The Peoples Score Card Report 2020

August, 2021

SDG Kenya Forum

Table of Contents

List of Figures

List of Tables.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background
Civil society plays a crucial role in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; from planning, to implementation and monitoring of the Agenda. Importantly, civil society plays a crucial role in holding duty – bearers to account for the commitments they have made. The purpose of developing a People's Scorecard is to provide an opportunity for Civil Society Organizations (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

1.2 How far has progress on the SDGs come since 2015?
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.

The need to have a well – structured engagement approach in the implementation of the SDGs for multi – stakeholders has remained central to different state and non – state stakeholders in Kenya – through the Inter – Agency Technical Working Group (IATG) chaired by the National Treasury State Planning – SDGs Unit (with the SDGs Kenya Forum and Kenya Private Sector Alliance – KEPSA – as co – chairs). 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. The IATG also works closely with national and county government, members of parliament, academia, media, private sector and other organizations, which subscribe to the value of Agenda.

Since 2017, CSO's in Kenya have been submitting progress reports to inform they Voluntary National Review (VNR) process. Save for 2018 (due to a biannual reporting cycle adopted in 2017), CSO reports have reported on the progress [1] [2] [3]. Importantly, all of the 3 reports referenced 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. The SDGs Kenya Forum is actively engaged in four key national processes that foster a multi stakeholder approach to Kenya's SDGs process namely-;
1. Member of the National Interagency Committee on SDGs Implementation, Monitoring and Review
2. Facilitator of the County SDGs Champions drawn from the 47 Counties in Kenya
3. Member of the Interagency Committee on Gender Statistics making every woman and girl count
4. Co-Convener of the National Multi Stakeholder Engagement Process under development

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[1] https://sdgkenyaforum.org/content/vnr/2017-csos-vnr-report.pdf
[2] https://sdgkenyaforum.org/content/vnr/2019-csos-report.pdf
[3] https://sdgkenyaforum.org/vnr-2020

The table below further highlights key issues from the 2017, 2019 and 2020 CSO VNR's – highlighting what still remained to be implemented.

Table 1: Summary of key issues and next steps in the previous CSO VNR's

2017 CSO VNR	2019 CSO VNR	2020 CSO VNR
Key issues	**Key issues**	**Key Issues**
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. 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. 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.	1. Lack of financing for certain projects 2. Laxity in corruption and tax evasion measures 3. Lack of knowledge on responsible consumption 4. Lack of clarity on budgetary allocations 5. Lack of political commitment towards gender equality 6. Insecurity for school children in certain areas	1. 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. 2. 65% of the CSOs were working at the national level while 35% of them are working at the county level. 3. While Kenya's economy was improving, as reflected in the reduction in extreme poverty and improvement in human development indicators, there are disparities among counties. 4. There are deliberate efforts by CSOs to reduce gender inequality through implementation of specific programmes across different SDGs[4] 5. Direct implementation of programmes related to sustainable development and strong partnerships with government, as well as other CSOs is a key accomplishments of Kenyan CSOs[5]. 6. Non-state actors avail data and analytical support to subnational policymakers, other civil society organisations and the academia for tracking the progress of people out of poverty and investment towards pro-poor sectors. 7. Financing is still the main area where three quarters (75%) of CSOs require support 8. CSOs highlighted data gaps as a key hindrance to implementation of SDGs. This include inconsistencies in the quality of data that is available to CSOs to conduct research, to design and implement programmes/ interventions and to monitor implementation of SDGs.
Next steps	**Next steps**	**Next steps**
1. Intensified awareness creation and capacity building to position county governments as SDG implementers 2. Capacity assessment of both the National and County Governments to achieve on the SDGs 3. Prepare and finalize an engagement framework	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. 2. CSOs creating awareness around wealth creation and financial literacy.	1. Most CSOs planned to continue implementing most of the activities they implemented in 2019, including advocacy, capacity building/training, providing technical support to national and county governments 2. A number of CSOs that provide direct services to vulnerable groups planned to expand the scope of their programmes to reach more/new beneficiaries in 2020[6]. 3. CSOs planned to strengthen partnerships among themselves and with the government to accelerate implementation of SDGs[7]

[4] 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).

[5] 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.

[6] For example, MindMe International planned to establish four more solar powered safe study spaces in informal settlements to reach more beneficiaries; Global Peace Foundation planned to scale up the scope of its programme by reaching 40 schools; and Akili Dada planned to provide scholarships to 82 young girls in select high schools to access education; Oxfam planned to conduct three studies on women in political leadership; National Taxpayers Association planned to conduct research on how the tobacco industry undermines domestic resource/ revenue mobilization and the impact of tobacco control in Kenya; and Ageing Concern Foundation planned to conduct intergenerational dialogues aimed at reducing the widening disconnect between the youth and older persons.

[7] For instance, **Kenya Water for Health Organization** (KWAHO) planned to support Water and Sanitation Health sector coordination to improve service; Open Institute planned to engage more partners who are able to adopt data tools and lessons emerging from their

between Government and Non State Actors on the SDGs.	3. Enacting harsh penalties for tax evaders. 4. The government reducing its debt appetite. 5. Prioritizing the fight against corruption.	

2. Methodology

This report was developed through an inclusive approach – where each SDG (led by the Goal Group Lead Organization) submitted responses to the survey in response to the Peoples Score Card. Additionally, a half-day workshop was held on at the Sheraton 4 Points Hotel, Nairobi Kenya on July 16, 2021. The People's score card was consolidated from submissions by 27 organizations (with 6 of these organizations reporting on multiple SDGs they are working on). For completeness, follow up was done with other CSOs that could not make it to the workshop just to fill the gaps to ensure that a broad range of views was incorporated.

