



# **Amplifying Voices of Marginalised Groups in SDGs Implementation – Kenya**

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**[voicescount.org](https://www.voicescount.org)**

# The Project Aims



- The project builds the capacity of citizens, grassroots organizations and marginalized groups on SDGs
- Aims at supporting communities to generate data, participate in relevant public discourses and political forums, and give them voice and agency.
- It promotes the participation of marginalized groups in public discourse for improved access of services and enjoyment of rights and ensuring that their voices are heard and count

Counties of Implementation in Kenya

Siaya, Makueni, Taita Taveta, Busia, Embu



## SDGs of focus



### SDGs Targets:

5.4, 5.5, 1.4, 10.3, 10.4,  
6.7 and 16.10

- SDG 5 on Gender
- SDG 10 on reducing inequalities
- SDG 16 on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development



## Successes

- The county dialogues with citizens enabled voices of marginalized communities including women, youths, slums dwellers, persons with disabilities and the elderly to be integral in the monitoring and implementation of the SDGs.
- This fostered increased social accountability of key stakeholders and triggered responsive action for more inclusive and equitable planning for communities towards the realization of SDGs.
- The consolidated citizens voices influenced the Kenya Voluntary National reporting to the UN.
- Citizens generated data on drivers and level of marginalization among marginalized groups especially persons with disability and this enabled prioritisation of policy asks and programs recommended to support persons with disability



## LNOB consortia members

- VSO Kenya,
- SDGs Kenya Forum,
- United Disabled Person of Kenya (UDPK),
- CBM,
- Plan International Kenya,
- Development Initiatives,
- Islamic Relief Kenya,
- ADRA Kenya,
- Caritas Kenya,
- ActionAid Kenya,
- Humanity and Inclusion



## How citizens generated the data

- County/community dialogues
- Focus Group Discussions
- Questionnaires
- Household surveys,
- Key informant Interviews s  
(with various county  
government departments &  
development partners)
- Desk review of literature
- Case studies/stories



## Key recommendations from the LNOB project

- Capacity strengthening among persons with disabilities groups, and associations, in meaningful participation, as well as on how to represent, engage and present issues
- Create awareness on VNR processes, participation and reporting mechanisms for persons with disabilities.
- Gather disability disaggregated data to guide planning and budgeting for disability interventions; access to basic services; participation in budget formulation process and address intersectional inequalities
- Need for increased budgets, improved approaches to create mechanisms by which engagement, inclusion, and participation among persons with disabilities enhanced



## Recommendations

- Facilitate the provision of updated information in acceptable formats to persons with disabilities;
- Promote functional literacy skills among persons with disabilities
- The County Government to work with representatives of Persons with Disabilities to finalize inclusive County Disability Policies
- Promote inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in all development processes including SDGs planning, mainstreaming, monitoring, and tracking + factoring in the COVID-19 context and unique challenges it presents.
- Scale up the number of communities engaged in the county dialogues for increased target audience, public awareness, and participation, and ensure that no one is left behind.





## How CGD supports community participation



- Community data forms solid experiential evidence, and case studies describe the situation, conditions, and context of issues.
- Evidence harvesting from the data can constitute a credible basis for determining priorities and designing appropriate interventions.
- Having policies that support acceptability of citizen generated data and social inclusion is an added incentive and motivation.
- Policy statements summarized as part of the report points to key areas and issues of potential engagement with actors, stakeholders, key players in the disability space. The media can be used to highlight the issues especially powerful when persons with disability engage media.
- The data is different in that it is based on real lived/life experiences of PWDs which is the prime target beneficiary, data was undertaken among key actors, players, and stakeholders who acknowledge the gaps, factors and drivers of marginalization and who are open to take on the findings to address the gaps and remedy the factors and drivers of marginalization on the medium, and long-term basis.
- The data is motivating and enhances willingness to act at the household level, at the local public administration level, at the County government level and at the national level. It would seem appropriately timely for this synergy to be embraced.



