

Accelerating the Attainment of the

GENDER EQUALITY

Women's Empowerment and
Women's Rights in Kenya



A Focus on SDG's 5, 8 and 13

Study by FES Kenya & SDG Forum Kenya

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ACRONYMS

BPfA	Beijing Platform for Action
CBAs	Collective Bargaining Agreements
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
FGM/C	Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
HH	Household
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
KPHC	Kenya Population and Housing Census
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MTP	Medium Term Plan
MP	Member of Parliament
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WB	World Bank
WEF	Women Enterprise Fund
KYEOP	Kenya Youth Employment Opportunities Programme
AGPO	Access to Government Procurement Opportunities
NGAAF	National Government Affirmative Action Fund

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In this UN Decade for Action on Gender Equality, it is time for change. It is time to move from rhetoric to action. And yet, at the current rates of progress, more than 2.1 billion women and girls will live in countries that will not reach any key gender equality targets by 2030. And no woman or girl will live in a country that meets all of them.¹

The centrality of gender equality, women's empowerment and the realization of women's rights lies at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which recognizes gender equality as both a human rights and a development issue. While gender equality, women's empowerment and the realization of women's rights is a standalone Goal (SDG 5)-Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, its mainstreaming cuts across all the 17 Goals is key in a total of 45 targets and 54 related indicators respectively. As a guiding framework, the 2030 Agenda presents a major opportunity for the government of Kenya and development actors to fulfil past and existing commitments on advancing the gender equality and women's human rights.

The Kenyan government has done a commendable job in using the opportunity presented by the Agenda 2030 and is aligning the 17 SDGs with Vision 2030-the country's long-term sustainable development blue print. This long term blueprint is anchored on three key pillars i.e. the social, economic and political facets and is implemented through five-year Medium Term Plans that facilitate sector priorities in planning and budgeting for both the national government and the devolved units. It is crucial to note that it was only in the drafting of the Third Medium Term Plan (2018-2021)² that the full mainstreaming of SDGs in the national development plan was possible. To underscore the country's commitment to the post 2015 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the government of Kenya has already done two Voluntary National reviews (VNRs) on the country's progress in the implementation of SDGs. Kenya presented the first Voluntary National Review (VNR) report³ at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in 2017 which reported on 128 indicators out of 232 indicators. The country was also among the 23 out of 50 member states that presented their second Voluntary National Review report (VNR)⁴ at the HLPF in July 2019.

Likewise, with citizens at the center, the SDGs Kenya Forum⁵ engages all these stakeholders to implement, follow up and review the SDGs. Since 2017, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) coordinated by SDG's Kenya Forum are tracking implementation of SDGs and have so far submitted three parallel progress reports⁶ to inform Kenya's Voluntary National Review (VNR). The other complementary frameworks include the commitments of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and its Platform for Action (BPfA)-now the ongoing Generation Equality Forum process that launched a Global Acceleration Plan for Gender Equality⁷, driven by six Action Coalitions. The government of Kenya is one of the Action Coalition leaders and Commitment Makers on addressing Gender-Based Violence, with the aim to

1 Equal Measures 2030, 2020. Bending the Curve Towards Gender Equality by 2030. Surrey, United Kingdom: Equal Measures 2030, p. 7.

2 Medium-Term-Plan-III-2018-2022.pdf (treasury.go.ke)

3 VNR_report_for_kenya.pdf (un.int) June 2017

4 2020_VNR_Final_Kenya_Popular Version.pdf (un.org)

5 The SDGs Kenya Forum is an all-inclusive membership platform on the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that provides for a coordinated and structured engagement space for over 350 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) with (national and subnational) governments, citizens, the private sector, media, academia and development partners.

accelerate gender equality in the next five years and to face the growing risks to women's rights caused by Covid-19.

The Kenya government will now work together with key stakeholders to implement the blueprints through the delivery of specific resources, advocacy, legal and policy change, and programmes. There is commitment to share successes, challenges and lessons learned; take stock of progress; and identify areas where additional collective action and investment is needed to drive change. Together with other Action Coalitions, the government will work to ensure accountability for both progress against individual commitments and the collective impact of its work on the lives of women, girls, and gender diverse people.

Kenya is also signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol). The African Union blue print on sustainable development popularly referred to as Agenda 2063, aspiration 6, whose achievement is set out in the Strategy for Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment (GEWE) 2018-2028. Regionally, gender equality and equity and women's empowerment are envisioned in the East Africa Community (EAC) Gender Policy under the EAC Vision 2050 (EAC, 2015: 94).


Unfortunately, despite the existence of various global, regional, and national commitments and frameworks, the universal human rights of women are still far from becoming a reality today. The overall progress made to advance women's human rights and empowerment has been slow and minimal across the globe. Many women and girls around the world are still unable to effectively participate in social, economic, and political processes, and their contribution to development in the private and public is highly undervalued, underpaid and in most cases unaccounted for.

Across Africa, Kenya is one of the countries considered to have a progressive and vibrant policy, institutional and legislative frameworks for advancing women's empowerment, gender equality and the human rights of women and girls. However, massive gaps and inequalities are still prevalent with regards to labor and economic opportunities, leadership and governance and social growth.



6 2017-csos-vnr-report.pdf (sdgkenyaforum.org), 2019-csos-report.pdf (sdgkenyaforum.org) and Voluntary National Review - Civil Society Report 2020 (sdgkenyaforum.org)

7 UNW - GAP Report - EN.pdf (generationequality.org)



Women and girls continue to be disproportionately affected by poverty, the ever-worsening effects of climate change and recurrent disasters related to physical and health calamities including the one being witnessed today (2020) all over the world, the Corona Virus Pandemic.

COVID-19 has made the situation worse. In country after country women and girls have been disproportionately impacted: they make up the majority of frontline health and other essential workers and have experienced surges in violence, poverty, and unpaid work. Government responses have been insufficient: only a small fraction of social protection, labour market and fiscal policies to address COVID-19 are gender-sensitive.⁸

It is imperative for multiple, diverse stakeholders to link gender equality and sustainable development, work together to realize the vision of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and SDG targets 5.2 and 5.3. This can be achieved by making and implementing concrete, new, comprehensive commitments to address persistent social challenges such as gender-based violence (GBV) against women and girls in all their diversity.

Under SDG 8 (indicators 8a,8b,8c,8d,8e), economic justice and rights affect all women and girls globally and it is notable that progress is stalling, the gender gap in the paid labor force has stagnated at 31 percentage points.⁹ Women are over-represented in informal, precarious, and vulnerable employment. The current world of work is rife with persistent structural barriers that women face, resulting from dominant economic models that unfairly redistribute resources and wealth.¹⁰ It is therefore critical to address economic injustices and rights violations, especially how macro and micro- economic factors, e.g., how the economic system reinforces gender inequality, how the work that women do is considered unproductive, and how women and girls often lack economic opportunities. This included looking at how economic and political systems are designed, how their benefits or costs are distributed, and how institutions are held accountable for the economic outcomes they generate. It encompasses the full spectrum of paid and unpaid labor, where globally, women spend 3.2 more time on unpaid care work compared to men¹¹, including informal labor, time poverty, social protection, financial inclusion, and wage inequity.

Achievement of commitment under SDG13 (indicators 13 a, 13b, 13c, 13d) are slowed by the disproportionate negative impacts of environmental shocks and stresses on women and girls that continue to persist and have worsened in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. Deeply entrenched gender roles and reduced access to natural resources means women and girls are more exposed to climate risks, yet less empowered to drive solutions due to legal and economic insecurity. Despite their major role in the agricultural sector, women only hold less than 15% of land.¹² Limited access to finance restricts investment in climate solutions and recovery from shocks.¹³ Studies show

⁸ See UNDP and UN Women. 2020. COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker. <https://data.undp.org/gendertacker/>. Of 3,112 policy measures in response to COVID-19 in 219 countries and territories, only 1,299 across 187 countries and territories are gender sensitive. Most focus on addressing violence against women and girls (832 in 149 countries), whereas measures to strengthen women's economic security (287) and address unpaid care work (180) are much fewer in number.

⁹ UN Women, "Gender equality: Women's rights in review 25 years after Beijing," 2020.

¹⁰ UN Women, "Facts and Figures: Economic Empowerment," accessed May 2020; UN Women, "In Focus: Women, peace and security," 2020. "Women Radically Transforming a World in Crisis," 2019; UN Women, "Seven drivers and recommendations," 2020.; Mexico Design Sprint, December 2019; Paris Design Sprint, February 2020.

¹¹ ILO, "Care Work and Care Jobs – For the Future of Decent Work": https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_633135.pdf



than just 3% of philanthropic environmental funding supports women’s and girls’ environmental activism¹⁴.

Furthermore, gender equality is recognized as a catalytic policy strategy/outcome that triggers positive multiplier effects across the entire spectrum of development. Therefore, SDGs Kenya Forum in collaboration with The Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung (FES), is conducting a series of studies geared towards providing guidance to key multi-stakeholders in accelerating SDGs implementation in the 2020—2030 Decade of Action. To this end, the Forum commissioned this study to explore opportunities for advancing gender equality, women’s empowerment and Women human rights using the SDGs framework with a special focus on the interlinkages of SDG 5 with SDG 8 and

13. The aim is to recommend effective ways of creating synergies with other ongoing processes to accelerate the SDG Kenya Forum’s contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

¹² FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations). 2018. The Gender Gap in Land Rights.

