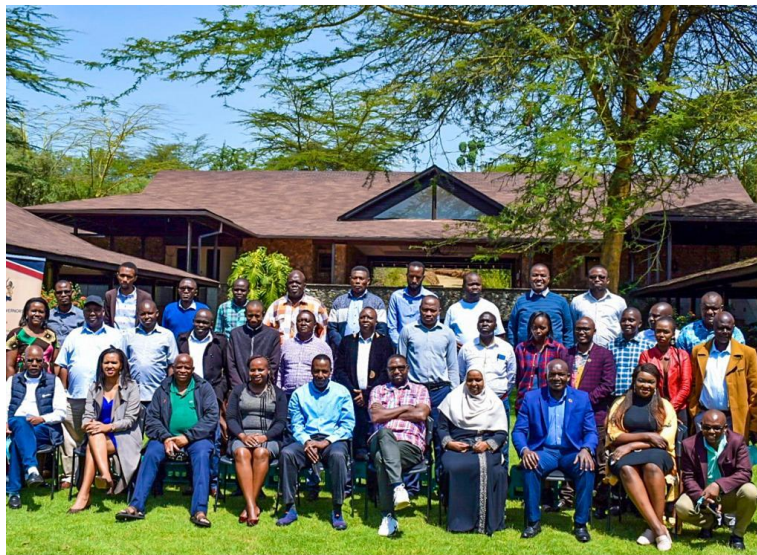




COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

REPORT ON THE CONSULATIVE MEETING WITH COUNTY SDGS CHAMPIONS AND DIRECTORS OF ECONOMIC PLANNING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF ROADMAP FOR ACCELERATING SDGS IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING FROM 21ST TO 26TH MAY 2021



Group photo with the first cluster participants



Group Photo with the second cluster participants

INTRODUCTION

County Governments' development framework is guided by the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs), which are aligned with the national Medium-Term Plans (MTPs). The current CIDPs runs from 2018 to 2022. The implementation of the CIDPs, just like the MTP 2018-2022 have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The 47 counties have reported COVID-19 infection with varied numbers. The country recorded the first case of COVID-19 on 13th March 2020 and as of 5th October 2020, Kenya had confirmed 39,449 cases. With healthcare being a devolved function, County Governments have over the last six (6) months been at the frontline in the fight against COVID-19. National and County Governments have instituted various measures to curb the spread of the disease. The measures include curfew in the whole country, cessation of movement in and out of select counties, closure of restaurants and bars, closure of certain markets, strict guidelines on the use of public transport, etc. The pandemic has had huge impact in the economic development at the county level as most of the resources have been diverted to support the response initiatives towards control of transmissions and case management. Further, economic activities have been greatly impacted leading to low incomes for communities. Consequently, the implementation of the SDGs has slowed, and gains realized so far in some goals like poverty have been reversed particularly among the vulnerable communities.

The pandemic struck when governments at the subnational level were in the middle of a fiscal year (FY). Consequently, County Governments have had to re-engineer their plans and budgets and rethink about how services are delivered across the various sectors. Additionally, coordinated response between the County Governments and the National Government has been achieved through the National Coordination Committee on the Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic (NCCRCP).

The counties will continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic while dealing with the immediate effects of the pandemic to contain, treat, flatten the curve of new infections and ensure immediate financial assistance and reprogramming of County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs).

The County Governments are in the process of developing economic recovery and re-engineering strategies to mitigate the socio-economic implications of the pandemic and prevent occurrence of a second wave. The socio-economic re-engineering and recovery strategies are aimed at medium to long-term interventions to prevent or address future disasters and support sustained development across counties.

Furthermore, county governments need to ensure that the socio-economic re-engineering strategies are anchored on the SDGs to ensure that counties recover back better from COVID-19 thus accelerating progress on the SDGs.

Recognizing the opportunity the Counties Socio-economic re-engineering and recovery strategy role in recovering better and accelerating SDGs, the COG in collaboration with UN seek to support strengthening of SDGs monitoring in the CIDPs and County Socio-economic re-engineering and recovery strategies.

There is consensus that the local dimension of the SDGs means that counties are not merely implementing agencies, and that their challenges and opportunities in achieving the SDGs deserve special recognition. For instance, 65% of the SDG agenda may not be fully achieved without the involvement of counties and local actors. The localisation of the SDGs is even more important in Kenya's counties, as these are the places where most citizens live, and poverty is prevalent.

