



DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE 2025



FOR THE PEOPLE, FOR PROSPERITY:
DEVOLUTION AS A CATALYST FOR EQUITY,
INCLUSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

REPORT

DATE: 12TH – 15TH AUGUST 2025





DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE 2025



THEME

FOR THE PEOPLE, FOR PROSPERITY: DEVOLUTION AS A
CATALYST FOR EQUITY, INCLUSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

SUB - THEME

RE-ENGINEERING COUNTY GOVERNMENTS TO ACCELERATE
DEVELOPMENT AND CLOSE THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DIVIDE

DATE: 12TH - 15TH AUGUST 2025

VENUE: HOMA BAY COUNTY

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AGPO	Access to Government Procurement Opportunities
AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
AHP	Affordable Housing Programme
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AIDS	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
AKKIMA	Ardhi Kwa Kina Mama
AMREF	African Medical and Research Foundation
ANC	Antenatal Care
ASAL	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
BETA	Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda
CAF	County Assemblies Forum
CAIP	County Aggregation and Industrial Park
CAJ	Commission on Justice
CARA	County Allocation of Revenue Act
CAT	Community Advisory Team
CBD	Central Business District
CBM	Christian Blind Mission
CCAK	Clean Cooking Association of Kenya
CDF	Constituencies Development Fund
CECM	County Executive Committee Member in Kenya
CEMASTEAM	Centre for Mathematics and STEM Education
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CHAI	Clinton Health Access Initiative
CHAK	Christian Health Association of Kenya
CHAMPS	Children and Mothers Partnerships
CHC	Community Health Committees
CHIS	Community Health Information System
CHP	Community Health Promoters
CHS	community Health Strategy
CHU4UHC	Community Healthy Units 4 UHC
CHV	Community Health Volunteers
CHW	Community Health Workers
CIDP	County Integrated Development Plans
CMD	Centre for Multiparty Democracy
CME	Childhood Maltreatment Experiences
COG	Council of Governors
CPA	Certified Public Accountant
CPF	Central Provident Fund
CPSB	County Public Service Boards
CRA	Commission on Revenue Allocation
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CS	Cabinet Secretary
CSA	Centre for the Study of Adolescence
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibilities
DDP	Director of Public Prosecutions

DHA	Digital Health Authority
DORA	Division of Revenue Act
DPRM	Disability Participatory Rehabilitation Model
DPRP	Diabetes Prevention Recognition Program
DRS	Department of Refugees Services
EABL	East African Breweries Limited
EACC	Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission
ECD	Early Childhood Development
ECDE	Early Childhood Development Education
ECDN	Early Childhood Development Network
ECE	Early Childhood Education
EIB	European Investment Bank
EPRA	Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority
EU	European Union
EWS	Early Warning System
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FCDC	Frontier Counties Development Council
FCCA	Forensic Certified Public Accountant
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FIEK	Fellow of the Institution of Engineers
FIF	Facility Improvement Fund
FLLOCA	Financing Locally Led Climate Action
GAVI	Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GIS	Geographic Information System
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
HDU	High Dependency Unit
HENNET	Health NGOs Network
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HPV	Human Papillomavirus
HR	Human Resource
HRH	Human Resource for Health
HRM	Human Resource Management & Development
HSC	Head of State Commendation
IBEC	Intergovernmental Budget and Economic Council
ICRHK	International Centre for Reproductive Health, Kenya
ICT	Information, Communication and Technology
IEK	Institution Engineers of Kenya
IGRTC	Inter-Governmental Relations Technical Committee
ILO	International Labour Organisation
ISO	International Organisation for Standardization
JKUAT	Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology
KAS	Konrad Adenauer Stiftung
KBC	Kenya Broadcasting Corporation
KBL	Kenya Breweries Limited
KCB	Kenya Commercial Bank
KDCWG	Kenya Devolution Civil Society Working Group
KDSP	Kenya Devolution Support Program II
KEBS	Kenya Bureau of Standards
KELIN	Kenya Legal and Ethical Issues Network

KEMFRI	Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute
KEMRI	Kenya Medical Research Institute
KEMSA	Kenya Medical Supplies Authority
KENET	Kenya Education Network Trust
KEPROBA	Kenya Export Promotion and Branding Agency
KEPSA	Kenya Private Sector Alliance
KFS	Kenya Forest Service
KIPPRA	The Kenya Institute of Public Policy Research and Analysis
KMC	Kangaroo Mother Care
KMET	Kisumu Medical Education Trust
KMRC	Kenya Mortgage Refinance Company
KMTC	Kenya Medical Training College
KNAD	Kenya National Association of the Deaf
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
KNCCI	Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry
KNH	Kenyatta National Hospital
KNTC	Kenya National Trading Corporation
KOMEX	Kenya National Multi-Commodities Exchange Limited
KPCG	Kenya Platform for Climate Governance
KPI	Key Performance Indicators
KPLC	Kenya Power and Lighting Company
KRA	Kenya Revenue Authority
KURA	Kenya Urban Roads Authority
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
LREB	Lake Region Economic Bloc
LSK	Law Society of Kenya
MCA	Member of County Assembly
MHM	Menstrual, Hygiene Management
MIEK	Member, Institution of Engineers Kenya
MIS	Minimally Invasive Surgery
MMR	Measles Mumps and Rubella
MNH	Maternal and Newborn Health
MOH	Ministry of Health
MP	Member of Parliament
MPDSR	Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
MTEF	Medium Term Expenditure Framework
NACADA	National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse
NBC	New Building Code
NCD	Non-Communicable Diseases
NCPWD	National Council for Persons with Disabilities
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NG	National Government
NG-CDF	National Government Constituencies Development Fund
NGAAF	National Government Affirmative Action Fund
NGEC	National Gender and Equality Commission
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisations
NLIMS	National Land Information Management System
NMR	Nuclear Magnetic Resonance
OPD	Organisations of Persons with Disabilities

PAAPAM	Pan-African Action Plan for Active Mobility
PELUM	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
PEPFAR	President's Emergency Plans for AIDS Relief
PETS	Public Expenditure Tracking Survey
PFM	Public Financial Management
PFMA	Public Financial Management Act
PHC	Primary Health Care
PINUA	Partnership Implementing the New Urban Agenda
PIU	Program Implementation Unit
PLUPA	Planning and Land Use Policy Act
PLWD	Persons Living with Disabilities
PM	Performance Management
PPC	Performance-Based Payment Contracts
PPP	Public Private Partnerships
PS	Public Service
PSC	Public Service Commission
PWD	Persons with Disabilities
RMNH	Reproductive, Maternal, and Newborn Health
SAGA	Semi-Autonomous Government Agencies (SAGAs)
SDD	State Department of Devolution
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	sexual and gender-based violence
SHA	Social Health Authority
SHOFCO	Shining Hope for Communities
SIBOWASCO	SIBO Water and Sanitation Company Limited
SME	Small Medium Enterprises
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SUMP	Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans
TESPOK	Technology Service Providers of Kenya
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UACA	Urban Areas and Cities Act
UDPK	United Disabled Persons of Kenya
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UN	United Nations
UNCHR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNITAC	UN-Habitat Innovation Lab
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UXP	Urban Expansion Planning
VAT	Value Added Tax
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFD	Westminster Foundation for Democracy
WHO	World Health Organisation
WRA	Water Resources Authority
WRI	World Resource Institute

FOREWORD FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



**GOVERNOR FCPA AHMED ABDULLAHI, EGH,
WAJIR COUNTY AND CHAIRPERSON COUNCIL
OF GOVERNORS**

The Devolution Conference 2025 represents a pivotal moment in Kenya's journey under devolved governance, providing a platform for structured policy reflection, evidence-based decision-making, and strategic planning across national and County governments.