¹³ OECD. 2016. Making Climate Finance Work for Women: Overview of Bilateral ODA to Gender and Climate Change.

¹⁴ Dobson, c. and Lawrence, S. 2018. Our Voices, Our Environment: The State of Funding for Women’s Environmental Action. Wallace Global Fund.

STUDY OBJECTIVES

The study sought to explore the linkages between gender equality (SDG 5) with SDGs 8 and 13, identify the barriers and opportunities, and recommend ways of creating synergies for the purposes of accelerating the attainment of gender equality and the rights of women and girls. More specifically, the study sought to: a) identify key opportunities and constraints in promoting gender equality and the nexus between SDG 5 and SDG 8 & 13; b) review SDGs 5, 8 and 13 targets and indicators and propose how best to mainstream them into most ongoing development processes; and, c) gather evidence and propose strategies for SDG Kenya Forum to contribute to the 5-year (2020—2025) action plans of the Action Coalitions on Economic Justice & Rights and Feminist Actions on Climate Change.

Summary of Findings and Recommendations

The Kenyan government has put adequate measures to align to the Agenda 2030 with the overall national development ecosystem. These include two national evaluations (2017 and 2020) of the status of SDGs implementation and an emphasis on the need to close the persistent gender inequalities in order to achieve inclusive and sustainable development. To deal with these inequalities between men and women, the government has put in place associated legal, policy and institutional frameworks.

However, the SDGs progress reports, especially those related to inclusive and sustained economic growth, do not cite persistent gender inequality as a gap. There is also barely any recognition of secure land tenure and control over valuable assets as an important means for sustainable development. The progress is slow and minimal and has barely translated in the overall transformation in the lives of women and girls. These inequalities have further been exacerbated by the negative impact of COVID 19 which has exposed and brought to surface the systematic gender inequalities that exist in Kenya. Looking forward, there is hope in the Generation Equality Forum, February 2021 global compact of the Five Years (2021-2026) Transformative Action Plans to accelerate gender equality, women's empowerment and women's human rights as a commitment to fulfil the unfinished business of Beijing Declaration and BPfA as well as accelerate implementation of the related aspirations in the 2030 Agenda.

That said, the study recommends that SDG Forum Kenya should:

1. accelerate tailored advocacy to ensure effectiveness of the positive legal and policy framework on fulfilment of human rights for women and girls and their economic contribution and enjoyment;
2. build the capacity of members on the use of gender equality and economic justice and rights discourse.
3. seize the opportunity of Generation equality action coalitions to advance advocacy for the acceleration of the implementation of the Agenda 2030 especially in line with the advancement of women's empowerment, women's human rights and gender equality;
4. prioritise the empowerment of grassroots women and local communities in the use of technology as a tool for advocacy to remain relevant in the new normal, all while ensuring that No One is Left Behind.

5. conduct in-depth study on the underlying inequalities.
6. undertake an in-depth assessment on the implication of poor governance and corruption on the attainment of SDG 8.
7. document the critical role of grassroots women in building climate resilience and fighting for economic justice so that their experiences are measured and counted in tracking implementation of the SDGs; and
8. conduct an in-depth analysis of the barriers that women and girls are battling to transition from informal to formal employment

Outline of the Report

This report highlights the gains, challenges, opportunities and lessons relating to the quest to realize gender equality and women empowerment in Kenya in the context of the SDGs 5, 8 and 13. Besides reviewing documented information on the linkages between gender equality and both economic justice and rights and climate action, this report incorporates voices from the CSOs working on SDGs 5, 8 and 13. Additionally, the report takes cognizant that all the 17 SDGs are interrelated and they strongly reinforce each other.

This report thus documents, in a systematic manner, the findings of the study assessment in line with the objectives that were set out by SDG Kenya Forum.

The report is divided into 5 sections.

The first section provides the background that informs the study, setting out the global, and the Kenyan context with regard to the implementation of the SDGs 5, 8 and 13.

The second section of the report looks at the methodology that was used to undertake the desk review, including the data collection methods, the limitation and scope of the study as well as the data analysis approaches.

Section three covers the findings of the study, with a clear focus on the strategic interventions being implemented by the government, development organizations including grassroots women entities and the private sector. The review focuses on the laws, institutions, policies and programmatic implementations that contribute to selected targets and indicators for SDGs 8 and 13 and how these efforts have largely and specifically contributed to gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in Kenya. This section also covers the gaps and opportunities that exist for the SDGs under study and their linkages with SDG5.

The fourth section explores the emerging disasters that have significantly impacted on the implementation of SDG 8 and 13 in Kenya, with a critical focus on the effects and opportunities presented by Covid-19 in relation to gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in Kenya. **The fifth and final section focuses on the Generation Equality Process**, focusing on two of the action coalitions namely Economic Justice and Rights and Feminist Action for Climate Justice and the opportunities it presents in advancement of women economic justice, women's human rights, economic empowerment and climate justice. This section closes with the key recommendations and conclusion of the study.

SECTION 1.0: BACKGROUND

Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by the United Nations member states in 2015 as a guiding framework towards universal prosperity. At the heart of this Agenda are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a set of 17 aspirations that encompass the five dimensions of sustainable development i.e. people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships. Right from inception, the SDGs were designed to 'complete the work' that was started by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) from 2000 to 2015




Figure 1: The five pillars of sustainable development

The MDGs were 8 goals with 21 targets and were more focused towards tackling poverty. On the other hand, the SDGs consist of 169 targets and encompass a broad range of key aspects, among them the environment, peace and justice, gender equality, access to water and habitable cities. Moreover, the set targets will be achieved by the action taken everywhere across the globe and not just in developing countries.

Gender equality, women's empowerment and the realization of women's human rights is not only an aspiration on its own in the Agenda 2030 framework but also an overarching theme that cuts across all the other Goals.

The dedication of a standalone commitment, SDG 5 targets and indicators to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls,¹⁵ reaffirms the importance of fulfilling's women rights and ending

¹⁵ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/metadata-compilation/Metadata-Goal-5.pdf>



emerging and persistent gender inequalities as a precondition to achieve sustainable development as well as a safe, healthy and secure planet for all.

With most women, particularly in the developing world still vulnerable to insecurity of productive assets, financial exclusion, and a limited space to enjoy social, political and economic liberties, the 2030 Agenda amplifies the need to afford women and girls equal rights to economic opportunities with decent work and life.

These aspirations are articulated in SGD 8: promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all with clear targets and indicators¹⁶.

Further, the post 2015 development agenda recognizes that women are more vulnerable and disproportionately affected by poverty, diseases, recurrent disasters and natural calamities in addition to human-induced problems such as civil wars/strife, conflicts and human trafficking. The aspirations of SGD 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts¹⁷ targets and indicators provide guidelines to address climate related human development concerns.

This desk review provides a backdrop against the efforts to accelerate gender equality, women's empowerment and women humans' rights in Kenya. The study is focused on underpinning the reciprocal relationship that exists between the SGD 5 and 8, and between SDG5 and 13. The review specifically looks at how SDG 8 and 13 has been implemented in Kenya and the contribution or lack of it thereof, in advancement of gender equality and empowerment and fulfilment of human rights for women and girls in all their diversities. A detailed description of SDGs 5, 8 and 13 in terms of their indicators and targets is provided in the report annex.

¹⁶ Goal 8 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs (un.org)

¹⁷ Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change

SECTION 2.0: METHODOLOGICAL PRINCIPALS AND STUDY APPROACHES

2.1 Methodology

The study team applied a mixed method approach in undertaking this review. This largely entailed a desk review of related literature as well as in-depth interviews with key civil society actors and members of SDG Kenya Forum. The aim of this process was to fully understand the context and identify the existing data and information available on the implementation of SDGs 8 and 13. The in-depth interviews helped to elicit the practical interventions that CSOs are undertaking and the contributions they are making in implementing



Figure 2 The methodological approached that were applied in the study

SDGs 5, 8 and 13 in Kenya.

2.1.1 Desk Review

This entailed systematically reviewing legal instruments, plans, policy briefs, progress reports related to aspirations and implementation of sustainable development goals (SDGs) 5, 8 and 13 in Kenya. The literature reviewed focused on the level of effort by the National and County Government, the CSOs, the private sector, academia, research institutions and UN agencies against the implementation of SDGs. Considering that this study is evaluative in nature; the research team considered literature related to implementation of SDGs 8, 5 and 13.

Additionally, global and local processes and engagements related to the acceleration of gender equality, women empowerment and women's human rights as well as complementary work such as Generation Equality were incorporated into the study. Through a meta-analysis, data from quantitative studies was analysed and presented as narratives, tables, graphics, info- graphics and charts. The goals for meta-analysis were to integrate, summarise or organise the statistical data from concluded studies or project reports related to SDGs 5, 8 and 13. Gaps and points of convergence were identified and analysed.

2.1.2 In-depth Interviews

The study team conducted in-depth interviews with selected CSOs implementing programs and projects in SDGs 8, 5 and 13 to provide a deeper analysis of the constraints, barriers and opportunities that exist if the next 5 years of SDGs implementation are to be effective. A total of five organizations participated in the study. The filled-in feedback was analysed to depict the contribution of the organizations and grassroots organizations in advancement of SGD 5, 8 and 13. The following organization contributed to the research and provided valuable information to this report: Pan African Climate Justice Alliance through Platform for Climate Governance Project (KPCG); Polycom Development Project; GROOTS Kenya; Rural Women Network and SDG Kenya Forum.