Thus, the workshop was held to work on modalities of mainstreaming and monitoring the SDGs and the COVID-19 socio-economic re-engineering and recovery strategies in the CIDPs.

The objectives of the workshop were:

- a) To understand how Covid-19 has impacted on SDGs implementation across the Counties.

- b) To review various approaches and best practice adopted by Counties to support building better back from the impacts of COVID-19.
- c) To develop strategies and action plans for mainstreaming and monitoring the SDGs in the COVID-19 socio-economic re-engineering and recovery plans.
- d) To develop strategies for accelerating SDGs implementation.

The workshop was held in Naivasha from 21st to 26th May 2021 in two clusters of County governments with the first involving 24 Counties and the second group 23 Counties in line with the Covid-19 control protocol.

The workshop was facilitated by a team of experts from UN and selected members from the SDGs Inter Agency Technical Working Group. The workshop was attended by 81 participants 27 Female and 54 Male.

OPENING SESSION

Remarks by UNDP, CoG, State Department of Planning, Academia, County Representative, parliamentary Caucus on SDGs and business

The opening remarks by the various institutions highlighted the following:

- ✓ Urgent needs for county governments to develop SDGs acceleration action plans to support fast tracking of SDGs implementation
- ✓ Voluntary local reviews are essential in supporting tracking progress of SDGs implementation
- ✓ County officers to transfer knowledge by organizing county level sensitization using the information acquired in such trainings
- ✓ Covid-19 has had huge impact on SDGs implementation and much of the data contained in the VNR for 2020 is not accurate
- ✓ UN Framework for the immediate socio-economic response to covid-19 has prioritized health services, social protection, economic response and recovery, macro-economic response, social cohesion and community resilience
- ✓ The Parliamentary Caucus on SDGs is pushing for inclusion of vulnerable groups in decision making

- ✓ There is need for County governments to mainstream the covid-19 socio-economic and recovery strategy in their CIDPs to facilitate resource allocation for implementation



Participants engaging in plenary discussion during the workshop

Presentation by Florence Syevuo, National Coordinator SDGs Kenya Forum

Highlighted the following:

- ✓ The importance of experience sharing between Counties on development implementation and coordination.
- ✓ The Importance... no, THE NEED for a Multi Stakeholder & inclusive Approach in the SDGs is the Golden key
- ✓ Structured Involvement of Civil Society in County Development Processes
- ✓ Citizen Driven accountability at the core of SDGs processes

- ✓ Widening data and statistic sources, further analyze & disseminate data for SDGs
Monitoring and reporting
- ✓ Innovative approaches for SDGs acceleration & Implementation eg SDGs Taskforce
Makueni County peer to peer learning & documentation of best practices across
sectors.
- ✓ The need to strengthen National and Sub National Level engagements and
coordination.

Presentation by Rogers Dhlwayo, aligning County covid-19 response to the SDGs

- ✓ Covid-19 pandemic may increase projected poverty head of a given area by 16
percentage points depending on severity
- ✓ Channels of effect from covid-19 include loss of income due to illness , changes in
wage earnings, reduction ion remittances and increase in food prices of highly
import dependent food items
- ✓ When combined, these channels may increase the projected poverty head count
by 4 percentage points to 16 percentage points depending on severity according
to World Bank, 2020.
- ✓ The effect of covid-19 is larger on urban households, often equalizing urban and
rural poverty rates in the same locations with the most affected sub-locations
tending to be in Nairobi and surrounding Counties
- ✓ Despite falling poverty rates, more than half of Kenya’s population is vulnerable to
falling into poverty in the near term.
- ✓ Vulnerability rates fell faster in rural than in urban areas, but the rural vulnerability
rate (56%) still significantly exceeds the urban rate (42%)
- ✓ Vulnerability is most common in households that derive most of their income from
agriculture and those with low levels of education.

