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# CSO VNR REPORT



**SDGs KENYA FORUM**  
For Sustainable Development





# 1. INTRODUCTION



## 1.1 Background

The Third Progress Report by Kenyan civil society organizations is informed by how Kenyan



civil society see their roles in the 2030 Agenda as implementers of sustainable development, the voices of the people who are likely to be left behind and the watchdogs of office holders

Since 2017, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) have been submitting progress reports to inform Kenya's Voluntary National Review (VNR). It should be noted that the 2018 CSO VNR Report was not written simply because in 2017, Kenya agreed to undertake a biannual VNR reporting cycle. Hence the next CSO report was the 2019 CSO biannual status report on the progress of SDG implementation and review in Kenya.

**Please note the following:**

1. The 2017 CSO VNR report was structured to report on progress made in the period ending 2016, and the 2019 CSO VNR report was a biannual report looking at progress undertaken over 2017/2018.
2. This 2020 CSO VNR report picks up from the 2019 status report and incorporates the progress over 2019.

Importantly, all of the 3 reports referenced above mirror Government-led VNR processes, with leadership from the SDGs Kenya Forum and its members, and feeding into the government-led country VNR reports and processes since 2017.

This year, Kenya will be reporting at the High-Level Political Forum under the theme 'Accelerated action and



transformative pathways: Realising the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development'. To inform this, Kenyan CSOs shared their views and experiences in implementing the 2030 Agenda including successes, challenges, gaps, alignment to national policies, support needs, plans for 2020 and recommendations for accelerating the implementation of the SDGs. The report also dedicates a separate section on 'leave no one behind'. Therefore, apart from informing Kenya's VNR 2020, the report provides recommendations to inform policy design and to strengthen partnerships particularly with the government and donors.

## 1.2 About the People's scorecard and its incorporation into the VNR

Civil society is a crucial actor in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It has a key role to play in raising awareness and keeping the spotlight on these commitments. Civil society organisations are active in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the Agenda, and above all in holding leaders to account for the commitments they have made. In order to ensure effective delivery of the 2030 Agenda, governments committed to a follow up and review process that should be "robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent, and integrated"; and that monitoring and accountability on progress would be done with data that is "high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts".

The purpose of developing a People's Scorecard and incorporating it into this popular version is to provide an opportunity for CSOs to systematically add context to the progress of the SDGs implementation in their countries.

### The aim is to:

1. Further improve on inclusivity of the national civil society process;
2. Implement the already established template for a People's Scorecard on national delivery of the 2030 Agenda;
3. Discuss on matters arising from the Scorecard with a view to deliver on transformation

## 1.3 Methodology

The third Progress Report is an improvement over the previous progress reports. This year, the Kenyan civil society reported on all SDGs, except SDG 9. This is a great improvement from the Second Progress Report and the First Progress Report from the Kenyan CSOs where initially only 12 goals and 8 goals were reported, respectively. Another improvement is, unlike the previous reports, this year's submission from the Kenyan CSOs attempted to report by goal indicators, instead of goal targets. It is noted, however, that many organisations still struggle to report by indicators. New

sections introduced in this report include areas that civil society organisations require further support and their plans for 2020 to further contribute to the implementation of the SDGs.

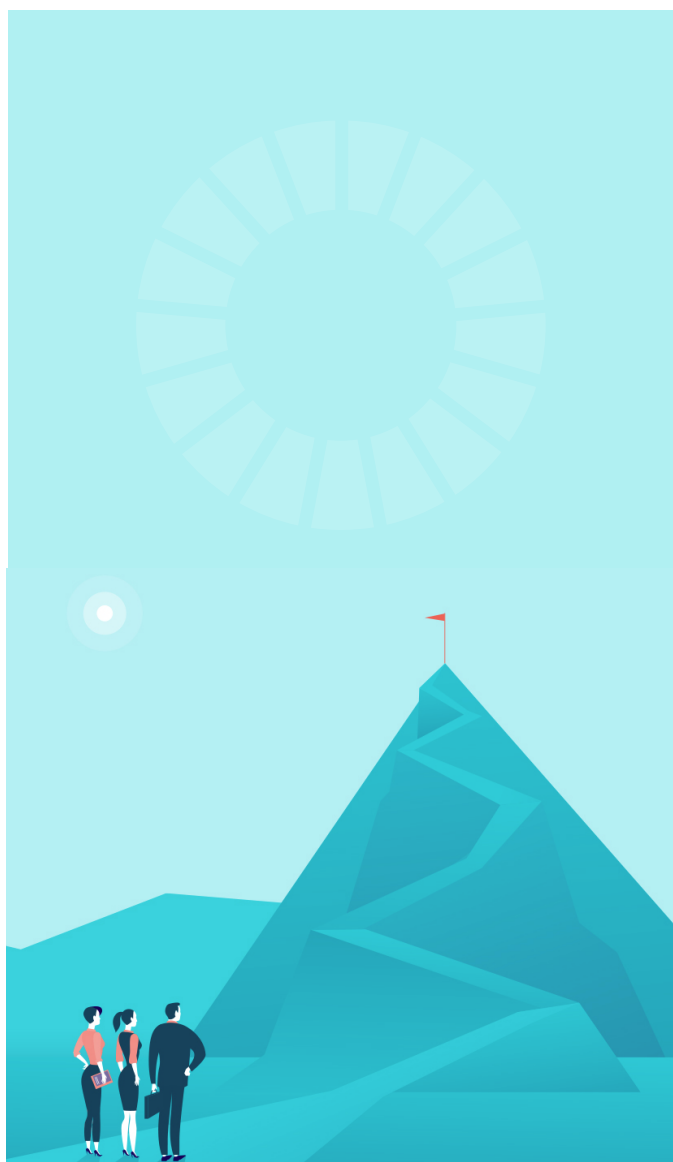
The report has been developed through an inclusive approach and it covers all goals, except SDG 9. Note that the report focuses MOSTLY on activities and results that 1) have been achieved by organizations that have participated in the VNR process 2) are heavily drawn from robust research that has been undertaken. The CSO VNR report and incorporation of the People's score card was consolidated from submissions by 103 and subsequently a further 30

CSOs respectively through a three-step-approach. The first step was to organise a two-day writing workshop for CSOs, drawn from the membership of the SDGs Kenya Forum (hereafter the Forum) and beyond using 2 online surveys, to key-in their inputs. For inclusivity, this was followed by further contacting all other CSOs that could not make it to the writing workshop, but who desired to provide an input. The last step involved validating the reports (organized into the 17 goals) by contributing CSOs.

















## 1.4 Challenges in consolidating this report

Some of the challenges encountered in organising this year's report include: 1) difficulty in reporting by indicators (where the indicator does not quite fit the context), as opposed to targets, 2) difficulty in organising submissions focused on results and impact (and not just activities) which is what many CSOs are accustomed to, 3) The lack of quantitative data to accompany the qualitative results which have been achieved.

This VNR has attempted to further report at the indicator level; indeed it is the best attempt so far. However, it is still an area CSOs are grappling with - to consolidate their results into outcomes and map them onto the SDGs – especially CSOs working across multiple sectors. A high number of CSOs (73%) have indicated that SDG's reporting is an area they require capacity building.