2.1.3 Scope and limitations of the desk review

While the study aimed at reviewing the nexus that exists between SDG 5, 8 and 13, it only focused on a number of targets and indicators of SDGs 8 and 13 that were considered to have higher synergy, direct relation and causal effects to gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. The study therefore was limited to reviewing only a number of selected targets of SGD 8 and 13.

Furthermore, gender equality, empowerment of women and fulfilment of their human rights as aspired in SDG5 is a crosscutting theme in the 17 SDGs. Below is an outline of the SDG 5 targets and indicators to guide the conceptualization and nexus discussions of other goals.

Target 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.

Indicator 5.1.1: Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex

Target 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

Indicator 5.2.1: Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age

Indicator 5.2.2: Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence


Target 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

Indicator 5.3.1: Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18

Indicator 5.3.2: Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age

Target 5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.

Indicator 5.4.1: Percentage of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location



Targets 5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.

Indicator 5.5.1: Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments

Indicator 5.5.2: Proportion of women in managerial positions

Target 5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance, and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.

Indicator 5.a.1: (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights bearers of agricultural land, type of tenure

Indicator 5.a.2: Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control

Target 5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.

Indicator 5.b.1: Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex

Target 5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

Indicator 5.c.1: Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment

Target 5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences. Indicator 5.6.1: Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care

Indicator 5.6.2: Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee women aged 15-49 access to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education

Thus, the study reviewed documents beyond SDG 8 and 13 owing to the fact that SDGs are highly interlinked. The two tables below highlight the scope of this study, providing the specific targets and indicators that were picked for this study. For SDG 8, 5 targets and 7 indicators were the main focus of the study (Table 1). On the other hand, 2 targets and 2 indicators of SDG 13 were reviewed (Table 2).

Table 1 Scope of SDG 13 as covered in the study

SDG 8

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

**Targets of Interest
(8.2, 8.3, 8.5, 8.6
and 8.10)**

Indicators

Why it matters

8.2: Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labor-intensive sectors

8.2.1: Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person

Women’s economic empowerment contributes to high productivity while diversification of income reduces income inequalities between men and women. Technological upgrading and innovation raise incomes and addresses the unpaid care work of women, largely reducing gender inequalities.

8.3: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services

8.3.1: Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex

High rates of women’s work in particularly vulnerable roles within the informal economy are linked to women’s lack of access to secondary education and vocational training, barriers to their legal entry into the formal workforce, and a lack of government policies to support their work. Graduating women from informal to formal economies improve economic resilience and achieve greater empowerment outcomes for women and their households

SDG 8

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Targets of Interest (8.2, 8.3, 8.5, 8.6 and 8.10)

Indicators

Why it matters

8.5. By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

8.5.1: Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and persons with disabilities
8.5.2: Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

Earning disparities contribute to income inequality, gaps in labour force participation rates between men and women, and inequalities in lifetime earnings, pensions, and savings

8.6. By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training

8.6.1: Proportion of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment or training

Access to full and productive decent work for the youth especially young women is critical for overall economic growth. Youth form majority of the out of employment population which means more economic burden for the country. Access to education, employment and training reduces vulnerability to poverty.

8.10. Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all

8.10.1: Number of commercial bank branches and automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults
8.10.2: Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider

When women make their own decisions about how to spend their own money, and when they have more control over their own finances and those of their household, they are more likely to channel resources to food, water, children's education and healthcare

Table 2 Scope of SDG 13 as covered in the study

SDG 13

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact

Targets of interest (13.1 and 13.2)

Indicators

Why it matters

13.1. Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

13.1.1: Number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies

Women and girls are more vulnerable than men and boys to most of the effects of climate change, as they constitute the majority of the world’s poorest and are more dependent on natural resources that are threatened by climate change

13.2. Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

13.2.1: Number of countries that have communicated the establishment or operationalization of an integrated policy/strategy/plan which increases their ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development in a manner that does not threaten food production (including a national adaptation plan, nationally determined contribution, national communication, biennial update report or other

Countries that care about the adverse impacts of climate change will not only plan, implement and monitor such programs but will also commit to put legal and institutional frameworks to foster climate resilience. Strong legal and policy framework on climate change translates to sustainable food production. Women and girls are mostly vulnerable to food and nutritional insecurity.

SECTION 3.0: STUDY FINDINGS

3.1) Nexus between gender equality, women's empowerment & human rights and inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

SDG 8 aspires to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. This SDG's monitoring framework is purely based on economic growth which is measured through analyzing the per capita income. Arguably, per capita income is fraudulent as it does not take into consideration associated inequalities among the citizens. In Kenya for example, underlying inequalities along age, class, gender, social, political, ethnicity dimensions among other factors determine an individual's level of enjoyment and contribution to economic development.



Fulfilling women's human rights and their economic empowerment includes women's ability to participate equally in existing markets, access to and control over productive resources, access to decent work, control over their own time, lives and bodies, and increased voice, agency and meaningful participation in economic decision-making at all levels. Empowering women in the economy and closing gender gaps in the world of work are key to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Furthermore, any country that does not or has no means of accounting the contribution of all women to their gross domestic product (GDP) not only sets itself up for failure but also continues to perpetuate gender inequalities in social, economic and political spheres.

Women's economic empowerment that is anchored on economic justice and rights is central to realizing women's human rights and gender equality.

For government and other stakeholders to claim to contribute to attainment of inclusive economic growth and sustainable development, they must address the inequalities that continue to deprive women and girls an opportunity to exercise their potential to earn decent incomes and wages. Such efforts must address the inequalities related to decent work, equal pay for equal work, address vulnerability at work, ensure workers' rights, provide sufficient ground for workplace legal redress and ensure financial inclusion including access to formal financial facilities.

A country's level of women and girls' economic empowerment has a direct correlation with the status of the total sum of wages and income per capita. Equality between men and women in wages and incomes contribute to a higher GDP, sustained economic growth and an overall positive trend with regards to indices on gender equality. Additionally, when women and men have equal rights, freedoms and workplace privileges, the economic barriers towards women's economic rights are minimised which increases opportunities to self-actualization and growth. Women's access to financial services provides more autonomy in making decisions regarding finances and investments. Women who have freedom to determine options for incomes and expenditures are likely to channel their resources to holistic households' interests including food, shelter, water and health care which result to overall positive outcomes for the entire household and community.



In many parts of Africa, men and women do not enjoy equal rights and privileges. Allocation of resources, roles and opportunities is based, not on merit or need, but on gender. Accesses to social services such as health,

education, political participation and opportunities for economic development are consequently skewed towards men. In addition, women are left to take on very demanding domestic unpaid role such as fuel collection, farming, and laundry, childcare and fetching water. According to UN Women, only 1% of women in Kenya, out of the more than 80% who engage in small-scale agriculture; legally have the land in their own name. Furthermore, cultural practices such as polygamy and early marriages exacerbate gender inequalities, especially in rural areas. Due to these inequalities, women end up being left behind on economic development, leadership, governance and social advancement.



3.1.2 Implementation of SDG 8 in Kenya

In the last decade, Kenya has constantly projected an elusive 10%, against an average reality round check of 4-6% of economic growth. Even with these modest growth rates and to be able to achieve higher inclusive and sustained economic growth that benefit all, Kenya reckoned that significant measures needed to be put in place to close the glaring gender inequality.

The Bill of Rights (Article 27) in the Kenyan Constitution provides that women and men have the rights to equal opportunity in political, economic and cultural and social spheres, while Article 18 of the same constitution underlines equality as one of the national values and principles. Kenya's Vision 2030 Medium Term Plan Three (MTP 111-2018-2022) enshrines promotion of gender equality by ensuring equal access to economic opportunities, prevention of gender-based violence (GBV), elimination of FGM, gender mainstreaming and distribution of sanitary towels to the marginalised school going girls.

3.1.3 Programme Implementation on SDG 8

The study reviewed some of the interventions that have been implemented by the government and other actors and how their implementation has contributed to the achievement of SDG 8 targets and indicators. SDG 8 inspires to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. As earlier mentioned, the review focused on five critical targets; 8.2, 8.3, 8.5, 8.6 and 8.10.

Implementation of National Agricultural and Rural Inclusive Growth Project (NARIGP), a five-year project funded by World Bank to increase agricultural productivity and profitability of targeted rural communities in 21 counties. The targeted value chains are dairy, Irish potato, poultry and avocado.

National Accelerated Agricultural Inputs Access Program that is aimed at improving access to farm inputs (fertilizers and seeds) for smallholder farmers and vulnerable groups.

Kenya Agriculture Insurance Programme aimed at enabling vulnerable farmers manage risks and losses amongst small holder farmers.

Kenyan MTP111 goal is to increase the manufacturing share of GDP from 9.2 % to 15.5 and agro processing to at least 50% of total agricultural output by promotion of value addition.


Target 8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium- sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.

Indicator: 8.3.1: The proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex.

Proportion of informal employment in total employment rose from 82.20 per cent in 2017 to 82.58 per cent in 2018 and to 82.96 per cent in 2019.