Table 2: Organizations that have contributed to the People's score card

1. Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of Good Shepherd 2. Development Initiatives 3. Forest Action Network (FAN) 4. OXFAM 5. Polycom Development Project 6. VSO Kenya 7. Youth for SDGs Forum 8. SDG Kenya Forum 9. Access Coalition 10. Article 19	11. East Africa Tax & Governance Network (EATGN) 12. Forest Action Network (FAN) 13. Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data(GPSDD) 14. Ageing Concern 15. Kenya Water and Sanitation Civil Society Network (KEWASNET) 16. National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders (NCHRD-Kenya) 17. Open Institute 18. Polycom Development Project 19. Twaweza East Africa/Usawa Agenda 20. VSO Kenya	21. Agape Woman and Child Empowerment Foundation - AWOCHE 22. Pathways Policy Institute (PPI) 23. Coalition For Action for Preventive Mental Health Kenya 24. Onsembe Community Based Organization (CBO) 25. Kijiji Yeetu Community Based Organization (CBO) 26. Citizen Network For Rural Development Kenya Community Based Organization (CBO) 27. Sema Nami Mama Community Based Organization (CBO)

work and replicate them in other counties; and **Pan Africa Climate Justice Alliance (**PACJA) planned to adopt a consortium approach to SDG implementation. Additionally, **Sustainable Energy Access Forum-Kenya (**SEAF-K) and Women's Empowerment Link planned to support county governments through training/capacity building.
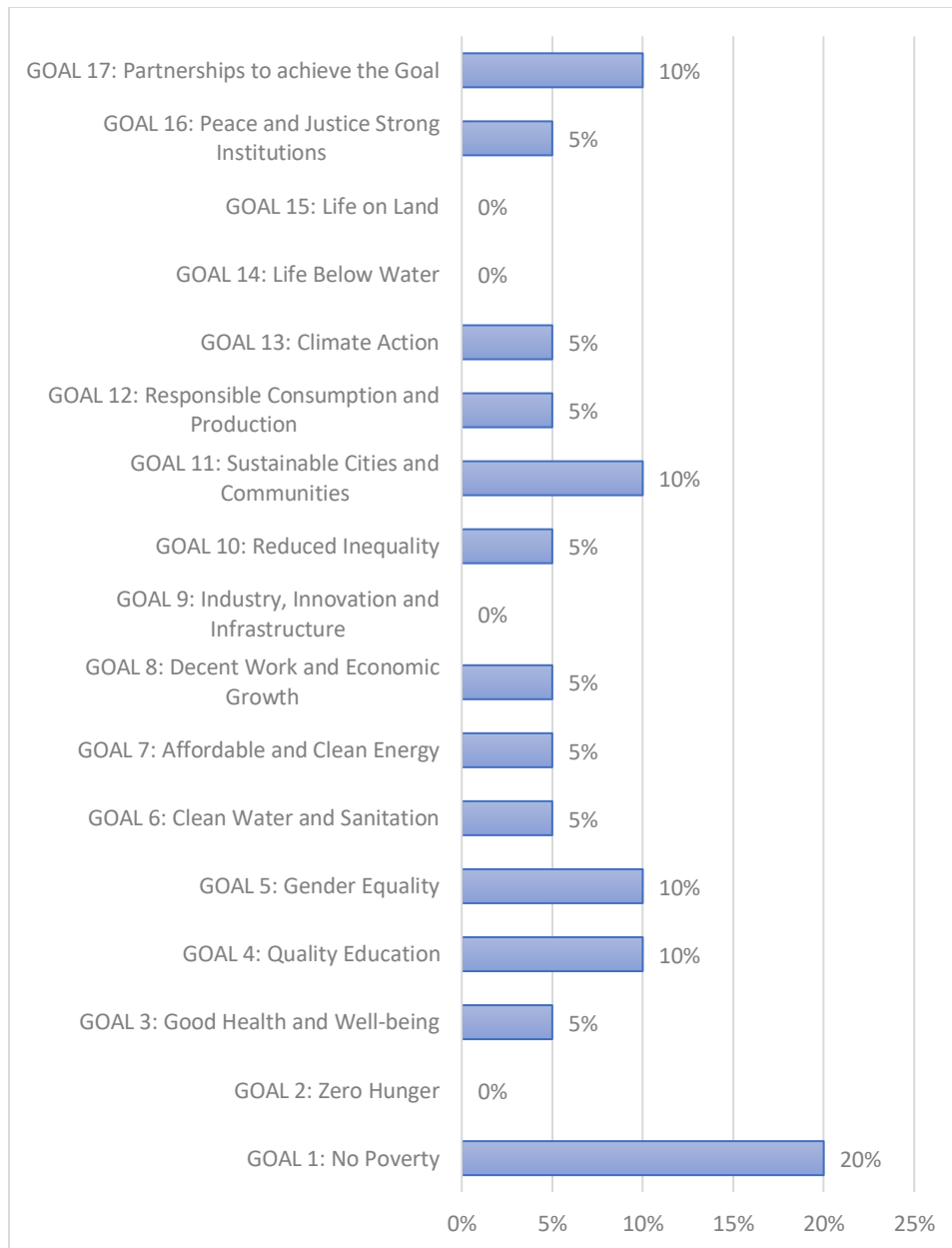
Figure 1: SDGs coverage (by CSOs) for the 2021 People's score card

