



UNITED NATIONS
KENYA



UN KENYA ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT 2023

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Cover Photo

Tracy Mjomba, Caroline Mwandoe and Rachel Walowe, students of Mwambonu Mixed Secondary School in Dembwa, Taita-Taveta, Kenya, make their way home after a day of learning. UN Kenya is committed to reducing educational disparities and fostering a brighter future for young women through access to quality education and empowering opportunities.

Photo: ©UNDP

The Photo Above

For many years Adow in Wajir in used a diesel-powered pump for his farming. With the support of UN Kenya Adow was able to invest in a solar-powered water system and storage tank. The new solar-powered technique made him independent on energy, without having to depend on the volatile prices and unpredictable supply of fossil fuels. And it is less noisy and less polluting. The new system together with training provided by the UN Kenya on sustainable farming methods also allowed Adow to diversify his crops and he now grows papaya, beetroots, coriander, kale and spinach. The diversified crops makes him more resilient to droughts, and he now aspires to expand his farm and use the economic yields for education of his children.

Foreword by the UN Resident Coordinator in Kenya

Throughout 2023, Kenya's remarkable sustainable development journey and her global and continental leadership continued to advance, despite powerful headwinds coming from both regional and international instability. As UN Kenya, we are proud that 2023 was also a year that showcased **the power of partnership, resilience and innovation**. Reflecting on the past year, it is evident that our collaboration with the people and Government of Kenya, under the leadership of President William Ruto, goes from strength to strength.

The highlight of that partnership in 2023 was undoubtedly our support to help Kenya's hosting of the **Africa Climate Summit** in Nairobi, a landmark event co-hosted by Kenya with the African Union. Attracting some 30,000 delegates – including 18 African Heads of State or Government and key global leaders – the Summit signalled a reset in global climate discussions. It underscored that if the world is to defeat the Climate Emergency we are in, then it will need to unite global finance with Africa's solutions: in green energy production, sustainable food production and in carbon capture.

UN Kenya's support to the convening went beyond participation, providing significant resources, organisation and enriching the technical substance. **The Nairobi Declaration**, an outcome of the summit, amplified Africa's voice on the Climate

Emergency and underlined the continent's leadership on and centrality to sustainable solutions.

Just a few short months later, Kenya hosted the 6th edition of the **YouthConnekt Africa Summit**. Again, based on our shared vision and deep bench of expertise in youth empowerment, UN Kenya was honoured to play a major supporting role to the Government of Kenya around the Summit. Focused on fostering youth leadership and innovation for a borderless African renaissance, the event attracted over 20,000 young participants and reached over 11 million persons across the continent through social media. The involvement of major partners, including Huawei Kenya and 38 other firms in creating opportunities for young Kenyans in ICT and other sectors, underlines the effectiveness of multi-stakeholder partners in nurturing the next generation of African leaders.

Despite the good news, Kenya remains in the cross-hairs of the global **Climate Emergency**, bringing both gravity and volatility to the disaster risk reduction challenge. In a single year, Kenya whiplashed from the most extreme drought in recorded history (after three years, almost six million Kenyans faced extreme hunger) to the devastating effects of flooding caused by El Niño (with more than half a million displaced and more than a hundred lives lost). The tragic irony of swinging from drought to flooding is hard to ignore. These events caused significant distress and damage, testing the resilience of communities and the nation at large. UN Kenya was proud to stand alongside the Kenyan Government, mobilising with our partners' support over USD 394 million for the **2023 Drought Response Plan**, of which USD 279 million for the UN response. In 2023, the humanitarian response by the UN Kenya and its partners reached 2.9 million people. Moreover, by the end of 2023, in **response to the El Niño flood emergency**, UN Kenya and its partners reached 452,000 people were reached with lifesaving emergency assistance.

In 2023, the UN Kenya together with partners reached over 9,542,000 people with food, cash transfers, commodity vouchers and initiatives aimed at bolstering malnutrition treatment and prevention programmes.

Successive Kenyan governments have laudably placed **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)** at the centre of their sustainable development strategies. In 2023, technical support by the UN to the government helped enable Kenya to secure a substantial USD 415 million grant from the Global Fund Cycle 7, aimed at combating tuberculosis, HIV, malaria and bolstering health systems, helping to impact the health and well-being of over a million individuals by strengthening primary healthcare. UHC is one of the many areas where it is vital to shift from **development funding to development financing** to achieve true scale and impact.

In September, UN Kenya was proud to launch what we believe to be **the world's first Development Impact Bond (DIB) in the area of Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH)**. The ASRH DIB is a two year "pay for success" programme that seeks to reach over 500,000 girls with sexual and reproductive health services and HIV services. The innovative DIB financing approach considerably multiplies the upfront financial investment through public-private partnerships.

As former Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson was wont to repeat, there is no sustainable development without sustainable peace. Kenya boasts one of the world's most impressive and performant "national peace infrastructures" (NPI): the array of national and local level institutions charged with strengthening and preserving national peace and cohesion. Flowing from the crucial role the NPI institutions played in delivering an orderly election and peaceful transition in 2022, the Kenyan Government undertook a comprehensive review process. UN Kenya was proud to lend technical and financial support to the work of the Independent Panel of Advisers, leading to a landmark report under the rubric of a **"New Kenyan Agenda for Peace"**.

Achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 will only be possible through **joined-up development action at scale**. Three different and important advances in that direction were registered in Kenya and in 2023. First, technical and financially supported by UN Kenya, His Excellency the Deputy President launched Kenya's renewed national **Development Partners Forum** – a structure of strategic dialogue and guidance for development action which I have the honour to co-Vice-chair, along with His

Excellency the Ambassador of the Netherlands. Second, translating the global "Funding Compact" into country-level reality for the benefit of Kenya, UN Kenya launched its first **SDG Multi-Partner Trust Fund Kenya** to channel pooled development funding to joint UN development programming at scale. I would like particularly to thank our pioneering development partners – the governments of Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the Netherlands, including philanthropists Rockefeller Foundation, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Merck & Co., Inc., AstraZeneca and Koninklijke Philips N.V. – for believing in this approach and plunging in to support. We look forward to growing the pool still further in 2024.

Finally, the UN Member States rightly demand a laser-focus on cost efficiency in delivery. UN Kenya is proud to have led the UN system globally by designing and launching the first-ever UN **"Common Back Office" (CBO)**. The CBO provides a common operational and administrative platform to the more than 60 UN entities operating in, for and from Kenya. 79 common services are being provided across administration, Human Resources, procurement, logistics and finance. By combining our forces, we will realise economies of scale and significant cost efficiencies that can be ploughed back into development and humanitarian programming for the benefit of the Kenyan people and the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Kenya – and we provide a solid platform from which to deliver joined-up, impactful development action.

Together, across UN Kenya, we are deeply committed to advancing the sustainable development of this great country of Kenya, for a future that is not only prosperous and peaceful but also inclusive, equitable, resilient and sustainable in the face of global challenges. I wish to express my profound appreciation to the UN Kenya family, the Government and people of Kenya and to all our development partners. Your unwavering dedication, collaboration and generous support are pivotal in helping us help Kenya.

Dr. Stephen Jackson,
UN Resident Coordinator in Kenya

UN Country Team in Kenya



UN in Kenya

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UN HABITAT

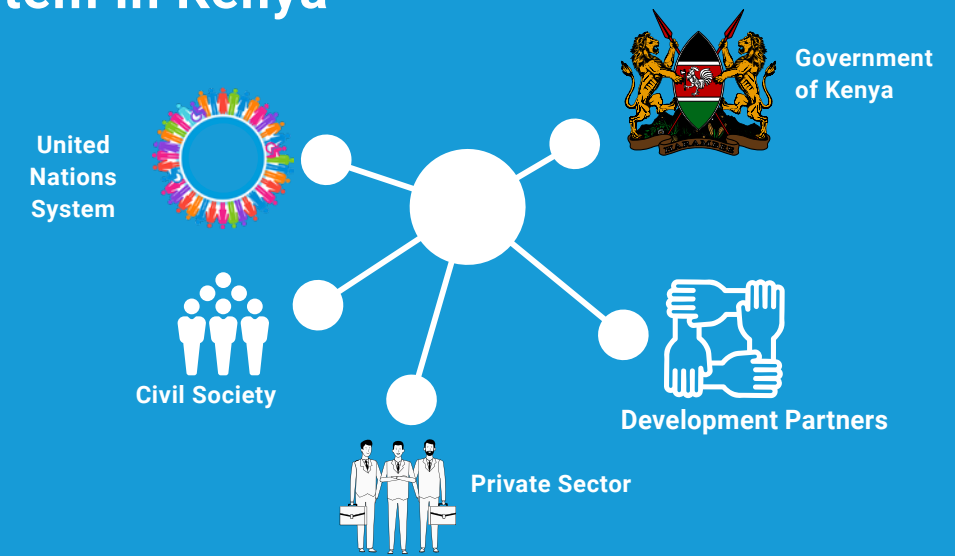
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Key Partners of the UN Development System in Kenya



Kenya at a Glance



Population: **50.6**



Area: **582,646 km²**



Counties: **47**



Percentage of Kenya's electricity generated from renewable sources: **93%**



Kenya's ranking in the startup ecosystem index: **62/100** countries globally & **3rd in Africa**



Forest cover as a percentage of landmass: **8.83%**



Kenya's annual fresh horticultural produce exports: **279,000 tonnes**



Prevalence of malnutrition among children under 5 years of age: **8%**



Kenya ranking in the Network Readiness Index (a leading global indicator on the socio-economic impact of information and communication technology): **1st in Africa**



Percentage of the population with access to basic drinking water services: **68%**



Percentage of the population with access to basic sanitation services: **41%**



Percentage of the population with access to basic electricity: **51%**



Prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age: **18%** (down from 33% in 2008)



Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel: **89%**



Participation rate in organized learning (1 year before the primary entry age): **88%**

1.0 Key Developments in Kenya

Overall development trajectory is stable, but deep inequalities persist and a more sustainable management of ecosystem services is needed

Kenya has made significant political and economic reforms that have contributed to sustained economic growth, social development and political stability gains over the past decade. The country is one of the fastest growing economies globally. Despite the strong development progress key challenges that remain include poverty, economic inequality, youth unemployment, the climate emergency and the vulnerability of the economy to internal and external shocks. Those at most risk of being left behind are children and youth; women and girls; persons living in Arid and Semi-Arid lands (ASALs); and persons living in urban informal settlements.

Kenya's long-term agenda for sustainable development transformation is anchored in the country's blueprint, the Kenya Vision 2030 and its five-year Medium-Term Plans. And the Kenya Kwanza Government, elected in 2022, has put a particular emphasis on leaving no one behind with its "**Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda**" or "**BETA**." BETA aims at bringing down the cost of living, eradicating hunger, creating jobs, expanding the tax base, improving foreign exchange balance and promoting inclusive growth.

In 2023, Kenya's economy expanded by 5%, up from 4.8% in 2022, primarily due to a recovery in the agriculture sector. This growth was challenged by volatile global supply chains (caused by Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine), surges in inflation and significant public debt repayments, putting pressure on government

finances (National Treasury and Economic Planning 2023, Medium Term Budget Policy Statement). However, Kenya's macroeconomic indicators are among the strongest in Africa over the past five years despite COVID-19, droughts and floods. In the same period, Kenya has seen improved infrastructure and strong consumer demand from a growing middle class. GDP growth is projected at 5.2% in 2024-25.

While the economy is growing, half of all Kenyans - 26.2 million, including 10.9 million children - are multi-dimensionally poor, lacking access to basic services. 47.7% of all children in Kenya were multidimensionally poor in 2023. The Government positively responded to increased costs of living by committing to expand coverage of cash-based social assistance programmes under the "**Inua Jamii programme**" from 1.2 million to 2.5 million households. However, just 13% of beneficiaries from these programmes were children.

In 2023, Kenya sheltered 691,868 registered refugees and asylum seekers in the Dadaab and Kakuma camps and in the Kalobeyei Settlement and 101,406 refugees living in urban areas. The Government also increased spending in social sectors - overall from 41.5% in 2022 to 42.8% in 2023. The health sector recorded a 1% increase to 6.8% and the education sector recorded a 0.8% increase to 26.5%.

Following severe drought and four years of limited rain, rainfall increased towards the end of the year. This boosted production, especially in the agricultural sector that provides livelihoods



Salome Njeri, an active participant in the UN-supported Upper Tana Nairobi Water Fund project in Murang'a County, Kenya, adopts organic pest control methods. By combining rabbit urine with water and mixing ground pepper with soap, Salome has managed to reduce production costs and increase her earnings. Promoting sustainable agriculture is a major priority for UN Kenya support.