In order to promote the level and quality of participation of women and girls in the productive economy, the government of Kenya has made public allocations packaged in Affirmative Action Program. These include the Women

Enterprise Fund, Uwezo Fund, National Government Affirmative Action Fund, Youth Enterprise Development Fund, and Access to Government Procurement Opportunities for Women, Youths and Persons with Disabilities (AGPO). In 2017, the funds disbursed were: Kshs 2.212.3 million (WEF),



Kshs.500.0 million (Uwezo fund), Kshs.24, 608.3 million (AGPO); and Kshs. 352.7 million (YEDF). In 2018, Kshs. 2,166.3 million (WEF), Kshs. 445.0 million (Uwezo fund), Kshs. 26,794.6 million (AGPO) and Kshs. 549.2 million (YEDF) were disbursed. In 2019 the government disbursed Kshs. 3,085.0 million (WEF), Kshs. 267.0 million (Uwezo Fund), Kshs. 30,139.7 million (AGPO) and Kshs 55.1.4 million for YEDF.

Women Enterprise Fund, a flagship Vision 2030 program under the Social pillar is continues to bolster the government's commitment to the advancement of gender equality and women's economic empowerment. The fund confirms Kenya's commitment of championing interventions towards realization of SDGs 5 on gender equality and women empowerment and SDG 8 on economic inclusion and decent work. The fund targets 70% of economically active women and it is accessed through five ways namely; a) loans to individual women entrepreneurs accessed through 13 Savings and Credits Cooperative companies (SACCOs) at a favorable 8% interest rate p.a.;

- b) financing through registered women (Constituent Women Empowerment Scheme) to expand or start new businesses;
- c) Local Purchase Order (LPO) financing to help women respond and adequately service their tenders; and
- d) Bid Bond Financing that provides tender security /bid bond product to help women in achieving requirements of the tendering process.

Through WEF, Kenyan women are able to access financial training, market and support linkages which entirely improve their economic resilience and overall empowerment outcomes. The fund has realized tremendous achievements in promoting financial inclusion and women empowerment. In 2011, the fund was awarded the Millennium Development Goal Award for contribution in promoting gender equality and women empowerment in Kenya (Table 3).

Table 3 A summary of WEF’s achievements against targeted activities

Activity	Achievements
Provision of subsidized credit for enterprise development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Cumulatively, Kshs. 15.629 billion has been disbursed to 1,632,825 beneficiaries (98,005 groups) countrywide. — Repayment rate stands at 96%
Support and facilitate linkages between women owned enterprises and big companies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — 3,036 women have been facilitated to attend various forums across the country.
Capacity building of women beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — 1,143,156 women have undergone various training. 26,114 women have been sensitized on SACCO formation. 8 SACCOs qualified for funding and Kshs. 45 Million has been disbursed
Support and facilitate local and international marketing of goods and services produced by women entrepreneurs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Through partnership with Export Promotion Council, a total of 310 women were trained and participated in various regional trade fairs. — The Fund has supported women in certification of their products, through training. Currently, 76 products are undergoing the certification process.
Access to 30% preference and preferential public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — A total of 353 women, youth and PWDs have accessed tenders for provision of goods and services worth Kshs.56.75 million.
Ease of doing business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Robust ICT infrastructure that supports and enhances efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery. — SMS banking system has been implemented to facilitate effective communication with beneficiaries. — MPESA mode of payment was introduced as a more effective method for women to make repayments — The Fund has presence in 19 Huduma centers countrywide to disseminate information about the Fund’s products and services

The fund has however faced various challenges including lack of sufficient funds, low literacy levels by women borrowers, fear of loans by women, cultural/ religious factors, the impact of climate change on agricultural activities, the culture of “free things” syndrome and the on-going threat of merging all the affirmative funds.

The enhancement of access to technology and innovations by women and girls has proven to be a valuable vehicle to advance gender equality and women human’s right, albeit with protection and security from cybercrime and other associated online gender-based vices. The government has invested in the establishment of an integrated technology platform that helps the public to conveniently access government services remotely. Popularly referred to as Huduma Centres, these revolutionary hubs have made it possible for women to access business registration and formalization services with technical support of qualified government staff employed to man these platforms. The Huduma centers are a remarkable milestone that underlines the use of innovation in bridging the digital divide. Beyond the investment by Kenya Government, other development partners and non-state actors like commercial banks and NGOs continue to complement these efforts including in entrepreneurship training.

Target 8.5: By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value. This study focused on two indicators namely

Indicator 8.5.1: Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and persons with disabilities

Indicator 8.5.2: Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

The Government of Kenya is running various programs to implement SDG 8 including support to MSMEs in partnerships with various private sector institutions such as banks. Programs such as the Ajira Digital have been rolled out which has increased youth participation in online work and reduced unemployment.



Though the proportion of informal employment in total employment rose from 82.20 % in 2017 to 82.58 % in 2018 and to 82.96% in 2019, men dominate most sectors of formal employment requiring higher education of specialized levels of skills such as ICT (64%), administration (90%), manufacturing (80%) and mining (83%). On the flipside, women are overrepresented in sectors that are traditionally considered their domain areas, namely social work (58%) and domestic-work or related services 61% as demonstrated in the figure below.

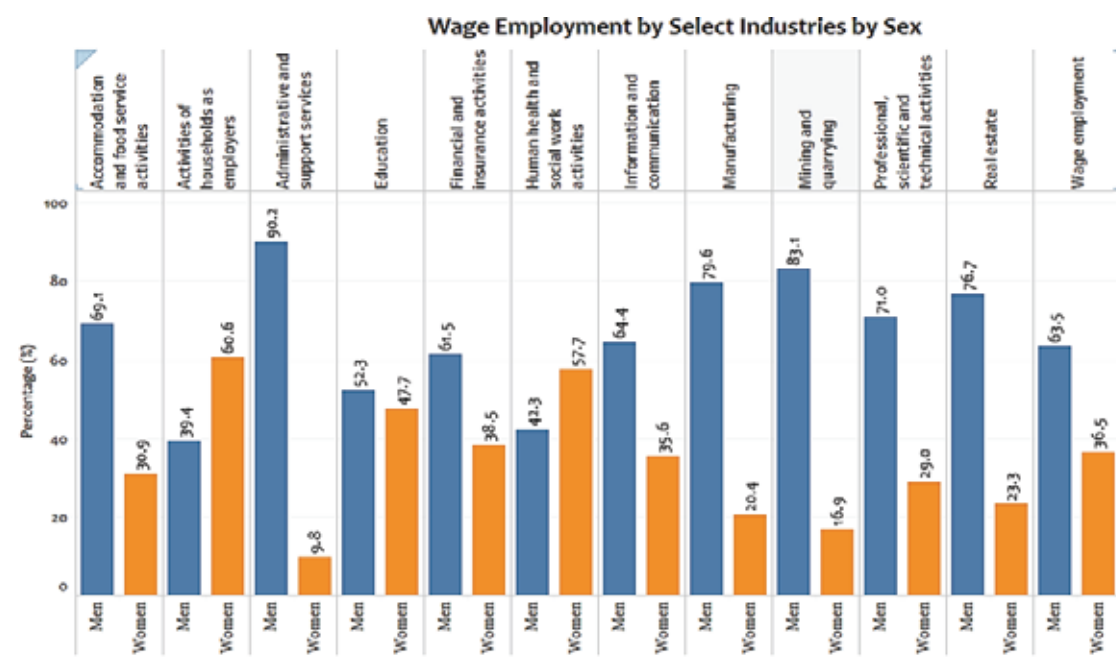



Figure 3 Work employment of select industries by sex

Target 8.6: By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education, or training.

Indicator 8.6.1: Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment, or training.

Through the National Employment Authority (NEA), the government envisions to improve employment management; enhance employment promotion interventions; and increase access to employment by youths, minorities, and marginalized groups and for connected purposes. Further, the Kenya Youth Employment Opportunities Project (KYEOP) targets youth aged between 18 and 29 years to access training, workforce experience and internship opportunities as well as entrepreneurship support services.

To improve employability among the youth, the government has increased the number of both public and private Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) institutions from 1,962 in 2017 to 2,289 in 2018. As a result, there was an increase in enrollment from 275,139 in 2017 to 363,884 in 2018. More male (56.4% were enrolled compared to female at 43.6% in 2017. In 2018, 205,142 male enrolled while 158,172 females were enrolled. This gives a gender parity of 0.77. In 2019, 276,906 male and 201,795 female were enrolled giving a total of 478,701.



Access to Government Procurement Opportunity (AGPO) reserves at least 30% of all public procurement for women, youths and persons living with disabilities. This means that more youths can do business with the government and generate income.

Indicator 8.8.2: Increase in national compliance of labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status.

The Government put in place measures to address industrial disputes resulting in the decline in the number of cases. 313 collective bargaining agreements (CBAs) were registered in 2018 compared to 386 in 2017. In 2019, the registered CBAs were 263.

Target 8.10: Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance, and financial services for all.

Indicator 8.10.1: Number of commercial bank branches and automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults.

Kenya had six commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults in 2017 and remained the same in 2018 and 2019 while with the number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 declined from 12 in 2017 to 11 in 2018 and 2019.

Indicator 8.10.2: Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider

The proportion of adults (15 years and above) with an account at a commercial bank or with mobile-money service provider increased from 73 per cent in 2016 to 81 per cent in 2018. The number of active mobile money subscriptions stood at 49.5 million in 2018, which implies that 66 out of 100 inhabitants had access to and used mobile money transfer services. Mobile penetration reached 103.5 per cent mark in 2018 from 85.93 per cent in 2016, an indication that subscribers are having more than one subscription to take advantage of competing voice or data plans by the operators.

