
DAY 4: FRIDAY, 17 TH DECEMBER 2021			
08:30 – 08:50	Recap of Day Two	Rapporteurs	

TIME	ITEM	FACILITATOR	MODERATOR
08:50 – 10:20	Financing the implementation of the SDGs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative ways of SDGs financing in the context of limited fiscal space • Role of the Development Partners. Panel Discussion	The National Treasury and Africa Platform (Paul Okumu) to set the context DFID, FINNISH EMBASSY, WORLD VISION, FRIENDS QUAKERS, DANISH EMBASY, ZeinabuKhalif - UNRCO	Davis Adieno - Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data
10:20 -10:40	Plenary	Moderator	
10:40 – 11:10	TEA BREAK	ALL	
11:10 – 12:00	Leaving no one behind in prioritising the needs of the vulnerable population in the COVID-19 recovery period. Panel Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGE • Angelina Okol- EDAN • Jennifer Kaberia- Mtoto News • RoselineKihumba- Help Age • PriscaKamungi - UNRCO 	Mr. George Awalla- Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)
12:00 – 12:20	Plenary	Moderator	
12:20 – 13:10	Data Availability and Reliability for Evidence Based Decision Making within the Decade of Action Panel Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Macdonald George Obudho - Director General, KNBS • Director, Open Institute • CEO, Kenya Land Alliance • Mr. Davis Adieno – GPSSD • Maureen Gitonga – UNWOMEN • Mr. BhekiBhembe - Economic Advisor, UNDP 	Dr. Robert Simiyu – UNICEF
13:10-13:30	Plenary	Moderator	
13:30 – 14:30	LUNCH	ALL	-
14:30 – 15:20	SDGs Implementation in Uganda and Tanzania	Representatives from Uganda and Tanzania	Florence Syevuo - SDGs Kenya Forum

TIME	ITEM	FACILITATOR	MODERATOR
15:20 – 15:40	Plenary	Moderator	
15:40 - 16:00	Role of the UN in ensuring coordinated and comprehensive response to the Pandemic	Julius Chokerah, UNRCO	Prof. Gituro Wainaina
16:00 – 16:20	Plenary	Moderator	
16:20- 16:30	Remarks	Saitoti Torome - PS, State Department for Planning	Ms. Katherine Muoki - EPS
16:30 – 17:00	Closing Remarks	Eric Wafukho – CAS, The National Treasury and Planning	
	EVENING BREAK		
18:00 - 20:00	2021 Kenya SDGs Awards and Dinner	Saitoti Torome - PS, State Department for Planning	SDGs Kenya Forum Ms. Katherine Muoki – EPS
DAY 5: SATURDAY, 18TH DECEMBER 2021	DEPARTURE		

Annex 1: Presentations

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DxxDkXoqy3d-bFPACiIJGxUw4mvIBvn_?usp=sharing

Annex 2: List of Participants



Activity Title: 2021 Annual Sustainable Development Goals National Stakeholders Conference: 14th – 18th December, 2021
Leisure Lodge Beach & Golf Resort, Diani.

Attendance List

Date: 15th December, 2021

S/No:	Name:	Sex:	Organization:	Email Address:	Mobile/Telephone No.	Signature:
1.	Nicholas Kipyego	MALE	UNDP		0722403854	
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10.	Reene Maw	F	UN Women	reene-maw-E	0702724841	

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Attendance List

Date: 15th December 2021

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Date: 15/12/2021

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9.						
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