3. Findings

3.1 Goals we might achieve by 2030 – select goals

SDG 3 – Health and Well being

The COVID – 19 pandemic is arguably the single most important parameter this year, with the capacity to significantly and adversely affect economic performance and the outlook of various economic and SDGs indicators. On one hand, the pandemic forced government and other institutions to invest resources in health care systems, such as, Universal Health Care, access to the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) and social protection programmes so as to improve affordability of healthcare. Public campaigns have also been used to create awareness among citizens around various health issues (not just the pandemic). Similarly, emphasis on handwashing

and social distancing precautions have been instrumental in helping citizens protect themselves from contagious diseases. On the other hand, COVID – 19 pandemic eroded gains made in this sector, especially because of the economic impact it has had on the country and citizens. It has exacerbated inequality in basic essential services that include health, food and education. Still, there are gaps with regards to provision of mental health services, and also addressing non communicable and lifestyle diseases. Unfortunately, the recovery measures put in place by the government are not adequate to serve the needs of the health sector.

What has helped make progress in those areas?
Progressive Policies to address a host of health concerns, and access to affordable treatment through insurance cover has been instrumental.

SDG 4 - Quality Education
The introduction of free primary and subsidized secondary education and increased investment in education infrastructure, including expansion of schools, is expected to ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality primary and secondary education by 2030. Key challenges include inaccessible infrastructure and inadequate teachers with the skills to provide education for children with disabilities to ensure no one is left behind.

What has helped make progress in this area?
Access to education through Universal Primary Education (UPE) and also policies to support education like the Basic Education Act 2014, the Technical Vocation Education and Training (TVET) Act, Sector Policy for Learners and trainees with Disability as well as the Education Sector Disaster Management policy have all enabled good progress in education access.

Policy reforms through implementation of the Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) through the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) have shifted the thinking around education system and curriculum delivery so as to empower a competent workforce. Still, there are gaps with regards to equity in education especially in the Northern, and Upper Rift counties in the country.

SDG 5 – Gender Equality
There are various polices placed by Kenya that will accelerate the promise towards gender equality. Kenya has achieved a number of milestones that include gender mainstreaming, affirmative action, and establishing funds aimed at reducing gender disparities such as the Women Enterprise Fund. Furthermore, progress has been made in enacting policies that promote gender equality such as the National Human Rights Policy, Marriage Act, Matrimonial Properties Act, the Land Act, National Policy on Gender and Development, National Policy on Prevention and Response to Gender-Based Violence, and Protection Against Domestic Violence Act as such, Kenya is ranked 95th out of 156 countries with a gender gap of 69.2%

What has helped make progress in this area?
Gender equality may be closer to be met with the increase of awareness programs and inclusion of gender mainstreaming processes in multiple spheres in both private and public sectors. There has been improved reporting SDG 5 by CSOs and the State during the United Nations High Level Political Forum (UN HLPF), and human rights mechanisms such as CEDAW and CRC.

SDG 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy

Expansion of energy infrastructure, through initiatives such as construction of solar power plants, rural electrification programme and implementation of projects that eliminate barriers as well as the last mile connectivity have enhanced access to clean energy for lighting. Electricity access rate increased from 32% in 2014 to 75% in 2018, both from grid and off – grid solutions, in part due to these interventions.

There is also increased adoption of different energy options. For example, the government is prioritizing both off grid and on – grid solutions. Further, the current pandemic has increased the desire to have electricity across all health centres to enable vaccine storage. Unfortunately, access to clean energy for cooking/heating remains a significant challenge, with only an estimated quarter households having access.

What has helped make progress in this area?

There has also been support from development partners to enable Kenya implement energy related programs. For instance, the European Union (EU) grant to Kenya government to support capacity building of counties and development of county energy plans[8] is one of the key enablers. In addition, the Kenya Off – grid Solar Access Project (KOSAP) project supported by the World Bank[9] is enabling marginalized communities have access to energy both electricity and clean cooking. CSOs are on the ground supporting counties to prioritize SDG 7 as well as promoting energy products and services.

SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

The Constitution of Kenya 2010 continues to provide opportunities that ensures application of civil and political rights (CPRs), plus Economic, Social and Cultural rights (ESCRs). This is encapsulated in article 35 of the Constitution of Kenya as well as Access to Information Act (2016) and the more recent Data Protection law that seeks to protect data subjects from unknown and un – Informed data processing activities by local and international entities.

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 (nothing existent)	2 (planning is underway)	3 (plans or actions have started)	4 (delivery on implementation ongoing)	5 (successful implementation_
1. Policy or legal framework available:	Rating 1(no framework)-5(strong framework)	10.53%	15.79%	Some Policy/legal framework available 42.11%	26.32%	5.26%
2. Plans and strategies:	Rating 1(no plans & strategies)-5 (strong plans)	10.53%	26.32%	26.32%	Plans & strategies agreed 36.84%	0.00%
3. Government agencies:	Rating commitment 1(no agencies)-	5.26%	31.58%	Some Agencies with clear	15.79%	5.26%

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[8] https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/annex-2-energy-support-sector_en.pdf
[9] https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P160009