Fatuma Nasoro and her 10-year-old daughter Rehema Ruwa, beneficiaries of UN-supported social programme, share a moment in their home in Mombasa, Kenya.

for more than 80% of the population, especially in rural areas. The production boost also eased inflationary pressure. While overall inflation increased to 7.9% in 2023 from 7.6% in 2022, food inflation declined to 10.2% from 13.2% at the beginning of 2023. The increased costs of living sparked repeated protests in 2023 organised by the opposition. By the end of 2023, bipartisan talks between the Government and the opposition were held with concrete outcomes once again, the country resolved its challenges peacefully. Kenya also continued to fare well within Sub-Saharan Africa in terms of voice, accountability, rule of law and regulatory quality.

Environmental challenges in Kenya include deforestation, soil erosion, desertification, water shortage and degraded water quality, flooding, poaching and domestic and industrial pollution. Kenya's forest resources have been declining due to mounting pressures from the expanding human population, coupled with a rising demand for wood resources and a national deficit in forest plantations which continue to fuel illegal logging. At the same time, the Kenyan Government in 2023 committed to move from 7 to 10% forest cover.

Another critical achievement is that large mammals are on the rebound. The elephant population grew by 2.6 percent in 2023 and currently stands at 36,280 compared with 32,214 in 2014. This is testimony to community-based conservancy models applied that promote peaceful co-existence between communities and wildlife, improved management of wildlife, increased economic benefits from nature-based solutions and peace and security.

Kenya's freshwater resources are also constrained by growing human populations coupled with unsustainable patterns of consumption and production. Key threats are over-exploitation of

resources through water extraction, fisheries, timber and plant product utilisation. This is in addition to drainage and reclamation of wetlands for agricultural development, human settlement and industrial development. The impacts are shrinking habitats, catastrophic biodiversity loss, shifting hydrological regimes and high costs of water for domestic use. Kenya's coastal and marine ecosystems also face pressures from growing land use changes, including the conservation of pristine coastal ecosystems to agriculture, aquaculture, urban development, tourism, salt production and large-scale infrastructure development for ports and shipping activities.

The Kenyan Government has taken a global leadership role in climate mitigation and adaptation hosting the Africa Climate Summit in 2023, aiming for "climate positive" development. A systemic drive for "climate-positive development" in Kenya would be a major shift away from the outdated linear development model towards a sustainable and circular development model. This would make Kenya an early adopter in the new global green economy.

Regional integration, digital innovation, investments and promotion of sustainable climate-positive development, infrastructure investment and increasing public-private partnerships are all expected to generate business opportunities and sustain the Kenyan development trajectory, despite the challenges faced that stem from the turbulent global situation.



2.0 UN Kenya Support to National Development Priorities

2.1 Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

The 24 agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations in Kenya share a single aspiration: to support the people and Government of Kenya to achieve Kenya's sustainable development ambitions and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Signed in June 2022 by the Government of Kenya and the UN Resident Coordinator (representing UN Kenya), the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for Kenya (2022-2026) represents the collective, agreed and overarching framework for that support.

The UNSDCF is designed to support Kenya's national priorities, as captured in the Kenyan Government's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) and the Mid-Term Plan IV (MTP IV), striving to address gaps on the journey towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The UNSDCF has as its core a commitment to "Leave No One Behind". This commitment to lift up those parts of the Kenyan population most in need resonates strongly with the objectives of the BETA.

Our programming strives to be holistic and multi-faceted, concentrating on three strategic priorities that resonate with the "five Ps" of the 2030 Agenda: **People and Peace** (Strategic Priority 1); **Prosperity and Planet** (Strategic Priority 2); and **Partnerships** (Strategic Priority 3) as a strategic enabler.

Under the Cooperation Framework, all heads of the entities in the UN Kenya Country Team have put joint action and pooled funding at the forefront. For the past year, the UN and the Government of Kenya together with development partners, civil society and private sector actors have worked jointly to develop some 15 Joint Programmes, each aiming to contribute more efficiently to the realisation of the Government's development priorities and provide transformative and scaled up action for the SDGs. Throughout the inclusive co-creation process, there has been a focus on Leaving No One Behind, with a particular attention to women and girls; children and youth; persons living in urban informal settlements; and persons living in ASALs.

UN Kenya has also set up a country-level Multi-Partner Trust Fund (SDG MPTF Kenya) to facilitate pooled funding for the joint programmes. The Fund has already received support from a growing number of donors, private foundations and private sector contributors. The available resources for the first 5 joint programmes launched at the end of 2023 (both within the MPTF and within individual UN entity resource mobilisation) are currently around USD 69 million USD, or 42% of the estimated required resources.

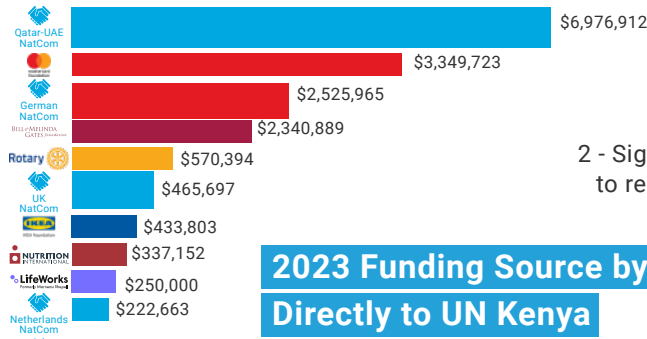
This annual report endeavours to capture the significant strides made in the 2023 implementation of the UNSDCF in Kenya, showcasing the progress and key results achieved in collaboration with our partners.

Nairobi's skyline, merging modernity with green spaces, embodies its nickname, 'The Green City in the Sun'.

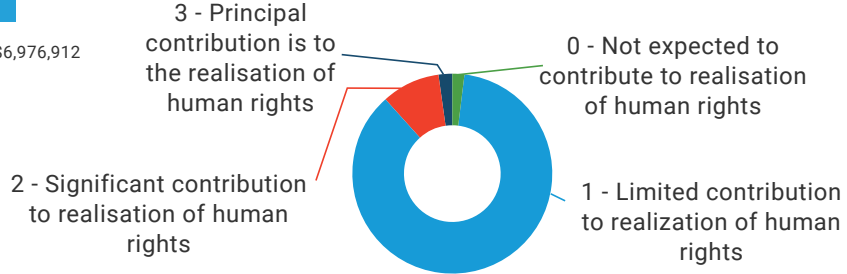
Our Contributing Partners Globally and in Kenya

None of the results UN Kenya has been proud to report for 2023 would be possible without the financial and technical support of our many partners. Some of that support flows directly to and through UN Kenya at country-level. Some of it comes through vital “core” support at the global level to the individual UN entities that compose our UN Kenya “Country Team.” And a small and rapidly growing amount comes through our newly established Multi-Partner Trust Fund, pooling financial resources at the country level for truly joined-up action. We are truly grateful to all our partners and the following infographics attempt to visualise and recognise that complex and generous mosaic. Below are some funding highlights. For complete information about the funding and financing of UN Kenya, please see Section 2.6. Additional information and detail is always available on request.

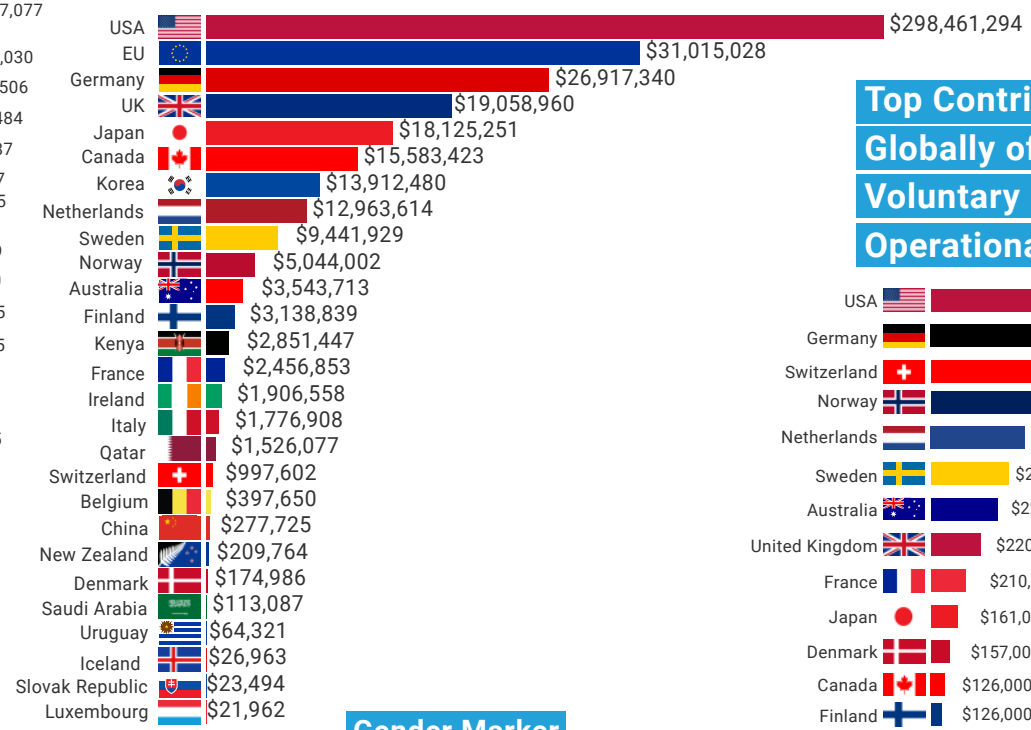
2023 Funding Source by Private Sector and Philanthropy Directly to UN Kenya



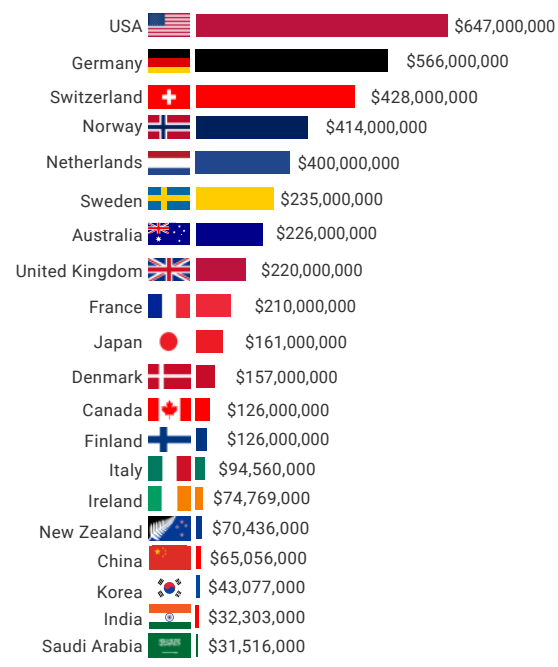
Human Rights Marker 2023 Expenditure



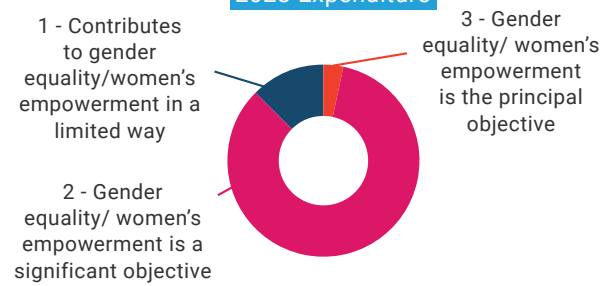
2023 Funding Source by Member States Directly to UN Kenya



Top Contributors Globally of Core Voluntary Funding for UN Operational Activities*



Gender Marker 2023 Expenditure



* Figures drawn from the 2022 financial overview of the UNDS (UN Development System)



Photo: © UNHCR

Deline Ramiro Yihumutima, at 23, embodies resilience and determination. Raised in the Kakuma Refugee Camp, her journey from the Angelina Jolie Girls Primary School to Masinde Muliro University showcases the power of education as the “great equaliser”, supported by the Dafi Undergraduate Scholarship from Windle Trust Kenya and UNHCR. After a specialisation in Journalism at university, Deline returned to Kakuma and took up a leading role with the Solidarity Initiative for Refugees (SIR) as Operations and Partnerships Lead. Her organization empowers young refugees with digital skills for sustainable livelihoods. Deline’s work through SIR transforms the lives of individuals. Through the empowerment and capacity building of young persons, she also impacts the community at large in Kakuma. Since 2016, the Solidarity Initiative for Refugees in Kenya supported by UNHCR and development partners has transformed over 2,000 lives, equipping them with the skills and opportunities for a brighter and self-sufficient future.