The report also shows that access to mobile money has greatly replaced physical banking facilities. Mobile money has contributed to a reduction in the financial inclusion gap and increased credit availability to small traders through digital platforms thereby reducing costs associated with mobility and processing of credit. Business transactions over distant physical locations has been eased. Mobile phone financial products by commercial banks such as MShwari, Fuliza, MCo-op Cash, Eazy Loan and KCB MPESA have revolutionized how communities transact and access credit.

According to the 2019 KPHC, 47.3 % of individual aged 3 years and above owned a mobile phone in 2019, an increase from 44.4% in 2016. The proportion of adults (15 years and above) with an account at a commercial bank or with mobile money service provider increased from 73% in 2016 to 81% in 2019. Despite the improvement in access to finance over the period, financial inclusion gaps still persist, though there is remarkable narrowing of the gap. In 2016 for example, 71% of women in Kenya

had access to formal finance against 80% of men which transitioned to 80% for women against 86% for men in 2019. The gap in mobile money usage between males and

females has narrowed to 7% in 2019 from 8% in 2016, which means that women now have more access to finances which greatly improves their financial autonomy.

3.1.4 Gaps in the Implementation of SDG 8 in Kenya

Kenya, just like many other countries in the developing world, continues to face multiple barriers including structural, discriminatory practices and feminization of poverty, insecure land tenure rights and control of valuable productive assets for women, intersecting forms of discrimination, vulnerability and marginalization of women, global economic inequalities, and lack of equitable distribution of gains. These barriers have slowed down advancement of gender equality, women empowerment, and women's human rights and in this case is related to their economic justice and rights. For instance, while there are significant achievements made in this goal, some targets are still lagging behind. Findings of the latest Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) & United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) 2020 Comprehensive Poverty Analysis report shows that 65 percent of women aged 35-59 years are multidimensionally poor compared to 56 percent of their male counterparts. Incidence of monetary poverty among women aged 35- 59 years is 34 percent, while that of men¹⁹ is 30 percent. Similarly, 30 percent of women headed households live below the monetary poverty line compared to 26 percent of those headed by men (KNBS, 2018: 64). This

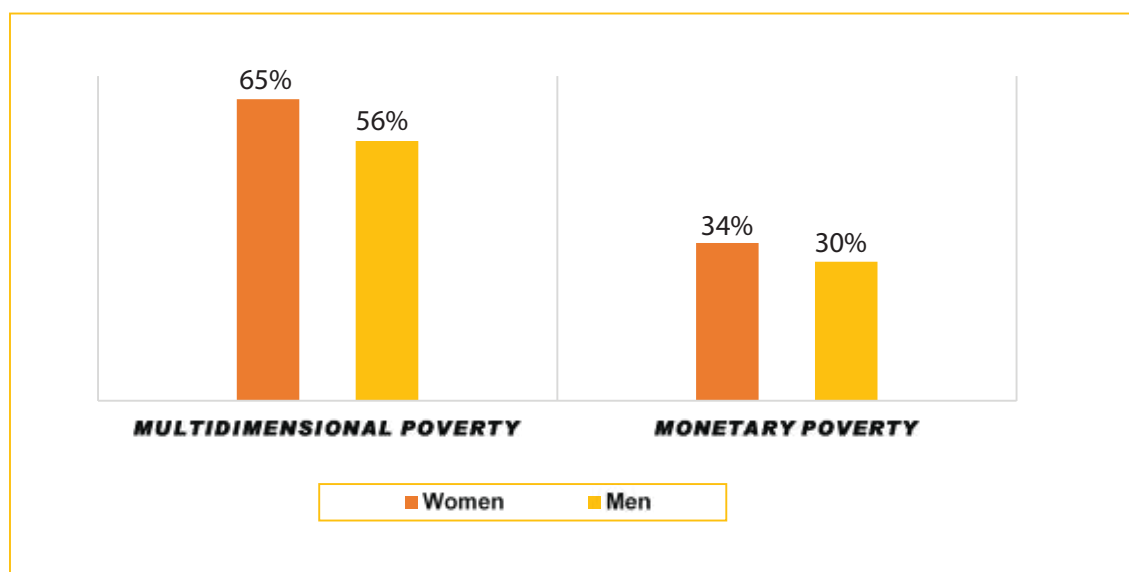


Figure 4 The proportion of monetary and multidimensional poverty by gender What this means is that more women are not realizing their aspirations as enshrined in the various policy, institutions and legal framework and general practices by various actors.

¹⁸ Calculations using the overall poverty line of KShs 3,352 monthly per adult equivalent in rural areas and KShs 5,995 monthly per adult equivalent in urban areas (KNBS, 2018, p.30).

¹⁹ KNBS & UNICEF, 2020, Comprehensive poverty analysis: Children, youths and women in focus. Forthcoming.

Hence, there is need to deeply interrogate the barriers that have continuously hindered women from actualizing their economic rights and empowerment.

The KNBS Economic Survey 2019 figures show that women are underrepresented in wage employment comprising slightly above a third (37%). Similarly, they are underrepresented in most sectors of formal employment requiring high education or specialized skills, including information and communication (36%), financial and insurance activities (39%), real estate (23%), manufacturing (20%), administration and support services (10%), and professional, scientific and technical activities (29%) (Table 1). In addition, they are 13 overrepresented in vulnerable employment (68% compared to 39% of men) and in sectors that highlight women's traditional roles in the society, namely human health and social work activities (58%), and activities of households as employers or domestic work services (61%) (Table 1).

This status is further collaborated by the records in the SGD progress report for Kenya that indicated 7.4% unemployment rates with more women being unemployed at 5.37 against men at 9.6%. This means that most of the women (82.96%) fall in the informal employment. Though 81% of adult (15 years and older) have access to banking and other financial facilities, the annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person remains very low (.04%)²⁰ Development actors need to look at the transition of women from informal to formal employment as it contribute greatly to the overall economic growth, which translates to economic justices and women empowerment. The figure below represents a summary of the overall progress in implementation of SGD 8 selected targets and indicators in Kenya.

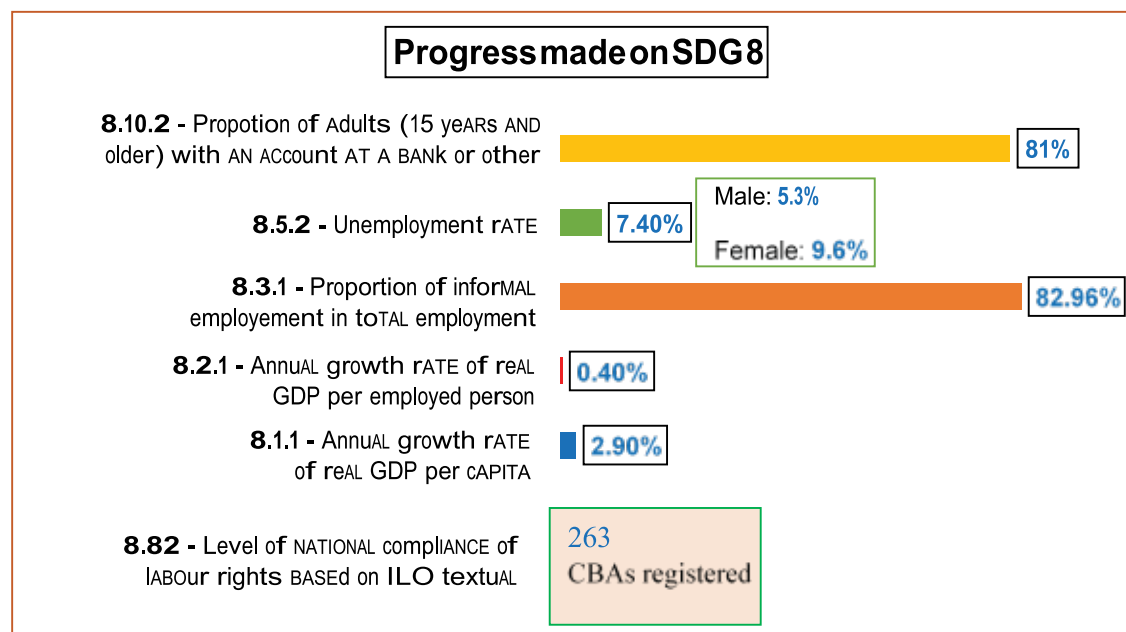


Figure 5 Summary of the overall progress in implementation of SGD 8 selected targets and indicators in Kenya

3.2) Nexus between gender equality, women's empowerment & rights and climate Change

Climate justice recognizes that the drive for environmental sustainability is inextricably linked with social justice and gender equality. Climate justice centralizes the needs of people who are the most marginalized: those who rely on natural resources to ensure their livelihoods, take care of their families, and are most impacted by environmental degradation and natural disasters.



Critical constraints to gender-equitable climate action continue to persist and have worsened in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. Deeply entrenched gender roles and reduced access to natural resources means women and girls are more exposed to climate risks, yet less empowered to drive solutions due to legal and economic insecurity.

Vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and recurrent disasters is a result of gross marginalisation in all spheres of life including economic, social, cultural, political and institutional marginalization. This means that most marginalised populations experience the negative impacts of climate change in disproportionate manner.

Therefore, due to the high levels of inequalities against women and girls, they are likely to be exposed to the greater impacts of climate change because of their overreliance on natural resources for their livelihoods, while they have the least capacity to respond to natural hazards like drought, landslides, flood and other natural disasters.

Figure 6 How climate change and other major shocks aggravate gender inequalities among women and girls

As shown in the infographic, women and girls bear the brunt of conflict, displacement, diseases, and social strife. Climate change-related impacts such as droughts and floods and also result in increased risks and mortality for women and girls as compared to men.