**TABLE 1: SDG Targets which have been reported in the 2020 CSO VNR**

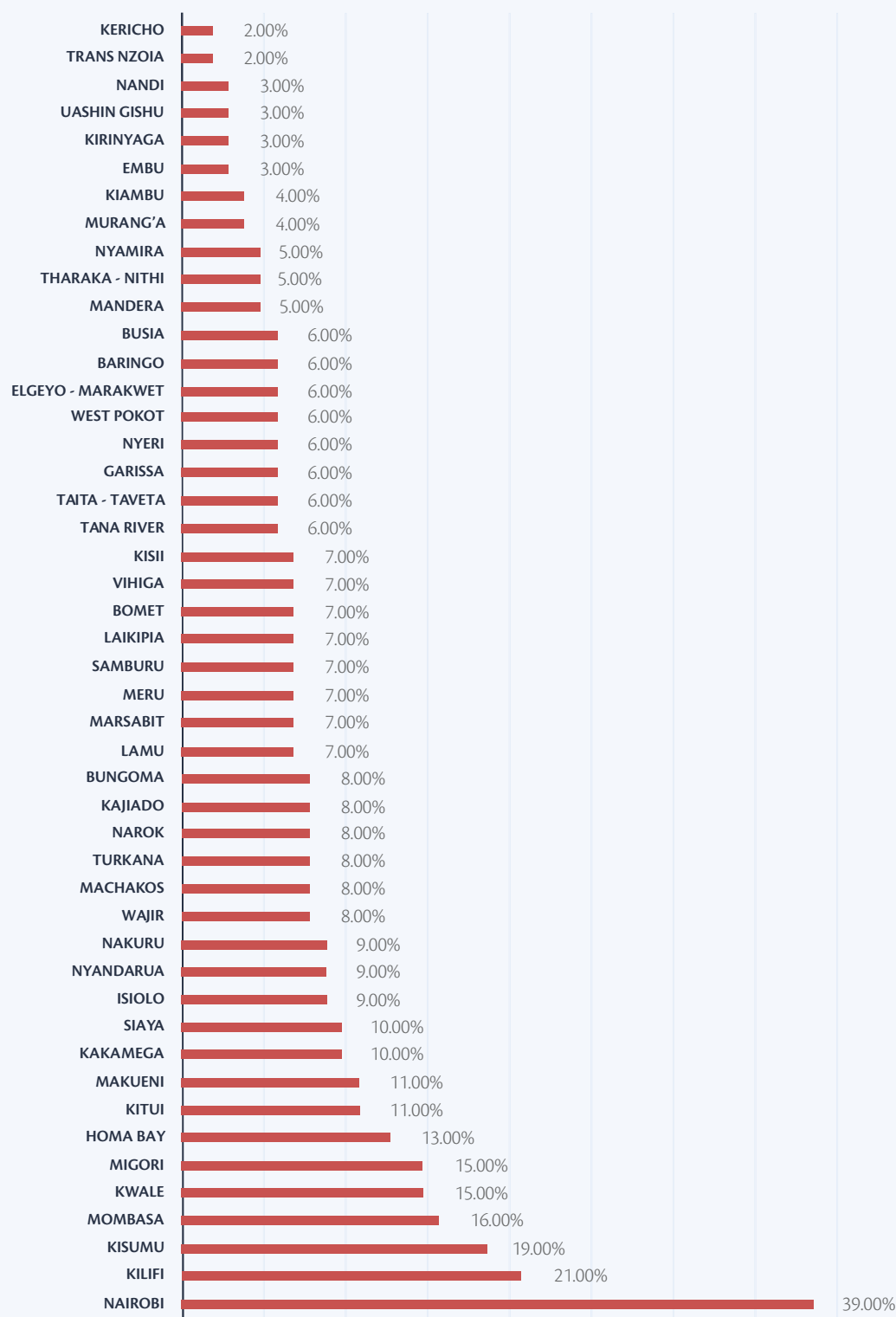
| GOAL   | TARGET  | INDICATOR   |
|--|---|---|
|  <b>Goal 1</b>    | 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.a, 1.b               | Tier 1: 1.1.1, 1.2.1, 1.4.1<br>Tier 2: 1.3.1, 1.2.2, 1.5.1, 1.a.2<br>Pending data availability: 1.b.1                     |
|  <b>Goal 2</b>    | 2.3, 2.4  | No indicator reporting  |
|  <b>Goal 3</b>    | 3.1, 3.3, 3.4, 3.7, 3.8, 3.a                    | Tier 1: 3.1.1, 3.3.1, 3.7.2, 3.a.1, 3.8.1<br>No indicator reporting for target 3.4  |
|  <b>Goal 4</b>    | 4.3, 4.5, 4.6, 4.a, 4.c                         | Tier 1:<br>Tier 2: 4.c.1, 4.3.1, 4.a.1<br>Tier 1 or 2 depending on indice: 4.5.1<br>No indicator reporting for target 4.6 |
|  <b>Goal 5</b>    | 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.c               | Tier 1: 5.3.1, 5.3.2, 5.5.1, 5.5.2<br>Tier 2: 5.1.1, 5.2.1, 5.2.2, 5.4.1, 5.6.1, 5.c.1                                    |
|  <b>Goal 6</b>    | 6.1, 6.2, 6.5, 6.6, 6.b                         | Tier 1: 6.5.1, 6.b.1, 6.6.1<br>Tier 2: 6.1.1, 6.2.1   |
|  <b>Goal 7</b>  | 7.1   | Tier 1: 7.1.2   |
|  <b>Goal 8</b>  | 8.3, 8.5, 8.6, 8.7, 8.8                         | Tier 1: 8.5.1<br>Tier 2: 8.8.1, 8.8.2<br>No indicator reporting for target 8.3, 8.6, 8.7,                                 |
|  <b>Goal 10</b> | 10.2, 10.3, 10.7,                               | Tier 2: 10.2.1,<br>No indicator reporting for target 10.3, 10.7,  |
|  <b>Goal 11</b> | 11.3, 11.7, 11.a                                | No indicator reporting  |
|  <b>Goal 12</b> | 12.2, 12.3                                      | No indicator reporting  |
|  <b>Goal 13</b> | 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.b                          | Tier 2: 13.1.1, 13.1.3,<br>Pending data availability review: 13.2.1<br>No indicator reporting for target 13.3, 13.b       |
|  <b>Goal 14</b> | 14.1  | No indicator reporting  |
|  <b>Goal 15</b> | 15.1, 15.5, 15.7                                | Tier 1: 15.5.1,<br>Tier 2: 15.7.1<br>No indicator reporting for target 15.1   |
|  <b>Goal 16</b> | 16.1, 16.3, 16.4, 16.5, 16.6, 16.7, 16.9, 16.10 | Tier 1: 16.10.2<br>Tier 2: 16.1.3, 16.3.1, 16.10.1<br>No indicator reporting for target 16.4, 16.5, 16.6, 16.7, 16.9,     |
|  <b>Goal 17</b> | 17.1, 17.14, 17.16, 17.18                       | Tier 2: 17.14.1<br>17.14.1,<br>No indicator reporting for target 17.1, 17.16, 17.18,                                      |

The classification used above is the one as of 17 April 2020 which contains 115 Tier I indicators, 95 Tier II indicators and 2 indicators that have multiple tiers<sup>1</sup>.