The Conference convened from 12–15 August 2025 in Homa Bay County, bringing together a diverse cross-section of stakeholders, including national and County leaders, development partners, civil society actors, academia, and private sector representatives.

This iteration of the Conference focused on the overarching theme: “For the People, For Prosperity: Devolution as a Catalyst for Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice,” with the sub-theme: “Re-engineering County Governments to Accelerate Development and Close the Socio-Economic Divide.” The discussions were structured around three principal pillars: Good Governance, Human Rights and Social Justice, and Financing Equity and Inclusion. Delegates critically examined the performance of County governments over the past twelve years, assessed innovations in service delivery, and identified gaps in policy and institutional coordination that require immediate intervention.

A key insight emerging from the Conference is the centrality of citizen engagement in planning, oversight, and evaluation processes. Evidence presented underscored that Counties with structured citizen participation frameworks experience higher transparency, improved fiscal accountability, and better alignment of development priorities with community needs. Delegates also explored the catalytic role of digital transformation in enhancing operational efficiency, automating revenue collection, curbing fiscal leakages, and enabling data-driven decision-making across sectors.

The Conference provided an extensive review of County-led innovations, including climate-resilient agricultural value chains, participatory governance models, digitized health systems, circular economy frameworks, and inclusive social protection programs. These examples demonstrate the potential of devolved governance to promote equitable economic growth, enhance resilience against emerging climate and urban pressures, and improve human capital development outcomes.

Despite these successes, the Conference identified enduring structural and operational challenges. These include fragmented legal and institutional frameworks, inequitable resource allocation, systemic exclusion of marginalized groups (women, youth, persons with disabilities), and pressures from rapid urbanization and climate variability. Addressing these challenges requires robust intergovernmental coordination, reinforced fiscal accountability mechanisms, and strategic partnerships with development actors and the private sector.

The successful outcomes of this Conference reinforce the principle that devolution is not an episodic policy intervention but a long-term investment in equitable growth, social justice, and democratic resilience. The Conference demonstrates that aligning political commitment, fiscal resources, institutional capacity, and citizen engagement is essential to realize the transformative potential of devolved governance for all Kenyans.

GOVERNOR FCPA AHMED ABDULLAHI, EGH, WAJIR COUNTY
Chairperson Council Of Governors

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



MS MARY MWITI, EBS - CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

The Council of Governors (COG) wishes to express sincere gratitude to all individuals and institutions whose contributions made the Devolution Conference 2025 a success.

We acknowledge the leadership of the president of Kenya, H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto, CGH for his guidance and support in consolidating devolution as a cornerstone of Kenya's governance framework. His participation in the Conference underscored the national government's commitment to inclusive development and equitable resource allocation. We also thank H.E. The Deputy President, Prof. Kithure Kindiki, EGH and the late Rt. Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga, CGH for their strategic contributions, keynote addresses, and guidance on advancing governance, social justice, and national cohesion through devolved systems.

Our gratitude extends to the COG, whose coordination, technical guidance, and facilitation of discussions across Counties were essential in ensuring productive

deliberations. We acknowledge the contributions of County Governors, Members of Parliament, Cabinet Secretaries, and senior public officials for their active engagement in plenary and technical sessions.

Special recognition is due to the County Government of Homa Bay for hosting the Conference and providing logistical and operational support. We are grateful to the organizing teams, technical staff, session moderators, rapporteurs, and volunteers who ensured smooth operations and meticulous documentation of proceedings.

We appreciate the participation of development partners, civil society organizations, academia, the private sector, and international observers. Their expertise, innovative ideas, and technical insights strengthened discussions on fiscal decentralization, digital governance, social inclusion, climate adaptation, and service delivery innovations.

Finally, we recognize the commitment of the over 10,000 delegates, whose active participation demonstrated Kenya's collective ownership of devolution. Their engagement validates the principle that sustainable governance reforms require collaboration across all levels of government, communities, and stakeholders.

MARY MWITI, EBS
Chief Executive Officer,
Council of Governors

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



GOVERNOR DR. MUTAHI KAHIGA, NYERI COUNTY AND CHAIRPERSON OF DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE 2025

The Devolution Conference 2025 took place from 12–15 August at The Homa Bay School, Homa Bay County. This was the ninth Devolution Conference and the second biennial forum since the 2010 Constitution introduced devolved governance. The theme was “For the People, For Prosperity: Devolution as a Catalyst for Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice” with the sub-theme “Re-engineering County Governments to Accelerate Development and Close the Socio-Economic Divide.” More than 10,000 delegates attended, including governors, MPs, Cabinet Secretaries, development partners, civil society, academia, private sector leaders, and international observers.

President Ruto opened the conference, emphasizing the government’s commitment to strengthening devolution. He called for fiscal discipline, new financing approaches, and stronger intergovernmental collaboration to expand County fiscal space, build human capital, and strengthen resilience to climate shocks.

The late Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga delivered a keynote address on the constitutional and historical role of devolution in promoting equity, democracy, and national unity. He stressed accountability, citizen-centred service delivery, and transparency while warning against exclusion and political capture. Deputy President Prof. Kithure Kindiki closed the conference by linking governance with security and stability at the County level. He pledged national government support in resource mobilization, coordination, and climate resilience.

Delegates engaged under three main pillars: Good Governance, Human Rights and Social Justice, and Financing Equity and Inclusion. Discussions reviewed twelve years of devolution, assessed innovations, and identified strategies for accelerating inclusive County development. Over 526 exhibition booths and 17 pavilions showcased innovations in areas such as digital health systems, automated revenue collection, climate-smart agriculture, circular economy models, and participatory governance.

Key lessons highlighted the need for stronger citizen engagement, digital transformation to reduce leakages and improve efficiency, and partnerships among Counties, the private sector, and development partners. Counties shared best practices in gender-responsive budgeting, community-driven climate adaptation, inclusive governance, and primary health care and social protection.

Despite progress, delegates noted persistent challenges: fiscal inefficiencies, weak institutional coordination, inequitable resource allocation, exclusion of women, youth, and persons with disabilities, and the growing impacts of climate change and urbanization.

The conference adopted resolutions to:

- Embed equity and inclusion in County planning and budgeting.

- Strengthen intergovernmental coordination and accountability.
- Expand innovative financing mechanisms.
- Mainstream digital and data-driven governance.
- Accelerate climate adaptation and resilience.
- Strengthen social justice system in governance

The forum reaffirmed that devolution remains Kenya's strongest tool for advancing social justice, inclusive growth, and democratic resilience. Achieving this vision requires aligning political will, fiscal resources, and citizen participation to drive long-term transformation. This report consolidates the key speeches, discussions, practices, and resolutions of the Devolution Conference 2025. It serves as a policy reference and roadmap for County and national governments, development partners, the private sector, and civil society. The report will be shared digitally with all delegates, government officials, and the public.