	5(clear agency lead)			mandate available 42.11%		
4. Implementation:	Rating implementation 1(no implementation)-5(strong implementation)	21.05%	Implementation of policies, plans and strategies in planning phase 42.11%	26.32%	10.53%	0.00%
5. Capacity building:	Rating 1(No national capacity building)- 5 (strong national capacity building)	10.53%	Planning on awareness and capacity building needs 42.11%	Some capacity building underway 42.11%	5.26%	0.00%
6. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting:	Rating 1(no monitoring)-5(regular strong monitoring)	21.05%	Monitoring, evaluation & reporting plans are agreed 52.63%	21.05%	5.26%	0.00%
7. Transparency and accountability:	Rating 1(no transparency & accountability)-5 (strong transparency & accountability)	15.79%	Initial planning for transparency & accountability mechanism 68.42%	15.79%	0.00%	0.00%
8. Overall progress on the SDGs:	Rating 1(no progress)-5(strong progress, on target)	5.26%	42.11%	Some progress has been made overall on attainment of SDGs 47.37%	5.26%	0.00%

3.2 Impact of COVID – 19 on SDG implementation

From March 2020, there was school closure that impacted close to 4 million children who were out of class for more than 6 months. In this period, many children and youth could not access education leading to the introduction of online classes. But this still has had challenges for both students and teachers because of unequal access to technology and prohibitive internet costs. Further, not all have access to the internet, a smart phone or a laptop and many rural areas still do not have network coverage. It is likely that many of these children might not to get back to school for a variety of reasons. It also means that a sizeable number of students have been left behind in the syllabus. Additionally, prolonged school closure and home confinement has had negative effects on children's physical and mental health. There have been however an indication of children dropping out schools due to various reasons. Many children were forced to change schools, some of whom were to sit for their final examinations at primary and secondary school levels. There were reports on the increase in teenage pregnancies across the country due to school closure. The impact is severe on the on the girl child (in SDG 4) especially on school access, completion, transition and access to employment.

The COVID – 19 pandemic outbreak also not only presents a public health threat, but has also lowered rates of production due to increased migration from urban to rural areas, and, increased

unemployment (especially in the hospitality and education sectors) and purchasing power. According to the World Bank's Kenya Economic Update report for 2020, COVID – 19 has eroded progress in poverty eradication, with an estimated additional two million people becoming poor due to loss of income and livelihoods (SDG 1). The subsequent lockdowns and restrictions in some counties disrupted value chains hence markets suffered economic setbacks and the prices of basic commodities went up. Markets closures also disrupted not only food value chains but also other businesses that women largely depend on (SDG 2, SDG 5).

There were also reported cases of women and girls having minimal or no access to contraceptives and other Sexual reproductive Health services. Budgets meant for such services had been diverted to combat COVID – 19. There were also heightened cases of GBV and all forms of discrimination during lockdowns. The national hotline 1195 registered many cases and the general call for support went towards strengthening of the reporting and referral systems. Due to a ban on social gatherings, there was also decreased public participation in development and decision – making processes across the counties.

3.3 Innovations in place to address challenges and emerging issues under the SDGs

Though the issues of equity and access to quality education is still a challenge, COVID – 19 has accelerated the use of technology in the provision of education. This manifested through the use of radio, internet, and other digital technologies to deliver education programmes during lockdown. It is important to mention however that whereas this is innovative, it has also increased the inequality gap between the rich and the poor and digital divide between men and women. In the agriculture sector, there has been advocacy around the use of organic manure and compost as opposed to toxic fertilizers and inputs that pose health hazards. This also impacts on sustainable production of food.

In the social sectors, when it comes to gender, CSOs have encouraged men and women to be actively involved in public participation forums to make their voices count in the public budgeting process for equitable resource allocation. There have also been engagements with the Gender Technical Working Group (at the national level comprising MDAs) as well as with various counties to help counties develop sound gender policies that align with national guidelines. To do this effectively, CSOs have encouraged and contributed to gender disaggregated data collection. On the ground, civil society have worked closely with communities led by local women's rights organizations to lead in responding to the COVID – 19 pandemic so as to prioritize the needs of women, youths and children through:

- o Adoption of technology such as digital apps to access GBV services
- o Use of mobile money to provide cash transfers to the vulnerable
- o Engaging men to address patriarchal social norms and beliefs including challenging their beliefs on Unpaid Care and Domestic Work

Other CSOs have also come together to rally for safe spaces for women and girls. They have mobilized communities in Kibera, instituted dialogue around these issues and also liaised with government representatives responsible for improving security.

3.4 Overview of Climate Change

Globally, the amount of greenhouse gases that humans release has been on the increase. As a result, average global temperatures and sea levels are rising, causing significant environmental and economic disruption. Sea level rise along Kenya's Indian Ocean coast, caused by increased melting of land – based ice, and is projected to be greater than the global average of 26 to 82 cm by 2080s. Kenyans are feeling impacts of climate change; higher temperatures, unpredictable rainfall patterns, increased incidence of droughts and floods, and rising sea levels which are consequently impacting people's livelihoods across the country. Extreme weather events have led to loss of lives, diminished livelihoods, reduced crop and livestock production, and damaged infrastructure among others. An example is the torrential rains and severe flooding from March to May 2018, 2020, and 2021 that devastated communities that were already struggling to recover from a prolonged drought.

Climate change is likely to slow efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger through its negative impacts on livelihoods (crop farming and livestock production) in rural areas. Increase in frequency and intensity of climatic shocks may lead to diversion of funds from development to response/relief activities by the government, thereby constraining investment in key sectors such as education and health. Further, massive deforestation and burning of charcoal means less and less rainfall leading to drop in food production. Note that increased food insecurity is experienced in both urban and rural areas.