Presentation on the Covid-19 Socio-economic reengineering and recovery strategy by Ken Oluoch, CoG

- ✓ COG with the technical input by KIPPRA and the support from UNDP led the process of development of the County Covid-19 Socio-economic reengineering and recovery strategy
- ✓ The County Covid-19 reengineering and recovery strategy is anchored on the Vision 2030, MTP III and the CIDP which provide the framework for County budget allocation
- ✓ The strategy is embedded in the principles of response, recovery and thriving
- ✓ The strategy is anchored in the following pillars:
 - Boosting private sector activity
 - Human capital development
 - Policy Legislative and institutional reforms
 - Strengthening County governments preparedness and response to pandemics and disasters
- ✓ The key sectors of focus in the strategy include: Health, Education, Agriculture, social protection, Gender and youth, urban development and housing, Transport, Tourism, water and sanitation, and natural resource management.
- ✓ The strategy also proposes the need to enhance existing or create innovative interventions which have multiplier effect on productivity and employment creation through economic stimulus packages
- ✓ The strategy proposes economic packages in the areas of: infrastructure, information and communication, environment and solid waste management, waivers/concessions (cess, single business permits, water bills, parking, market fees etc.), prioritization of settlement of pending bills, subsidized farm inputs, provision of extension services, and creation of Covid-19 revolving fund.

**Presentation on demystifying the localization of SDGs in Kenya by Rogers Dhliwayo,
UNDP**

- ✓ Localization of SDGs entails integrating the SDGs in the design, implementation and monitoring of the County integrated development plans (CIDPs) and putting Counties at the Centre of the SDGs.
- ✓ County governments and other actors are crucial to ensure the process is inclusive and accountable.
- ✓ Opportunities provided by VLRs
 - VLR allow local government to listen to the needs of its people and reflect them into local policy making
 - VLR invites self-reflection, by diagnosing the state and pointing to the pathways for a better localization of the SDGs
 - VLR provides for a process that is data driven and can be used to plan for action to achieve the future we want
 - VLR gives a local take on the global conversation on sustainable development

Measuring sustainable development goals performance with SDG dashboard and indices

- ✓ The 2030 Agenda requires that all review processes apply the following principles: voluntary and country led; focused on universal, integrated and interrelated goals and targets including means of implementation; long term oriented; open, inclusive, participatory and transparent for all peoples; people centered, gender sensitive, and respect, protect and promote human rights; with a particular focus on the people who are poorest, most vulnerable and left furthest.
- ✓ There is need for engagement of all stakeholders around decision making and in data generation and use cycle for M&E of policy implementation
- ✓ Visualization is an impactful way of disseminating data because it makes it easier to understand data better and make better decisions.

- ✓ SDGs interactive dash board and index are a data driven initiative that supports tracking and monitoring of the SDGs
- ✓ An analysis of the SDGs implementation in Kenya using the dash board indicates that only SDGs 13 is on track or maintaining SDGs achievement with the rest stagnating or moderately improving and information unavailable to analyze others (SDGs 10,12 and 14).

Presentation by Julius Chokerah on Prioritizing SDGs accelerators: What transformations are needed

- ✓ Accelerators are a pivotal interventions or a suite of interventions which have a substantial and positive multiplier effect on SDG delivery
- ✓ The acceleration approach was born out of a need to rapidly progress lagging development goals.
- ✓ The opportunity for invoking the accelerator approach to rapidly progress key aspect of the Agenda 2030 and the associated SDGs presently exist because out of the 10 SDG 14 targets, four are due by 2020 (14.2, 14.4, 14.5 and 14.6) and one by 2025 (14.1)
- ✓ There is need for accelerator approaches to be articulated in a way in which policy makers can judge the relevance and appropriateness of this approach, among other policy options for their national circumstances and context
- ✓ Accelerators should be aligned to the national processes and priorities through a participatory analytical process while incorporating emergent and integrated courses of action which optimize investment and implementation.
- ✓ There is need to identify the way different SDGs affect each other and how the design of interventions can create positive ripple effects across multiple SDGs while identifying accelerators

Presentation on SDGs partnership and development finance by Zeinabu Khalif, PHD

- ✓ Financing of SDGs is at cross roads with impacts of Covid-19 pandemics which has exacerbated inequalities disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable e.g. women, PWDs

- ✓ Unprecedented crisis response measures provide an opportunity to change course and put the world on the more sustainable, inclusive and risk informed development trajectory
- ✓ Globally resources required for SDGs annually is approx. USD 5-7 trillion and investment gap of 2.5 trillion
- ✓ Task force on Addis Ababa action agenda identified resource constraints for SDGs and Paris agreement resulting from: uneven economic growth and unsustainable pattern of production and consumption, limited fiscal space and institutional capacity to formulate bankable SDG investment projects with weak financial systems, misaligned incentives and regulations-impeding private investments, ODA commitments unmet, and increasing debts
- ✓ Resources are limited and therefore its important to build a coalition to achieve higher results by optimizing financial resources, human and natural resources.
- ✓ Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) emphasizes: domestic public resources, domestic and international private business and finance, international development cooperation, international trade, debt and debt sustainability