GOVERNOR DR. MUTAHI KAHIGA, NYERI COUNTY
Chairperson Of Devolution Conference 2025

PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

As part of preparations for the 2025 Devolution Conference, the pre-conference activities happening before the official opening ceremony were to provide a unique opportunity to experience the rich cultural and recreational offerings as well as the vibrant economic landscape of Homa Bay County, our host. Set against the backdrop of its scenic Lake Victoria shoreline and dynamic local enterprises, the activities created space for meaningful engagement, reflection, and collaboration among diverse stakeholders, while showcasing the County's cultural heritage and development potential.

The activities outlined below lay ground for the planned sessions leading up to the conference.

Roan Antelope Half Marathon

Ruma National Park, located in Homa Bay County, is the only park in Kenya that serves as a sanctuary for the critically endangered roan antelope, with a population of fewer than 30 individuals. The second edition of the Roan Antelope Half Marathon was successfully held on August 11, 2025, at Ruma National Park, attracting over 100 athletes. The event saw robust participation from delegates, including national and County leaders, representatives from the COG, and development partners. Notable dignitaries in attendance included the Cabinet Secretary for Tourism and Wildlife, Hon. Rebecca Miano; the Governor of Homa Bay County, Hon. Gladys Wang'a; the Principal Secretary for ICT and Innovation, Engineer John Tanui; and the Director General of the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Dr Erustus Kanga.

Organized in collaboration with the County Government of Homa Bay and the Kenya Wildlife Service, the half-marathon served as a key pre-event for the Devolution Conference 2025. Its primary objectives were to raise awareness about the conservation of the endangered roan antelope, promote tourism in Homa Bay County, and highlight the role of devolution in environmental sustainability.

Mr. Alfred Cheruiyot from Elgeyo Marakwet County outran over 100 competitors in the 21-kilometer race, successfully defending his title from the inaugural Roan Antelope Half Marathon in 2023. Cash prizes were awarded to the top three finishers: KSh 250,000 for first place, KSh 100,000 for second place, and KSh 75,000 for third place.



(a) Participants preparing to take part in the half-marathon

Innovate254 Hackathon

As part of the pre-conference activities for the Devolution Conference 2025, the inaugural Innovate254 Hackathon concluded with a vibrant award ceremony at Tom Mboya University in Homa Bay County. Under the bold tagline "Fixing 48 Governments in 48 Hours," the hackathon challenged participants to develop innovative solutions to real-world governance challenges across Kenya's 47 Counties within a two-day timeframe. The event recognized young innovators in three categories: ideation, prototype, and market-ready solutions. This initiative reflects Kenya's commitment to fostering a smarter, digitally empowered future by creating technology-driven solutions to enhance digital public services and governance.

The winning innovation, an AI-powered telepathology system for cancer diagnosis, was developed by Mr. Ezekiel Otieno and Ms. Caroline Gakii, postgraduate students at Meru University of Science and Technology. The winners shared a prize pool of KSh 2.25 million. The hackathon brought together stakeholders from the technology sector, national and County governments, and innovative youth. Dignitaries in attendance included the Governor of Homa Bay County, The Hon. Gladys Wang'a; the Governor of Machakos County, The Hon. Wavinya Ndeti; and the Principal Secretary for the State Department for ICT and Innovation, Engineer John Tanui.



(b) Young innovators with the dignitaries



(c) Official opening of the Innovate 254 Hackathon

Football Matches

The Devolution Conference 2025 highlighted the unifying power of sports, demonstrating that football is more than a game; it is a platform for fostering leadership and unity in diversity. A highly anticipated match between Bunge FC, representing Kenya's Parliament, and the COG' team captivated conference delegates with its thrilling display of skill and sportsmanship. Bunge FC, led by the Senator for Mombasa County, The Honorable Mohamed Faki, showcased exceptional attacking prowess, defeating the COG' team 5-0. The victory was celebrated with enthusiasm, underscoring the transformative role of sports in promoting teamwork and governance. Additional matches included a game between the Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee (IGRTC) FC and the Nyandarua County team, further showcasing the spirit of collaboration.



(d) CoG Chair H.E FCPA Ahmed Abdullahi handing over the trophy to Bunge FC after their victory



(e) CoG and Bunge FC teams alongside the coaches

Canoe Regatta

On the picturesque shores of Lake Victoria, the Canoe Regatta offered conference delegates an exhilarating spectacle of boat racing at the Homa Bay pier. Beyond its competitive nature, the regatta served as a platform to promote environmental awareness and cultural preservation, emphasizing the importance of protecting Lake Victoria and its surrounding ecosystems. Team Amilo emerged victorious, outpacing other competitors in a display of skill and teamwork. The event highlighted the value of team-based activities in fostering harmony, emotional resilience, and a sense of community among participants.



(f) Local teams in Homa Bay showcase their prowess in Canoe Regatta

The Game of Ajua and Beach Wrestling

In a celebration of cultural heritage and unity, the Devolution Conference 2025 featured the traditional game of Ajua and beach wrestling, rooted in the Luo community's cultural practices. Ajua, a strategic board game, symbolizes life's challenges, requiring careful planning and patience to achieve success. The game engaged delegates in a light-hearted yet meaningful activity that underscored cultural values.



(g) Locals engage in the traditional game of Ajua

Meanwhile, beach wrestling captivated audiences with a thrilling showdown, where Mr. John Otulo emerged as the undisputed champion, demonstrating exceptional strength, skill, and determination. These cultural activities reinforced the conference's theme of unity in diversity and highlighted the role of devolution in preserving Kenya's rich cultural heritage.



(h) Locals engage in a thrilling showdown during beach wrestling



(i) CEO COG MS, Mary Mwiti hands over a cheque to the winners of beach wrestling

Skating Competition

The streets of Homa Bay town came alive with energy as young skaters showcased their talent in a vibrant skating competition. Officially flagged off by the Governor of Machakos County, the Honorable Wavinya Ndeti, the event saw skaters glide from Kodoyo Junction to the Lakefront, captivating onlookers with their skill and enthusiasm. The skating competition highlighted the creativity and

dynamism of Kenya's youth, aligning with the conference's goal of empowering the next generation.



(j) Governor Wavinya Ndeti alongside Governor Gladys Wanga during the flag off for the skating competition

Tree Planting Activity

President Ruto, together with Governors and various leaders, led a tree-planting exercise at the Homa Bay Town Arboretum to open the Devolution Conference 2025, symbolizing Kenya's commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable development. The event, which attracted both locals and non-locals, highlighted devolution's role in driving community-led climate action. Representatives from the Kenya Forestry Service, Kenya Forest Research Institute, and National Environment Management Authority also participated, underscoring the collaboration between national and County governments to advance Kenya's goal of planting 15 billion trees by 2032 to achieve 30% forest cover.





(k) H.E President Dr William Samoei Ruto and Governor FCPA Ahmed Abdullahi planting trees at the Homa Bay Arboretum

The Homa Bay Town Arboretum, a vital green space for biodiversity and community engagement, served as the perfect venue for planting indigenous trees like *Acacia xanthophloea* (fever tree), *Terminalia brownii* (muhugu), *Ficus sycomorus* (sycamore fig), and *Adansonia digitata* (baobab), selected for their ecological benefits, including carbon sequestration and soil stabilization around Lake Victoria. The event engaged over 200 participants both residents and visitors from other regions including students and youth groups, who were trained in tree care to ensure long-term survival and foster community ownership. Governor Wanga announced plans for 50 community-led tree nurseries by 2026, aligning with the conference's focus on sustainable governance and reinforcing the arboretum's role as a model for eco-tourism and conservation in Kenya.