Though the climate change conversation has been in Kenya for over a decade, more needs to be done, especially to cushion women and girls who are adversely affected by water scarcity and environmental degradation. Women who rely on agriculture as a source of income are pushed into risky economic activities and are prone to gender – based violence. Below is a diagram that outlines perceptions on the degree to which Kenya has adhered to the Paris Agreement[10].
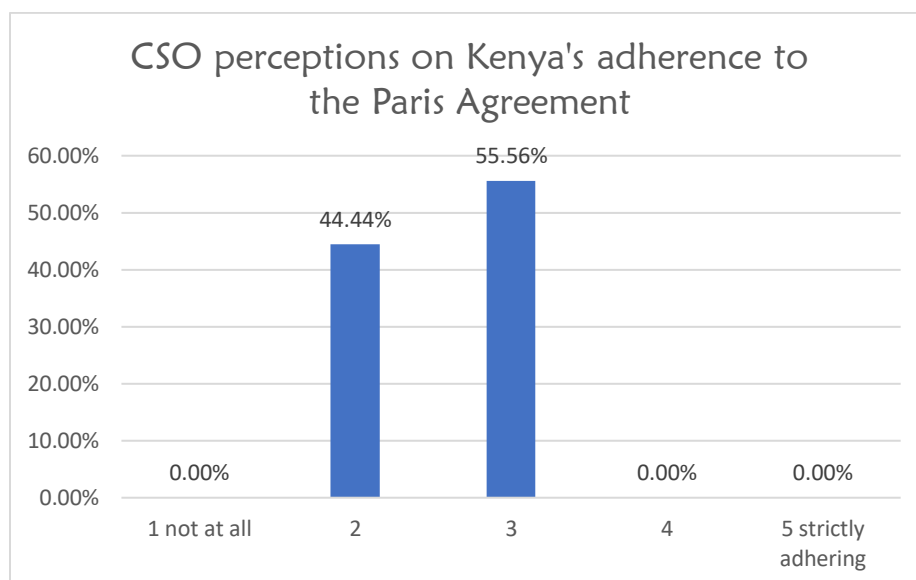

Figure 2: CSO's perceptions on Kenya's adherence to the Paris Agreement

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[10] https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement

Which policies must be adopted to address the climate emergency?

The national government has already developed policy and legal frameworks that are needed to address climate change. These include National Climate Change Response Strategy, 2010; the National Climate Change Action plan for 2018 – 2022; National Adaptation Plan in 2015; the National Climate Change Framework Policy; and the Climate Change Act, 2016. However, strengthening implementation of these policies is required, particularly in areas such as climate resilient agriculture and infrastructure to reduce vulnerability. The government need to implement the existing policies on deforestation like the Energy Act, Charcoal regulations, etc. Also, county governments need to properly manage deforestation happening in their counties.

3.5 Emerging issues that need urgent attention

There has been effort and investment towards achieving the goals. For instance, there is increased enrollment in social protection programmes such as the Transfers for Persons with Disabilities, Orphans and Vulnerable children and Older Persons[11]. Also as already mentioned, UHC roll out has facilitated improved access to health care. Positive legislative changes, such as Access to Information Act, 2016 and the Data Protection Act, 2019 have allowed a more sound approach to issues of transparency and privacy. For example, a series of significant Kenyan judicial decisions have also struck down several problematic legislative provisions that were routinely abused to limit freedom of expression, online and offline. In line with SDG 17, there have been collaborative activities (cooperation between CSOs and county governments) around awareness and sensitization. Similarly, there have also been collaborative efforts to strengthen data gaps through citizen generated data. On SDG 4, it is important to acknowledge that even though quality of education still lags behind, universal access to basic education has come a long way in ensuring access and inclusion to basic education.

However, as a country there is a long way to go because this progress is not uniform. For example, much remains to be done on SDG 8 and 11 by the Kenyan Government. On SDG 8, during the COVID – 19 pandemic, many women lost their livelihoods thus taking away their bargaining power in decision making in the household. On SDG 11, the government needs to focus on providing housing to urban informal settlements. There are many atrocities attributable to gender violence that are affecting women and girls due to unsafe spaces in slums. Other sectors that need urgent attention include reduction of poverty levels by prioritizing policies and resources targeting employment and ramping – up local content and local manufacturing in order to reduce unemployment and increase GDP. This will go a long way to remedy the current situation where foreign companies and multinationals are leading in terms of selling goods, services (the import/export trade deficit) and infrastructure development. On SDG 7, import duty imposed on solar products has adversely impacted the number of people shifting to solar energy yet this is one key solution for renewable and green energy. In addition, unfortunately the government has also made numerous attempts to introduce new and undue limitations on freedom of expression (in particular online) as well as on freedom of association.

In summary, areas where there is consensus on the need for urgency include: SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 5, SDG 7, SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 14 SDG 16 and SDG 17. It is important to also mention that the SDGs are interconnected and themes may be cross – cutting; for example, you cannot achieve SDG 2 without considering SDG 13 and SDG 15 because climate change has an impact on food security.

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[11]   https://www.socialprotection.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/SOCIAL-ASSISTANCE-UNIT-SAU-FREQUENTLY-ASKED-QUESTIONS-converted.pdf

Also, the question of inequality has had increased attention when it comes to policy; it is a constant source of debate by the media, civil society, academia, and private sector and government circles.