Women and girls continue to bear the brunt of climate vulnerability compared to men and boys majorly because they are the poorest and are more dependent on natural resources like land, forest and water which are more threatened by climate change.



The fact that Women and girls are the most at risk to the effects of climate change including drought, landslides, floods and other natural disasters, it is critical to bring their experiences on the negotiation table, including the constraints and best practices in responding to climate change adaptation and mitigation. This will not happen until Kenya ensures that women are represented in the climate change political processes, provide resources to address disaster risk reduction and address climate vulnerability.

Measures to promote women's human rights and gender equality should ensure that women are fully and effectively participating in all decision- making processes. There is also need for gender responsive approaches to policy formulation including those regarding climate change. The intersection between climate change and gender inequality and how the existing gender inequality is further exacerbated by climate change.

3.2.1 Implementation of SDG 13 in Kenya

Legal, Institutional and Policy framework advancing climate change Actions

In regard to SDG 13 on climate action, the Kenya Constitution 2010 provides that the state will ensure sustainable exploitation, utilization and conservation of the environment and natural resources and ensure equitable sharing of the accruing benefits by all. To this end, Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA 1999) was amended in 2015 to correspond to the provisions of Kenya Constitution and Climate Change Act of 2016. Kenya has also developed National Climate Change Framework Policy and National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) 2018- 2022.

Further, the government has put in place National Disaster Reduction Strategy and Policy of 2010 to guideline on holistic approach to disaster reduction and preparedness, as well as mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management Plan through the CIDP11 2018 -2022 that is being implemented. For accountability and monitoring of progress, Kenya has committed to deliver its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in tandem with Paris Agreement.

In addition, to ensure that economic growth and development is anchored within the spirit of sustainable development, Kenya developed Green Economy Strategy Implementation Plan (2016-2030). The County Governments have developed County Level Climate Change Action Plans while some have put in place Climate Change Acts and some have gone further to develop Climate Change Units

Regardless of the progress made, there is still much that needs be done so as to provide favourable legal and policy environment. The table below shows summary of SDGs 5 and 8 indicators and prevailing legal gaps that must be addressed to achieve optimal benefits

3.2.2 Programme Implementation towards achievement of SDG 13 in Kenya

Target 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

Indicator 13.1.1: Number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies. Kenya adopted the National Disaster Reduction Strategy and Policy of 2010 and its guidelines to provide a holistic approach to disaster preparedness and handling in the country. In addition, all County governments have mainstreamed Disaster Risk Management Planning through the CIDP II that is being implemented between 2018 and 2022. The President has approved the National Climate Change Action Plan 2018–2022 which provides for a low carbon climate resilient development. The plan covers seven priority areas including disaster risk management, food and nutrition security, water and blue economy, forest wildlife and tourism, health, sanitation and human settlements, manufacturing, energy and transport.

The government of Kenya has implemented program to strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacities to climate- related hazards and natural disasters as outlines below.


Drought resilience and sustainable Livelihoods Projects (DRSLP) which covers six –sub national governments to enhance drought resilience and improving sustainable livelihoods of the communities in the arid and semi-arid lands in Kenya.



Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment Promotion Project covering 18 sub- national governments to enhance livelihoods and reduce poverty levels among the vulnerable groups

Enhancing Gender Responsive Extension Services to promote gender responsive agricultural extension services





National Agriculture and Rural Inclusion Growth project (NARIGP) to increase agricultural productivity and profitability targeting rural communities in selected counties and in the event of an eligible crisis of emergency to provide immediate effective response

Hunger Safety Net Programme for the chronically food insecure, extremely poor, and vulnerable people,

To complement government efforts, other stakeholders including women led CSO and other development partners have joined the government in implementing projects/programs that promote empowerment of women and help to adopt or mitigate impacts of climate justice. Such efforts include localization of SDGs and mapping the impacts and responses by local communities (especially grassroots women) of climate change, and ultimately assisting them to enhance their role in attainment of goal 13.

In reviewing the reports submitted by Pan African Climate Justice Alliance through Platform for Climate Governance Project (KPCG); Polycom Development Project; GROOTS Kenya; Rural Women Network and SDG Kenya Forum during VNR, it is clear most of the efforts are targeting improved food, nutrition and economic security through climate adoptive farming methods, indigenous methods of food preservation like sun drying and water harvesting. This has helped to position grassroots women who disproportionately bear the brunt of negative impacts of climate change from victims to valuable actors contributing to mitigation and adaptation strategies. For example, Rural Women Network-Through partnership with Farm Forest Smallholders Producers Association of Kenya (FF-SPAK) is

implementing capacity building activities for women in environmental conservation in Nakuru.

Through Agricultural Council of Kenya (AgCK), they are also developing the Africa Leafy Vegetables (ALVs) for Kajiado county –aiming to promote its production and marketing by women and the youth in the county. Though an important adaptive measure, it will also complement earnings for women. Other organizations have actively participated in development of Climate Change Adaptation Policies and the gender mainstreaming toolkit with cases at hand of Marsabit and Isiolo counties that helps to sustain dialogue with key stakeholders in relation to land use and planning.

Additional contribution by CSOs related to building climate resilience include: access to financial services for women through women led savings and credit cooperatives, adoption of indigenous farming methods and crop preservation, crop rotation and water harvesting and the protection of the indigenous forests and water towers. In Kenya, the CSOs are also engaged in natural resources management using the traditional telling of weather patterns or indigenous knowledge to determine seasons for example when to cut the mangroves and when to let them re-generate.

The in-depth analysis of the role of grassroots women cannot be taken for granted. This study establishes that women with support of CSOs have also been making critical contribution to advancing the implementation of SD13, Determined Contribution (INDC) 2015; The Climate Change Act 2016; National Climate Change Framework Policy 2016; Kenya National Adaptation Plan 2015-2030.

The table below provides a summary of achievement in regard to implementation of SDG 13 selected targets and indicators

Indicator	Indicator Description	Progress made by 2019
13.1.1	Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people	The number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster has remained at 1 per 100,000 people from 2017 to 2019.
13.1.2	Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030	National Disaster Reduction Strategy & Policy 2010, National Disaster Preparedness and Response Strategies
13.1.3	Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national risk reduction strategies	All the 47 county governments have mainstreamed Disaster Risk Management Planning which is implemented through the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs)
13.2.1	Number of countries with nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans, strategies as reported in adaptation communications and national communications	National Climate Change Response Strategy 2010; National Climate Change Action Plan 2013- 2017; Kenya Independent Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) 2015; The Climate Change Act 2016; National Climate Change Framework policy 2016; Kenya National Adaptation Plan 2015-2030.

3.2.3 Challenges and Gaps in Implementation of SGD 13

Though there have been great milestones towards climate actions, most of the time the experiences of women and girls in reducing the negative impact of climate change are not considered because they are rarely represented at the planning and decision-making processes. Sometimes even when they are represented their voices are not heard due to cultural barriers, systemic observer status and thus rendering them passive listeners. Their voices at the decision-making table sometimes get drowned because they are the minority.

The progress in realizing land rights for women remains a great challenge. More often, women don't make decisions on the activities taking place on the land. Women can plant trees, but they don't own them, they are not consulted when they are cut.

Women are underrepresented in local leadership and county government which may be a hindrance when it comes to getting support for their priorities especially in climate change, Disaster action and Environment protection. There is lack of political goodwill for intentional inclusion and consultation during the policy development, financing and implementation which is slowly changing. The patriarchal and traditional norms which still do not recognize the value of women on Climate negotiations and participation.

SECTION 4.0: EMERGING DISASTERS

Disasters and emergencies have significant impact on implementation of SGD 5, 8 and 13 and achieving gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in Kenya. The country continues to battle with myriads of disasters including flood, drought, and locust invasion. Disasters take toll on community resilience and adaptive capabilities, increasing vulnerability to subsequent disasters. Often, this makes the subsequent disaster more


impactful, negatively affecting the recovery outcomes of the affected communities. The long-term effects of disaster have been seen to derail the gains that have been made in implementation of SGDs.

4.1. Impacts of COVID-19, a global pandemic, is one of the widest human health disasters the world has contended with in the current century. In Kenya, the government announced and enforced various containment measures including closure of businesses like markets, restaurants, and other entertainment places, instituted working from home, reduced movement, closure of schools, halting of all international flights as well as partial lockdowns in the identified hotspots. These measures affected the livelihoods of millions due to illnesses, economic meltdown, and changes in social living. The fact that women form a larger proportion of the informal sector means that the containment measures affected them more since the sector is not formalized and regulated. The emergency of online trading and communication means that rural women and girls are highly disadvantaged with limited access to markets to sell their commodities, limited access to critical information and services, which escalates the levels of marginalization for women and girls. It also means that due to limited access to internet and smart technology, women and girls' participation in virtual decision-making processes was hindered.

The COVID-19 pandemic has therefore exposed (and continue to expose) the fragility and inequality of our society, economy and health systems. It has laid bare the devastating effects of decades of under-investment in quality public health and care systems. Many countries were ill-prepared to deal with the scale and rapidly evolving nature of the pandemic.



Photo: women waiting for antenatal services



The requirements for one to qualify for access to essential services were quite high and women were highly disadvantaged. For example, rural women in agricultural value chains were greatly affected by disrupted transport

systems. The fact that Covid-19 struck just before the rain season meant that rural farmers, majority being women could not access farm inputs on time due to disrupted transport exposing them to the risk of food insecurity. At the same time, women are further negatively impacted by entrenched factors, such as discriminatory social norms, stereotypes, and attitudes, these are upheld and often exacerbated in crises, resulting in reduced access to sexual and reproductive health services during the pandemic.