Governor Dr. Julius Malombe, Kitui County

President Ruto inaugurated the Ugatuzi Amphitheatre, a majestic legacy project delivered by the Council of Governors in partnership with the Devolution Conference 2025 Planning Committee and County Government of Homabay, as the host County's enduring gift for the Devolution Conference held in the County.

This iconic open-air venue, whose very name "Ugatuzi" echoes the central theme of the week-long national gathering, was conceived as the official legacy infrastructure for the 2025 Devolution Conference: a tradition proudly upheld by the Council of Governors. Each year, the host County receives a symbolic public facility that demonstrates the gains of devolution and remains a permanent reminder of the national and decentralized governance engagements. Additionally, the monument included a plaque honouring Dr. Crispin Odhiambo Mbai, the father of devolution. Dr. Mbai was a son of Homabay County and lost his life while fighting for inclusion of devolution in the current Constitution.

In Homa Bay, the Ugatuzi Amphitheatre now joins the distinguished list of past legacies such as the Heros Park in Eldoret and Devolution Forest in Wote that continue to serve citizens long after the conference delegates have departed.





DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE 2025

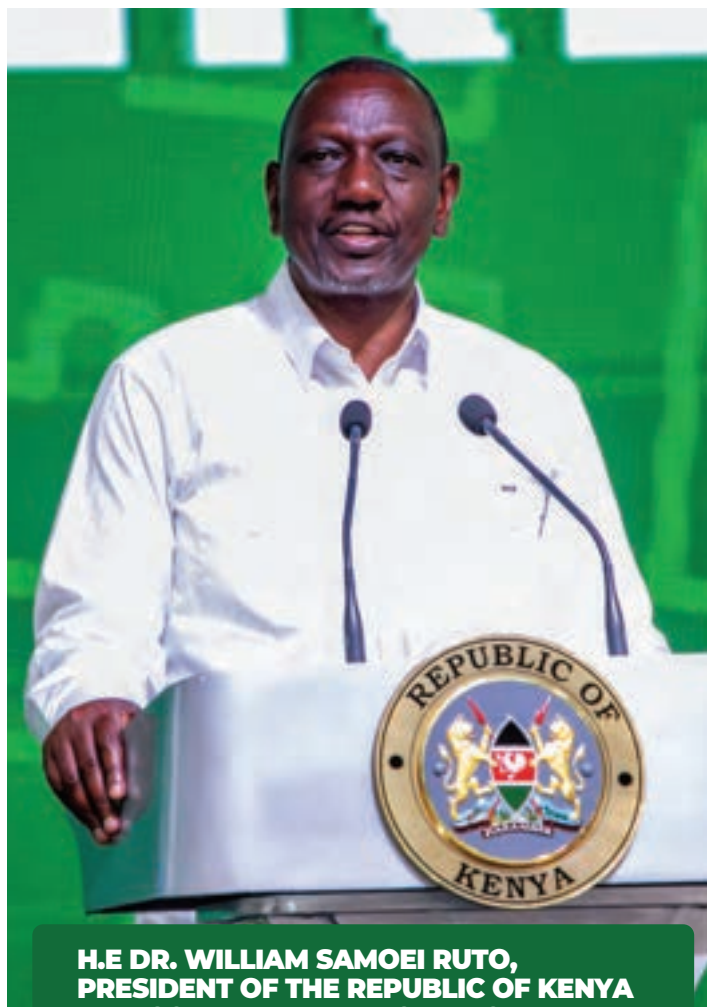


CHAPTER 1: OPENING CEREMONY



Moderator:
GOVERNOR STEPHEN SANG,
EGH, Governor, Nandi County and
Whip, Council of Governors

1.1 PRESIDENT'S KEYNOTE SPEECH: H.E. DR WILLIAM SAMOEI RUTO, C.G.H., PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCES



**H.E DR. WILLIAM SAMOEI RUTO,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA
AND COMMANDER -IN-CHIEF OF THE
DEFENCE FORCES**

H.E. President William Ruto officially opened the Second Biennial Devolution Conference in Homa Bay on August 12, 2025, affirming his administration's commitment to strengthening devolution as the cornerstone of Kenya's governance and development agenda. He commended the progress achieved over the past twelve years, noting that devolved governance has expanded access to healthcare, education, infrastructure, and social protection, while also fostering innovation and citizen participation in decision-making.

While celebrating milestones, the President was candid about the challenges that continue to limit the full realization of devolution's promise. He pointed to persistent gaps in financing, accountability, and institutional capacity that undermine service delivery at the County level. Emerging issues such as climate

change, rapid urbanization, intergovernmental tensions, and disparities in development were identified as pressing concerns requiring urgent and coordinated responses.

Looking ahead, The President called for a renewed focus on deepening fiscal devolution, enhancing transparency in resource allocation, and strengthening accountability frameworks. He urged leaders to reflect honestly on challenges such as corruption, inefficient resource utilization, and uneven progress, while committing to impactful investments that directly improve the lives of citizens.

Key Achievements Highlighted by the President

- 1.** Launch of the first-ever student hostels at Tom Mboya University under the Affordable Housing Programme.
- 2.** Full transfer and gazettment of all 14 devolved functions, ending long-standing service delivery disputes.
- 3.** Handover of 50,000 parcels of land and 80,000 public buildings to County governments.
- 4.** Enactment of the County Public Finance Law Amendment Bill (2023) and the County Allocation of Revenue Bill (2025), safeguarding County assembly independence and timely release of county equitable share of revenue.
- 5.** Record KSh 415 billion equitable share allocation to Counties under a new revenue-sharing formula.
- 6.** Over KSh 4 trillion transferred to Counties since the inception of devolution.
- 7.** Strategic investments in value chains such as fisheries, leather, textiles, e-mobility, and Business Process Outsourcing to spur jobs and exports.
- 8.** Strengthened anti-corruption measures through the Conflict-of-Interest Law to enhance accountability across government.
- 9.** Digitisation of services via eCitizen, boosting revenue collection and reducing corruption opportunities.
- 10.** Commitment to universal health access through fully funded primary care services at County facilities.
- 11.** Introduction of the County Assembly Pension Bill to secure retirement benefits for County legislators.



H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya and Governors during the official opening of the Devolution Conference 2025

Way Forward / Action Points

1. Strengthen anti-corruption measures at both County and national levels to safeguard public resources.
2. Expedite the operationalisation of transferred functions and resources to boost County performance.
3. Ensure timely and equitable disbursement of funds to support consistent service delivery.
4. Scale up adoption and use of eCitizen services across all Counties to enhance accessibility and efficiency.
5. Promote stronger public participation and oversight in County governance to build accountability.
6. Support targeted investment in County-specific value chains to drive localized economic development.

Quotes

"Devolution is not merely a constitutional provision; it is the crown jewel of our Constitution."

– H.E. Dr. William Ruto

"While we may not have all the resources to deliver, we have enough to deliver meaningful services to our people." – H.E. Dr. William Ruto

"We must ensure every shilling has an impact and brings the government closer to the people."