Table 3: Sample snapshot of key interventions by CSOs

SDG	Interventions
SDG 1	CSOs are implementing a number of programmes to ensure eradication of poverty. These include programmes that support livelihoods such as provision of microfinance services and even cash transfers to the vulnerable – including the elderly.
SDG 12	CSOs have advocated for implementation of the Global Compact for Migration and its 23 objectives. The aim is to minimize and even eliminate the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their localities, communities and even countries of origin, provide up to date agricultural machinery for better produce to provide food security and secure a better future.
SDG 5	Kajiado county has enacted the gender mainstreaming policy, the anti-female Genital Mutilation (anti-FGM/C) policy; Bomet county has passed the Women Enterprise bill and Kisumu a policy on sexual and gender-based violence. These policies are beginning to culminate in triggering budget lines on gender. At the moment this is still low but there is hope that gender activities at the county will receive higher budget prioritization. This has also included extensive work in women's economic empowerment programmes; provision of sanitation within schools, reusable sanitary towels thus promoting hygiene within slums schools as well as provision of soap to promote hygiene and reduce communicable diseases including COVID – 19.
SDG 17	CSOs have been promoting the use of data and evidence to inform allocation of public resources in ways that promote equity and equality. Development Initiatives continues to provide evidence through annual analysis of investment in pro-poor programmes. Such initiatives improve the use of data and evidence to ensure better targeting of public resources to those left behind to eradicate poverty.

3.6 Ensuring No One is Left Behind

Some of those who are left behind include:

1. Persons with disabilities, orphans and vulnerable children, and street families (especially mental health issues)
2. Youth (particularly girls) and women in rural areas many of whom have little or no education[12]
3. Women and girls in rural areas and more those with forms of disabilities
4. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, women who traditionally the are charged with the responsibility of providing Unpaid Care and Domestic Work, also professionally comprise a huge percentage of the workforce involved in patient caregiving – thereby exposing them more to risk of COVID-19 infection.
5. Minority communities, people living in informal communities in urban settings,
6. Smallholder farmers, communities in the ASAL areas, women, slum dwellers
7. Female journalists, media workers and human rights defenders

Data has been critical in understanding the plight, challenges and issues that have impact on those who are most vulnerable. Consequently, the Government and other stakeholders have come up with several interventions in an effort to address challenges. For example, on Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC), through the National Plan of Action for OVC the government has prioritized:

o Strengthening the capacity of families to protect and care for OVC
o Mobilizing and supporting community based interventions that ensure OVC can access essential services including education, health care, birth registration, psychosocial support and legal protection

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[12] Youths make up the biggest percentage of the population and are the most affected by unemployment; they are the ones who have been hugely impacted by job losses because of the pandemic.

- o Ensuring improved policy and legal framework are in place to protect the most vulnerable children
- o Creating a supportive environment for children and families affected by HIV and AIDS
- o Strengthening and supporting national coordination and institutional structures for OVCs
- o Strengthening national capacity to monitor and evaluate OVC programme effectiveness and quality

CSOs have also championed the implementation of some of the affirmative action such as the establishment of funds aimed at reducing gender disparities at the county level. Furthermore, progress has been made in trying to carryout studies on the implementation level of affirmative actions like the AGPO (Access to Government Procurement Opportunities) targeting women, youth and Person's with Disability (PWDs) with 30% of total public procurement opportunities. Unfortunately, the study found that most women, youth and PWDs in the rural areas are not even aware of such opportunities. And when they were aware, they had to confront a lot of bureaucratic red tape in order to participate in public procurement. CSOs therefore plan to build capacity in this particular area and also to sensitize government procurement officers to be aware of some of the systemic barriers that hinder intended goal of these affirmative actions.

Social protection programmes have been established by the government to support the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities. These include cash transfer programmes, and health insurance subsidies, that target vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities and older persons and school feeding programmes.

3.7 Civil Society Priorities

Foremost, CSOs are this time very concerned about prudent Public Finance Management within government, especially now during the COVID – 19 pandemic; public funds have been reported lost by the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) as lost during procurement processes by the Kenya Medical Supplies Agency (KEMSA)[13]. This is attributable to lack of transparency and accountability in use of public resources. Additionally, there are possibilities that Kenya might lose much needed support from the Global Fund due to the graft reported at KEMSA[14]. This means that due to lack of much needed funds, citizens forego the most essential services in these difficult times such as health care, food security, social protection, water and sanitation, and education.

Further, CSOs are also concerned about an enabling policy and political environment that allows businesses, innovation and entrepreneurship to thrive. For example, tax exemptions on clean energy products like solar and improved cookstoves can really go a long way to create new jobs, create cleaner and cheaper energy sources and realize gains in SDG 7.

In addition, the level of public debt and illicit financial flows fueled by corruption in the country is a cause of concern. This is also compounded with the current executive's non – compliance with court orders that has also been raised as an issue by the judiciary and legislative arms of government[15].