65% of the CSOs reporting work at the National Level and a further 35% of the CSOs work at the County Level. The figure below breaks down the counties where the CSOs work – with most of them (39%) reporting that they work in Nairobi County; and the least of them (only 2%) covering

<sup>1</sup> <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/tier-classification/>

### CSO County coverage for the 2020 CSO VNR

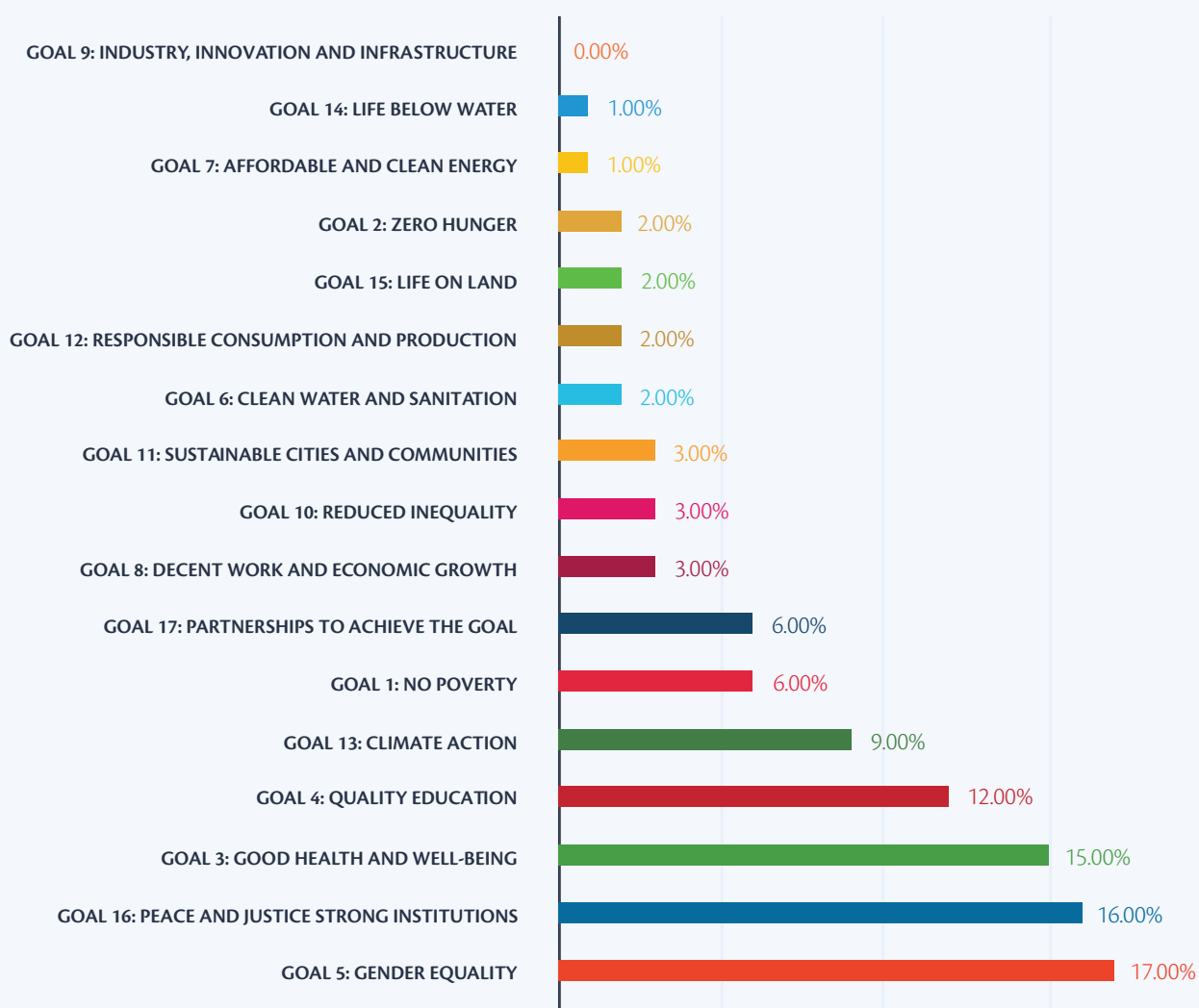




## FIGURE 1: Where CSOs reporting for the 2020 VNR work

For the 2020 CSO VNR, 17% of the participating organizations work on Goal 5 and only 1% work on Goal 7 and Goal 14; indeed information on clean/renewable energy and marine life have been data hungry sectors with the most reliable data often being provided by government ministries, agencies and departments.

### SDG coverage for the 2020 CSO VNR



## FIGURE 2: SDGs coverage for the 2020 VNR

To give organisations ample time to submit as well as validate future reports, it is recommended that CSOs report quarterly to the SDG Forum using a template that is easy to fill. To also assist contributors to report by indicators, the SDG Forum should assign monitoring and evaluation personnel to support CSOs. It is also recommended that the SDG Forum should offer capacity building/training to its constituents on SDGs implementation progress reporting – this is also captured well by CSOs.

## 1.5 How to read this report

This report is best read hand in hand with the final CSO VNR of 2020<sup>2</sup> which expounds on the actual details and reflections from all the CSOs to the VNR (and this summarized report. The final VNR report is organized into 16 chapters representing the SDGs mentioned in section 1.4 of this report:

<sup>2</sup> <https://sdgkenyaforum.org/content/uploads/documents/8b832986477dddbd.pdf>



1. The CSOs' contribution or results (which have been aligned to targets and indicators as best possible)



2. Successes



3. Challenges



4. Gaps



5. Leave no one behind



6. SDG Interlinkages



7. Alignment to national policies



8. Plans for 2020




9. Recommendations

Since the adoption of the SDGs, Kenya has managed to make some strides to place the country on a firm path of implementation. In 2016, the country developed an elaborate Road Map to Sustainable Development Goals<sup>3</sup> to guide the implementation of the SDGs in the country. Also, Kenya's long-term development blueprint, Kenya's Vision 2030, is implemented through five-year Medium Term Plans (MTPs). The current and third MTP 2018-2022

that aims to achieve accelerated, high, inclusive, broad-based, sustainable economic growth, social economic transformation and development, mainstreamed the SDGs and Africa Union Agenda 2063. Consequently, the institutional frameworks to ensure coordinated implementation has been established almost across the Country; with SDGs being prioritized in planning at national and county level.

<sup>3</sup> <https://sdgkenyaforum.org/content/uploads/documents/be8abe1688c20682.pdf>



## 2. **PROGRESS ON SDGS IMPLEMENTATION SINCE 2015**

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## 2.1 What are some of the overall successes?

The Sustainable Development Goals implementation has come a long way since inception. The progress made include closer working relationships of stakeholders, notably the government, the private sector and civil society (SDG 17). This has manifested in more non-state actors being actively involved in the reporting progress and challenges over the years (it is Kenya's 2nd government-led VNR and the 3rd VNR being published by CSOs). This means that non-state actors have been instrumental in influencing local and national processes; the voices of vulnerable populations are better organised and can be heard. In this way, Kenya has also embraced the principle of Leave No One Behind in development while ensuring sustainable socio-economic development.