– H.E. Dr. William Ruto



Launch of the Council of Governors Devolution Training Institute Manual

1.2 REMARKS BY NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

1.2.1 The late Rt. Hon. Former Prime Minister Raila Amollo Odinga, CGH



THE LATE RT. HON. FORMER PRIME MINISTER RAILA AMOLLO ODINGA, CGH

The late Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga reaffirmed his strong support for devolution, arguing that Kenya needs “more, not less” of it. He called for a balanced power dynamic between Nairobi and the Counties, strong executives held accountable by robust assemblies, and Recognition of each County’s strengths as central to Kenya’s overall progress. He criticized centralism’s outdated tendency to delay local decisions through Nairobi’s oversight, emphasizing that devolution empowers local communities to solve their own challenges with greater insight, accountability, and transparency.

He noted that citizens expect not just proximity to government, but performance, productivity, and meaningful partnerships and urged Counties to become economic powerhouses focused on efficient service delivery. Reflecting on devolution as an evolving process, the late Odinga acknowledged the broad acceptance of handling matters locally where best suited but stressed the need for continuous review amid rapid social and demographic change, including Kenya’s projected population growth to over

80 million within 25 years. He cautioned against hoarding devolved power and resources at County headquarters, insisting on genuine community access and participatory County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) with strict follow-through. While calling for less national government micromanagement, he urged resolving tensions constructively as opportunities to build trust. To incentivize progress, he proposed national government rewards for high-performing Counties in areas such as poverty reduction, youth employment, and environmental protection, coupled with transparent performance data to allow citizens to make informed comparisons.

Looking ahead, the late Hon. Odinga championed “Digital Devolution,” with real-time online services in local languages to improve efficiency and curb corruption. He challenged Counties to reduce reliance on transfers by generating wealth through industrial parks, renewable energy, and tech-driven agriculture. Emphasizing constitutional interdependence between national and County governments, he called for clarity of roles, full control over devolved functions, and accountability for outcomes alongside increased resources. He proposed expanding the devolved education function to include education up to the secondary level, beyond early childhood, and urged the surrender of National Government-Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF) and National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF) funds to Counties, arguing that these schemes are obsolete under devolution and distort representatives’ roles.

In conclusion, the late Odinga urged the transfer of authority over urban and rural roads to Counties, leaving highways and trunk roads under national oversight. This, he argued, would stimulate simultaneous construction across all 47 Counties, driving widespread economic growth. While acknowledging that some reforms may require constitutional change, he emphasized that delegation and legislation offer immediate pathways to deepen devolution, deliver more resources, and bring prosperity closer to the people.

During the Publishing of this report, RT. Hon. Former Prime Minister Raila Amollo Odinga, CGH Passed On. May His soul rest in eternal peace

1.2.2 Prime Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Musalia Mudavadi



**PRIME CABINET SECRETARY,
HON. MUSALIA MUDAVADI**

Prime Cabinet Secretary Hon. Musalia Mudavadi underscored the centrality of collaboration between the two levels of government in making devolution work for all Kenyans. He reminded delegates that devolution was never meant to be a contest between the national and County governments, but a framework for shared responsibility where each tier complements the other. Collaboration, he emphasized, should therefore not be seen as conflict, but as an alignment of priorities, resources, and accountability mechanisms to accelerate service delivery.

Hon. Mudavadi drew attention to the progress already visible in many Counties when partnership has been intentional citing the case of Homa Bay, which has benefitted from increased infrastructure development, connectivity, and targeted government projects. These, he noted, are examples of how national programs can catalyse County initiatives when Counties position themselves strategically and build strong linkages with the national agenda.

He called on Counties to remain proactive in identifying priority areas where joint investments with the national government can deliver the greatest impact particularly in health, infrastructure, and agriculture. At the same time, he urged the national

government to maintain its commitment to timely disbursement of resources, respect for County mandates, and responsive policy frameworks that strengthen local governance. The Prime Cabinet Secretary also stressed accountability and prudent use of public resources to accelerate service delivery.

1.2.3 Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Health, Hon. Aden Duale



**CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF
HEALTH, HON. ADEN DUALE**

Hon. Aden Duale acknowledged the significant role devolution had played in improving health service delivery across Kenya. He stated that the devolved system of governance had enabled Counties to enhance access to quality healthcare, bringing essential services closer to communities and addressing local health needs more effectively. He highlighted that devolution had been instrumental in strengthening County-level healthcare infrastructure and service provision, particularly in underserved areas.

Hon. Duale outlined the ongoing Universal Health Coverage (UHC) reforms, emphasizing the government's commitment to equitable deployment of skilled healthcare workers to ensure balanced service delivery across all regions. He explained that these reforms included the integration of community

health promoters to bolster grassroots healthcare efforts, enabling preventive and promotive health services to reach even remote communities. He also noted significant investments in expanding Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and High Dependency Unit (HDU) capacity, which he said were critical for improving critical care outcomes and addressing complex medical needs in County hospitals.

He further stressed the importance of innovation, public-private partnerships, and dedicated financing to strengthen primary healthcare systems. Hon. Duale underscored that innovative approaches, such as the use of digital health platforms, were essential for modernizing healthcare delivery. He advocated for robust partnerships with the private sector to enhance service efficiency and sustainability, while emphasizing that dedicated funding for primary healthcare was crucial to ensure equitable access and reduce financial barriers for Kenyans.

In conclusion, he reiterated the government's resolve to work closely with County governments and stakeholders to advance these reforms, aligning with the conference's theme of equity, inclusion, and social justice.

1.2.4 Rt. Hon. Amason J. Kingi, EGH, M.P, Speaker of the Senate



**RT. HON. AMASON J. KINGI, EGH, M.P,
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE**

In his key message, Rt. Hon. Amason Kingi, stated that devolution is fundamentally about people enhancing access to healthcare, infrastructure, education, agriculture, and empowerment for marginalized groups while emphasizing the Senate's pivotal role as its constitutional defender through allocating over Kshs. 4 trillion to Counties, overseeing funds, championing legislation like the County Public Finance Laws (Amendment) Act, and fostering national-County dialogue. Despite profound gains, such as building health facilities, roads, and deepening citizen participation, the speaker acknowledged lingering challenges including corruption, weak accountability, non-compliance by governors, role duplication, inadequate own-source revenue, assembly wrangles, and delayed fund disbursements, which threaten public trust and efficiency.

Looking ahead, he called for decisive collective action to make devolution sustainable and transformational: strengthening intergovernmental relations for partnership over rivalry; ensuring timely and predictable fund disbursements by the National Treasury; enhancing oversight through real-time monitoring, digital audits, and citizen feedback, with increased penalties for non-compliance; investing in County capacity building, particularly in marginalized areas; promoting economic devolution by decentralizing investments and jobs; amending laws to address impediments; re-engineering County governments for innovation, efficiency, and stronger planning; diversifying revenue streams and prudent resource management; deepening substantive public participation in budgeting and decision-making; and expediting the full transfer of devolved functions as per the Constitution's Fourth Schedule.

The speaker concluded with a call to action for the national government to sustain support through timely disbursements, Counties to operate with integrity, development partners to strengthen systems, and the Senate to remain vigilant, urging all stakeholders to recommit to devolution as a shared inheritance for equity, inclusion, and social justice across every Kenyan village.

1.2.5 For the Senate Majority Leader, Senator Prof. Margaret Kamar



SENATOR PROF. MARGARET KAMAR

Speaking on behalf of Senate Majority Leader Sen. Aaron Cheruiyot, Senator Prof. Margaret Kamar reaffirmed the Senate's vital role as the constitutional custodian of devolution in Kenya. She underscored that the Senate is mandated to protect and promote the interests of County governments, ensuring that devolution remains a cornerstone of equitable and inclusive governance as envisioned in the 2010 Constitution. She emphasized that devolution is not only a governance system but also a transformative tool designed to bring government closer to the people and foster socio-economic development across all regions.