2.2. Cooperation Framework Results per Strategic Priority

Strategic Priority 1: People and Peace - Equitable Human Capital Development in a Peaceful and Inclusive Kenyan Society



9,542,907
Nutritionally
vulnerable persons
receiving UN support



85,181
Girls and women
supported against harmful
practices through UN
support



708,517
Children
covered by social
protection through
UN support



Strategic Priority Co-Leads



Outcome 1.1



2023 Available Resources
\$61,776,603



2023 Expenditure
\$54,064,833



2023 Available Resources
\$492,146,894



2023 Expenditure
\$432,486,975

Contributing Agencies for Strategic Priority 1

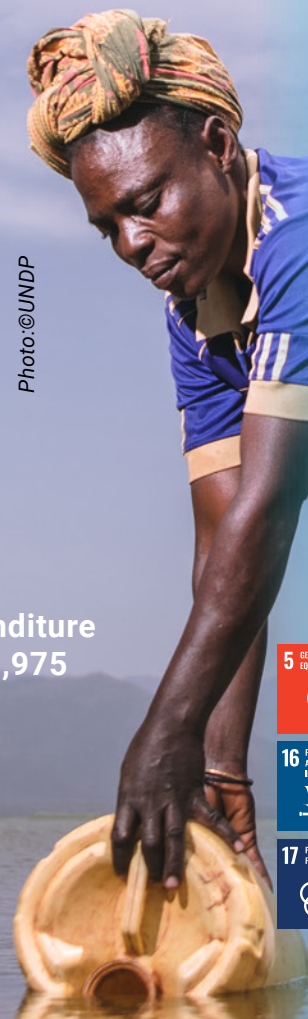
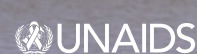
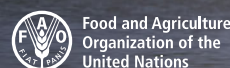


Photo: @UNDP

To help Kenya keep climbing the development “ladder” through the Middle-Income bracket of countries, it will be vital to continue strengthening Kenya’s human capital – the skills, energies and capabilities of her population and workforce. Human capital requires good governance and reduced economic inequalities to thrive. Strategic priority one of the Cooperation Framework brings together UN Kenya’s efforts to “**promote human capital development in a peaceful and inclusive Kenyan society with access for all to accountable and inclusive institutions for sustainable development.**” To help with that, UN Kenya brings normative, policy and technical support. The following constitutes some of the key results.

For more than a decade now, Kenya has enjoyed a highly successful process of **devolution**, transferring much of the frontline responsibility for development action to the 47 empowered county governments. It remains a key priority for the UN Kenya to help further strengthen the delivery capacity of the devolved county-level institutions. UN Kenya’s approach, as encapsulated in Strategic Priority 1 – “**People and Peace**” underscores the interconnection between a rights-based approach to governance, water access, healthcare and social services. This holistic strategy aims to cultivate a fairer, more resilient Kenyan society, reflecting UN Kenya’s unwavering dedication not just to advancing individual areas but ensuring collective progress towards a unified, thriving nation.

Sustaining Rights and Peace After the Ballot

The 2022 elections were widely hailed for their transparency and for the effective post-election dispute-handling by robust Kenya’s judicial institutions. UN Kenya supported the key institutions throughout the ballot and continued with “after the ballot” support during 2023. Working with the Government, UN Kenya helped to support the first comprehensive Review of the National Peacebuilding Infrastructure. The yearlong Review was conducted by a high-level Independent Panel of Experts led by Kenya’s National Steering Committee on Peacebuilding

and Conflict Management. The Review placed key peacebuilding frameworks and institutions under the microscope, to determine what has worked well and what requires rethinking and led in late 2023 to a landmark report **New Agenda for Peace**.

The **New Agenda for Peace in Kenya**, structured around four key pillars, proposes a comprehensive strategy to enhance Kenya’s conflict prevention and resolution capabilities, with a focus on inclusivity and addressing marginalisation. This forward-looking framework emphasises the need for a robust, adaptable peacebuilding infrastructure capable of responding to both current and emergent challenges. With the report having undergone a national validation, it is set to be officially launched in the first half of 2024, representing a significant step forward in Kenya’s commitment to peace and providing a model for other countries to follow. The collaborative effort in developing the Agenda underscores the potential of international support and local leadership, complemented by strategic UN support, to forge a sustainable path towards peace, emphasising the critical role of community engagement and strategic planning in building a resilient peacebuilding architecture. The Kenyan model, supported by UN Kenya, has already gained considerable interest from other countries for replication.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2023, marking a pivotal moment in the global movement for human rights. In support of this milestone, UN Kenya orchestrated the **Human Rights@75 campaign** - a year-long initiative that included regional and national human rights dialogues, a community film festival and a human rights art competition for youth. Amid these celebrations and reflections on progress, **Kenya, under President Ruto’s leadership, pledged its commitment to four major human rights initiatives.** These initiatives are: the development of a National Human Rights Policy and Action Plan to enhance rights and freedoms for all citizens; transitioning to clean energy by 2030 to contribute to climate change mitigation



OUR CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS IN KENYA



and sustainable development; criminalising enforced disappearances through comprehensive legislation that includes measures for prevention, investigation, prosecution and support for victims; and promoting social protection by focusing on gender equality and the rights of marginalised groups.

Accelerating Inclusive and Participatory Local Governance to Realise the SDGs

Kenya's decade-long journey of devolution has significantly transformed the governance of the country. In the spirit of the SDGs, UN Kenya worked with key county governments to ensure that those at most risk of being left behind are targeted through the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) – the devolved blueprints for sustainable development. In 2023, UN Kenya helped reach over 714,400 individuals across counties such as Kilifi, Turkana, Kitui and Kwale, particularly women, youth and persons with disabilities, ensuring they have a voice in shaping their communities' futures through the CIDPs. The UN's support extended to 10 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), empowering them to drive public participation and inclusivity, promoting a culture of advocacy and establishing platforms for all voices to be heard. Concretely, nearly half of the counties (49 %) have now made their budgets more transparent to citizens and close to 40 % have advanced their planning, budgeting and service delivery systems through UN support. It is at the devolved level that those furthest behind can be lifted and empowered to improve their own lives and impact devolved planning and budgeting, setting a precedent for how inclusive and locally-led sustainable development can create lasting change.

UN Kenya also played a crucial role in 2023 in strengthening the capacities of the 47 county governments to track SDG progress at local levels. This has been achieved through capacity building and technical support at the county level to be ready for the preparation and development of the Voluntary Local Reviews on the implementation of the SDGs in 2024. These

voluntary local reports on the SDGs are key inputs to the Voluntary National Review on the implementation of the SDGs, which Kenya will present at the UN High-Level Political Forum in July 2024. With some 12 of the 17 SDGs primarily concerning sectors for which devolved county governments hold the responsibility, it is not an exaggeration to say that SDG delivery lives or dies at the county-level. Kenya's enhanced capacity to monitor implementation of the SDGs at the local level is therefore vital.

Harnessing Migration for Sustainable Development - from Camps to Economic Settlements

Safe, orderly and regular migration is a key element for achieving the SDGs. That is why UN Kenya supports Kenya – a country of origin, transit and destination for migration flows – to harness migration as a sustainable development motor.

Kenya has been a generous host of more than half a million refugees for more than three decades. Significantly in 2023, the Kenya Government continued to develop the "Shirika Plan", a transformative initiative to shift from a traditional camp-based model to integrated and localised area development benefitting refugees and host communities together. Coupled with the enactment of the progressive Refugees Act 2021, the Shirika transformation will constitute a major innovation by Kenya in governance for people on the move. By facilitating access to essential services and empowering people for economic opportunities, Kenya is redefining the narrative around refugees and migrants, emphasising their vital contribution to national development and social cohesion. That is why throughout 2023, UN Kenya lent concerted technical support to key government institutions to develop the Shirika Plan. UN Kenya also continued to provide large-scale humanitarian and development support to the more than 500,000 refugees hosted in the two major camps in Kakuma/Kalobeyei and Dadaab.



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Embu Governor Cecile Mbarire speaking at the Embu County commemoration of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence 2023 co-hosted with UN Kenya

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UN Kenya also supported the Government towards a significant milestone: **the first National Implementation Plan developed anywhere in the world to translate the principles in the Global Compact on Migration 2023-2027 into a national framework** that guarantees safe, orderly and regular migration. UN Kenya provided support based on both its normative role and its capacity and technical expertise – reinforcing Kenya’s longstanding position as a **global leader in migration management**.

The United Nations working across entities significantly supported the Government of Kenya in setting up an **effective and cohesive border management system**. This system aims to ensure safe and regulated cross-border movement and trade, while combatting transnational crimes like human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants and goods across the Horn of Africa. The UN’s support included technical and policy guidance, capacity enhancement, infrastructure upgrades and the promotion of cooperation among agencies and across borders. Moreover, initiatives to engage communities were supported to foster trust and collaboration between border communities and law enforcement, thereby bolstering border security. Through these joint efforts, the UN played a crucial role in enhancing Kenya’s border management, contributing to both national and regional security and stability.

Bridging the Gap: Driving Gender Equality in the Political and Economic Spheres.

The global evidence is clear: there is no sustainable development without gender equality. The Kenya Constitution specifically stipulates that no elected body must consist of more than two-thirds of one gender. But in spite of Kenya’s significant strides in devolution, public service delivery and civic engagement, gender inequality persists across sectors, in leadership and economic participation. Only 29 % of women are considered empowered according to UN Women and Kenya National Bureau of Statistics data published in 2020. Progress is hampered by inadequate implementation of laws, inadequate funding, weak accountability mechanisms and the slow transformation of discriminatory and

patriarchal gender norms, attitudes and practices.

In 2023, **UN Kenya worked across several UN entities through the Multi-Sector Working Group on the “Two-Thirds Gender Rule” for the alignment of national policies with the constitutional requirement** to achieve gender balance in the political and administrative spheres. UN Kenya also supported the Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA) to **build the capacity of newly elected women parliamentarians**. With UN Kenya support, KEWOPA has now tabled legislation in parliament to achieve the two-thirds gender rule within the nation’s legal framework.

Changing Societal Norms and Supporting Specialised Courts to Eradicate Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

Sexual and gender-based violence is a major human rights violation and hinderance towards gender equality. Fighting against sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and female genital mutilation (FGM) requires changing negative social norms and attitudes. UN Kenya collaborated with the Kenyan Government and partners to support survivors and tackle these deeply ingrained societal issues. In 2023, **more than 84,000 survivors of SGBV and FGM received essential services with UN Kenya support**. Of these, 69,433 were women and 15,248 were girls.

UN Kenya also supported the development of **13 county-specific SGBV policies and laws** in Samburu, Isiolo, Narok, Kisii, Migori, Kajiado, Garissa, Meru, Kisumu, Kitui, Kwale, Marsabit and Turkana. A strategic and culturally sensitive approach was applied, with both male and female community leaders engaged to drive change. Kenya’s Chief Justice has led the way with the establishment of **9 new specialised SGBV courts**, which mark significant progress in the sensitive and effective judicial handling of SGBV cases. With support from UN Kenya, these courts now have the necessary knowledge and capacity to provide justice, ensuring cases are treated with the required respect and urgency.

Overall, signs of encouraging progress in the fight against violence towards women and girls in Kenya can be found. The United Nations provided crucial support to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) for the publication of the **Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS) 2022**, which was released in 2023. Notably, between 2014 to 2022, the prevalence of physical violence decreased from 20% to 16%, sexual violence dropped from 7.6% to 6.4% and the incidence of Female Genital Mutilation was reduced from 21% to 15%. These statistics underscore the positive impact of concerted efforts by the UN together with the Government and stakeholders in eliminating violence against women and girls in Kenya.

Kenya – in the Crosshairs of the Global Climate Emergency

Kenya is already feeling the devastating impact of a global climate emergency it did not cause. In 2023, the country had experienced an **unprecedented 5 consecutive failed rain seasons**, with more than 6 million Kenyans suffering deep food insecurity (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification 3 and 4). And by end 2023, the country had whiplashed to catastrophic El Niño driven flooding, leaving more than half a million persons displaced and more than 150 dead. So even as UN Kenya supported the Government and people of Kenya in the upward trajectory towards sustainable development, UN Kenya

was also obliged to gear up its humanitarian response with partners.

UN Kenya was proud to stand alongside the Kenyan Government, mobilising with our partners’ support over USD 394 million for the **2023 Drought Response Plan**, of which USD 279 million for the UN part of the response. In 2023, the humanitarian response by UN Kenya and its partners reached 2.9 million people. Moreover, by the end of 2023, **in response to the El Niño flood emergency**, the UN Kenya and its partners reached 452,000 people with lifesaving emergency assistance.

