



# SDG-Monitoring in Other Countries

## Kenya

Kenya is one of the fastest growing economies on the African continent. Significant political and economic reforms in recent years have contributed to social development and political stability.<sup>1</sup> Nevertheless, Kenya faces problems such as high levels of poverty, inequality and climate change and its effects. These and other challenges are to be overcome with the implementation of the national development plan Kenya Vision 2030 and the Agenda 2030.

# The Launch of the 2030 Agenda in Kenya

In Kenya, the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are closely linked to the national Vision 2030. Vision 2030 was implemented by the Kenyan government in 2008 as a long-term development strategy.<sup>2</sup> After the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, the Kenyan government commissioned a study to examine the extent to which Vision 2030 is suitable for implementing the SDGs. The study concludes that Vision 2030 takes into account almost all official indicators (97 percent) of the SDGs and is therefore a suitable instrument for national implementation.<sup>3</sup> In concrete terms, implementation takes place through five-year Medium Term Plans (MTPs) that have different focal points. The current MTP III (2018-2022) focuses on the provision of housing, universal healthcare, job creation in manufacturing and food security.<sup>4</sup>

In addition to being linked to Vision 2030, the SDGs have also been included in the strategic plans of the country's ministries and other government institutions, both at national and sub-national level (SDG mainstreaming).<sup>5</sup> For example, the Marsabit District Development Plan 2018-2022 explicitly integrated measures to implement the SDGs. To this end, special funding programs and scholarships for disadvantaged groups and programs to improve the availability of drinking water were introduced, among other things.<sup>6</sup>

## Public Participation in Political Decisions-Making in Kenya

*Since 2010 there has been a new constitution in Kenya, which ensures public participation in decision-making processes and legislative projects and lists this as a national value in Article 10.2(a). Article 118 of the constitution mandates the parliament to set up opportunities for citizens to participate in important decisions.<sup>7</sup> In the case of the MTPs, for example, participation was ensured through consultation forums at district level and various sectoral working groups.<sup>8</sup>*

*Although marginalized groups are also institutionally involved, in reality they usually have little influence because the opportunities for participation provided are not inclusive enough. This is due to, for example, limited access to meeting background documents, lack of inclusive communication, inaccessibility of meeting locations or logistical challenges.<sup>9</sup>*



## How Does Kenya Measure the Implementation Status?

Every two years, the government prepares a comprehensive progress report. In these reports, the government provides information about the SDG indicators, evaluates the implementation status of the individual goals, points out measures and programs that have been introduced and addresses existing challenges. The next planned steps are also described in the report.<sup>10</sup> Kenya has presented the implementation status of the SDGs twice (2017 and 2020) at the annual High Level Political Forum (HLPF), a UN body for the coordination of global sustainability policy. The State Department for Planning within the Department of Finance and Planning is responsible for writing the National Progress Reports and Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) for the HLPF. However, there are many more actors (civil society organisations, private sector, academia, human rights organisations, etc.) involved in the process and the report relies heavily on input from the various stakeholders. In consultation with their members, umbrella organizations from the various fields create regular reports on the contributions of their area to the implementation of the SDGs and the challenges they have experienced, parts of which are included in the official report.<sup>11</sup> In the VNR 2020, the comprehensive report by civil society, which, in addition to the monitoring progress, contains recommendations to politicians for better implementation of the 2030 Agenda, was linked directly in the appendix of the official report.<sup>12</sup> Before publication, the official report was reviewed by representatives of the state and checked and validated by non-state actors.<sup>13</sup>



# Which Actors Play a Role?

The official government body responsible for implementing the SDGs in Kenya is called the Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Directorate. It is based in the planning department of the Ministry of Finance and Planning. This institution is responsible for SDG mainstreaming in politics, the implementation and budget for the SDGs at national and sub-national level as well as for monitoring and reporting on the sustainability goals.<sup>14</sup> The directorate is supported by the IATWC, the Inter-Agency Technical Working Committee, a committee set up in 2016. Government representatives share the chair with representatives from the private sector and civil society organisations. The IATWC brings together representatives from ministries, local governments, parliament, the private sector, business, civil society, the United Nations (UNDP) and academia.