CSOs report that gender inclusivity in our governments is increasing as there are many female leaders rising even in the private sector. For instance, Oxfam in Kenya under the Women's Rights Programme, is tackling SDG5 Indicator 5.4 on unpaid care work; the need to reduce and recognize unpaid care work in which they are pushing forward to influence positive decision making on issues that will address unpaid care work. On August 20th 2016, Kenya passed the Access to Information (ATI) act. This was after more than 15 years of advocacy undertaken primarily by the civil society in Kenya. This heralded a new dispensation with regard to transparency in government and underlines the government's willingness to enhance citizen engagement, transparency and accountability. But to actualize these laws, there remains a need for repeal of laws that impeded proactive disclosure (that is information that should be published proactively by the government without an information request by a citizen). These include the Official Secrets Act, the Public Officers Ethics Act and the Public Archives and Documentation Service Act.

On health and well-being, milestones have been made to ensure access to medical facilities and affordable treatments to citizens through the government-led universal healthcare coverage (declared in December 2018 as part of the government's big-four agenda)<sup>4</sup>.

On one hand, CSOs report a number of areas where there has been positive progress and where they believe Kenya is on the way to attaining the SDGs. Below are some of the Goals where CSOs believe might be achieved by 2030:

1. Poverty eradication
2. Women's economic empowerment and gender equality which is critical in effectively combating poverty and hunger
3. Collaborative partnerships between state and non-state actors in the approach to tackling sustainable development.
4. Materials have been translated mostly to Swahili. This study also encountered translations to Kamba language.
5. Equitable and quality education due to the current investments (equitable distribution of teachers and learning materials) in both free primary and secondary education – for a 100% transition rate; the current implementation of a competence-based curriculum.
6. Including youths through advocacy on issues affecting youth – SDG 5, SDG 9. This also includes the current put to

<sup>4</sup> The Government of Kenya has committed to make strategic investments in health to ensure that all residents of Kenya can access the essential health services they require by 2022. Read more: <https://www.health.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/UHC-QI-Policy-Brief.pdf>

empower youths with entrepreneurial skills which will help them provide for themselves and their families.

7. Attainment of improved health outcomes in the areas of sexual reproductive health rights through:

- a) *Reduced maternal mortality rate related to unsafe abortion.*
- b) *Implementation of reinstated standards and guidelines in provision of safe and legal abortion*
- c) *Implementation of COVID 19 RMNH guidelines by the Ministry of Health particularly on post-abortion care, family planning, antenatal care, postnatal care, and contraceptives*
- d) *Continued development of policies that promote maternal care and access to sexual and reproductive health care.*
- e) *Advocacy on the allocation of funds to reproductive health sector*
- f) *Development of adolescent youth strategies in the counties to ensure universal access to youth-friendly sexual and reproductive and health services*
- g) *Access to free sanitary towels to every needy school-going girl.*



WWW.SDGKENYAFORUM.ORG

**FIGURE 3: Translation of the SDGs to Swahili**



On the other hand, there are areas where doubts in progress have been expressed. The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic has been mostly negative to the progress of the 2030 Agenda. Whereas it can be argued that the development agenda is nothing new to Kenya (whether viewed from the MDGs stance or from the national priorities of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, Vision 2030 and the Big-

Four Agenda); there are also concerns that because there were no repercussions to failure to attain the MDGs, we might fall into a similar conundrum with the SDGs. This is exacerbated by the lack of proper transparent systems and processes to track progress. Below is a summary outline for CSO ratings for SDG implementation; only the areas with highest consensus are expounded.

**TABLE 2:** Outline of the broad vision of the current implementation for SDGs in Kenya (description only provided for the highest consensus score in the respective area)

| AREA                                    | RATING  | 1<br>(nothing<br>existent) | 2<br>(planning is<br>underway)  | 3<br>(plans or<br>actions have<br>started)                   | 4<br>(delivery<br>on imple-<br>mentation<br>ongoing) | 5<br>(successful<br>implementa-<br>tion) |
|---|---|----------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| 1. Policy or legal framework available: | Rating 1(no frame-work)-5(strong framework)                         | 6%                         | 6%  | <b>Some</b> Policy/ legal framework available<br>44%         | 33%  | 11%                                      |
| 2. Plans and strategies:                | Rating 1(no plans & strategies)-5 (strong plans)                    | 0%                         | 28%   | 17%  | Plans & strategies agreed<br>44%                     | 11%                                      |
| 3. Government agencies:                 | Rating commitment 1(no agencies)- 5(clear agency lead)              | 6%                         | 11%   | <b>Some</b> Agencies with clear mandate available<br><br>61% | 17%  | 6%                                       |
| 4. Implementation:                      | Rating implementation 1(no implementation)-5(strong implementation) | 0%                         | Implementation of policies, plans and strategies in planning phase<br><br>50% | 39%  | 11%  | 0%                                       |

|   |   |     |   |  |     |    |
|---|---|-----|---|--|-----|----|
| <b>5. Capacity building:</b>                    | Rating 1(No national capacity building)- 5 (strong national capacity building)      | 0%  | Planning on awareness and capacity building needs<br><br>44%            | 33%  | 22% | 0% |
| <b>6. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting:</b> | Rating 1(no monitoring)-5(regular strong monitoring)                                | 6%  | Monitoring, evaluation & reporting plans are agreed<br>41%              | 35%  | 18% | 0% |
| <b>7. Transparency and accountability:</b>      | Rating 1(no transparency & accountability)-5 (strong transparency & accountability) | 17% | Initial planning for transparency & accountability mechanism<br><br>50% | 28%  | 0%  | 6% |
| <b>8. Overall progress on the SDGs:</b>         | Rating 1(no progress)-5(strong progress, on target)                                 | 0%  | 22%   | Some progress has been made overall on attainment of SDGs<br>61% | 17% | 0% |

## 2.2 Who are the most vulnerable populations?

Though the Constitution of Kenya 2010 identifies vulnerable groups, from their work CSOs further identify the most vulnerable groups as: minority communities, women, orphans, widows, minors (below 15 years of age) and young people (due to unemployment), the elderly, LGBTQ communities, people

living in informal communities in urban settings, persons living with disabilities, people living with mental disease, communities (such as pastoralists) who geographically reside far from urban areas – especially on the boundaries of the counties and country generally.

Additionally, CSOs also identify people who live off the electricity grid, without access to internet, roads, with no access to finance and who don't have access to mobile phones as being part of this group.

In Kenya, we also have internally displaced persons<sup>5</sup> as a result of conflict or natural disasters and a long-term solution is yet to be found to restore their dignity (social, cultural and economic) and rights. Further, budget allocations for the agriculture sector remain disheartening and in most cases does not reach the small holder farmers (majority of who are women – yet according to the Food and Agricultural Organization, farmers locally produce 75% of the food that we consume).

<sup>5</sup> See data here: <https://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/kenya>

## 2.3 Areas needing improvement

Despite progress, there are areas that still need a lot of attention.

These are written in order of priority as listed by CSOs below:



1. There is still a big need to eradicate poverty (SDG 1) and hunger (SDG 2), attain high standards of health (SDG 3), access affordable and quality education (SDG 4), addressing gender parity (SDG 5), climate change (SDG 13) and decent work and living conditions (SDG 8). All are critical in the Kenyan context; they are yet to be attained. For example, in health, this sector suffers shortage of workers, insufficient drugs, especially in rural areas



2. With streamlining data sources, there is a need to incorporate more data sources (especially from non-state actors) so that missing or outdated data remains current and designed interventions remain relevant.