Sen. Kamar highlighted the significant progress Counties have achieved through devolution in sectors such as health, education, infrastructure, and public participation. She noted that access to healthcare has improved, educational opportunities have expanded, critical infrastructure has been developed, and citizen engagement in governance has been enhanced. However, she also acknowledged persistent challenges hindering the full realization of devolution's promise. These include delays in transferring funds from the national government to Counties, which disrupt the

implementation of development projects; the incomplete transfer of functions constitutionally assigned to Counties, which constrains their operations; and internal governance disputes within Counties, which weaken service delivery and erode public trust.

She stressed that devolution must remain citizen-centred, anchored in the principles of equity, inclusion, and social justice. To address existing gaps, she called for stronger collaboration and consultation between national and County governments. She advocated for timely disbursement of County funds, the complete transfer of devolved functions, and the resolution of governance disputes within Counties to enhance their capacity to serve citizens effectively and drive socio-economic transformation.

1.2.6 Senate Minority Leader, Senator (Rtd) Justice Stewart Madzayo, CBS, M.P



SENATE MINORITY LEADER, SENATOR (RTD) JUSTICE STEWART MADZAYO, CBS, M.P.

Hon. Senator (Rtd.) Justice Stewart Madzayo expressed gratitude for the opportunity to promote inclusive governance through intergovernmental collaboration. He noted that the conference provided a vital platform for dialogue between national and County governments to strengthen service delivery and advance Kenya's development agenda.

He emphasized that the 2010 Constitution's vision anchored in decentralization of power, rule of law, equity, and social justice remains the guiding framework for national development. Counties, he stressed, are not merely administrative units but frontline defenders of human rights and social justice. When implemented with intention and integrity, devolution holds transformative potential, with Counties recognized as autonomous yet interdependent entities under Article 6(2) of the Constitution.

Sen. Madzayo outlined key County responsibilities: enacting inclusive laws aligned with national policy, adopting equitable budgeting practices, addressing tribal bias in recruitment to encourage diversity and innovation, and ensuring access to essential services such as affordable housing and healthcare. He further noted that the Senate plays a central oversight role under Article 96; monitoring County spending and projects, and ensuring Counties receive their fair share of resources through the Division of Revenue Bill.

He underscored devolution's potential to spur local economic growth by leveraging County-specific opportunities, reducing costs, and fostering cross-County collaboration outcomes that can raise living standards and strengthen democracy. Through participatory governance, Counties can reduce regional inequalities, tailor services to local needs, and empower citizens to influence decisions. At the same time, he cautioned that suppressing dissent is a serious threat to democracy. He urged sub-national governments to uphold human rights, free speech, and social justice by creating safe spaces for dialogue. True equity and inclusion, he emphasized, requires every voice to be heard and every community given the opportunity to thrive, supported by transparency, accountability, and participation.

In conclusion, Sen. Madzayo called for equipping Counties with the tools and resources needed to protect citizens' rights and build resilience against autocratic forces. He urged a systemic shift toward optimizing sub-national governance across socio-economic and political dimensions, in line with the aspirations of the 2010 Constitution.

1.3 REMARKS BY COUNTY LEADERSHIP

1.3.1 HON. FCPA AHMED ABDULLAHI, EGH, GOVERNOR WAJIR COUNTY, CHAIRPERSON, COG



**GOVERNOR FCPA AHMED ABDULLAHI, EGH,
GOVERNOR WAJIR COUNTY CHAIRPERSON, COG**

As Chairperson of the COG, H.E. FCPA Ahmed Abdullahi, Governor of Wajir County, opened the conference by reflecting on both the achievements and challenges of devolution. He stressed that Counties must anchor equity, inclusion, and social justice at the heart of service delivery to secure meaningful and sustainable development.

He hailed devolution as Kenya's greatest constitutional reform, driving equitable growth and unity since 2010. The 2024 Gross County Product report, he noted, showed strong County contributions to the economy, particularly in healthcare (expanded facilities and staffing), agriculture (an eightfold rise in farmers receiving extension services), and infrastructure (61,000 km of County-managed roads added in nine years). The 2025 conference, he said, was designed to deepen dialogue on how devolution can better champion equity and social justice, with diverse voices brought in through side events hosted by government, civil society, and private partners.

While progress is evident, the chair acknowledged persistent challenges: incomplete unbundling and costing of devolved functions, resource gaps, delays in fund disbursements, and outdated laws. He urged leaders to prioritize equitable resource distribution, inclusive decision-making, and stronger collaboration to safeguard devolution's gains. He also called for solutions to citizen concerns over youth unemployment, governance, and protests such as those linked to the Finance Bill. He closed by thanking conference partners, including Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB), Safaricom, Jospong Group, the Presidency, the Senate, and all 47 Counties for their support.

On Day 2, addressing delegates in the presence of the late Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga, Governor Abdullahi focused on healthcare, describing it as one of devolution's most transformative successes. He highlighted progress under UHC, including equitable deployment of skilled staff, integration of community health promoters, and investments in ICU and HDU facilities across Counties. To sustain these gains, he emphasized the need for innovation, public-private partnerships, and dedicated financing, while calling for stronger intergovernmental coordination to address persistent issues like delayed disbursements and incomplete transfer of functions.

1.3.2 Hon. Gladys Wanga, EGH, Governor, Homabay County



**GOVERNOR GLADYS WANGA, EGH,
GOVERNOR, HOMABAY COUNTY**

As the host of the Devolution Conference 2025, Governor Gladys Wanga, EGH, addressed delegates on both Day 1, in the presence of President Ruto, and Day 2, in the presence of the late the Rt. Honourable former Prime Minister Raila Odinga. In her remarks, she urged that devolution must remain anchored in equity, inclusion, social justice, and the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ensuring that no one is left behind.

Progress in Homa Bay County

Governor Wanga highlighted these tangible gains in education, healthcare, and economic empowerment:

- *Education: 243 Early Years Education (EYE) centres have been built under the Ondoa Kaunda Initiative, with construction driven by local communities. The Fins to Swim Scholarship Programme supports over 600 needy students, 40% of them girls.*
- *Youth empowerment: The Fundi Mang'ula vocational programme has enrolled 1,200 youth so far, with graduates receiving starter kits in partnership with KCB. A bursary programme also supports over 20,000 students annually across all wards.*
- *Healthcare: County revenue growth has enabled major health investments, including a five-storey Accident & Emergency block at Homa Bay Teaching and Referral Hospital, expanded outpatient and maternity services, and plans for a Mother and Child Block. Maternal deaths dropped from 12 to zero per 1,000 live births in just 90 days due to skilled delivery interventions. Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) prevalence has fallen to 16.2%, malaria cases have reduced by 12%, and over 2,900 community health promoters have been recruited.*
- *Economic growth and technology: Through a digital revenue collection system, the County has increased efficiency by over 70%. Investments in climate-smart agriculture, eco-tourism, and sporting initiatives such as the Genowa Cup continue to strengthen livelihoods.*
- *Infrastructure and investment: The relocation of County headquarters to Arujo is part of Homa Bay's ambition to achieve city status by 2035. The Governor described Homa Bay as a future "Cape Town of Kenya", leveraging Lake Victoria's blue economy and lakefront development to attract investment and tourism.*

Challenges: Governor Wango also outlined persistent challenges requiring national and intergovernmental action:

- *Inadequate devolved funds to fully realize County development visions.*
- *Stalled infrastructure at the Riwa City Special Economic Zone, delaying investor uptake despite its potential to create over 100,000 jobs.*
- *Unequal sharing of agriculture funds between national and County levels, which hampers value chain development despite the EU-Kenya trade agreement.*
- *Limited access to reliable power, which constrains industrial development. She emphasized regional support for the planned Siaya nuclear power project as a game changer for the Nyanza region.*

Way Forward: Looking ahead, Governor Wango called for (i) prioritization of the County Aggregation and Industrial Park (CAIP) to unlock agricultural value chains such as fish, cotton, edible oils, millet, and pineapples and second, and (ii) joint implementation of the Youth Communique, presented at the conference by Shining Hope For Communities (SHOFCO), with national and County governments working alongside civil society and private partners to address youth employment and inclusion.