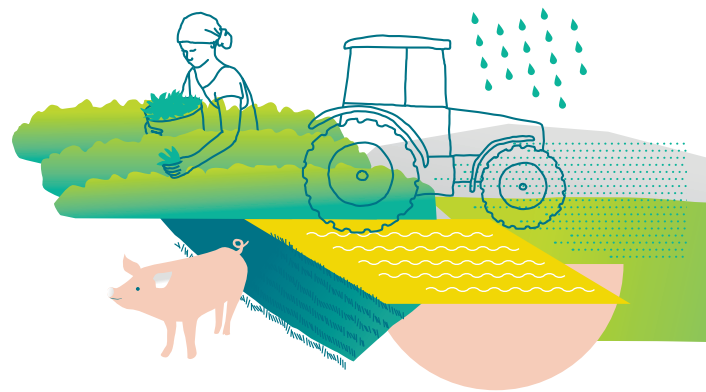
The participation of the various interest groups is institutionalized by the respective umbrella organizations of the groups. These include the Parliamentary Committee on SDGs and Business, the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA), the SDG Kenya Forum as a civil society representative organisation, the Council of Governors for the sub-national governments and the National Youth Council.<sup>15</sup> For SDG monitoring at the local level, an SDG Unit was founded within the Council of Governors, which has developed guidelines for the development of an integrated monitoring system for the districts and is currently working on its implementation.<sup>16</sup> However, coordination between the national and sub-national levels of government is often difficult, which poses a challenge for SDG monitoring. Frequent staff changes in politics and administration also make it difficult to monitor progress.<sup>17</sup>

## „Leave No One Behind“ in Kenya

*Some particularly vulnerable groups in Kenya appear to have been decoupled from the positive developments in the area of poverty reduction in recent years. The Civil Society Progress Report 2020 describes ten of Kenya's 47 districts as particularly at risk of poverty. Many of the households affected by food insecurity live in rural areas, particularly in the arid and semi-arid districts of northern Kenya. Women, children, people with disabilities, the elderly and residents of slums are also particularly at risk of poverty and hunger. When it comes to healthcare, groups such as male sex workers, drug addicts, and trans people are often left behind as they are criminalized and face discrimination and stigma as a result. Underage mothers and girls who are forced into marriage or suffer genital mutilation are particularly at risk of having to leave school prematurely in the education sector.<sup>18</sup>*

*There are various initiatives in Kenya to better represent the groups who are at risk of being left behind in the monitoring. For example, a collaboration emerged between the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) and the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS). Together, the organizations analyzed disaggregated data to find out which groups in Kenya are most at risk of neglect. For example, the KNCHR pointed to the vulnerability of intersex children, children from indigenous communities and stateless people and called for them to be included separately in national statistics. Building on this collaboration, the 2019 census included the intersexual category for the first time alongside the male and female categories. People with albinism were also recorded for the first time.<sup>19</sup>*

*Kenya is one of the pilot countries of the "Leave No One Behind" project. The joint project of international civil society organizations uses Citizen Generated Data to fill knowledge gaps and to better understand local causes of vulnerability and marginalization. To this end, numerous national NGOs and civil society platforms as well as community organizations are working together in Kenya. More information about the project can be found here: <https://icscentre.org/our-work/leave-no-one-behind/>*



# Cooperation of Different Actors in Monitoring

Kenya is often cited as a positive example of the cooperation between different actors in SDG monitoring.<sup>20</sup> However, civil society organizations criticize the fact that the voices of cultural and traditional institutions are not sufficiently incorporated into the monitoring in Kenya. This applies both to official government reports and to reports from civil society itself. Ghana, Tanzania and Sierra Leone, for example, would do it better.<sup>21</sup> The 2020 civil society report also criticizes the government for not providing any information on the allocation of resources for SDG implementation. Organizations involved in monitoring progress also point out that they see a need for better training in the implementation of monitoring processes. In the civil society SDG Progress Report 2020, 73 percent of the organizations surveyed indicated that they still need to build more capacity in this area.<sup>23</sup>