3. Also, even though there is a lot of awareness on SDGs, some CSOs still need support to fully support grassroot communities to understand SDGs; this is because a bottom up approach (as opposed to the top-down approach of the Millennium Development Goals) is more effective for sustainable development.



4. Climate change issues (SDG 13) also remain key.



5. There is still a need for financing the achievement of the goals and streamlining the data sources to monitor the goals. This also extends to localizing SDGs – by mainstreaming indicators in programs as well as adoption in local languages. Further, if Kenya had some form of an SDG tracker, it would help to know just how we are progressing on the goals, we might be in a better place to know our progress.



At the time of writing, the COVID-19 pandemic that is currently ravaging multiple sectors across the world also exposes the vulnerabilities in some of the work and why it is increasingly important to embody sustainable development.

## 2.4. How organizations are using the 2030 Agenda for framing their work

CSOs broadly categorize this into 3 areas as follows:

**01** Accountability mechanisms for government: CSOs also generate their own data; this often better reflects the underlying causes of behaviours and needs faced by people who might participate in quantitative surveys undertaken by the government. CSOs also provide alternative data and therefore alternative perspectives across sectors. For example, in line with SDG 6, Kenya Water and Sanitation Civil Societies Network (KEWASNET) undertakes studies based on water, wastewater and ecosystem resources that reflect realities faced by people on the ground for purposes of accountability on promises made on access to water and sanitation<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>6</sup> Adequate access to water and sanitation is enshrined in the 2016 Water Act and the Constitution of Kenya 2010 (Article 43)

**02** Civil society plays a crucial role in complementing government programmes and monitoring development results. Some CSOs not only align their work to the SDGs, but also localize the indicators and examine how their own work can integrate to the national priorities such as the MTP 3. Others hold public forums, workshops, radio programmes and undertake training for multiple stakeholders (including duty bearers from the government).

**03** Leaving No One Behind: Through advocacy, CSOs work towards influencing policy for a just society for all ages, tribes, gender, geography, among others. For example, Help Age Kenya works with older people who are often discriminated against socio-economically.

## 2.5 Focusing on climate change

Climate change has caused inconsistent weather patterns over time leading to lower agricultural productivity hence more hunger. Kenya is largely an agrarian country and climate change due to rising temperatures is having worrying impact on food security and the production system for raw materials that fuel our industries. But it must be stated that one of the leading causes of rising temperatures is due to deforestation.

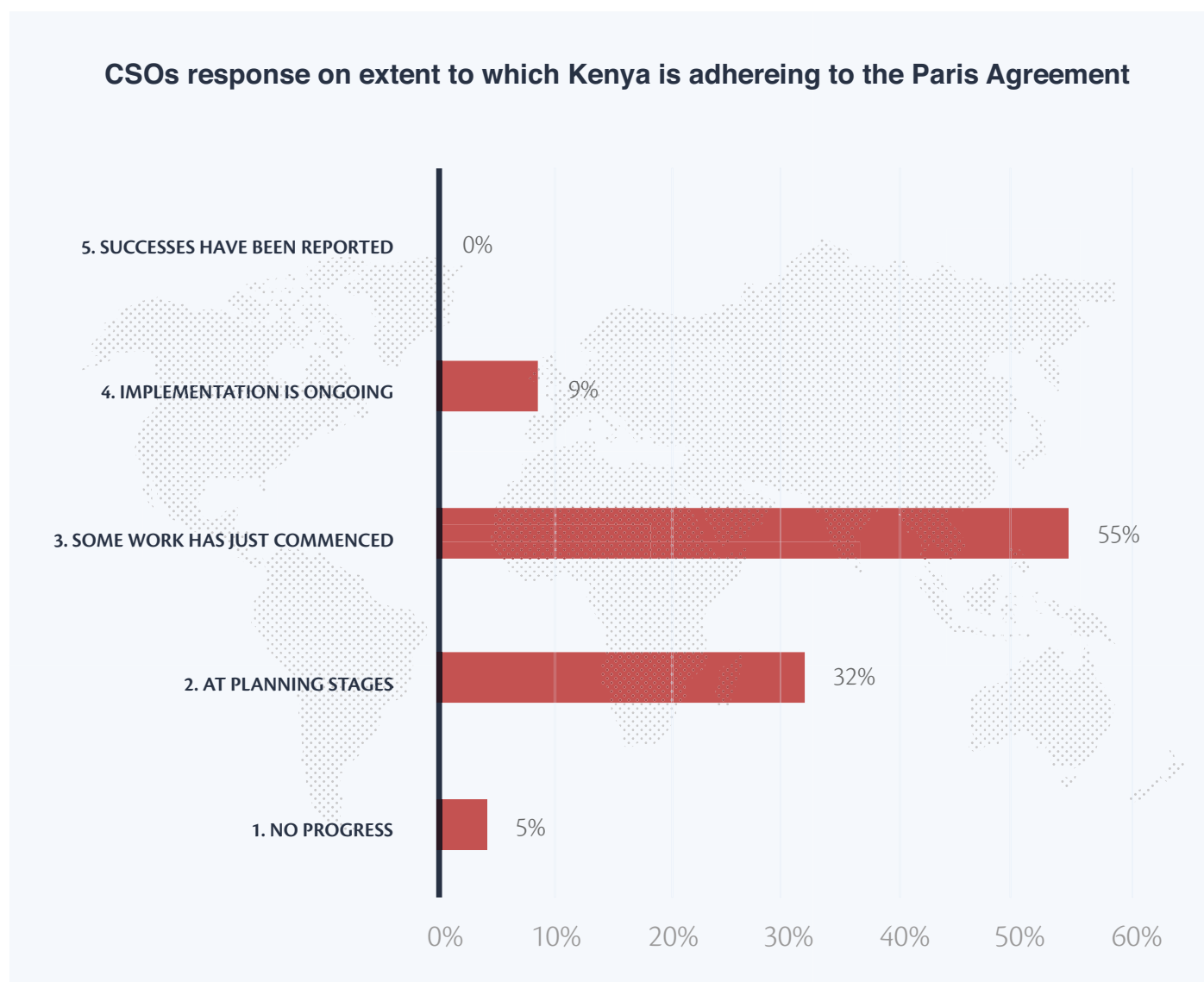
Climate change also affects attainment of the universal health coverage due to emerging diseases likely to be aided by the shifting climatic conditions. Water availability will also be affected as the country is likely to experience lengthier droughts and abnormal rainfall. Severe natural disasters have also been more pronounced such as destructive floods, landslides and prolonged droughts which lead to food insecurity, displacement and conflicts fueled by need for basic resources. Kenya has also experienced an invasion of locusts which have caused famine in some regions. The invasion of farmland by wild animals escaping from the wild which can no longer provide for their food is also on the increase.

Culturally it has affected the way of life for many local communities. This manifests through decreased yields of staple crops, increased food insecurity, uncertainty in water availability. For example, pastoralist communities keep moving in search of pasture - but they eventually suffer the adverse effects associated with tourism, agriculture and business.