Throughout 2023, the collective support by UN Kenya, the Kenyan Government and other partners reached 9,542,900 Kenyans with a blend of food or cash-based transfers, commodity vouchers and initiatives aimed at bolstering malnutrition treatment and prevention programmes. Of these beneficiaries, 3,038,164 were boys, 3,179,821 were girls, 2,774,882 were women and 550,033 were men. In 2023 **UN Kenya also continued to support, every month with a core focus on nutrition, more than 691,868 comprising of 338,455 women and 353,413 men refugees residing in the Kakuma and Dadaab camps and a further 101,406 refugees living in urban areas.**



Cash Transfers Helps a Family Survive and Replan Their Lives



In Turkana, in northern Kenya’s arid landscape, the struggle of the Edung Aipoko family embodies resilience in the face of adversity. Impacted by drought, the family is now reached by UNICEF’s Humanitarian Cash Transfer programme. The cash transfer programme empowers families such as the Aipoko family to cope and quickly switch from herding goats to subsisting on maize and beans and avoid food insecurity. This support provides the family with a window to restart their livelihoods and plan ahead. This narrative, while specific to Aipoko’s family, mirrors the broader crisis in Turkana and the arid and semi-arid lands across Kenya (70% of the total country area), where more than four million persons face acute food insecurity as a result of protracted drought in the wake of the ongoing climate emergency. UN Kenya’s support not only offers immediate relief but empowerment for a future of regained self-sufficiency.



For more on this story of survival, hope and humanitarian support, scan the QR code on the right.

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Reducing Malnutrition to Nourish a Stronger Kenyan Society

The cost of poor nutrition in Kenya weighs heavily on its development trajectory, draining an estimated 7 % of its GDP annually. A multi-pronged strategy by Kenya supported by the UN over recent years to combat malnutrition is, however, yielding promising results. In 2023, through counselling and support programmes facilitated by UN Kenya, **nearly 1.8 million individuals received guidance for optimal nutrition** for their young children. **Additionally, nearly 5.6 million children under the age of 5 years received vital vitamin A supplementation, a critical intervention in the fight against malnutrition.** These collaborative efforts have assisted in **Kenya's overall and significant reduction in national rates of stunting from 26 % in 2014 to 18 % in 2022**, a critical indicator of chronic malnutrition. Underlying disparities between counties however persist, with Kilifi, West Pokot and Samburu counties still reporting over 30%, emphasising the continued relevance of UN Kenya's focus on reaching those furthest behind.

Strengthening Universal Access to Health Systems with Targeted Interventions on WASH and HIV/AIDS.

A healthy population is the bedrock of a productive workforce, indispensable for driving sustainable economic growth and prosperity. **Universal health coverage** drives SDG 3 – and has ripple effects across all other SDGs. In 2023, **UN Kenya's work directly impacted the health of over 1.15 million persons through strengthening primary healthcare.** By bolstering primary healthcare at the community level, UN Kenya aims to help national and county governments make quality medical care more accessible and affordable for Kenyans, moving the country closer to its goal of Universal Health Coverage.

Additionally, UN Kenya's collaborative efforts in Kenya have been instrumental in the **fight against HIV.** Through concerted efforts with partners, **UN Kenya helped provide prevention, treatment and care services to more than 1.72 million persons,**

with 5,487 and 28,792 persons from the ASALs and urban informal settlements respectively. Particularly noteworthy, life-saving antiretroviral therapy (ART) reached 97% of Kenyans living with HIV. This surpasses the already ambitious 95% coverage target and marks a remarkable success in tackling a complex health challenge primarily hitting hard at those furthest behind. ART prolongs lives and enhances the quality of life for the for People living with HIV, helping them to continue to live as empowered citizens.

UN Kenya also supported Kenya's successful bid for the Global Fund Cycle 7 grant, spanning from 2023 to 2025. This significant financial support, amounting to USD 415 million, is earmarked for combating tuberculosis, HIV, malaria and for strengthening health systems and community responses. This support is strategic in bolstering both national and county-level government capabilities, ensuring the delivery of health services that are inclusive, accessible and equitable. These resources will both contribute to combatting these diseases and they will also be a strategic contribution in extending general health access.

An Increasingly Robust Social Safety Net, but Vulnerable Students Still Drop Out from Education

Over the past few years, Kenya's remarkable development success – rising to become a lower middle-income country – has been severely stressed by external shocks: COVID-19, floods and droughts due to the climate emergency and increased costs of the three Fs: food, fuel and fertilizer. All this has deepened vulnerabilities for already vulnerable and marginalised groups in Kenya, especially children and youth, women and girls, persons living in ASALs and persons living in urban informal settlements. This is why UN Kenya has prioritised bolstering the country's social protection safety nets, particularly those aimed at child protection and support. Through support from UN Kenya in 2023 **more than 708,500 children were provided direct social assistance, including through cash transfers.** In the first half of 2024, at least 500,000 vulnerable households are expected to receive their first

cash transfer. This illustrates a step further forward in achieving comprehensive social protection coverage in Kenya.

UN Kenya supported the reintegration of 178,300 children back into the education system by addressing the causes and needs of children out of schools, including those with disabilities. Of these children, 29,970 were at the pre-primary level and 148,330 children were at the primary level, overall comprising 82,219 girls and 96,081 boys. Among these children 7,452–3,298 girls and 4,154 boys—have disabilities.

Despite these steps forward, the education sector overall shows a clear setback due to the multiple emergencies that Kenya has faced over the last few years. Primary level enrolment declined from 93.5% in 2021 to 78.1% in 2022. The transition rate between primary and lower secondary also declined from 86% to 78%. Teenage pregnancies and early marriages also impact these negative developments. The most affected persons are found in the ASAL counties and in emergency-affected areas. The UN Kenya's response targets those furthest behind first, for example through the provision of essential learning materials to over 383,000 primary and pre-primary learners from both host and refugee communities. It will be vital to see these troubling trends reverse if Kenya is to stay on an upwards development path.

Accessing Clean Water to Drive Sustainable Development

Kenya continues to face significant challenges in **equitable access to clean water.** The lack of access is now further compounded by the worsening global climate emergency that threatens the livelihoods and well-being of millions in Kenya. Against this backdrop, UN Kenya supported **over 1.5 million individuals to gain access to reliable and safe drinking water services in 2023** (393,745 boys, 386,435 girls, 364,233 women and 380,489 men). UN Kenya also contributed to **long-term water infrastructure development interventions**

benefitting over 255,000 persons. Significant advancements in the governance of water services in urban centres like Nairobi, Nakuru, and Homa Bay were achieved with UN Kenya support, positively affecting **over five million persons with access to safely managed water services.**

These efforts by UN Kenya related to water extend beyond meeting immediate demands. Together with a wide range of stakeholders, UN Kenya is now laying the groundwork for a sustained and integrated water management joint programme running over several years and covering the full country, with all involved UN entities working closely together. Such a joint endeavour is essential to help Kenya achieve sustainable access and management of water when meeting the consequences of the global climate emergency over the next decades.

Leaving No One Offline: Bridging the Digital Divide to Accelerate Kenya's Sustainable Development

Digitalisation is a cornerstone of Kenyan development priorities, but the "digital divide" remains a challenge. In 2023, UN Kenya supported significant efforts to bridge it by **ensuring internet connectivity to more than 430 schools across the country, unlocking online access for more than 239,000 additional learners,** including students with disabilities. Of these learners, 117,075 were girls, 122,393 were boys and there were 7,322 children with disabilities (3,440 girls and 3,882 boys).

The Kenyan Government's Bottom-Up Economic Transformational Agenda (BETA) shapes UN Kenya's initiatives under People and Peace in enhancing access to healthcare and community-level care directly support BETA's vision of fostering a healthier, more inclusive society. Education, especially with a robust digital framework, is pivotal not only for BETA but also for elevating Kenya's competitiveness and inclusivity on a global stage, ensuring a prosperous future for its citizens.

Rights-Based Budgeting at County Level

In Kenya, a United Nations Human Rights initiative strengthens budget alignment with the needs and rights of citizens, particularly marginalised groups. By integrating a human rights-based approach to budgeting, this UN-backed programme empowers communities to actively participate in county-level budget-making processes and make themselves heard. The initiative, highlighted through efforts in Marsabit and Makueni counties, focuses on capacity building on economic, social and cultural rights, equipping the participants with the tools needed for meaningful engagement.

Scan the QR for more on this story



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Strategic Priority 2: Planet and Prosperity - Sustainable and 'Climate Positive Economic Growth' on a Healthy and Restored Planet



212,812

Farmers with improved productivity, net income and working conditions through UN support



71,800

Persons with access to clean energy through UN support



732,363

Hectares of terrestrial and marine protected areas created or better managed through UN support



Strategic Priority Co-Leads



World Food Programme



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

Outcome 2.1



2023 Available Resources \$108,502,640



2023 Expenditure \$86,003,463

Outcome 2.2



2023 Available Resources \$17,446,438



2023 Expenditure \$12,070,290

Contributing Agencies for Strategic Priority 2



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



Investing in rural people



UN environment programme



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women



unicef for every child



FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



UN MIGRATION



UNDP



UNOPS



UNFPA



UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency



UNDRR UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction



World Food Programme



UNESCO



International Labour Organization



UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

Photo by UNRCC/Augustine Karani Oloitokitok

Kenya currently produces more than 90% of its electricity from renewable sources. This achievement is a vivid demonstration of the potential that the Green Transition offers for Kenya's sustainable development journey. Strategic Priority Two, "Planet and Prosperity," is designed to cultivate an economic climate that integrates the Green Transition within planetary boundaries as a fundamental component of Kenya's growth strategy. Aligning economic development with environmental sustainability propels prosperity and planet protection to ensure that Kenya's developmental trajectory is both inclusive and sustainable.

UN Kenya is a critical partner to the Kenyan Government and other stakeholders in fostering and enhancing partnerships and bridging connections with private sector entities to drive sustainable growth within planetary boundaries and assist in the restoration of damaged ecosystems. UN Kenya concentrates on selected areas where the UN possesses distinct added value as a facilitator and convener of the diverse stakeholders active in Kenya's emerging "green growth" sectors. UN Kenya also plays a pivotal role in facilitating, identifying and providing support for innovative and higher-risk ventures.

Under Strategic Priority Two, UN Kenya is committed to bridging "Prosperity" with "Planet" to foster truly sustainable development. The outdated business and development models of the 20th century have inflicted significant harm on the planet and depleted the ecosystem services essential for ensuring sustainable livelihoods and incomes. A shift towards a new paradigm, centred around "green and climate-positive development" as underscored in the Africa Climate Summit outcome document, unveils a path to inclusive and sustainable growth within the limits of the planet. UN Kenya pledges to direct an increasing share of its resources and efforts towards promoting "Prosperity and Planet," bolstering the promising potential of a circular economy and "green growth" alongside comprehensive measures to restore and revitalize biodiversity in Kenya. This is in alignment with the Bottom-Up Economic Transformational Agenda (BETA) commitment to emissions reduction by a

further 32% by 2030 (and Kenya's contribution to global emissions is already miniscule) and also complements the BETA's cross-cutting emphasis on people, planet and profit. This strategic orientation represents a pivotal economic transformation and signifies a departure from the linear model that has constrained Kenya and the global economy for more than half a century. Embracing a circular economic model is, fundamentally, "smart economics," marking a crucial and deliberate shift towards sustainability and resilience.

Kenya - A Global Leader in the Green Transition, "Africa Climate Summit 2023"

The historic Africa Climate Action Summit (ACS), under the theme "Driving Green Growth and Climate Finance Solutions for Africa and the World", was held in Nairobi from 4-6 September 2023, convened by the African Union and President Ruto in his role as Chair of the African Union's Climate Change Committee.

UN Kenya came together to support Kenya and His Excellency President William Ruto to plan, prepare and host the ACS. This high-profile event attracted approximately 30,000 delegates, including 18 Heads of African States and other significant global figures. At the direct request of the President of Kenya, UN Kenya provided comprehensive, coordinated technical, advisory and financial support to the Government in the lead-up to the ACS and also held dedicated side events during it, focusing on the prospects for the green economy in Kenya. The Secretary General of the United Nations, His Excellency António Guterres, inaugurated the Summit together with the Chair of the African Union, His Excellency Moussa Faki.

The ACS succeeded in redefining Africa's climate emergency narrative by portraying Africa as a youthful continent with vast potential to steer global economic development onto a "climate-positive" pathway. The Summit outcome, the "Nairobi Declaration," spurred by Kenya, shifted the African narrative to a continent of solutions rather than just needs. The Nairobi Declaration included commitments of African countries on



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innovation, green jobs, shifts in development paradigms and harnessing climate finance – particularly carbon markets – to that end. The Declaration is an eleven-point call to action, which proclaimed African States’ unified stance on climate action, just months ahead of the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28). The summit also saw a total of \$23 billion pledged to green projects in the region by governments, investors, development banks and philanthropists.