## New Ways of Acquiring Data

The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) conducts surveys to provide data for as many of the 231 official SDG indicators as possible. The KNBS has set up branches in each of the 47 districts of Kenya to collect data.<sup>24</sup> In the VNR 2020, information was provided on 131 of the 231 global indicators.<sup>25</sup> In addition to the official statistics of the KNBS, citizen-generated data (CGD) makes an important contribution in Kenya Closing data gaps. Citizen-generated data is “data that people or their organizations produce to directly monitor, make demands, or initiate change on issues that affect them. They are actively made available by the citizens and offer a direct representation of their perspectives and an alternative to data sets collected by governments or international institutions”.<sup>26</sup> In the context of the SDGs, civil society actors in particular point out that through the use of CGD transparency and participation can be strengthened.<sup>27</sup> Data collected by citizens can contribute to the fact that the number of indicators that can be reported on in the progress reports is constantly growing. The KNBS actively promotes CGD and strives for further operationalization and institutionalization.<sup>28</sup>

### Citizen Generated Data Projects in Kenya

**Usawa Agenda:** The non-profit organization conducts large-scale, community-based and household-based assessments of children's literacy and numeracy levels. (Homepage: <https://usawaagenda.org/>).

**School Report Card Kenya:** The project, initiated by the National Taxpayers Association (NTA) in Kenya, enables the quality of education to be monitored by allowing parents to regularly rate their children's schools in various areas.<sup>29</sup>

**Open Institute Programs:** The non-profit organization works with communities and guides them to collect and interpret their own data. An example is the collection of data on the activities, means of production and markets of farmers. The data collected is then used to make better, more targeted decisions and engage in conversations with other stakeholders including the government. In some counties, the online platform Open County Portal was launched by the Open Institute in cooperation with the county governments, which on the one hand provides data and on the other hand encourages citizen participation in data collection. The district administrations can use the platform to manage their data more effectively and citizens can be involved in the SDG monitoring via the platform and give feedback. (Homepage: <https://openinstitute.africa/>; Online Platform Open County: <https://opencounty.org/>).



# Data Gaps Need to Be Closed and Marginalized Groups Need to Be Integrated Better

SDG monitoring in Kenya is institutionalized and various stakeholders are interlinked in the monitoring process. The monitoring of progress and the data situation have improved steadily in recent years. In Kenya, the various interest groups work closely together, for example in preparing the national progress reports, the Voluntary National Reviews or data collection. Cooperation between government, civil society, the private sector and academia as well as citizen-generated data has enabled data gaps to be reduced quickly and efficiently, and many stakeholders can contribute to SDG monitoring, bringing in different perspectives and focal points. CGD in particular can improve transparency and create a sense of ownership. In Kenya has succeeded in promoting cooperation between different actors, creating opportunities for participation and finding new ways of collecting data. However, much work will still be needed to further close the data gaps that still exist and to address monitoring challenges such as lack of resources and capacity. There are also deficits in the integration of marginalized and disadvantaged groups - a task that must be mastered in the coming years in order to ensure that the implementation of the SDGs actually reaches all groups of society according to the "Leave no One Behind" principle.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/kenya/overview#1>

<sup>2</sup> <https://vision2030.go.ke/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.planning.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Policy-Gap-Analysis-Study-for-SDG-2019.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://vision2030.go.ke/publication/third-medium-term-plan-2018-2022/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15689Kenya.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> [https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/kenya\\_2020.pdf](https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/kenya_2020.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.parliament.go.ke/sites/default/files/2018-04/27\\_Public\\_Participation\\_in\\_the\\_Legislative\\_Process.pdf](http://www.parliament.go.ke/sites/default/files/2018-04/27_Public_Participation_in_the_Legislative_Process.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> <https://kam.co.ke/sdg-readiness-report-2020/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://sdgkenyaforum.org/content/vnr/documents/SDG-8/Kenya%20National%20Report%20on%20Leave%20No%20One%20Behind%20Dialogue.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.planning.go.ke/reports/>