There are adverse effects of climate change due to increased deforestation and loss of biodiversity, health sector is impacted due to the loss of

biodiversity with loss of plants with medicinal value. The increased chase for natural resources and privatization of the same without factoring the environmental impact on creation.



**FIGURE 4: Extent to which Kenya is adhering to the Paris climate agreement**

As a way forward, there must be design of policies<sup>7</sup> and solutions that are implemented through bottom-up approach that addresses climate emergency. The biggest challenge however is that there is no serious financing for interventions tackling climate change. Consequently, there is a need to increase funding to proposed interventions in mitigating climate change effects both in rural and urban areas.

#### Some practical interventions include:

1. Strengthening funding agreements that promote sustainable production of both agricultural and industrial production especially at the county level. For example, 10% tree cover on-farm and water policy, with a view to ensure there is alignment with the situation on the ground and with geo-political changes on climate action.
2. Reduction in consumption of carbon fuels as outlined in policy and promotion of green energy (increase local

<sup>7</sup> The Kenya National Climate Change Framework Policy 2016 exists but implementation is still lagging behind. <http://www.environment.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Climate-Change-Framework-PolicyMay2017.pdf>. Others are: 1. National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) 2. National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS) 3. Energy Policy 4. National Environment Policy (NEP) 5. Forest Policy 6. Rangelands Management Policy 7. Agriculture Sector Development Strategy (ASDS) 8. National Land Policy 9. National Policy on Water Resources Management and Development 10. Wildlife Conservation and Management Policy 11. National Disaster Management Policy

production of solar, geothermal and wind energy and minimize importation of equipment which can be manufactured locally) as a fuel source

3. Incorporate climate change in the education curriculum
4. Implementing policies that regulate tree cutting and commit to tree planting to at least 30% of landmass. This includes reclaiming land in forests that has been encroached on<sup>8</sup>.

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<sup>8</sup> Including through law to curb privatization of natural resources and reclaiming such minerals for the benefit of Kenyans





### **3. SUMMARY OF ISSUES AND PROGRESS FROM PREVIOUS REPORTS**



The table below further highlights key issues from the 2017 and 2019 CSO VNR's – highlighting what still remained to be implemented.

**TABLE 3:** Summary of key issues and next steps in the previous CSO VNR's

| 2017 CSO VNR   | 2019 CSO VNR  |
|--|---|
| KEY ISSUES   | KEY ISSUES  |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The renegotiation of roles and relationships between national and county governments, between Government and Development Partners, members of the legislative assemblies, and between state and non-state actors.</li> <li>2. Additional resources such as recruitment of agricultural extension officers, more health personnel, more teachers at all levels to ensure the teacher-pupil ratio is improved, the construction, rehabilitation, refurbishment and equipping of health and education facilities are just among the things necessary in the implementation.</li> <li>3. Efforts by the Judiciary to modernize its ICT infrastructure, increasing the number of High courts in the country and assigning more judges to remote areas.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Inadequate of financing for certain projects</li> <li>2. Laxity in corruption and tax evasion measures</li> <li>3. Lack of knowledge on responsible consumption</li> <li>4. Lack of clarity on budgetary allocations</li> <li>5. Inadequate of political commitment towards gender equality</li> <li>6. Insecurity for school children in certain areas</li> </ol>  |
| NEXT STEPS   | NEXT STEPS  |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Intensified awareness creation and capacity building to position county governments as SDG implementers</li> <li>2. Capacity assessment of both the National and County Governments to achieve on the SDGs</li> <li>3. Prepare and finalize an engagement framework between Government and Non State Actors on the SDGs.</li> </ol>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengthening data collection, including data collected by CSOs and citizens. This should lead to not only recognition of their availability but also designing a mechanism to integrate such data in the official planning system.</li> <li>2. CSOs creating awareness around wealth creation and financial literacy.</li> <li>3. Enacting harsh penalties for tax evaders.</li> <li>4. The government reducing its debt appetite.</li> <li>5. Prioritizing the fight against corruption.</li> </ol> |



## 4. KEY MESSAGES IN THE THIRD PROGRESS REPORT



## 4.1 Leave no one behind

While Kenya's economy is improving, as reflected in the reduction in extreme poverty and improvement in human development indicators, there are disparities among counties. In terms of poverty level, 10 counties risk being left behind including Isiolo, West Pokot, Tana River, Wajir, Marsabit, Garissa, Busia, Samburu, Mandera, and Turkana. Of these, food poverty is highest in Turkana (66.1%), Mandera (61.9%), Samburu (60.1%), Busia (59.5%), West Pokot (57.3%), Marsabit (55.6%) and Tana River (55.4%). CSOs have identified a number of groups that are vulnerable and are likely to be left behind. These include people with disabilities, people living in informal settlements, pastoralists, older persons and unemployed youth.

## 4.2 Gender across SDGs

Gender is a cross-cutting issue reported under most goals. There are deliberate efforts by CSOs to reduce gender inequality through implementation of specific programmes across different SDGs. Examples of these include provision of education scholarships to young girls (SDG 4); sensitisation on menstrual hygiene management (SDG 6); mapping of multiple forms of sexual harassment in public spaces in urban areas (SDG 11); training women farmers on responsible production and marketing (SDG 12); training women on the use of sustainable cook stoves (SDG 13); and conducting social exclusion and gender analysis (SDG 16). In addition, there are efforts by CSOs to implement measures to uplift female-headed households out of poverty (SDG 1).

## 4.3 CSOs' contributions towards accelerating the implementation of Agenda 2030

Kenyan CSOs contribute directly to the implementation of the SDGs. They provide direct services to vulnerable populations, support skills development through capacity building and training, and provide microfinance services for economic empowerment. CSOs also carry out policy advocacy and awareness creation to support implementation of the SDGs.

To better track implementation of the 2030 Agenda, non-state actors avail data and analytical support to subnational policymakers, other civil society organisations and the academia. Data and data analysis support include tracking the progress of people out of poverty and investment towards pro-poor sectors.

## 4.4 Successes and opportunities

The report finds direct implementation of programmes related to sustainable development and strong partnerships with government, as well as other CSOs as key accomplishments of Kenyan CSOs. It is reported that data and analytical support is appreciated and used by county governments. Other achievements by CSOs include support to vulnerable communities to access basic services and economic empowerment through measures aimed at creating self-employment opportunities.





#### 4.4.1 Collaboration between CSOs and Government on SDGs implementation

There also exists examples of impactful collaborations between CSOs and the national and county governments when it comes to implementation of the 2030 Agenda. These include data and analytical support provided to eight government agencies to inform decision-making processes; technical support to a county government to enact a tobacco control law; with relevant ministries on issues of labour and social protection, support to a county government to develop a Climate Change Bill and policy; and technical support to the national government to ensure inclusive education; engagements (by Help Age International) with the Kenya Vision 2030 secretariat in advancing ageing issues and development in Kenya. We also have engagements (through VSO Kenya) with government in development of sector policy for learners and trainees with disability and volunteering policy and volunteer bill.

Consequently, CSOs perceive that they have been adequately invited to provide evidence and data inputting into national government-led processes. Examples include the development of school-health policies; supported/provided data analysis during the process of National Council of population and development; national and county budget processes through public participation; data focusing on reproductive health for the Ministry of Health as well as following up on commitments made through various policies and guidelines. This also extends to providing inputs as CSO's into the government-led VNR process.