In her second speech delivered on day two of the conference, Governor Wango expressed pride that hosting the conference showcased Homa Bay as a growing hub of culture, innovation, and development. She reiterated the concrete achievements in education, healthcare, agriculture, and economic empowerment, including investments in early childhood education infrastructure, vocational training, the Inua Boda Boda initiative, modern markets, and diversification into cash crops such as coffee, all of which have directly uplifted local communities.

Linking her remarks to the conference theme, “For the People, For Prosperity: Devolution as a Catalyst for Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice,” she noted that the day’s focus on human rights and social justice was closely aligned with Homa Bay’s efforts to promote inclusion, particularly for youth, women, and persons with disabilities. She highlighted healthcare progress in the County, including reforms toward UHC, equitable distribution of healthcare workers,

integration of community health promoters, and investments in ICU and HDU facilities. She stressed the importance of innovation, partnerships, and sustainable financing in strengthening primary healthcare and called for stronger collaboration between Counties, the national government, and the private sector.

Governor Wango also shared her vision of transforming Homa Bay into the “Cape Town of Kenya” by leveraging its Lake Victoria coastline to expand tourism and attract investment. She pointed to pre-conference events such as the 254 Hackathon, boat racing, and island hopping as demonstrations of the County’s cultural vibrancy and innovative spirit.

In her closing remarks, she urged for timely release of County funds and the full transfer of devolved functions in health, roads, and agriculture to ensure sustainable growth. She challenged delegates to ensure that the conference resolutions translate into tangible outcomes for citizens.

Quotes

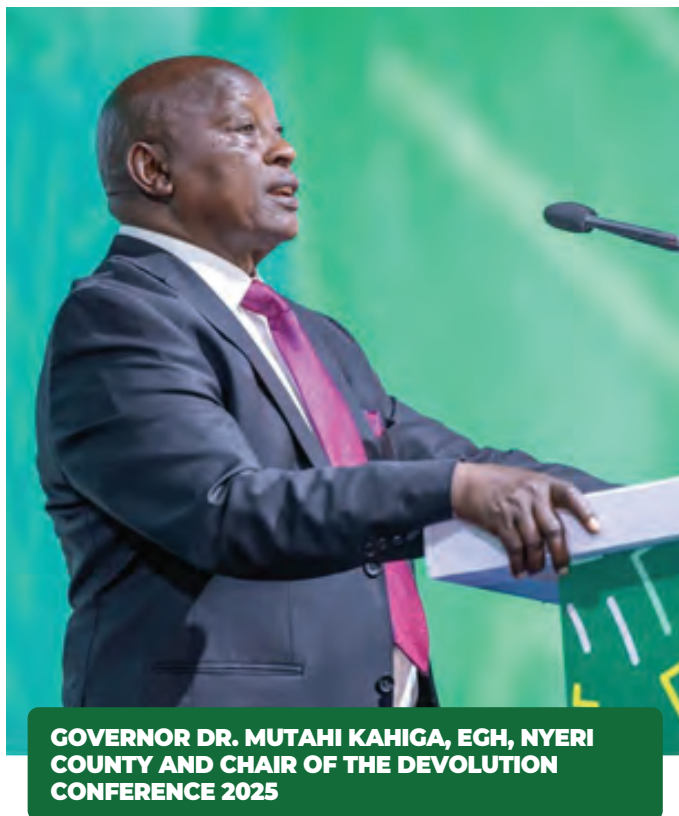
“As we celebrate devolution during the Devolution Conference, we celebrate national unity and diversity. Kenya is one nation. I congratulate the President Ruto, and the late Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga for consistently demonstrating transformational leadership for the good of our country.”

Host Governor Gladys Wango, EGH: Governor Homa Bay County

“In the past 90 days, maternal deaths in Homa Bay County have dropped from 12 to zero per 1,000 live births, driven by a rise in skilled deliveries.”

Host Governor, Governor Gladys Wango, EGH: Governor Homa Bay County

1.3.3 Hon. Dr. Mutahi Kahiga, EGH, Governor, Nyeri County



Governor Mutahi Kahiga reviewed progress on implementing the 2023 Devolution Conference communique and praised the broad participation at the 2025 conference as proof that Kenya's devolved system rests on consultation, cooperation and coordination.

Governor Mutahi provides a summary of progress towards the implementation of the communique adopted at the First Biennial Devolution Conference held between 15th to 19th August 2023 in Uasin Gishu County under the theme "10 Years of Devolution: The Present and The Future."

1. The Office of the Deputy President and Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS) are coordinating projects such as the Nairobi River Regeneration to ensure alignment with national priorities and to eliminate duplication.
2. The government has automated over 16,000 services through eCitizen, while Counties such as Murang'a, Kisumu, and Makueni have fully digitized their functions.
3. Counties raised Kshs. 58.95 billion in own-source revenue in 2023/24, the highest collection in 11 years, with 10 Counties surpassing their targets and all 47

now automating revenue systems.

4. County functions were officially unbundled and gazetted on 16 December 2024, with the next step being a costing exercise to ensure proper resourcing.

5. The National Land Information Management System (NLIMS) and Ardhi Sasa have been rolled out in Nairobi, Mombasa, and parts of Murang'a, while Kajiado, Makueni, and Murang'a are building County-level systems; further innovations include the Ardhi Haki app in Taita Taveta and a land reporting tool in Kakamega.

6. The Ardhi Kwa Kina Mama (AKKIMA) project is making progress in advancing women's land rights, supporting gender equity in land ownership and management.

7. In the health sector, 227 Primary Care Networks are now operational, stipends for community health promoters have been included in the FY 2024/25 allocations, and a Cabinet directive issued on 21 January 2025 is harmonizing overlapping health programs.

8. To support youth and the creative economy, the Creative Economy Support Bill 2024 is at the public participation stage; Nairobi has taken steps to ease access to spaces for artists and content creators; Mombasa has operational hubs such as Swahili Port and Jukwa Arts to drive innovation; and the HEVA Fund has established a \$5 million facility to benefit over 7,000 creatives.

9. In forestry and environmental conservation, mapping of forest and tree cover as well as wetlands is underway, and the national Agroforestry Strategy has been rolled out to support the 15 billion tree initiative and achieve 30% tree cover by 2032.