The COVID-19 global crisis has also made starkly visible the fact that the world's formal economies and the maintenance of our daily lives are built on the invisible and unpaid labor of women and girls. In such epidemics, girls and women are more likely to shoulder the increased responsibility of unpaid domestic work (women already do three times the amount of unpaid care work that men do).²¹ Furthermore, containment measures such as school closures have affected approximately 1.6 billion learners,²² in turn exacerbating the burdens of unpaid care work for women as children either stay home to learn or stay away from the school environment.

Covid-19 also caused disruptions in government services delivery, due to social distancing and working from home, it means that women and girls are not able to access public services which they depend on in meeting their daily needs. Increased injustices against women and girls e.g., high unreported cases of sexual and gender-based violence during curfew, with limited access to justice services.

Additionally, non-COVID-19 related health services may be reduced, leaving families to care for sick members, a role typically filled by women. With children out of school, intensified care needs of older persons and ill family members, and overwhelmed health services, demands for care work in a COVID19 world have intensified exponentially.

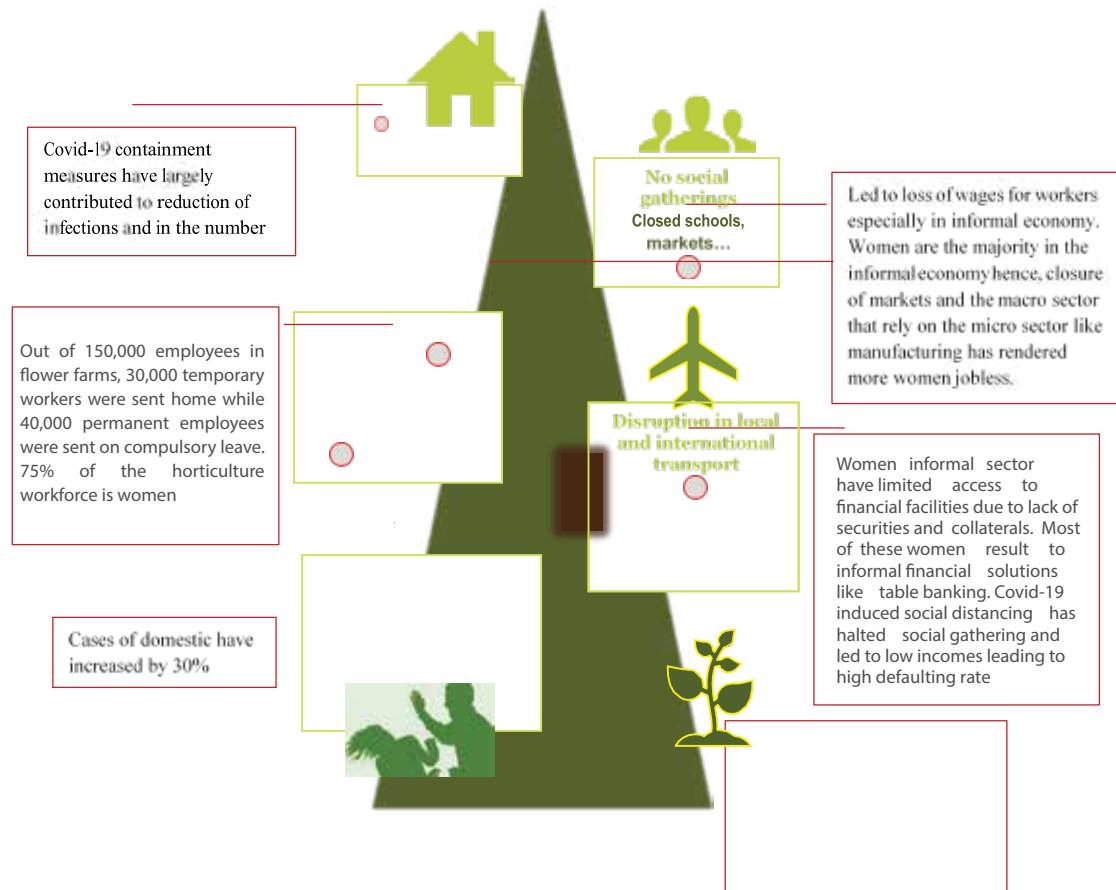
Strained health systems and the accompanying health and safety risks to health and care risk to health workers due to insufficient supplies are being felt most acutely by women, who comprise roughly 70% of the health care sector, according to the World Health Organization²³.

Though these containment measures have yielded results by reducing spread and saving lives, women and girls continue to face the threats of shadow pandemic amidst Covid-19 because it has negative impact on their health and economic outcomes as illustrated in the diagram below:

IMPACTS OF

COVID-19

On Women and girls in Kenya



4.1.1 Emerging Opportunities for Advancing Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls

i. Opportunities for “Building Better” After Covid-19

Undoubtedly, the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic in form of increased demand for care underpins the urgent need for public investments in quality public care jobs and services, combined with inclusive and universal social protection systems. According to the ILO,

2.1 billion people were in need of care in 2015, including 1.9 billion children under the age of 15 and 200 million older persons²⁴. By 2030, this number is expected to reach 2.3 billion, driven by an additional 200 million older persons and children. To achieve the SDGs, 269 million jobs in the care economy will need to be created by 2030

In addition, the World Health Organization predicts that economic and demographic trends will create around 40 million new jobs in the health and social sector, mostly in middle- and high-income countries, by 2030. But despite the anticipated growth in jobs there will be a projected 18 million health worker shortfall, mainly in low- and low middle-income countries. Research commissioned by the ITUC shows how investing 2 per cent of GDP in public care services can create millions of quality jobs, narrow the gender pay gap, reduce overall inequality, help redress the exclusion of women from decent jobs and contribute to inclusive economic growth²⁵.

Remarkable strides have been made in establishing laws, policies and institutional frameworks eg Kenya National African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Strategy and Action Plan (2018-2023), Women Enterprise Fund, Affirmative Action Fund, Banking Act 2016 among others to enhance the access to economic and social liberties, therefore, there is need for more implementation, action and investments efforts to bridge laws/aspirations with actual practice on the ground.

The foregoing discussion notwithstanding, Covid-19 has also opened up positive economic opportunities, for instance, the demand for surgical masks, assembly lines, soaps and sanitizers has created employment opportunity for women and young people through local manufacturing of these essential commodities. For example, Kitui County Textile Company (KICOTEC), Shona Export Processing Zone Ltd and Bedi Investment Ltd have greatly benefited from the business opportunity presented by Covid-19. These initiatives can be scaled up with a #dignified response, guided by feminist investment lenses.

²⁴ United Nations, “Policy Brief: Education during COVID-19 and beyond, Report of the Secretary General” https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2020/08/sg_policy_brief_covid-19_and_education_august_2020.pdf
²⁵ ITUC reports (2016/2017): Investing in the care economy. <https://www.ituc-csi.org/investing-in-the-care-economy>

4.1.1 Emerging Opportunities for Advancing Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls

i. Opportunities for “Building Better” After Covid-19

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²⁵ ITUC reports (2016/2017): Investing in the care economy. <https://www.ituc-csi.org/investing-in-the-care-economy>

- ii. Generational Equality Forum: which kicked off in Mexico in March 2021 and culminated in France in July 2021, for building a powerful, global movement for gender equality that will deliver progress for women and girls, in all their diversity.

The Action Coalitions are bringing together governments, women's, feminist, and youth led organizations, international organizations, foundations, and businesses to drive change. Through blueprints for action co-created by Action Coalition leaders, are catalysing collective commitments; sparking global and local conversations between generations and across communities; and driving substantial increases in public and private funding.


The Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights will further work to accelerate progress on the care economy agenda by driving a global multi-stakeholder approach to design and implement measures to recognize, reduce, redistribute unpaid care and domestic work, reward paid care work and ensure representation of women care workers (5Rs).

- a) The 5Rs present a major opportunity for impact given the number of women and girls engaged in social production on whose merit whole economies thrive. This Action creates the opportunity to meet the needs of 1.4 billion women and girls aged 15 and older globally in order to stay on track to recognizing SDG target 5.4 by 2025 (>40% in low or lower-middle income countries) and SDG target 8.5.
- b) In particular, the Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights will drive concerted action to, increase the number of countries with a comprehensive set of measures, including through increased investments in gender-responsive public quality care, law and policy reforms and the creation of millions of decent care jobs, to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work, reward paid care work and guarantee care workers' labour rights and their increased representation by 2026.
- c)

Feminist action for climate justice Action Coalition:

Is another opportunity to harness the momentum of climate action to create more gender- and climate-equitable economic and political systems, especially as shocks like COVID-19 prompt behaviour change and economic and political responses. This Action Coalition brings together Member States, international organizations, private sector, civil society, and youth-led organizations to consolidate efforts, set concrete targets and create costed frameworks for multi-stakeholder implementation, which will function to leverage support and drive collective action for achieving gender and climate objectives by 2026.

The aim is to drive progress by channelling increased political, financial and advocacy support towards these goals to strengthen women's and girls' agency and leadership in the green economy, enhance their resilience to climate impacts, and defend the rights of rural, grassroots and indigenous women and girls in their full diversity as critical actors in the fight against climate change. This Action Coalition is uniquely positioned to address



challenges of this magnitude. Ultimately, a cross-sectoral partnership and coordination around a set of concrete goals is what will be required to achieve our collective vision for Feminist action for climate justice by 2026.