KEWASNET for example, participated in drafting of a report dubbed "Pipes, Policy and Public Money" released in July 2019 that sought to assess the financial governance and integrity in the water sector by considering the extent to which the rules, institutions and processes for decision-making on the allocation and management of

resources, articulation of interests and regulation of professional conduct are transparent, accountable and participatory.

#### 4.4.2 County governments engagement on SDGs

Kenya has 47 county governments which were established after the scheduled general elections in March 2013. The counties' names are set out in the First Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and each county has a legislative and executive arm; the county government is responsible for executing devolved functions as outlined in the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution; which can be broadly categorized into SDG 1, SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 2, SDG 5, SDG 6, SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 11, SDG 13, SDG 15.

The County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) is a plan prepared by all counties in Kenya to guide development over a five-year period. The CIDP also outlines timeframes, baselines, targets, as well as indicators for programmes and major projects The CIDP is also aligned to the Medium Term Plans (currently MTPIII). Consequently, there has been a move by certain counties to also mainstream SDG indicators into county plans. Examples of counties that have undertaken this include Taita Taveta, Vihiga, Kisumu, Elgeyo Marakwet and Makueni, among others.

Exclusion and marginalization of vulnerable group in Kenya is still a challenge. This has continued to create inequalities in various spectrum including education, economic, employment and social life. This goes against the principle of SDGs that seeks to ensure that there is no one left behind. Therefore, county governments are also creating awareness through consultations, called, the 'community dialogues' on the implementation of SDGs<sup>9</sup>. This

<sup>9</sup> Community dialogues are used to drive people towards a common vision, understanding or solution to a specific issue of concern. Further, the county dialogues are used to increase awareness about the SDGs among key stakeholders at the county level including within local communities; on what the goals seek to achieve and the roles of the different stakeholders in the process of implementation.

awareness creation has been through consultations at the county level organized jointly by the SDGs Kenya Forum and county-based stakeholders.



**FIGURE 5: Attendees from Kisumu’s county dialogue held on 7th and 8th November, 2019 – organized by the SDG Kenya forum and the County Government of Kisumu**

Reducing exclusion and marginalization of vulnerable groups will result in a more equitable, inclusive and sustainable society. The **community dialogues** therefore provide strong, coordinated and accountable forums that are deliberate towards voices of marginalized communities including women, youths, poor in slums, person with disabilities and elderly to be integral component in monitoring and implementation of the SDGs. This fosters increased social accountability of key stakeholders to trigger responsive action for a more inclusive and equitable society.

#### 4.4.3 Involvement of educational bodies and research institutions

The role of Academia and research institutions ought to be to facilitate research and innovations on accelerating SDGs implementation. At national level through the Ministry of Education and departments and agencies under the ministry, and also at the county level, an enabling environment has been created to provide support through financial and technical assistance for research and innovation. For example, the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) has integrated sustainable development in the curriculum design and implementation<sup>10</sup>.

<sup>10</sup> <https://kicd.ac.ke/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/CURRICULUMFRAMEWORK.pdf>

What is of note is that institutions' organizational capacities vary when it comes to understanding the mainstreaming SDGs and also being active – through the multi-stakeholder approach currently instituted for review and implementation of SDGs in Kenya<sup>11</sup>. However, higher institutions of learning such as University of Nairobi, Strathmore University, Maseno University, United States International University, among others are also involved in research and thematic innovations that are broadly fighting development challenges.

<sup>11</sup> <https://planning.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/SDG-Implementation-plan-2030.pdf>

## 4.5 What are civil society's most crucial demands to the government and other stakeholders at the moment?

The country is facing serious challenges when it comes to food security, extreme weather events, particularly droughts that are often followed immediately by floods pose a huge risk to achieving the 2030 Agenda. Other identified challenges in implementing SDGs include, inadequate food pricing, food storage, facilities to reduce post-harvest losses, strong patriarchal system which slows progress on eliminating gender inequality and weak coordination among government institutions and among non-state actors in implementation of SDGs.

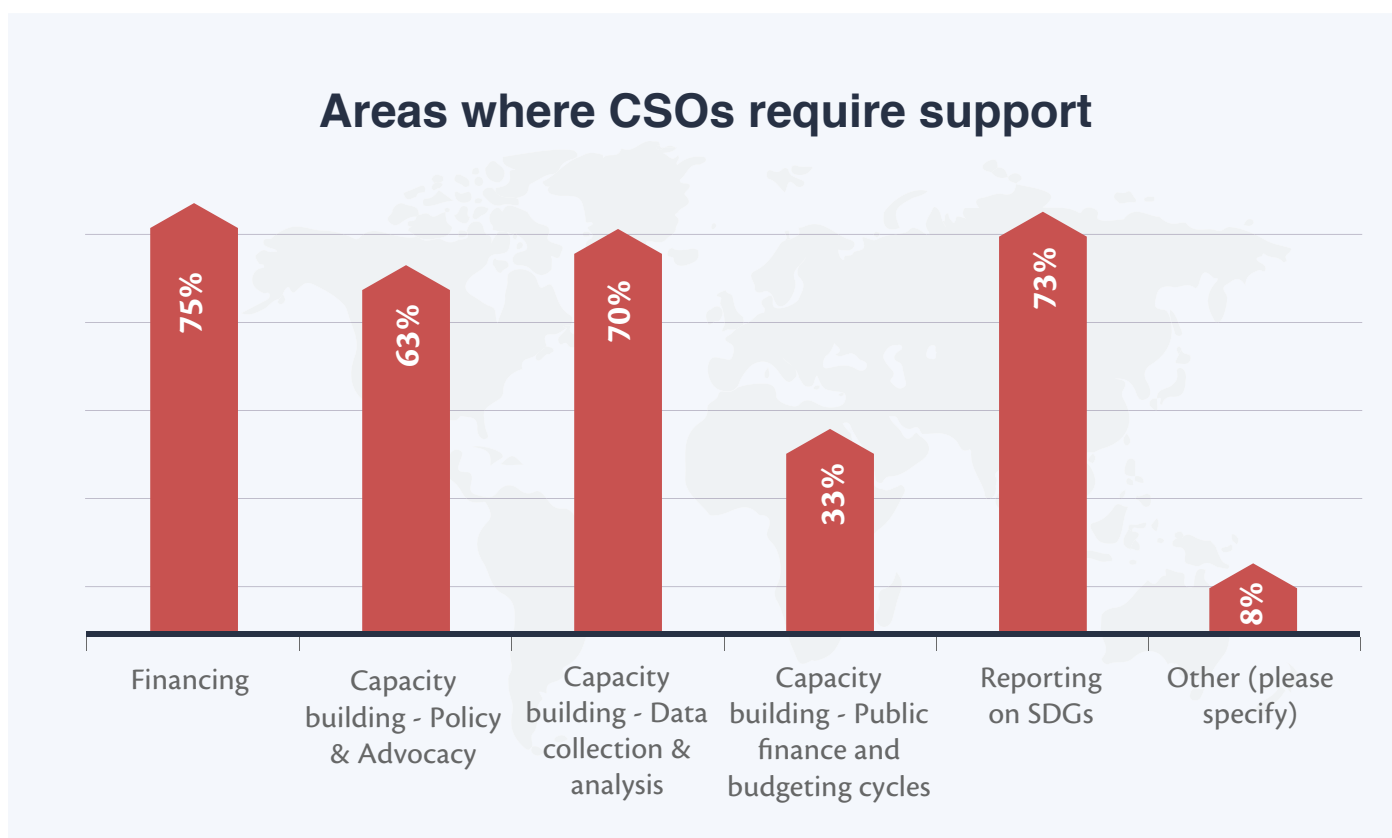
Whereas the overall coordination of SDGs implementation with non-state actors has improved, transparency and accountability in the implementation of the development agenda is most pressing. This also includes respect for human rights during enforcement situations of all kinds – especially now during the COVID-19 pandemic. CSOs observe that there is a weak environment when it comes to enforcement of legislations and policies that could address issues of rule-of-law and inequality.