Below are some of the activities undertaken by CSOs to address these issues:

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[13]   http://oagkenya.oagkenya.go.ke/index.php/reports/doc_download/2835-special-audit-report-on-utilization-of-covid-19-funds-by-kemsa-pdf
[14] https://allafrica.com/stories/202107070345.html
[15] https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/bd/data-hub/pain-of-increasing-non-compliance-with-court-orders-2285070

1. Implementation of a central public register of beneficial ownership information of companies operating within the Republic of Kenya.
2. Advocating for an interoperable end-to-end electronic procurement system that adopts the Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS), to cover all stages of public procurement in Kenya.
3. Investing (resources and capacity building) in sustainable development data in order to improve access to timely, affordable, up – to date, and accurate data for socio – economic development, evidence – based decision – making. This also includes timely disbursements of funds to county governments by the National Treasury in order to enable devolution and enhanced service delivery in the counties.
4. Mainstreaming meaningful public participation in all developmental spheres in the country thereby ensuring that the voice of the public counts and shapes the eventual developmental outcome for ownership.
5. Following up on the effective implementation of the Access to Information Act for the realization of citizens' right of access to information by leveraging on the use of technology to enhance proactive disclosure and promote effective records management
6. Supporting access to justice through the implementation of Legal Aid Act and Alternative Justice Systems Policy
7. Speaking up on the cessation of political interference with print and broadcast media, in order to ensure full independence of the Media Council. This also includes advocacy on reforms for the Kenya Information and Communications (Amendment) Act (2013) to ensure independence of the Communication Authority of Kenya. This is with particular in relation to the issuing and renewal of broadcast licenses, and repeal specific criminal content-based offences for the media.
8. Advocating for reforms in the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act, repealing provisions that essentially re – criminalize defamation, and bring provisions on "hate speech". The hope is to align Kenya's provisions with the Articles 19(3) and 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), considering the guidance of the Rabat Plan of Action[16]. This is an outcome of an initiative of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to clarify the scope of state obligations under Article 20 of the ICCPR, prohibiting incitement to violence, hostility and discrimination.
9. Ensuring accountability for all threats and violence against journalists and human rights defenders through impartial, prompt, thorough and independent and effective investigations. In particular, CSOs have advocated for identification of the masterminds behind attacks and them being brought to justices, yet at the same time ensuring access to effective remedies for victims and survivors.
10. CSOs have also advocated for establishment of a national mechanism on the safety of journalists dedicated to the prevention, protection and remedy of attacks against persons for exercising their right to freedom of expression.

3.8 CSOs demands of government for an enabling environment for sustainable development

Corruption is cited as the foremost vice which the government must combat (through more accountability and transparency in governance systems) in order to promote equitable distribution of resources. Social inclusion and gender issues also need to be mainstreamed especially in public budgets – to ensure that no one is left behind.

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[16] http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Opinion/SeminarRabat/Rabat_draft_outcome.pdf

Though it has been a theme in previous VNR reports, the provision of data on the needs and investment in pro – poor programmes, disaggregated by age, location, disability, and gender is still lacking and needs mention in this report. This will facilitate research and analysis to support evidence – based advocacy and interventions by all stakeholders in order to ensure those left behind are targeted and reached/supported to eradicate poverty.

CSOs also need a safe space where they can work – without fear of intimidation and incarceration – as all work towards a more open and transparent society[17] [18]. One of the ways this can be achieved is by ensuring the commencement of the Public Benefits Organizations (PBO) Act[19] without further delays or amendments. Other key policies and practices needed to ensure no one is left behind include:

1. Finalize and adapt the National Ageing Bill[20]
2. Ratify the AU Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Older People[21]
3. Development and Implementation of a Resourced National Ageing Action Plan
4. Designing and Operationalizing multisectoral mechanism for implementing, monitoring and reporting progress of implementation of the rights of Ageing and Older Persons
5. Support Drafting and Adoption of the UN convention on the Rights of Older People[22]

Kenya is also pioneering the Green Economy Strategy and Implementation Plan 2016-2030[23] that outline initiatives that aim to support development efforts towards addressing key challenges such as poverty, unemployment, inequality, environmental degradation, climate change and variability, infrastructure gaps and food insecurity. A green growth path results in faster growth, a cleaner environment and high productivity.

The Minerals and Mining Policy was developed and approved in 2016. The enactment of Mining Act 2016 and the development of 14 regulations necessary to operationalize this Act are in their final stages. This will go a long way to put sustainable mining at the core of all extractive industries.

3.9 Policy dialogues between CSO's and National/Subnational Government (on SDG attainment)

Respondent organizations note that this is occurring but through the leadership and convening abilities of the SDG's with government counterparts. As an example, in 2020 Development initiatives conducted a county disability inclusive budget tracking in five counties – Bungoma, Busia, Trans Nzoia, Kakamega and Vihiga. It was done in partnership with Western Disability Empowerment Network and United Disabled Persons of Kenya (UDPK). The findings were presented during the International Day of Persons with Disability event on December 3, 2020 in in Bungoma County. Based on the presentation, the Governor of Bungoma County committed to increase budget allocations to programmes that promote the inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities.

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[17] See monitoring and tracking tool developed by CIVICUS https://monitor.civicus.org/country/kenya/ which also highlights the increased harassment and impunity for violations against human rights workers.
[18] https://www.khrc.or.ke/shrinking-civic-space.html
[19] https://www.cof.org/sites/default/files/Kenya-201906.pdf
[20] https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/ageing/documents/workshops/Vienna/kenya.pdf
[21] https://au.int/en/treaties/protocol-african-charter-human-and-peoples-rights-rights-older-persons
[22] https://www.helpage.org/what-we-do/un-convention/
[23] http://www.environment.go.ke

Another example is Oxfam which can cite a number of initiatives that influence strategies which aim to strengthen government systems and structures to ensure they deliver their mandate. They have supported reviews of different policies, such as, Social Protection, Community Lands Act 2016, Petroleum Act 2019, and the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the Lokichar - Lamu Crude Oil Pipeline (LLCOP). Additionally, Forest Action Network (FAN) with other stakeholders in the forestry sector have been in the forefront for advocating for the forest policy especially around 10% forest cover achievement. The engagement has been at all levels of government both national and county. HelpAge International has also organized and supported meetings with national and county policy makers; one example was following up with the Ministry of labor to accelerate approvals for the AU Protocol ratification.