Strengthening Kenya’s Sustainable Agricultural Backbone through Collective Action and Sustainable, Climate Smart Agricultural Practices

The agricultural sector contributes almost a quarter of Kenya’s GDP and employs over 40% of the total population – 70% in rural areas. The agricultural sector is the economic heartbeat of the nation. Kenya’s Government, under the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), sees it as essential to catalyse economic prosperity and inclusivity through increasing the value of the agricultural value chains. **In 2023, UN Kenya’s support to sustainable agriculture in Kenya made a significant impact on the livelihoods of more than 212,000 farmers and small agri-business holders** (128,360 women and 84,307 men), through a series of empowering projects. Through UN Kenya support in 2023, more than 5,000 rural households acquired **increased knowledge and skills about sustainable green production**, investment and technologies and adopted technologies such as **agroforestry and conservation agriculture** after the trainings. UN Kenya-supported initiatives also contributed to **sustainable and climate-smart livelihood diversification for smallholder farmers**, reaching a total of 143 Village Saving and Loaning Associations (VSLA) **with more than 4,200 households, of which more than half were refugee households**. VSLAs empower communities with limited financial services and low access to lending services. The VSLAs accumulated over USD 52,000 benefitted group members through improved businesses and enabling **procurement of inputs for crop production and costs associated with market access**. **In addition, a total of 22,900 individuals,**

comprising 19,077 women and 3,819 men, were supported to establish VSLAs in the ASALs.

In addition, **200,000 smallholder farmers were reached by UN support in 2023 through a network of 1,018 farmer service centres** providing access to crucial services for **smallholder farmers such as market access and mechanisation**. This effort enabled more **than 47,300 farmers to access markets successfully, selling 23,320 metric tons of agricultural produce** across in both high-potential and ASAL counties.

UN Kenya also contributed its **normative and policy expertise** strongly to the agriculture sector. UN Kenya supported the Government in developing the **Post-Harvest Management Strategy**, which aims at enhancing food loss and waste management by strengthening value chains development strategies that relate to storage, aggregation, marketing, processing and distribution of food. **The National Action Plan on Prevention and Containment of Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) 2023-2027** was also developed and launched with UN Kenya support. The strategy focuses on prevention and containment of AMR utilising the One Health approach at national and sub-national level, including both animal and human health. This will preserve the access in the future to effective antibiotics to combat bacterial infections in the Kenyan health system and also contribute to increased animal welfare.

These outputs are only a handful of examples. But they represent a solid improvement in agricultural productivity and market engagement targeting small-scale farmers that constitute a majority of the agricultural population in Kenya. The results contribute directly to food security and support the development of strengthened agricultural value chains, one of the of priorities of the Kenyan Government. In the immediate, the results by UN Kenya contributed to the financial empowerment of the persons reached. And in the medium term, these examples show how UN Kenya can help impact long-term multi-sectoral resilience and preserve access to ecosystem services also in the future. A holistic approach to development that is both inclusive and sustainable.

Accelerating Kenya’s Renewable Energy as a Blueprint for the World

Kenya is amongst global leaders in renewable energy production—with approximately 93% of its electricity coming from renewable sources. With UN Kenya support, **an additional 71,800 persons (19,112 men and 52,688 women) gained access to clean and sustainable energy in 2023**. And the broader benefits extend well beyond the immediate beneficiaries. In Nakuru county, leveraging geothermal energy for agricultural processes through UN Kenya support led to a significant reduction in CO2 emissions by 2,445kg per year, illustrating the potential of renewable energy sources to address global warming. Beyond environmental benefits, this approach has yielded substantial economic gains, including a 24% cost saving from reduced meat spoilage, which again shows the dual benefits of integrating sustainability into economic development.



Strengthening Kenya’s Disaster Risk Management Capacity at National and Devolved Levels

In response to Kenya’s severe climate crises, which have led to devastating droughts, flooding and the displacement of more than half a million people due to the El Niño rains, UN Kenya has been instrumental in **strengthening the country’s Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) frameworks**. This has included advocating for the National Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Bill in 2023 and supporting the creation of county-level Disaster Risk Management policies and strategies. These efforts aim to align Kenya’s DRR strategies with the global Sendai Framework and other national policies and strategies to enhance resilience across Kenya.

At the county level, UN Kenya supported the establishment of **local Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Committees and Steering Groups in 9 additional arid and semi-arid counties**. These DRM Committees have been key in coordinating efforts for food security



A farmer holding an aubergine from her group farm in Natira Dispensary, Turkana County.

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Mzima Springs plays a vital role as a water source for migratory animals, particularly elephants, facilitating movement between the Amboseli Biosphere Reserve and Tsavo West National Park. UN Kenya is actively supporting the conservation of this spring to ensure the future of the migratory wildlife population.

and leveraging early warning systems for disaster risk reduction. The UN and the National Drought Management Authority have also **worked across 24 counties to implement DRM plans that address the unique needs of different county contexts.** This initiative involved training over 300 county staff – women and men - in integrating disaster risk management with a focus on meeting the climate emergency. This marks a significant step towards a more gender-sensitive, inclusive and resilient framework for managing disasters in Kenya.

In 2023, **UN Kenya support to resilience also contributed to the restoration of 227 non-functional water supply systems and strategic boreholes, which enabled access to safe water for more than 632,900 people.** This crucial intervention benefited a wide demographic, including 151,557 girls, 145,613 boys, 170,904 women and 164,831 men. Amongst these was the “green” rehabilitation of 9 irrigation schemes in Turkana (4), Garissa (2) and Tana-River (3), impacting the lives of more than 36,500 persons, including 18,626 women and 17,896 men. The intervention involved **climate-proofing and greening of irrigation infrastructure through the development of closed-water conveyance systems (less prone to flood damage) and solarisation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions** while providing a low-cost solution to the target communities.

Creating Robust Waste Management Systems as Urbanisation Accelerates

Amidst the rapidly growing urban centres, **UN Kenya has invested in the development of improved urban waste management.** In Nairobi, a city of 4.6 million people, less than half of the city’s waste is currently recycled, reused, or transformed—significantly below the National Environment Management Authority’s 80% target. The UN has made considerable strides in helping bridge this gap. **Reaching over 3,220,000 individuals with initiatives for waste management** in Nairobi, Homa Bay, Taita Taveta and Kiambu Counties in 2023, UN Kenya promoted sanitation at the core of urban development policies and championed innovative service delivery models such as **City-Wide Inclusive Sanitation.**

This strategic approach enhanced urban living conditions for those furthest behind and also propelled Nairobi towards fostering cities and human settlements that are inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. By supporting Nairobi, Homa Bay, Kiambu, Mombasa and Taita Taveta counties in the enhancement of municipal solid waste management by introducing the **Waste Wise Cities Tool** and establishing material recovery facilities, UN Kenya has helped significantly streamline municipal waste services. These results have impacted the lives of urban communities at



Seeds of Change: How Hannah Karanja’s Farming Revolution is Cultivating a Greener Future

Hannah’s story in Nambale, Kenya is one of resilience, innovation and environmental stewardship. In light of the climate emergency and the increasingly unpredictable weather patterns, Hannah turned to regenerative farming methods with the support of the UN. With regenerative farming Hannah has enhanced the health of her soil and significantly increased her agricultural yields.

By UN partnering with Boomitra (global company that uses satellite and AI technology to measure, report and verify soil carbon credits) Hannah could join a pioneering carbon-credit scheme and she started selling carbon credits derived from her regenerative practices. With the new practices, Hannah has doubled her farm’s productivity, enabling her to invest in her children’s education and spread the knowledge of regenerative farming to the next generation.

Hannah’s story is one of hope and showcases how green innovations and sustainable agricultural practices can transform lives and ecosystems at the same time.

Scan here to read more on Hannah’s story



the most risk of being left behind. Robust waste management processes provide immediate relief from inadequate provision and livelihoods for inhabitants in urban informal settlements.

UN Kenya Supporting Kenya's Biodiversity Restoration and Preservation Efforts

In a bold move to combat local, national and global environmental challenges in parallel, Kenya has made a significant commitment to propel tree cover from 7% in 2018 to over 10% in 2030. This commitment reflects a significant national commitment towards sustainability and biodiversity preservation and restoration. In turn, UN Kenya has been instrumental in promoting the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem-based approaches into Kenya's development and sectoral plans.

Adding to Kenya's ambitious environmental initiatives, over 6.2 million people have reaped the benefits of United Nations-supported efforts aimed at nature protection and the promotion of sustainable resource use. This achievement is largely credited to the National Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme facilitated by UN Kenya, which oversees six Biosphere Reserves (BRs) in Kenya: Amboseli, Mt. Kenya, Mt. Elgon, Mt. Kulal, Kiunga Marine and Malindi-Watamu. These reserves represent a commitment to innovative conservation solutions that harmonize the protection of biodiversity with its sustainable use, covering an array of ecosystems from terrestrial to marine.

In 2023, UN Kenya facilitated the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem-based approaches into the development and sectoral plans across various levels of governance in Kenya, aiming for the sustainable management and restoration of diverse habitats. This collaboration has led to the adoption of comprehensive strategies and plans by national authorities like the Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Forestry Research Institute and the

National Museums of Kenya, incorporating forest and landscape approaches into key documents such as the **Forest and Landscape Restoration Action Plan for 2022-2026**. Similarly, with UN Kenya support, county governments, including **Marsabit, Isiolo, Laikipia and Nyeri, incorporated forest and landscape approaches into their forest management and county development plans**. The County Government of Narok, the Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association, the Kenya Wildlife Service and the Wildlife Research and Training Institute supported by UN Kenya together developed the **"Greater Maasai Mara Management Ecosystem Plan 2023-2032"**. This strategy now directs the conservation efforts in the region. These policy and normative initiatives collectively underscore how UN Kenya is well placed to facilitate and broker strategic planning and collaborative governance between actors to preserve Kenya's biodiversity and sustainable ecosystem services.

Protecting Kenya's Ecological Health on Land and at Sea

With UN Kenya support, the sustainable management and restoration of terrestrial and marine protected areas continued, which, by 2023 covering a total of **732,363 hectares**. This includes more than **285,000 hectares** across vital ecosystems such as Kiriya forest, Mukogodo forest and Nkoteiya conservancy, as well as 316,900 hectares within the Maasai Mara Reserve, Mara Conservancies and adjacent areas like the Mara and Ewaso Nyiro Rivers. Other efforts supported by UN Kenya in 2023 led to the **restoration and rehabilitation of 1,257 hectares of degraded landscapes**. Additionally, 2,787 hectares of degraded forests are currently under rehabilitation and restoration, supported by UN Kenya, including Kakamega Forest, Kaptagat Forest and Mau Narok (Enosopukia).



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Gerald Juma, a UN-supported farmer in Mukurweini, Nyeri County, Kenya, cultivates a diverse farm featuring coffee, a tree nursery, livestock, traditional vegetables and fruits, employing drip irrigation for sustainable maintenance.

© IFAD/Transleu/Samuel Waberi

Strategic Enabler: Partnerships - Working Hand in Glove with All Partners and with All Resources to Achieve the SDGs*



25

Kenyan institutions with strengthened capacity for data and SDG reporting through UN support



4

Innovative solutions adopted by partner organisations, through UN support



Moderate

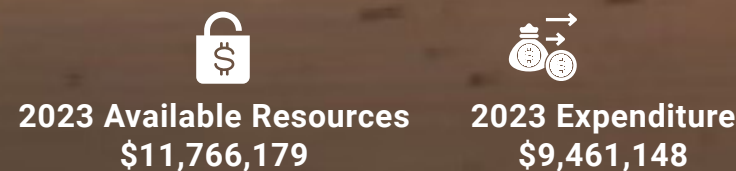
Kenyan Government ability to track budget allocation for the SDGs through UN support



Strategic Priority Co-Leads



Outcome 3.1



Contributing Agencies to the Strategic Enabler



The Strategic Enabler – “Partnerships” – seeks impact and scale for Kenya’s SDG journey and development priorities by facilitating and leveraging innovative, multi-stakeholder partnerships across sectors with Kenya’s Government, private sector, development partners and civil society, each contributing their unique expertise and know-how. Kenya has long been the beneficiary of generous Official Development Assistance (ODA) from multiple international partners. But as the country continues up the development “ladder”, Kenya needs rapidly to transition from “development funding to development financing”. By prioritising multi-stakeholder partnerships, UN Kenya aims to create a more inclusive and effective mechanism for financing and implementing sustainable development initiatives at both national and devolved level in Kenya.

Through the Kenya SDG Partnerships Platform, launched with the Government of Kenya at the UN General Assembly in 2017, UN Kenya has established a proven track record of convening, connecting and catalysing multi-stakeholder partnerships and innovative forms of development financing that the Government can utilise in advancing its national development priorities and global commitments.

An Innovative Development Impact Bond to End Teen Pregnancy and New HIV Infections

Kenya experiences significant challenges with teen pregnancy and new HIV infections among adolescents. While there has been a promising decline in teen pregnancy rates over the past years, from 18% in 2014 to 15% in 2022, this progress is undercut by a startling disparity linked to socioeconomic background. Poverty, persistent, adverse societal norms (including amongst men and boys) and lack of education significantly elevate the risk of adolescent pregnancies – and vice versa, in a vicious circle. Adolescent girls and young women are particularly vulnerable to new HIV infections and account for 78% of new infections in this age group.