The Action Coalition on Gender Based Violence: There is recognition that despite the scale of the problem, SGBV against women and girls is preventable. Growing global evidence indicates that investments in sustained multi-year, evidence-driven prevention strategies can drive down prevalence of GBV against women and girls within programme time frames. The Action Coalition on Gender Based Violence, where the Kenya government is leader and has made clear acceleration commitments to ensuring that SGBV interventions are survivor-cantered and are backed by targeted and adequate financial resources and political will. The 12 concrete actions on ending all forms of Gender Based Violence by 2026 included increasing funding for GBV prevention and response to 2.3 billion by 2022 and 5 billion by 2026, is therefore a critical steppingstone to ensure a holistic social protection program for many women and girls in all their diversities. In addition,

women's rights organizations are recognized for their expertise, well- resourced and have capacity to drive change as leaders at all levels, ensuring that diverse voices are amplified across social and political arenas, including adolescent girls and youth.

The following table presents critical areas that the Generational Equality Forum provides in regard to the two Action Coalitions that this this study focused on, namely Economic Justice and Rights and Feminist Action for Climate Change.

Action Coalitions**Relevant Articles****Areas Addressed**

Economic Justice and Rights?

Article 11 (c)

- Women's rights to and equal opportunity in the labour market and decent work
- Action against discrimination and abuse in the workplace
- Promotion of equal pay for work of equal value
- Provision of social security
- Support transition from informal-to- informal work in all sectors
- Women access to credit and entrepreneurship
- Financial inclusion and literacy for women and girls

Article 11(d)

- Reduce and redistribute Women and girls disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work
- Ensure work-life balance
- Equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men within the household
- Strengthen social protection and other measures to empower women

Article 11(e)

- Eliminate burden of poverty among women and girls including female headed households
-

Feminist Action on Climate Change?

Article 11 (f)

- Mainstreaming a gender perspective into environmental climate change and disaster risk reduction policies
- Recognise disproportionate effect of climate change and natural disasters on women and girls
- Strengthen the adoptive resilience and adoptive capacities of women and girls to respond to the adverse impact of climate change and natural disasters
- Promote women's participation and leadership in decision making on environmental and climate change issues.

SECTION 5: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions:

The call to “leave no one behind” is a key principle of the Sustainable Development Agenda, offering a blueprint for a better and sustainable future for everyone by 2030. The goals which address global challenges including inequality in general, and SDG 5, call for “achievement of gender equality and empowering all women and girls”.

Achieving gender equality is absolutely critical considering that women bear the heaviest burden, yet they are frequently denied the resources, information and freedom of action. Gender equality and women's empowerment is key to a peaceful and a prosperous world, a moral imperative and fundamental human right.

The study establishes that the Kenya government has put adequate measures to align the Agenda 2030 with the overall national development ecosystem. The country has already undertaken two national evaluations of the progress made on the implementation of the 17 SDGs (2017 and 2020), a testament of the importance and commitment to the post 2015 agenda. The two reviews of SDGs implementation in Kenya confirms a multi-stakeholders engagement approach including non-state actors which an important building blocks for citizens to continue and accelerate to drive demand for accountability on the advancement of women's empowerment, women's human rights and gender equality in line with the aspirations of SDG 8 and SDG 13.

Further, in order to achieve inclusive sustainable development, the Kenyan government realises the need to close persistent gender inequalities. The country takes cognisance that women have been left behind. As such, development of associated legal, policy and institutional frameworks that address the inequalities between men and women in their enjoyment and

contribution of the countries development continues to be where the country has made progress.

While this is commendable, the SDGs progress reports especially related to inclusive and sustained economic growth does not site persistent gender inequality as a gap. There is also barely any recognition of secure land tenure and control over valuable assets as important means for sustainable development. Nevertheless, experiences in Kenya including during this study review confirms it's an area crowded by major gender inequalities. Secure land tenure is not just only a means of production but also provides women with a sense of identity and heritage which is critical to advancing inclusive and sustainable development.

As indicated in this report, the progress is slow and minimal and has barely translated in the overall transformation in the lives of women and girls. The study reaffirms the contribution non-state actors make to complement the government's efforts. Reports submitted by members of SDG Kenya demonstrates the rise of CSOs in the empowerment of women in adaptation and mitigation as well in the design of state led policies and programs. More systematic and proactive efforts may be needed towards monitoring and holding the government accountable in the fulfilment of the SDGs and especially as it relates to advancing the commitments of SDG 5.

As discussed in this report the negative impact of COVID 19 has exposed and brought to surface the systematic gender inequality that exists in Kenya. The impact that the pandemic will leave has long-lasting implication on Kenya's ability to maintain momentum and build on the gains so far made. There is certainly possibility of a reversal of the progress as indicated in the National Progress report, 2020. This calls for non-state actors to put more efforts in skilfully preparing on appropriate advocacy strategies that complement the government's efforts, but also sustaining the accountability responsibility within the new normal. The use of technology and online communication to mobilise and organise for citizen's engagement will become more essential than before to ensure "No One is Left Behind.

5.2 Recommendations for Gender Data management

The Women's Empowerment Index represents a major milestone in Kenya's evidence-based policy making for setting the baseline and monitoring the country's progress in achieving SDG 5. Given the limitations in gender data, the following recommendations should be considered to build a more robust and comprehensive measure:

KNBS invest in improving the Measure of Women's Empowerment by;

- i. Expanding the range of indicators measured for different age groups to reflect lifecycle needs and rights of women, and measure empowerment comprehensively for all. Even though such variables and indicators should be identified through a dedicated follow-up activity, the following should also be considered when revising the survey questionnaires:

Changing the sampling methodology to allow measurement of women's empowerment at the county level. Including questions on agency or decision- making power of adolescent girls and young women (aged 15-24 years), and women not in union (single, divorced, separated and widowed). Household decision-making dynamics should be captured by including questions about different members including father, mother, brother, grandparents of girls and (young) women, in-laws of women previously or currently in union, and other kin. Collecting data on women's access to ICT at the individual level, including ownership, usage, and purpose of usage of mobile phone, computer and internet.

Collecting data on women's psychological empowerment, including feelings of self-confidence, self-esteem and self-empowerment, as well as perceived psychological wellbeing. o Collecting data on women's participation and ability to engage in public speaking. o Collecting data on women's perceptions of power and empowerment in the community.

5.3: Recommendations for Policy and Advocacy:

SDG Kenya plays a major role not only bringing the non-state actors together to contribute to a collective approach in the implementation of Agenda 2030, but to facilitate debates and actions that bridge practice with policy and aspirations. The Forum thus has a duty to urgently use the opportunity of Generation equality to advance advocacy for the acceleration on the implementation of the agenda 2030 especially in line with the advancement of women's empowerment, women's human rights and gender equality.

1. Government to increase investments in strengthening timeliness of production of women empowerment index (WEI) and its integration in reporting mechanisms for gender equality and women's empowerment such as Vision 2030, BPFA/GEF, CEDAW and SDGs.

The following recommendations should be considered for citizen generated gender data and policy and advocacy:

- Collecting data on women's perceptions on empowerment of their spouses, parents, siblings, and children. a) Improve advocacy on the use of WEI to inform legislative, policy and resources allocation towards gender equality and women's empowerment.
- Collecting data on women's access, ownership, and usage of productive resources such as land, house, enterprises, and other capital.
- Collecting information on women's knowledge of their legal rights and mechanisms, and institutions through which they can seek recourse and through which their rights are reinforced.
- Collecting data on women's perceptions of power, and of their husbands',

families', and communities' attitudes and expectations.

2. Clear Advocacy and action plans: SDG Kenya Forum should accelerate and have very specific tailored advocacy action plan that will ensure that existing positive policy and legal framework contributes to the fulfilment of

human rights for women and girls and that their economic contribution and enjoyment is accounted and guaranteed in Kenya.


3. Further research and in-depth studies: Perhaps, SDG Kenya Forum and partners would benefit by resourcing and embarking on a more in-depth study to dissect further the underlying levels of inequalities e.g. across most important economic sectors and across different regions to inform better strategic advocacy.

There is need to invest in in-depth analysis of the barriers that women and girls are battling in transitioning from informal to formal forms of employment.

Kenyan citizens and development partners have constantly voiced their fears on the growing levels of poor governance and corruption in public affairs and is important for a much more in-depth study to unpack the implication this has in the attainment of the SDG 8.

4. Capacity Building initiatives: It is important that SDG Kenya builds the capacity of members on the use of gender justice and economic justice and rights discourse with the purpose to influence the use of the same by the government in the implementation of plans and programs towards realisation of the aspirations of SGD8 and SDG 13 in Kenya.

Prioritise skills, knowledge enhancement and empowerment of grassroots women and local communities in the use of technology as a tool for advocacy to remain




relevant in the new normal within the realms of the sustainable development arena and ensuring No One is Left Behind.

5. Invest in deliberate documentation: The SDG Kenya Forum need to invest in deliberate documentation of the role of Grassroots women and local communities in climate change adaptation and mitigation and follow through to ensure that their contribution is measured and counts in informing government and other actors tracking the implementation of SGDs 13. This will contribute to evidence needed for systematic, sustained, and proactive mechanism for monitoring the implementation of SDGs by the Government in Kenya

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