## Benefits of CGD



- Collecting of disaggregated data facilitates particularizing where most priority need occurs by person (groups of persons) and location. This provides a combination of spatial and demographic data.
- It contributes to clarity of scoping the need by locality, and population affected for better targeting, planning, budgeting, and coordination of organized implementation of responses.
- Facilitates bringing in perspectives that would otherwise not be possible during other means of data disaggregation.
- Makes it possible to identify intersecting drivers of vulnerability and exclusion at the local level
- Participatory Action Research (PAR) in which the beneficiaries or primary actors are also part of the research teams, and also respondents can also provide an interesting perspective of both insider and outsider



## Challenges in CGD

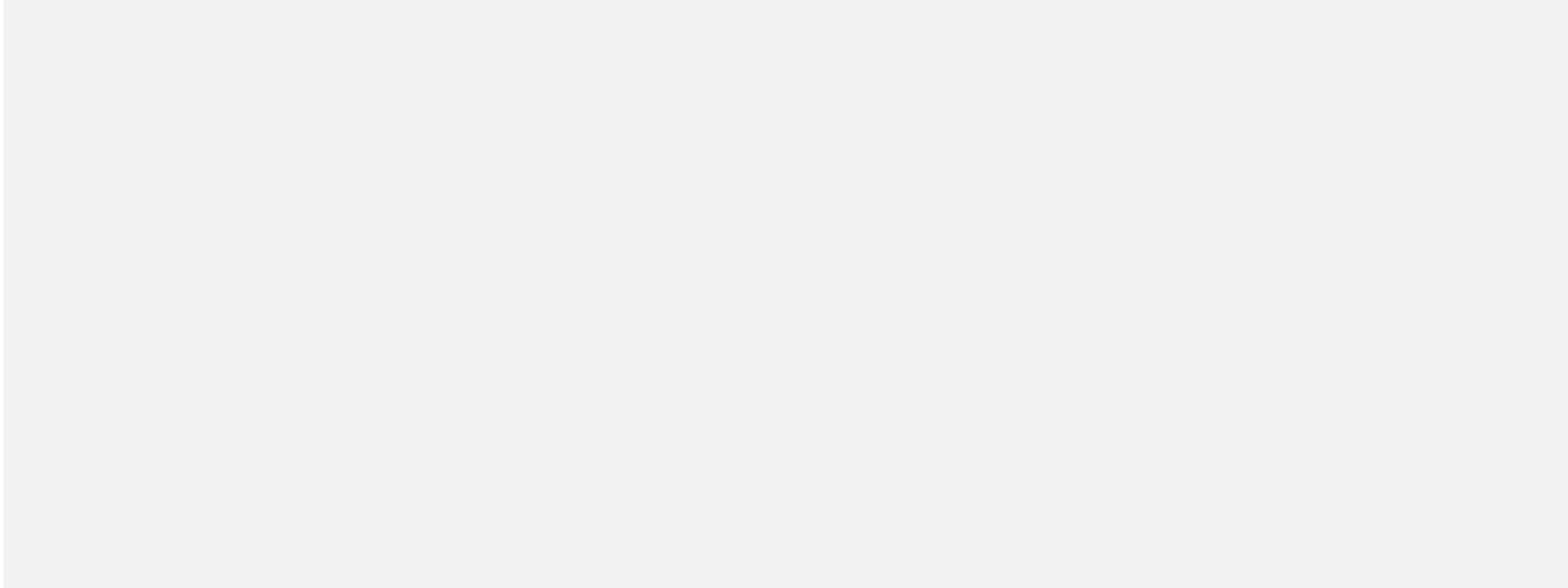
- Where data collection is done in a second and or third language, interpretation biases might occur.
- Persons with disability data in Kenya is quite contentious – issues around accuracy, methodologies used, access to the data, privacy, confidentiality, bureaucracy and gender issues – what categories should be prioritised or included for planning?
- During the context of participatory data gathering, in multisectoral/intersectoral teams, the team which provides leadership or the team to which sector the data is being collected, and which the issues in focus relate more to, might induce biases of how things should be or will be done in response to the needs.
- Concept biases and/or concept loses - Where data collection involves interpretation of language e.g. from English or French and has to be read out and interpreted through a local language and in the response to the tool a local language is used to originate the response, which is then interpreted/translated back into English and or French. In such a process, concept biases and/or concept loses do occur.



## Challenges (contd)

- There are certain aspects in the concept and in vocabulary that cannot be adequately translated or interpreted during data gathering, e.g. the way the terminology "intersectionality disadvantaged population groups" is used in the questions.
- Quality of data, and information sharing on the SDGs processes at the county level is low – more County level SDGs platforms for engagement needed
- The technical nature of data gathering language, (framing of concepts, terms, terminologies), the structure of data gathering tools, often not conversational and where conversational e.g. in Focus Group Discussions disability barriers, there is need for keen technical guidance, to take care of the scope of depth/breadth of data to be collected. All these elements and others affect the process, mechanisms, and procedures during data collection and later might also impact data analysis, interpretation and quality of findings





**Thanks, & Questions.**

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