In collaboration with the Government of Kenya and other partners, UN Kenya in 2023 rolled out an innovative public-private collaboration to end teen pregnancy and new HIV infections among adolescents in Kenya through the launch of a USD 12 million Development Impact Bond (DIB). This “DIB for Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health in Kenya” puts in place results-based financing to drive the delivery of high-quality and scalable sexual and reproductive health services, including HIV testing and treatment. Adolescent girls – in particular, those from vulnerable communities – who are experiencing significant challenges with pregnancy and new HIV infections use an app to provide real-time feedback on their access to critical information about sexual and reproductive health and rights and to access tailored health services.

The DIB is a “pay for success” programme that seeks to reach over 500,000 girls with sexual and reproductive health services and HIV services. Since the September 2023 launch, this new approach has already reached over 82,772 young girls across 10 Kenyan counties. The model – uniting innovative financing with enhanced online access to make **investor out-payment conditioned on development impact** – can be expanded by UN Kenya to other sectors for diverse challenges in sustainable development: in agriculture, in vocational education, in service delivery.

Supporting Kenya’s Data-Driven Approach to Sustainable Development

What is not measured cannot be improved: accurate data helps Kenya to know where the country is in its development journey and to plan the path ahead. Throughout 2023, UN Kenya continued to support the Kenyan Government to strengthen monitoring of its progress towards the SDGs. Key assessment tools such as the “Kenya Demographic and Health Survey” and the “Kenya Vital Statistics”, which were finalised with UN support in 2023, provide critical insights on population, health and socio-economic trends, strengthening Kenya’s informed, responsive and strategic policymaking.



OUR CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS IN KENYA



*This section on the Strategic Enabler Partnerships also integrates the reporting on “Support to Partnerships and Financing of the 2030 Agenda”.

UN Kenya also supported the expansion of Kenya's "Sustainable Development Goals Indicator Framework" from 144 to 166 indicators. This has enabled the Government to capture a more inclusive and comprehensive picture of progress towards the realisation of the SDGs across Kenya, as well as the different paths towards sustainable development within the country.

Through the 'Leave No One Behind' lens central to the UNSDCF, UN Kenya continued to support the Government in making sure that data collection and monitoring is inclusive and responsive to all groups in society, in particular youth, women and girls, persons living in the ASALs and persons living in urban informal settlements.

Catalysing Private Investments Towards the Sustainable Development Goals

The SDGs and the development priorities of Kenya's Government cannot be achieved without the private sector. Private capital and business operations play a critical role in generating green and sustained economic growth, creating jobs and promoting innovation in Kenya - all critical components of the Kenyan Government's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda. In 2023, UN Kenya continued to support the Kenyan Government to catalyse new private investments for the SDGs, with a keen focus on inclusivity, climate resilience and financial innovation. This included support to the development of financial strategies embedded in core planning documents, such as Kenya's County Engagement Plans, aimed at enhancing options for climate financing.

UN Kenya also supported the Kenyan Government in the creation of a Sustainable Development Action Plan. This Action Plan outlines 12 pivotal actions and initiatives for unlocking capital singular for the Sustainable Development Goals. Among these initiatives are the launch of the "SDG Pipeline Builder" in Kenya – an intermediary that seeks to streamline the investment origination and distribution process to drive more capital to the Sustainable Development Goals - particularly small and medium-sized enterprises.

UN Kenya's commitment to supporting the Government in SDG financing extends to exploring all possible financing avenues. The Sustainable Development Goals Partnership Platform (SDGPP), under the Resident Coordinator's Office and supporting all UN entities, has been actively engaging with the private sector, philanthropic organisations and financial institutions committed to impactful social investments and "profit for purpose" initiatives. The SDGPP has successfully created and nurtured multiple "ecosystems" to drive partnerships and financing in Kenya. Strategic collaborations with platforms and organisations such as the Impact Investing Kenya Task Force, the Finance Trade & Investment Network, KEPSA, the Africa Venture Philanthropy Alliance, the Agricultural Sector Network and the UN Global Compact have been pivotal in identifying and securing financing avenues for the SDGs.

The SDGPP made significant contributions to the agricultural sector in 2023 by offering technical support to the Agricultural Sector Network and the National Agriculture Summit with a focus on food security and competitive agriculture practices. Furthermore, the SDGPP was at the forefront of establishing the Africa Impact Investing Group to mobilise capital for sustainable development across the continent, promoting prosperity alongside financial returns. UN Kenya's "Strategic Enabler" underscores the critical role of multi-stakeholder collaborations in achieving SDGs in Kenya and strongly focuses on multi-stakeholder partnerships as a key driver in propelling Kenya towards Agenda 2030 and its national development ambitions.

Youth Connekt Africa Summit, Concrete Partnerships and Job Creation Between Youth Across Africa.

UN Kenya, in collaboration with the YouthConnekt Africa Hub, supported the Government of Kenya in successfully hosting the 6th edition of the YouthConnekt Africa Summit in September 2023. This significant event, dubbed "Youth Innovating A Borderless African Renaissance," attracted over 20,000 young participants. It also achieved remarkable online outreach, with over 11 million persons reached and 26,000

interactions on social media. The summit elevated youth leadership and innovation as pivotal forces for Africa's integration. It offered a vibrant platform for significant policy influence, storytelling, networking and entrepreneurship, including marketplace and investor meetings. The involvement of Huawei Kenya and 38 other Chinese firms in absorbing more than 500 young Kenyans into ICT, manufacturing, trade and construction sectors is just one example of how the event created real opportunities. His Excellency President William Ruto and His Excellency Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua oversaw the Summit together with several other representatives of African Governments at the highest levels. They underscored the importance of a nurturing environment for entrepreneurship, environmental stewardship and innovation among young people. YouthConnekt Africa is now the largest business and policy convener on youth development and job creation in Africa.

Strengthened Engagement between the Kenyan Government and Its Development Partners

Throughout 2023, UN Kenya supported a strengthened engagement between the Kenyan Government and its development partners. Following from discussions and advocacy led by UN Kenya and key international partners, the Government established the Development Partners Forum, co-led by the Deputy President and the UN Resident Coordinator together with the Ambassador of the Netherlands to Kenya. This Forum allows for sustained, structured engagements between the Government and its development partners at all levels, with the aim of strengthening coordination and mutual planning and allowing for more visibility and mutual accountability of development partners' results through projects and programmes in Kenya.



A Tiko mobiliser explains the Tiko platform to an adolescent girl in her community in Kibera, Nairobi. Tiko is part of the UN-supported Development Impact Bond.

Innovating Health: Kenya's \$12 Million Impact Bond to Transform Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Care

In an innovative initiative to combat the high rate of teen pregnancy and the spread of HIV infections in Kenya, a groundbreaking \$12 million Development Impact Bond (DIB), spearheaded by UN Kenya, the Government of Kenya together with global and local partners, was launched to enhance adolescent sexual and reproductive health services. The focus is to deliver youth-friendly health services through an innovative digital platform targeted at girls aged 15-19 across 10 high-need counties.

The DIB leverages technology for greater impact. Utilising Triggerise's Tiko platform, the initiative connects adolescents to essential health services, ensuring each dollar is accounted for through real-time impact assessments. This model embodies Kenya's leading role in digital innovation and financial inclusion. The commitment from various stakeholders, including the government and private sector partners, underscores a unified effort to improve the health of Kenyan female adolescents.

If successful also over time, this testbed for innovation could pave the way for similar models globally.

Scan here to read more on the innovative Development Impact Bond



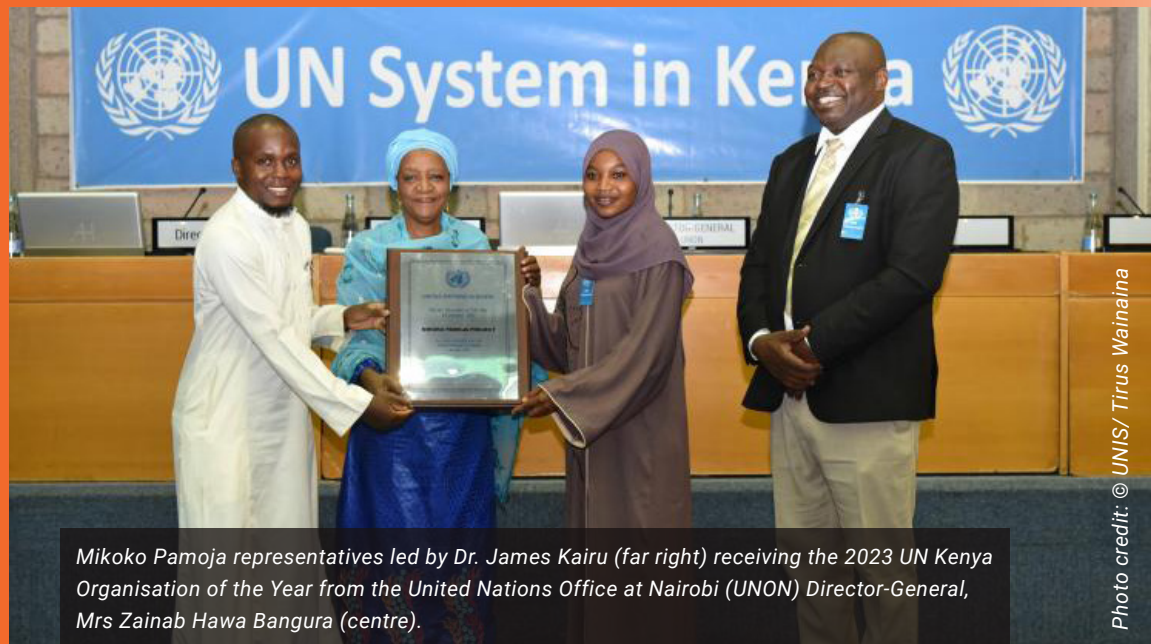
OUR CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS IN KENYA



©UNDP

2.3 Support by UN Kenya to Partnerships and Financing of the 2030 Agenda*

UN Kenya continuously fortifies its partnerships at both global and national levels to drive funding and financing of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The collaboration between UN Kenya and a wide array of partners, including the Kenyan Government (at both national and the 47 county levels), Development Partners, International Financial Institutions (such as the Africa Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund), Multilateral and Bilateral institutions, Civil Society Organisations, Faith-Based Organisations, and Community Groups, is essential if Kenya is to achieve the SDGs. The Mikoko Pamoja illustrates this approach.



Mikoko Pamoja representatives led by Dr. James Kairu (far right) receiving the 2023 UN Kenya Organisation of the Year from the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) Director-General, Mrs Zainab Hawa Bangura (centre).

Photo credit: © UNIS/ Tirus Wainaina

The **Mikoko Pamoja** project in Kenya's Gazi Bay focuses on mangrove restoration and leveraging carbon credit sales. It was awarded the 2023 United Nations Kenya Organisation of the Year for its outstanding environmental and community development efforts. Mikoko Pamoja embodies a practical approach to addressing the climate emergency while also strengthening local livelihoods.

Starting in 2013, the Gazi community, previously reliant on the mangroves for timber, shifted to conservation. They have to date successfully restored over 117 hectares of this critical ecosystem, which is vital not only for marine biodiversity and coastal protection but also for its capacity to sequester carbon.

Mikoko Pamoja loosely translates to "Mangroves Together," a name that reflects the collective effort and community empowerment at the heart of the project. By selling carbon credits Mikoko Pamoja raises approximately USD 24,000 annually. These resources are reinvested in the community, for example to schools and health facilities. The community has also provided access to clean water to over 7,000 persons.

This innovative model not only conserves the environment but also offers tangible incomes to the community, setting a precedent for sustainable management of natural resources and building livelihoods within the planetary boundaries. The project's success is now replicated in other regions.

*UN Kenya support to partnerships and financing of the 2030 Agenda has also been covered under the Strategic Enabler on pages 17 and 18.



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H.E. Ms. Martha Wangari, Member of Parliament, Vice-Chair of the Parliamentary Caucus on SDGs addressing the public at the Kenya Parliamentary Open Day on the SDGs held in partnership with UN Kenya at Parliamentary Grounds, Nairobi on 5th December 2023.



©UNRCO/Augustine Karani

Representatives from Kijiji Yeetu, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting underserved villages and communities in Kenya, accepting the prestigious award for their contributions to SDG 11, 'Sustainable Cities and Communities,' at the UN-supported Kenya SDGs Awards 2023. Kijiji Yeetu was honoured for their innovative approach in digital capacity building amongst communities in digitally underserved areas. Their approach helps leveraging digital transformation to empower local villages throughout Kenya.