Presentation on the transformation needed for SDGs acceleration in light of Covid-19 by Prof. Gituro Wainaina

- ✓ The Covid-19 has had an huge negative impact on the vulnerable groups with projected changes in poverty
- ✓ As the County Governments to seek bounce back from the impact of Covid-19 pandemic, there is need for them to exploit their comparative advantages e.g. Homa-Bay could invest more in fishing and cotton farming, Nyandarua –Potatoes,
- ✓ County governments need to leverage on current and future innovations ICT such as e-government, huduma centres, county information and resource centres, and integrated population registration systems
- ✓ County governments should collect, collate, disaggregate, analyze, publish and disseminate data/information at County levels
- ✓ County governments should use efficiently the resources they have and got other than

Group work

The session for group work was to enable county governments to identify acceleration priorities and develop county specific action plans, acceleration solutions while noting the challenges. Some Counties came together in regional blocs to undertake the group work.

Key proposals from the group work on acceleration priorities:

- ✓ Enhanced agricultural production and agribusiness through subsidies for agricultural input and strengthened extension services (provision of certified seeds, training of farmers on modern agricultural practices)
- ✓ Improved accessibility to clean and safe water
- ✓ Social protection by support to old people home and children's home
- ✓ Improved health care and strengthening community health outreach through training and capacity building of Community health volunteers
- ✓ Industrialization, innovation and infrastructure
- ✓ Support to education through investment in school feeding programme and expansion of the bursary programme
- ✓

Plenary discussions and Group work

- ✓ A handbook on documentation of SDGs good practices has been developed by the SDGs directorate in collaboration with various stakeholders. The handbook should support documentation of good practices in SDGs implementation in Kenya
- ✓ The County governments reflected on their comparative advantages and noted that appropriate investments have not been made by Counties to fully exploit their comparative advantages. County governments highlighted their comparative advantages Homa- bay – Tourism, fishing; Busia- Finger millet farming, Border posts, cage fishing; Kericho – Tea, Milk production, sweet potatoes; Nairobi – Dairy farming, manufacturing; Migori – sugar cane farming; Wajir –Livestock farming, gums and resins, bee keeping
- ✓ There is need to hold county level training to sensitize all county officers on the SDGs
- ✓ County governments have set up various measures in response to the covid-19 pandemic as outlined in the covid-19 socio-economic reengineering and recovery strategy

Way forward and next steps

1. Quarterly meetings to be held with County SDGs champions with the next proposed for August 2021
2. County SDGs champions and the Directors of economic planning to review the handbook for documentation of SDGs practice and share comments by 2nd June 2021
3. All Counties to finalize their county acceleration action and share

4. Need to have county level engagement with all stakeholders in development of Voluntary Local Reports
5. A follow up meeting to be held with all the County SDGs champions in August 2021

ANNEXES

BOMET COUNTY ACCELERATION AND BOTTLENECK ANALYSIS

ACCELERATION PRIORITIES	COUNTY SPECIFIC ACTION PLANS	ACCELERATION SOLUTIONS	CHALLENGES
Food security	-Provide certified seeds to farmers to boost production (maize, sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes)	-County assembly to allocate more funds -Collaborate with learning institution to carry out research	-Resistance to new modern farming by farmers -Inadequate funds -Lack of Political will -Political transition
	-provide subsidized pasture seeds to farmers		
	-Provide subsidized chicken feeds		
	-Train chicken farmers on modern poultry keeping techniques		
	-Provide animal husbandry		
Education	-Provide feeding programmes in all ECD centers county wide	-Mobilize more own source revenue to finance programmes -Policy on feeding programme	-unsustainability of the programme
	-Partner with Tea companies to sponsor needy students	Develop policy	Inadequate funds
	-Broaden the bursary programmes to include private sectors, NGOs and CSOs		

Health Care Services	-Establish customer care center in health facilities and hospitals	Capacity build personnel and deploy	Inadequate guiding framework
	-Build capacity by recruiting staff for community health units	Supply with necessary materials e,g uniforms, manuals and provide stipend	Poor or no remuneration