Limited availability of disaggregated data and evidence to inform planning in respective goals is identified as a major gap. Inconsistencies among available datasets in different institutions, as well as limited data sharing practices of county governments are also identified as associated gaps. Limited data analysis skills among community-based organisations is another key gap cited in the report.

### Additional issues can be summarized as:

1. The issues of leave no one behind due to geography are still pertinent 7 years into devolution.
2. Unemployment and underemployment rates are increasing due to insufficient efforts from the Government and private sector to create jobs for an increasing population.
3. Access to knowledge and information is still limited 4 years after passage of the ATI act; making it difficult to engage on certain issues that should be addressed.



**FIGURE 6: Required support areas for CSOs**

In almost all goals, CSOs report that they require capacity building to carry out policy analysis and advocacy, data collection and analysis, and understanding public finance and budget analysis (75% of responses). This was followed by the need for improved funding to accelerate SDGs implementation (56% of responses); capacity building on reporting on SDGs (56% of responses); and capacity building to conceptualise and domesticate the leave no one behind concept and to design criteria for identifying those who are being left behind (13% of responses)..

Lastly, inadequate funding limits the scope of the programmes implemented not only by government but also by CSOs. This includes co-financing for community-initiated programmes which impedes implementation of social projects that help to reduce inequalities.





## 5. RECOMMENDATIONS



### General recommendations across some of the goals include:

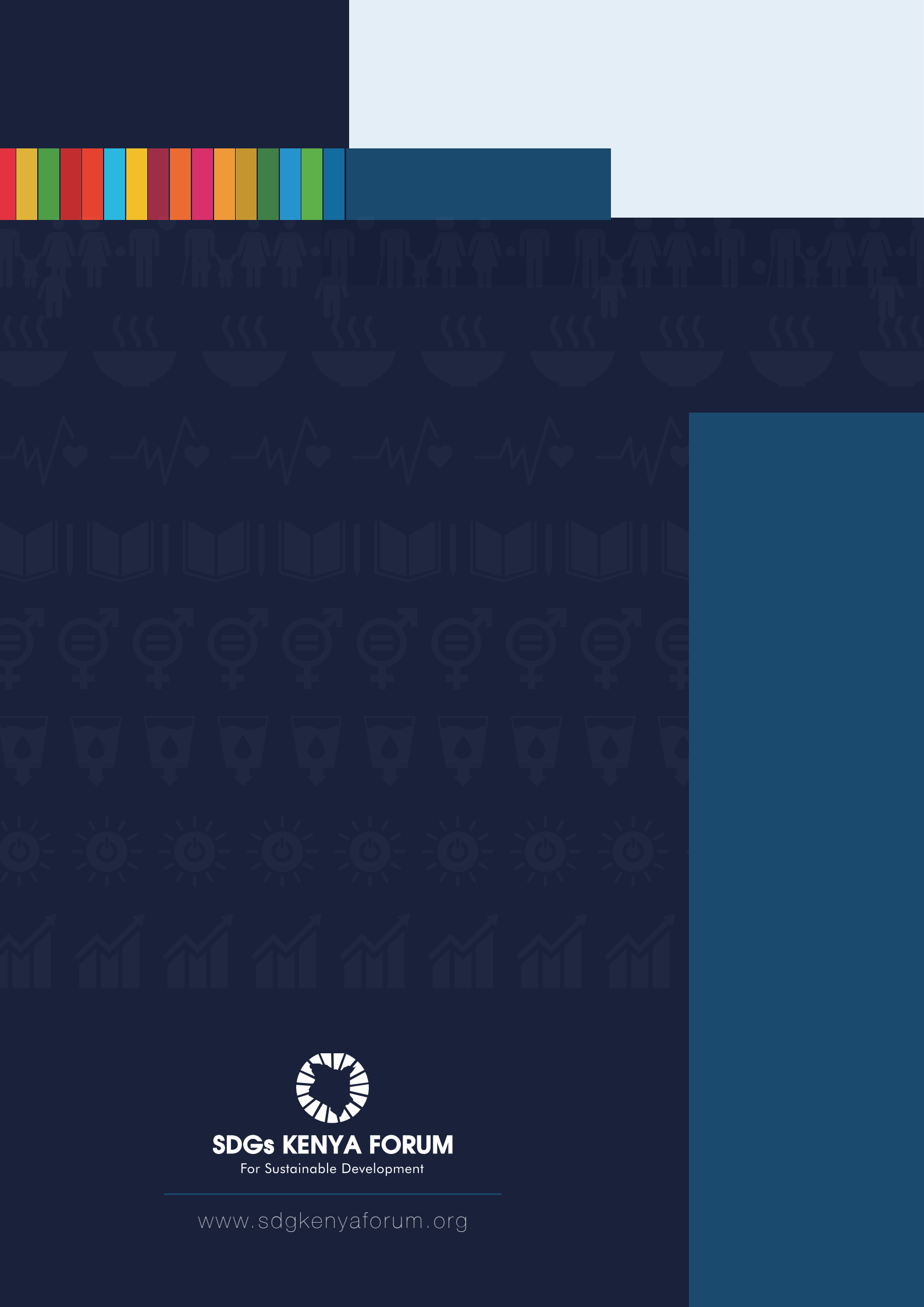
1. Diversify funding sources to implement SDGs, including stronger partnerships with the private sector. For instance, working with private firms to improve the contribution of corporate social responsibility programmes to SDGs;
2. Create policy coherence and effective coordination for synergies among various actors. For instance, ensuring that measures aimed at promoting economic growth and creation of employment opportunities do not undermine efforts to combat climate change (SDG 13);
3. Strengthen social protection programmes through an increase in budgetary allocations;
4. Establish a system for regular collection and analysis of disaggregated data to inform implementation of SDGs, especially at the subnational level where data collection and analysis capacity is still limited;
5. Adopt an effective multi-stakeholder approach among state and non-state actors to ensure synergies, reduced duplication of efforts and improved efficiency in implementing SDGs at both national and subnational levels.

### Other recommendations for government that will enable the work by CSOs on sustainable development to progress include:

1. Increased budget allocations to county governments in order to boost service delivery on the ground – in line with objectives of devolution.
2. Improve on quality and quantity of disaggregated data
3. The Public Benefit Organizations Act, 2013 (the PBO Act) needs to be implemented.
4. Strengthening of governance and increasing openness and transparency in management of public resources.

2020 **CSO VNR**  
REPORT





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