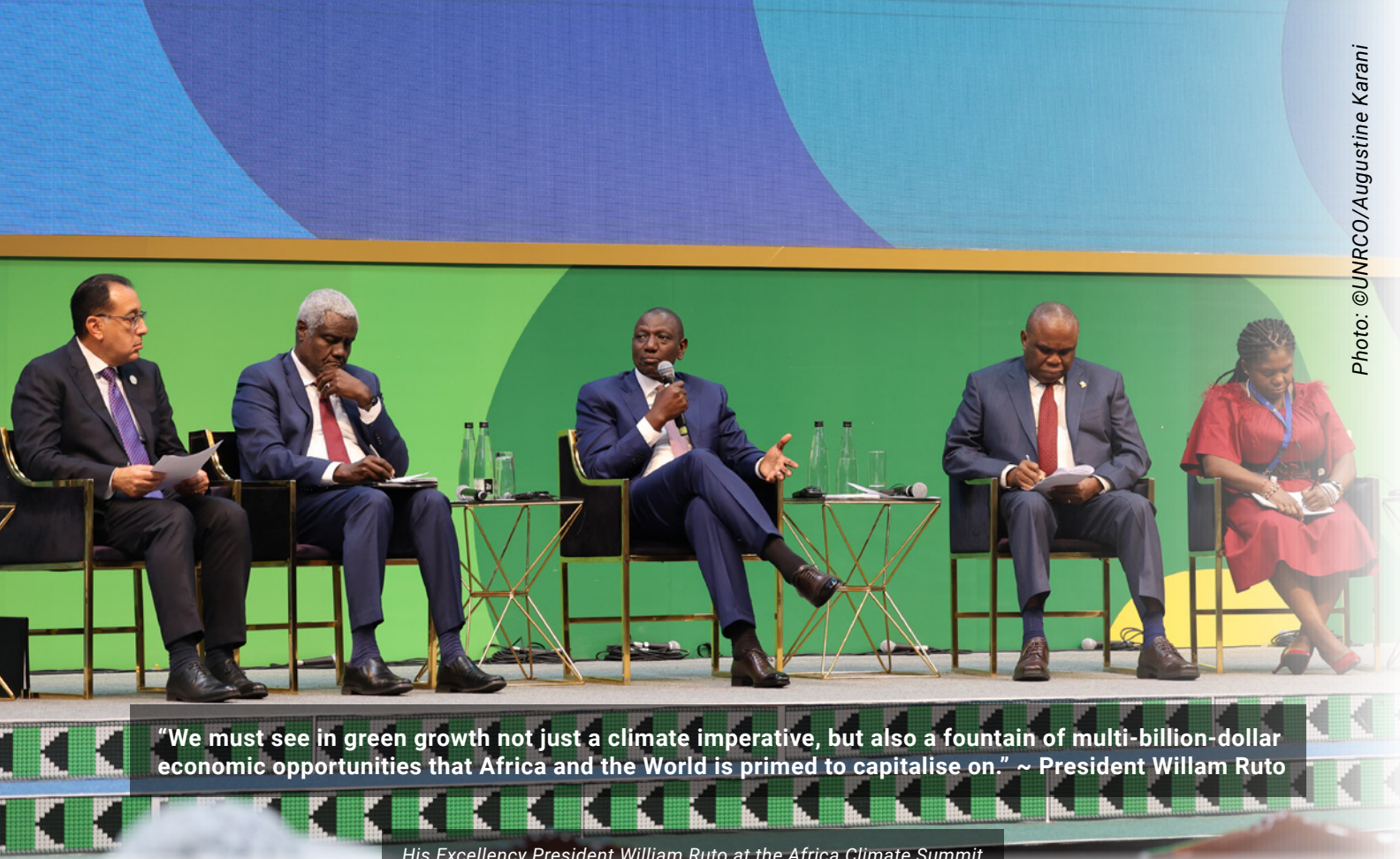


Photo: @UNRCO/Augustine Karani

"We must see in green growth not just a climate imperative, but also a fountain of multi-billion-dollar economic opportunities that Africa and the World is primed to capitalise on." ~ President Willam Ruto

His Excellency President William Ruto at the Africa Climate Summit.

2.4. More Impact with Strengthened Joint UN Kenya Action and Pooled Funding

As has been demonstrated throughout the results in this report, the UN Resident Coordinator and all heads of UN entities in the **UN Country Team Kenya have put joint action and pooled funding at the forefront of the implementation of the UNSDCF**, with the target of delivering 50% of programming through joint action over the lifetime of the framework.

For the past year, the UN and the Government of Kenya together with development partners, civil society and private sector actors have worked jointly to develop a new generation of approximately 15 Joint Programmes, each with the aim of contributing more efficiently to the realisation of the Government's development priorities and providing transformative and scaled up action for the SDGs. Throughout the inclusive co-creation process there has been a consistent focus on Leave No One Behind, with a particular attention to women and girls; children and youth; persons living in urban informal settlements; and persons living in the ASALs.

The **first 5 of these new generation joint programmes** were endorsed at the end of 2023 and are currently being rolled out. And another 7 joint programmes are in the pipeline. The joint programmes currently under implementation focus (with a total programmatic value of more than USD 165 million) on Empowering Youth; Strengthening Child and Social Protection; Strengthening Nutrition; Fighting Gender-Based Violence; and Responding to the Triple Threat (HIV/AIDS, Teenage Pregnancies and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence). The next batch of joint programmes will fall primarily under the Strategic Priority 2 "Prosperity and Planet" and will include themes such as **Integrated Water Management; the Shirika Plan; Circular Development in the Green and Blue Economies; and Biodiversity and Carbon Markets in Kenya.**

In alignment with the Global Funding Compact, the SDG Multi-Partner Trust Fund Kenya (MPTF Kenya) has continued to promote joint action through joint programmes/programming via a pooled funding mechanism. Since its inception in

June 2022, the **SDG MPTF Kenya has successfully mobilised USD 15.9 million in pooled funding** with ground breaking and strategic contributions from Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, the Netherlands and various corporations and foundations (Phillips, AstraZeneca, Conrad Hilton, Merck and Rockefeller). This pooled funding approach aims to minimise fragmentation and improve the efficiency of delivering development results at the country level through joint action across UN Kenya. The convincing start for the MPTF Kenya is a concrete example of UN reform at country level; joint action with pooled funding.

The UN has also taken steps to **improve UN coordination at the devolved county level.** Through the UN at Devolved Level Programme (2023-2026), funded by Norway and Switzerland, three coordinators embedded in the county governments will support and facilitate collaboration between UN entities and other development partners in three critical ASAL counties: Turkana, Garissa and Marsabit. The purpose is to enhance development coordination and leverage partner resources for SDG delivery at the local level.

Underpinning all the development action undertaken by UN Kenya are the internal back-office services. UN Kenya has achieved a significant milestone and become the **first UN Country Team globally to implement the Common Back Office (CBO)** initiative, underscoring a major leap towards efficiency and impact in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The CBO consolidates over 60 UN offices' back-office functions operating from the UN Office in Nairobi (UNON), including administration, human resources, procurement, IT, finance, logistics and the Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT). This "one-stop shop" model is not only a testament to Kenya's role in driving UN reforms aimed at enhancing on-the-ground teams' effectiveness but also marks a paradigm shift within the UN globally towards streamlined operations that promise direct gains for beneficiaries by reallocating saved resources to developmental programmes.



Photo: @UNRCO/Augustine Karani

Norwegian Minister of International Development, Anne Beathe Tvinning, Ambassador Gunnar Andreas Holm and the UN Resident Coordinator in Kenya, Dr. Stephen Jackson, signing an agreement for a 200 million Kenyan Shilling (15m NOK) contribution to UN Kenya through the SDG Multi Partner Trust Fund Kenya (MPTF Kenya) for more joint UN Kenya action towards sustainable green and blue economies.



Above
The Independent Panel of Advisors chaired by General Daniel Opande, presents the Peace Building Architecture Review to the Cabinet Secretary of Interior and National Administration, Professor Kithure Kindiki. UN Kenya supported the review with technical expertise and resources.

Below
The review built on consultations with more than 10,000 persons in 33 counties. This image shows a focus group discussion in Mombasa.



2.5. Evaluations and Lessons Learned

UN Kenya aims for continuous improvement and engagement to pursue optimised impact, effectiveness and efficiency. In the light of declining Official Development Assistance globally, but more importantly in the light of the actual resources needed to deliver the SDGs, UN Kenya strives to **broaden and intensify multi-stakeholder partnerships** for the implementation of our Cooperation Framework. When partnerships are designed in from the onset of an intervention, they can multiply the impact of UN action by bringing onboard private capital and philanthropists, unlocking funds from one of the global climate or environment vertical funds or by mutually reinforcing the work done by a multilateral bank. Only through this complementarity will the world and Kenya achieve the SDGs.

To ensure long-term sustainability of the results of UN interventions, UN Kenya emphasises community engagement, empowerment and ownership, ensuring that local voices lead the way towards sustainable development. UN Kenya will continue its emphasis on women and girls; children and youth; persons living in the ASALs and persons living in urban informal settlements. UN Kenya has operationalised this **Leave No One Behind** perspective consistently in the guidance to the entities for the joint programmes and in how the SDG Multi Partner Trust Fund Kenya assesses proposals for funding.

UN Kenya also drives **data disaggregation** in our online UNINFORM portal for results according to these four Leave No One Behind groups. To have these groups so clearly articulated in all key processes - from programming, to funding to results reporting and monitoring - has required a heavy lift the last year by all entities and a new way of thinking about results for UN Kenya. It's been a vital step, but more work is needed going forward - especially for the ASALs and urban informal settlements.

Kenya continues to face deep challenges from inadequate community resilience and responsiveness to shocks, compounded by droughts and floods in the wake of the global climate emergency. Kenya, like the rest of the world, is also facing the economic challenges of increased global prices for food commodities

triggered by Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. In response, UN Kenya is determined to keep increasing its focus on multi-dimensional resilience going forward. And UN Kenya will also continue strengthening collaboration across humanitarian, development and peace programming. We aim to enhance emergency responses, when needed, while at the same time fostering the long-term, green and climate smart resilience of communities and ensuring that no one is left behind.

As the financial analysis shows, our Cooperation Framework currently suffers from a considerable imbalance in financing and attention between the main priorities. Despite the massive opportunities for Kenya in the Green Transition - as highlighted, indeed, by the Africa Climate Summit - Strategic Priority 2 for Planet and Prosperity demands considerably more attention, programming and financing than it currently receives. To "move the needle" in a meaningful way in Kenya on resilience, climate-smart agriculture, or renewable energy will require the kind of investment that can only come through the multi-stakeholder partnerships described above. UN Kenya is, therefore, determined to redouble its work on these in the remaining years of this Cooperation Framework to deliver green transition at scale.

Addressing evidence and human rights-based programming remains a critical challenge, especially in targeting those at most risk of being left behind. The persistence of harmful practices such as child marriages and myths or public perceptions that deter the adoption of health services, including child immunisation, pose significant barriers to the realisation of basic human rights. Similarly, fake or skewed information online and amongst people pose a risk for efforts done to strengthening the peacebuilding architecture in Kenya: through our successful 2022 initiative around the elections to track and counter **online hate and incitement speech**, Kenya and UN Kenya learnt valuable experiences about what can work to tackle this challenge that is rapidly rising worldwide. UN Kenya is committed to advancing research and collaborating with relevant institutions to foster necessary behavioural change and ensure that facts and evidence-based action are communicated and used to overcome these

challenges. Equally, UN Kenya is committed to improving its own internal operations and work much more jointly on data. **Data-based programming** is as critical for the UN as for everyone else, as it allows for precision and enables course correction to deliver the UNSDCF.

Lastly, UN Kenya is working closely with the Government at both national and devolved levels through the **Development Partners Forum** led by His Excellency the Deputy President to strengthen

coordination and synergies and to address and resolve any governance-related bottlenecks, such as issues with absorption of development funds and administrative obstacles that might hinder effective programming and resource utilisation. UN Kenya is actively engaging with government entities to mutually improve processes to ensure the effectiveness of programme delivery, ultimately to ensure that programming reaches its intended target populations and has the intended impact for Kenya.