<sup>11</sup> [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26360VNR\\_2020\\_Kenya\\_Report.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26360VNR_2020_Kenya_Report.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26360VNR\\_2020\\_Kenya\\_Report.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26360VNR_2020_Kenya_Report.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26360VNR\\_2020\\_Kenya\\_Report.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26360VNR_2020_Kenya_Report.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26360VNR\\_2020\\_Kenya\\_Report.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26360VNR_2020_Kenya_Report.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> <http://sdgs.planning.go.ke/>

<sup>15</sup> <http://sdgs.planning.go.ke/sdgs-implementation-coordination-structure/>

<sup>16</sup> [https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/kenya\\_2020.pdf](https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/kenya_2020.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> [https://sdgkenyaforum.org/content/uploads/documents/The\\_Third\\_Progress\\_Report\\_On\\_The\\_Implementation\\_Of\\_SDGs\\_In\\_Kenya\\_0690b138.pdf](https://sdgkenyaforum.org/content/uploads/documents/The_Third_Progress_Report_On_The_Implementation_Of_SDGs_In_Kenya_0690b138.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> [https://sdgkenyaforum.org/content/uploads/documents/The\\_Third\\_Progress\\_Report\\_On\\_The\\_Implementation\\_Of\\_SDGs\\_In\\_Kenya\\_0690b138.pdf](https://sdgkenyaforum.org/content/uploads/documents/The_Third_Progress_Report_On_The_Implementation_Of_SDGs_In_Kenya_0690b138.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/CensushumanrightsInclusionKenya.aspx>

<sup>20</sup> [https://www.nachhaltigkeitsrat.de/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Global\\_Forum\\_Study\\_Pieces\\_of\\_a\\_puzzle\\_July\\_2021.pdf](https://www.nachhaltigkeitsrat.de/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Global_Forum_Study_Pieces_of_a_puzzle_July_2021.pdf)

<sup>21</sup> [https://sdgkenyaforum.org/content/uploads/documents/The\\_Third\\_Progress\\_Report\\_On\\_The\\_Implementation\\_Of\\_SDGs\\_In\\_Kenya\\_0690b138.pdf](https://sdgkenyaforum.org/content/uploads/documents/The_Third_Progress_Report_On_The_Implementation_Of_SDGs_In_Kenya_0690b138.pdf)

<sup>22</sup> [https://sdgkenyaforum.org/content/uploads/documents/The\\_Third\\_Progress\\_Report\\_On\\_The\\_Implementation\\_Of\\_SDGs\\_In\\_Kenya\\_0690b138.pdf](https://sdgkenyaforum.org/content/uploads/documents/The_Third_Progress_Report_On_The_Implementation_Of_SDGs_In_Kenya_0690b138.pdf)

<sup>23</sup> [https://sdgkenyaforum.org/content/uploads/documents/The\\_Third\\_Progress\\_Report\\_On\\_The\\_Implementation\\_Of\\_SDGs\\_In\\_Kenya\\_0690b138.pdf](https://sdgkenyaforum.org/content/uploads/documents/The_Third_Progress_Report_On_The_Implementation_Of_SDGs_In_Kenya_0690b138.pdf)

<sup>24</sup> [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26360VNR\\_2020\\_Kenya\\_Report.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26360VNR_2020_Kenya_Report.pdf)

<sup>25</sup> [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26360VNR\\_2020\\_Kenya\\_Report.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26360VNR_2020_Kenya_Report.pdf)

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.civicus.org/thedatashift/learning-zone/updates-learning-zone/what-is-citizen-generated-data-and-what-is-the-datashift-doing-to-promote-it>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.data4sdgs.org/resources/advancing-sustainability-together-citizen-generated-data-and-sustainable-development>

<sup>28</sup> <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/undataforum/blog/five-lessons-from-a-nso/>

<sup>29</sup> <https://devinit.org/resources/citizen-generated-data-and-sustainable-development-evidence-from-case-studies-in-kenya-and-uganda-2/>

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