Further, there are County Governments like Makueni that have even formed SDGs Secretariats and Task Forces to enable localization of the SDGs. But this is impacted by the fact that not all sectors are devolved when it comes to the 4th schedule of the constitution that outlines devolved functions. Additionally, there are SDGs like Goal 7 which continues to pose a challenge.

3.9. Do CSOs share evidence and data with Government?

The government (through the State Department of Planning - SDGs unit) has invited non – state actors to contribute to the VNR process – both in 2017 and 2020. But there has been agitation that more can and should be done by non – state actors when it comes to providing data and evidence on attaining of SDGs as well as further collaborating on this.

Consequently, the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) in close collaboration with CSOs has developed quality criteria for Citizen Generated Data (CGD) as part of a quality assurance framework for non – state actors to collect quality data. This initiative was borne out of the need to realize the complimentary (not competing) role that CGD plays in supplementing official statistics.

3.10 Translating 2030 Agenda materials to local languages.

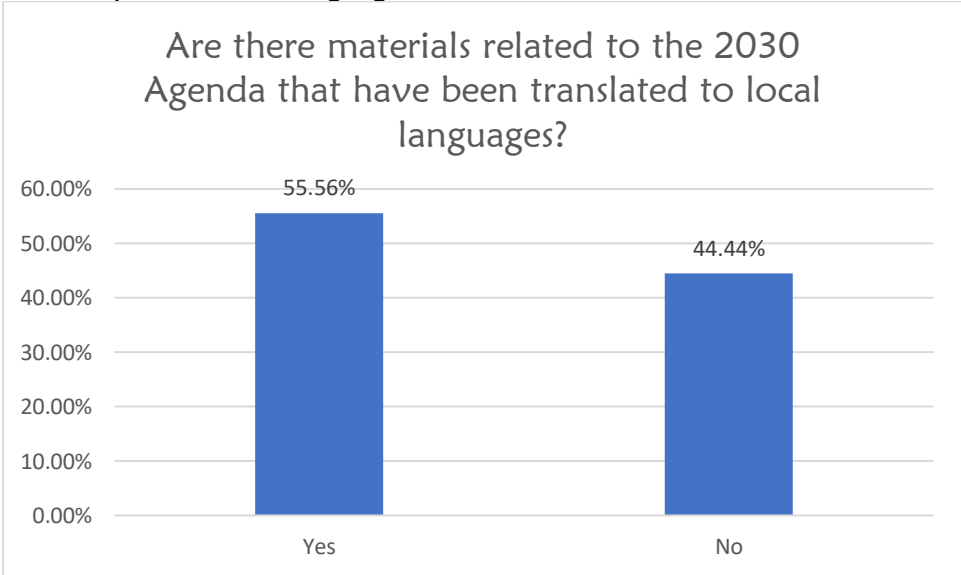Swahili remains the predominant language to which translation is done.

Figure 2: Percentage of organizations translating materials to Swahili.

3.11 The role of educational and research bodies in analysing and sharing the SDGs

Institutions such as the Institute of Development Studies, University of Nairobi, are conducting research and disseminating information on various aspects of SDGs. One of the main challenges has been limited funding to public universities for research and analysis. Moreover, it has been expressed that more could be done to strengthen collaboration between academia and the other stakeholders.

3.12 Organizational use of the 2030 Agenda

More than 70% of the respondents indicated that when they design their programmes, they normally align to different country priorities, as well as the 2030 agenda included. For example, Article 19's 2019 – 2021 Operational Plan, highlights their need to contribute to the 2030 Agenda by ensuring the right to information, free expression, participation and association are incorporated into global, regional and national agreements, accountability mechanisms, and inclusive participation practices on sustainable development and the environment.

Further, HelpAge International is working on defining voices of older persons in topics such Human Rights, Health, Social Protection. We have intergenerational projects that aim at reducing the widening disconnect between the young and the old as well as challenging Ageism, abuse, violence and neglect of older persons. The SDG Kenya Forum is using the 2030 framework to mobilize and organize women around issues within that affect their lives

3.13 Summary of lessons learnt

CSOs have contributed towards the realization of SDG 5 in the area of gender mainstreaming. For example, some of the policy gaps keep recurring due to the lack of quality data for analysis so as to inform good policy frameworks. To achieve gender equality, interventions needs to address the issues holistically. A key message that suffices here, is that it is not possible for work to be done by a single institution; hence calls for an integrated and multi – stakeholder approach to programming,

The issue of high levels of public debt has led to competing demand for government expenditure, making it difficult for the government to increase spending to pro-poor programmes. to ensure that all stakeholders are working towards complementing each other's efforts. More engagement and awareness around the high levels of public debt will be a focus of CSOs.

We have also learnt that many towns in Kenya are not being designed through a disability lens. Most urban informal settlements, public infrastructure such as toilets and markets have little or no access to especially those on wheelchairs. Further, weather patterns are changing every year and there is need around preparing for this particular SDG much more.