Photo: ©UNHCR

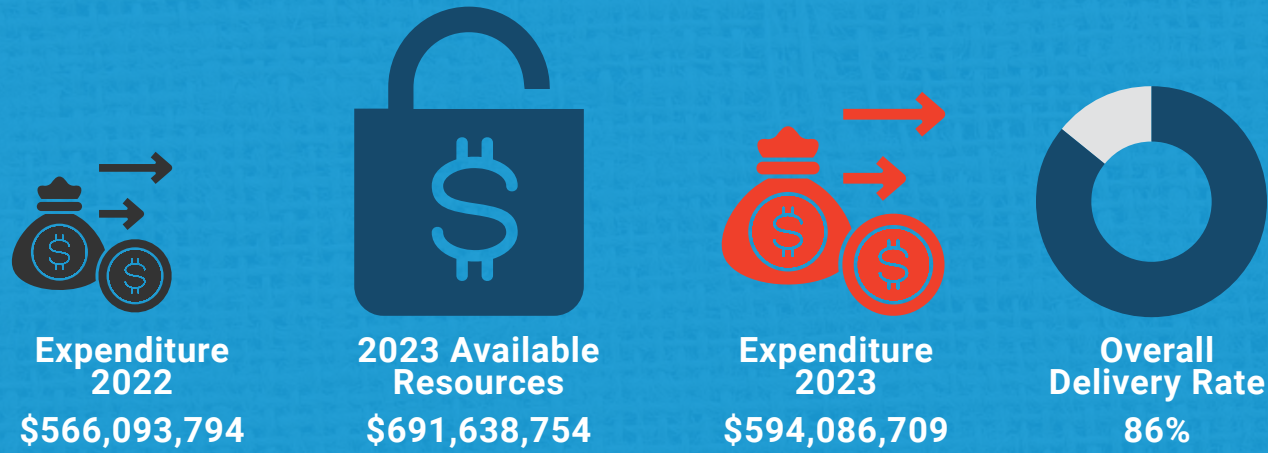
Daud Gedow Mohamed, 37, a refugee from Kabsuma, Somalia, holds his one-month-old twins at the Hagadera refugee camp hospital, in Fafi district, Garissa County, Kenya. Hagadera, one of three UN-supported camps in Garissa, is home to more than 80,000 refugees. Kenya is one of the most longstanding and generous refugee hosts globally. Currently Kenya hosts some 691,868 refugees and asylum-seekers in three main regions – Garissa County, Turkana County and Nairobi. In Dadaab Refugee Complex (which comprises Hagadera, Dagahaley and Ifo refugee camps), 320,572 persons live. The first camp was established in 1991 to help refugees fleeing civil war in Somalia. Somalian refugees account for 96.7% of all refugees and asylum-seekers in Garissa, with some 226,000 persons supported at the Dadaab complex.



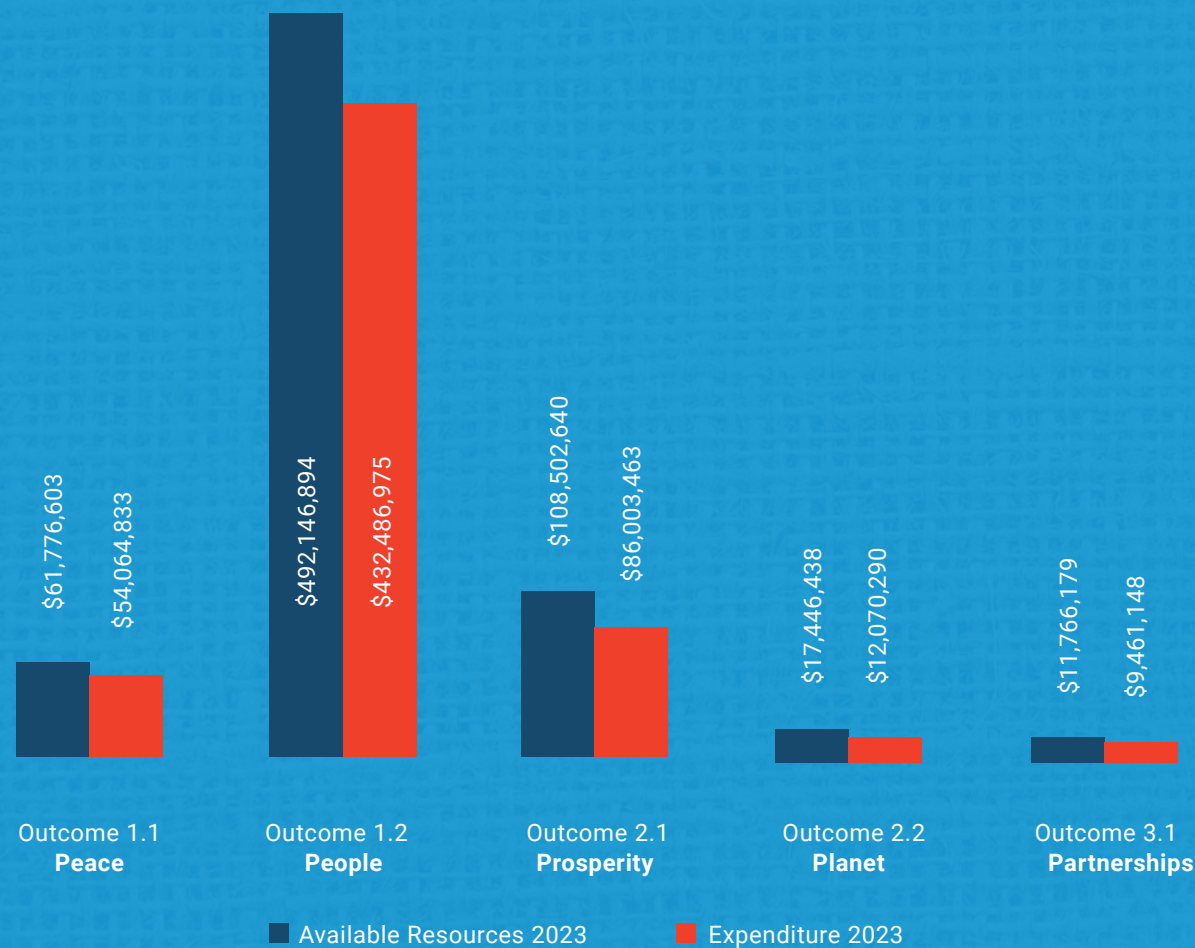
Photo: ©UNRCO/Dr. Stephen Jackson

The UN Deputy Secretary-General, Her Excellency Amina Mohammed marks the International Day of the Midwife at Pumwani Maternity Hospital, Nairobi on 5th May 2023. Over the last three decades, Kenya has reduced its overall fertility rate from 5.4 in 1993 to 3.4 children in 2022, while the "unmet need" for contraceptive services has shrunk from 35% to 14% in the same period.

2.6. UN Kenya Financial Overview



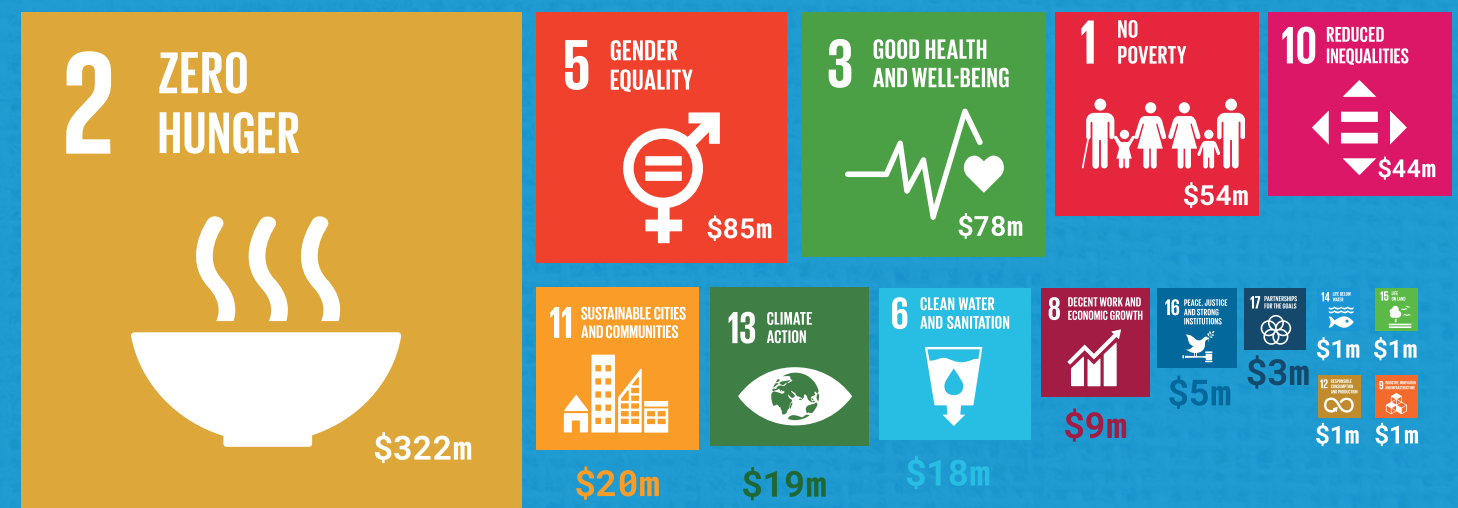
Financial Overview by Cooperation Framework Outcomes



UN Kenya Financial Footprint

Agencies	Expenditure 2023 (\$)
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	26,849,086
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	40,408,576
International Labour Organisation (ILO)	6,816,741
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	27,014,096
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	81,533,191
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	16,611,905
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)	2,224,081
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	2,283,676
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)	1,514,200
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	54,821,322
United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-HABITAT)	2,770,909
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	1,154,431
United Nations Joint Programme on HIV and AIDS Secretariat (UNAIDS)	2,069,323
United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)	45,939
United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)	2,687,370
United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)	199,033
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)	10,986,628
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	10,620,531
UN Women (UNW)	9,181,757
World Food Programme (WFP)	270,941,102
World Health Organization (WHO)	23,352,812
Grand Total	594,086,709

Where is the Money Going? Contribution to the SDGs*



*Overall estimate, some activities capture several SDGs.

3.0 Looking Ahead - UN Kenya's Ambitions for 2024

Moving to 2024, UN Kenya remains deeply committed to delivering on the strategic objectives outlined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for 2022-2026. UN Kenya is particularly proud of the close partnership with the Government of Kenya and a wide array of stakeholders. This collaborative journey is geared towards sparking transformative impact across various sectors, in strict alignment with both national aspirations and the global directive of the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs.

Among the key priorities of 2024 is the consolidation and execution of the **joint programmes** under the Cooperation Framework. As described above, the first batch of 5 transformative joint programmes –focusing on Youth, Nutrition, Gender-Based Violence, Social Protection and the Triple Threat– were approved late 2023 and will roll out early 2024 marking a significant step forward for joint UN action. A second batch focusing on Prosperity and Planet will follow close suit during the first half of 2024.

In 2024, UN Kenya will also continue its support the Kenyan Government in the development of an **"Integrated National Financing Framework"**. This framework seeks to address the challenges of fragmented financing for the SDGs by providing a holistic financing framework that strengthens coherence and coordination between financing plans, policies and strategies and extends beyond traditional public sector budgeting to include resources mobilised by all actors, including the private sector operating in Kenya.

With the joint action through joint programmes and joint programming comes the **need to increase pooled funding through the continued capitalisation of the SDG Multi-Partner Trust Fund Kenya**. In 2024, UN Kenya will also proactively pursue a **shift from funding to financing for the joint programmes** using the MPTF Secretariat housed in the RCO to support the agencies accordingly in joint analysis, outreach and tailormade support for approaching funding and financing at scale. The same effort is actively done for possible **engagement by the multilateral banks** in the UN joint programmes, or to ensure that

the UN interventions under development and the interventions supported by the multilateral banks in Kenya are mutually reinforcing and, where possible, can collaborate and complement each other.

In addition to these focal areas, the UN strategy encompasses a broad spectrum of priorities aimed at catalysing sustainable development. Enhancing data and knowledge management remains a key objective, empowering evidence-informed advocacy, programming and policymaking with the aid of digitalised platforms and innovative technologies. UN Kenya will drive a **joint UN Kenya approach to data based on the Secretary-General's Data Strategy**.

Community resilience against the backdrop of the climate emergency and other disasters is another critical area of focus. UN Kenya's efforts to bolster resilience and responsiveness to shocks coupled with the promotion of climate and green financing, reflect the commitment by UN Kenya to sustainable and community-led solutions for multi-sectoral resilience.

As can be seen from the "lessons learned", **joint action and pooled funding** are at the heart of the implementation of the Cooperation Framework. Equally, UN entities individual interventions remain highly relevant when they speak to their unique mandates. This combination enables UN Kenya to continue addressing emerging challenges and opportunities together in a closely-knit UN Country Team. Thematically, in 2023 several key joint programmes under "People and Peace", Strategic Priority 1, were launched with considerable resources attached. Similarly in 2024, UN Kenya will increase focus on "Prosperity and Planet", Strategic Priority 2. A number of key joint programmes important for "green economic and climate positive development" will be launched and thereby the resources allocated to SP2 are expected to receive more attention.

All these elements and the consistently applied Leave No One Behind lens in all that we do - show the resolve by the UN to support Kenya in its course towards a resilient, sustainable future for all.



Young Tawfiq women in Tana River County standing on a plot of land where they grow crops and use the profits to empower other women in the community. The project is supported by UN Kenya.

Photo: © IOM Kenya/Wendy Gloria



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