KISII, HOMABAY AND MIGORI COUNTY ACCELERATION AND BOTTLENECK ANALYSIS

ACCELERATION PRIORITIES	COUNTY SPECIFIC ACTION PLANS	ACCELERATION SOLUTIONS	CHALLENGES
Enhanced agricultural production and agribusiness (SDG 1, 2, 12)	Improve food productivity	Provide farm inputs Capacity build farmers on SMART farming	Inadequate funds inadequate extension services
	Value addition	Putting up Agro-processing industries	Inadequate funds Unfavorable legal framework for PPPs
	Enhanced marketing	Linking to farmers to markets Encourage farmers to form cooperatives	Poor road network Double taxation Insufficient information on available market opportunities
Access to quality health care (SDG 3)	Improved Health infrastructure.	Construction of health facilities.	Delayed disbursements of funds.

		<p>Rehabilitation of existing health facilities.</p> <p>Equipping the health facilities</p> <p>Automation of health systems</p>	<p>Inadequate funds</p> <p>Failure to comply to existing policies</p>
	Enhanced human resource	<p>Recruitment of qualified health personnel in all cadres</p> <p>Sponsoring the medical staff for specialized training.</p>	Ballooning wage bill
	Provision of adequate Pharmaceutical and Non Pharmaceutical commodities	<p>Partnering with relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Automation of Drug distribution</p>	
	Improved medical coverage	<p>Encourage registration into NHIF scheme and private insurers</p> <p>Sensitization of the general public on the importance of insurance schemes</p>	<p>Non compliance to remit payment</p> <p>Low uptake of insurance schemes</p>
Improve accessibility to clean and safe water to all (SDG 6)	Improved infrastructure	Rehabilitation of the existing distribution lines	<p>Unfavorable topography</p> <p>Vandalism of water pipes</p> <p>Inadequate sustainability mechanisms</p>

	Increasing accessibility	Construction of new water points Encourage rain water harvesting and proper storage	Inadequate funds Inadequate technical skills Unfavorable climatic conditions
--	--------------------------	--	--

*Membership drawn from (Kisii, Homabay and Migori Counties)

ACCELERATION AND BOTTLENECK ANALYSIS

EMBU AND NYANDARUA COUNTIES

ACCELERATION PRIORITIES	COUNTY SPECIFIC ACTION PLANS	ACCELERATION SOLUTIONS	CHALLENGES
Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Hold sensitization meetings for stakeholders on SDGs -Provision of IEC materials on SDGs -Reporting and Dissemination of SDGs progress 	Creation of awareness on SDGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Limited resources -Lack of Political goodwill -Ignorance
Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Prioritization of high multiplier SDGs in Annual Plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Periodic reviews of plans -Periodic Surveys and Reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rent seeking -Changing priorities -Unpredictability of funding
Quality data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Data Collection and collation -Data Analysis -Dissemination of SDG related information (Indicators) 	Setting up of an updated integrated Statistical database	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Lack of disaggregated data -Lack updated data

ACCELERATION AND BOTTLENECK ANALYSIS

WAJIR COUNTY

ACCELERATION PRIORITIES	COUNTY SPECIFIC ACTION PLANS	ACCELERATION SOLUTIONS	CHALLENGES
Health services focusing on maternal health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human resources development and retention • At least 30% of budget allocation to Health services • Sensitization of county leadership on SDGs and other development goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operationalizing all maternal health centres and dispensaries by equipping and staffing • Partnerships with CSOs for mobilization and advocacy to uplift uptake of services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate staff • High staff turnover • Weak and unstructured engagement with partners
Enterprise development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing Value Chains in Agriculture and Livestock where the county has comparative advantage: Camel Milk and leather; Indigenous Chicken • Expanding vocational Skills opportunities for youth • Streamline Enterprise Revolving Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting production and marketing cooperative groups • Extensions services • Local breeds improvement • Free vocational training in all the County VTCs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak Policy and legal framework • Low uptake of vocational training opportunities • Weak communication and awareness creation strategy
Disaster Risks Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of early warning systems • Capacity building of the Disaster management directorate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water harvesting structures • Water distribution and reticulation • Completion of spatial plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource conflicts • Clan politics • Weak early warning systems

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional enhancement to bring onboard all stakeholders and partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal and policy framework for conflicts prevention and management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak resolution mechanisms
Data and M&E systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop requisite policy and legal framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissemination and sensitization for key stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak policy and institutional framework