KENYA

AFRICA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Kenya is a unitary republic. Currently, its 47 county governments are its only form of elected and autonomous local governments. Counties are subdivided into other levels of decentralization, which include urban areas and cities, sub-counties, wards, and village units - but they are directly administered by county authorities.[1]

Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).[2]

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

In 2016, the government directed ministries, departments and agencies to mainstream the SDGs into their policy and to prepare biennial Status Reports on SDG implementation. The **Third Medium Term Plan (MTP III) 2018-2022** of **Kenya Vision 2030** was prepared through a consultative process, and mainstreamed SDGs within the strategic policy areas of the country.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **SDGs Coordination Directorate** in the State Department for Planning is the focal point that coordinates SDGs activities in Kenya. It is supported by the **Inter-Agency Technical Committee (IATC)**. The IATC is composed of members from the ministries, departments and agencies, the **Council of Governors (CoG)**, United Nations Agencies, CSOs, the private sector, academia, research organizations and other stakeholders. Counties, in collaboration with the national government, are currently strengthening **local SDGs coordination** mechanisms through establishment of coordination frameworks (see below).

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

Consultations were carried out with stakeholders through workshops and online platforms for them to present a draft report. The **SDGs Coordination Directorate** in collaboration with the UN provided capacity building for the stakeholders during the VNR preparation in 2020. Submissions were received from the civil society represented by the SDGs Kenya Forum, the private sector represented by KEPSA, the National Youth Council for the youths, LRGs through the Council of Governors (CoG), Parliamentary Caucus on SDGs and Business for Parliament, and the UN country team. A series of other workshops were held to further review and identify the remaining gaps.

1.3 MONITORING

Kenya has identified 131 indicators out of the 232 global indicators that can be monitored with the available data. National complementary indicators have also been developed based on the MTP III priorities. The complementary indicators are tracked through the NIMES (National Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System). The government is also developing the Kenya Strategy for Development of Statistics (KSDS) 2019/20-2022/23 anchored on MTP III. SDG monitoring is institutionalized with a comprehensive progress report prepared biennially. The National Statistics Bureau has established offices in each of the 47 counties to coordinate statistical capacity building programmes at the subnational level and ensure that international standards are applied in the production and dissemination of county statistics for monitoring.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

County governments have mainstreamed the SDGs in their County Integrated Development Plans (2018-2022), which

1. See: https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI_2019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf
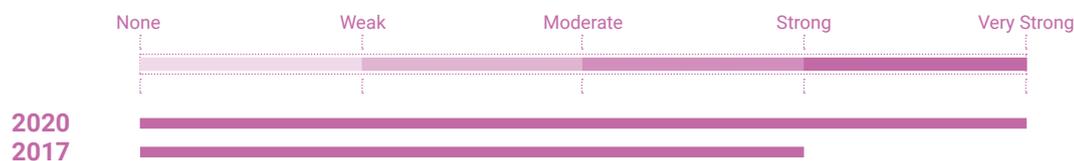2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15689Kenya.pdf (2017);
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26359VNR_2020_Kenya_Report.pdf (2020)

domesticate the national MTP at the subnational level, and in the Annual Development Plans (ADPs). The **Council of Governors (CoG)** took several actions to implement the SDGs at the subnational level. It established **County SDGs Coordination Units** across all the 47 counties with SDGs Liaison Office (SLO) to work closely with the SDGs Coordination Department at the national government, seeking to ensure proper coordination and implementation of the SDGs between the two levels of government. Counties have appointed and inducted County **SDGs Champions** to steer the process of SDGs implementation and awareness rising.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

▶ **In the VNR process**

None	Weak	Moderate	Strong	Very Strong

2020
2017

Comments: The COG was part of multi-stakeholder workshops to develop the report and define a road map (GTF Survey 2020).

▶ **In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation**

None	Weak	Moderate	Strong	Very Strong

2020
2017

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNRs and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

County governments are mentioned throughout the 2020 VNR, not only for the VNR elaboration process, but also as important stakeholders involved in SDG implementation. There is a specific section dedicated to the CoG and subnational governments as part of the presentation of the Multi-Stakeholders' Partnerships to Implement the SDGs.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

▶ The Open Institute collaborated with the county governments of **Makueni, Elgeyo Marakwet, Kiambu** and **West Pokot** to provide a technology platform to open data and to strengthen citizen engagement. The Open County Platform was developed for the county management teams to manage development results more effectively as well as provide a platform for engaging citizens and to receive feedback.[3]

2.4 VOLUNTARY SUBNATIONAL AND/OR LOCAL REVIEWS (VSRs / VLRs)

Five Kenyan counties developed VLRs in 2019: **Busia, Kwale, Marsabit, Kisumu** and **Taita Taveta counties.**[4] In 2020, the **Council of Governors (CoG)**, in partnership with the **Counties Assembly Forum (CAF)**, produced a VSR to provide a more comprehensive analysis of the progress made in the localization of the SDGs. The VSR was annexed to the 2020 VNR.[5]

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Capacity building is organized at the subnational level since most SDGs represent devolved functions. The 2020 VNR acknowledges that expenditures and investments in sustainable development are being devolved to the county level which lack adequate technical and technological capacity, financing and support. The national government, in collaboration with the CoG and the UN, has been engaging the subnational government through workshops. The target group are the officers in charge of planning, budgeting and monitoring. 150 officers from all the 47 counties have been trained.[6]

3. See: www.opencounty.org
4. See: https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Busia%20County%20(2019)_0.pdf ;
https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Kwale%20County%20(2019).pdf ;
https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Marsabit%20County%20(2019)_0.pdf ;
https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Taita%20Taveta%20County%20(2019).pdf
5. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/kenya_2020.pdf
6. The goal of this training was to strengthen the capacities of the officers in localizing and mainstreaming SDGs in planning, budgeting, implementation and monitoring. This training addresses awareness creation, stakeholder mapping and engagement, development of SDGs based strategies, tracking and reporting.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 2020 VNR emphasizes the role of subnational governments for the next steps, mentioning that they have a critical role in the implementation of the SDGs: "this implies that the capacity of the sub-national government officers must be enhanced for effective engagement and managing local communities and other stakeholders at that level". The focus will be on developing effective collaborations with those who would ordinarily not be engaged including people with disabilities, young people, women and older persons, and different income groups.

From the GTF Survey in 2020, some specific challenges can be extracted from the CoG's answer: slow operationalization of the monitoring and evaluation system by some subnational governments; poor data management capacity; and political transitions in counties and changing priorities.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Various legal and policy frameworks have been implemented at the national level to fight against inequalities, discrimination and violence suffered by women. Regarding their participation in politics, the report mentions the proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments. Overall, women represent 9.2% of the 1,835 individuals elected in 2017, which slightly exceeds the results of the previous elections (7.7% in 2013). More specifically, in 2017, 6.4% of elected county governors were women, 14.9% were deputy governors, 33.9% were county executive committee members and 33.9% were members of county assemblies. In 2019, the number of women elected county governors decreased (4.3%), while the number of women elected deputy governors increased (17.4%).

3.2 COVID 19

The 2020 VNR mentions some of the measures taken by the government to deal with the health crisis, and summarizes predictions of the effects of COVID-19 on the implementation of the SDGs. There is no reference to local initiatives.

4. SDG INDICATORS[7]

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		33.5 (2018)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	58 (2020)
	Rural	-
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	29 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		46.5 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		32.5 (2015, Nairobi)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		26.6 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-