Emerging issues: Governor Kahiga flagged the outstanding need to complete the costing of devolved functions so Counties can be properly resourced; he underlined that legislative commitment at both national and County levels is essential to entrench equity, inclusion and ensure funds reach vulnerable communities. He also noted the deliberate increase in civil-society participation at the 2025 conference and urged that diverse voices be reflected in the joint communique. While many 2023 actions have been implemented, he stressed that remaining tasks must be expedited to sustain momentum.

Way forward / Action points: need to fast-track the costing of devolved functions to enable adequate resourcing and ensure that Counties have the financial capacity to effectively deliver on their mandates.

Quotable Quotes

“To maintain momentum, we must strengthen intergovernmental collaboration to fast-track pending legislation and ensure equitable resource allocation. There is also need to deepen engagement with the private sector to bridge funding gaps.”

Governor Mutahi Kahiga, Vice Chair, COG and Co-Chair for the Devolution Conference 2025 Steering Committee.

1.3.4 Senator Moses Kajwang’ M.P.



HON. SENATOR MOSES KAJWANG’ M.P.

Sen. Moses Kajwang’ welcomed President Ruto and all delegates to the Devolution Conference in Homa Bay County, expressing gratitude to the Governor, County leadership, conference committees, sponsors, and exhibitors for making the event a success. He highlighted Homa Bay County as an emerging investment destination and emphasized that all 47

Counties possess unique strengths that contribute to national development. He noted that devolution remains central to the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), empowering communities and delivering development at the grassroots. Sen. Kajwang’ acknowledged the County’s progress under Governor Gladys Wanga, including infrastructure improvements such as road tarmacking and upgrades in Homa Bay Town, and recognized President Ruto’s direct engagement as pivotal in transforming the region’s development trajectory.

Sen. Kajwang’ emphasized that strengthening intergovernmental collaboration is critical for advancing devolution and promoting County-level development. He noted the importance of ensuring timely and efficient processing of both conditional and unconditional grants to support effective County operations. The smooth passage of the Financial Year (FY) 2025/2026 Division of Revenue Act (DORA) and the County Allocation of Revenue Act (CARA) was highlighted as a significant milestone, demonstrating how clarity in revenue allocation reduces disputes and enhances governance. He stressed the need to safeguard the autonomy of County Assemblies while holding the executive accountable and underscored the continuing demand for additional County allocations to ensure resources reach local communities efficiently. Overall, efficient service delivery, fiscal transparency, and strengthened accountability remain critical priorities.

Quotes

“By successfully hosting the 2025 Devolution Conference, we have proven to the nation and the world that we are truly a County of endless potential.”

Host Senator, Sen Moses Kajwang’, MP: Senator Homa Bay County

1.3.5 Mr. Michael Lenasalon, Principal Secretary of the State Department for Devolution



MR. MICHAEL LENASALON, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT FOR DEVOLUTION

Mr. Michael Loikuenu Lenasalon reaffirmed the State Department's commitment to advancing devolution as a tool for equity, inclusion, and social justice. He noted that while devolution has transformed governance by bringing services closer to citizens, Counties must innovate and collaborate to address persistent socio-economic disparities. He highlighted the Kenya Devolution Support Program II (KDSP II) as a flagship initiative enhancing service delivery, resource management, fiscal sustainability, and citizen participation through automation, performance management, and transparency systems. He also pointed to the Strengthening Good Governance in Kenya Program, which incentivizes Counties to embed accountability, performance culture, and civic engagement.

Among the emerging issues from his speech was that devolution's full potential requires embedding performance culture in County systems, leveraging technology for transparency, and strengthening citizen engagement and oversight. Counties must also expand innovation in agriculture, healthcare, urban resilience, and education to drive inclusive

growth. Finally, Mr. Lenasalon pointed out the following action points.

- Enhance coordination of national devolution programs.
- Promote peer learning and multi-stakeholder technical support.
- Establish innovation funds and public-private co-creation platforms.
- Strengthen citizen engagement through open governance tools.

Quotable Quotes

"Devolution is not just a constitutional requirement but a national priority. It is the most powerful expression of our belief that governance works best when it is closer to the people."

Michael Loikenu Lenasalon: Principal Secretary, State Department of Devolution

1.3.6 Hon. Seth Mwatela Kamanza, Speaker, Kwale County Assembly

Hon. Seth Mwatela Kamanza, speaking on behalf of County Assemblies Forum (CAF), expressed profound gratitude to the President, Senate, and National Assembly for the recent passage of the County Public Financial Law Amendment Bill 2023, describing it as a historic milestone in reinforcing the independence of County assemblies from executive influence. He underscored the critical role of County assemblies as the closest link between government and citizens, noting that since 2013 they have enacted over 2,000 community-tailored laws, provided oversight, and championed constituent interests. Hon. Kamanza emphasized that while assemblies have made significant contributions, they require further empowerment to fully execute their constitutional mandate. He highlighted ongoing challenges, including the absence of a comprehensive pension scheme for Member of County Assembly, stagnant remuneration despite growing responsibilities, and the need for financial independence and strong resourcing to further strengthen devolution. In conclusion, Hon. Kamanza recommended the need to:

- Include the Ward Development Fund in the constitutional amendment to promote equitable grassroots development.

- Establish a comprehensive pension scheme for MCAs to ensure dignified retirement.
- Review and adjust MCA remuneration to align with their constitutional responsibilities.
- Safeguard the oversight, accountability, and financial independence of County assemblies as key pillars of democracy.

1.3.7 Murang'a County Innovation Showcase



**HON. IRUNGU KANG'ATA, GOVERNOR
MURANG'A COUNTY**

MURANG'A COUNTY DIGITAL GOVERNANCE SHOWCASE Presented By: Governor, Hon. Irungu Kang'ata

Murang'a County has leveraged internal technical capacity to digitize key governance systems, enhancing accountability, efficiency, and service delivery across multiple sectors. Governor Irungu Kang'ata highlighted innovative initiatives that demonstrate the County's commitment to transparency and effective governance.

Key Innovations:

- **Automated Revenue Collection:** Tracks live data from parking, markets, quarrying, land, and veterinary services with analytics.
- **Single Business Permit System:** Enables online applications and printing without physical visits

Key Innovations:

- **Automated Revenue Collection:** Tracks live data from parking, markets, quarrying, land, and veterinary services with analytics.
- **Single Business Permit System:** Enables online applications and printing without physical visits
- **Land Management System:** Supports online payment for building permits, lease submissions, plot transfers, document uploads, and architectural designs.
- **Fleet Management System:** Monitors over 100 vehicles, provides accident alerts, and tracks over speeding to improve driver behaviour.
- **Inua Mkulima Program:** In partnership with Cooperative Bank, provides farm input subsidies via e-wallet for milk and mango value chains.
- **File Management Portal:** Internal document management system for County operations.
- **Health Facility Management System:** Tracks patient visits, diseases, and payments across 150 facilities, integrated with MPESA and the Social Health Authority.

Emerging Issues:

- Unstable internet connectivity affects real-time operations.
- Power instability highlights the need for solar backup solutions.
- Continuous staff capacity building is essential to maintain and improve systems.

Way Forward / Action Points:

- Engage service providers to stabilize internet connectivity in all County offices and facilities.
- Expand solar infrastructure to ensure uninterrupted service delivery.
- Scale systems to integrate more services and link with national platforms for data sharing.
- Need for infrastructure stabilization, staff training, and system expansion to maximize the benefits of digital governance in Murang'a County.

1.4 REMARKS BY PARTNERS

1.4.1 Amb. Sebastian Groth, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Kenya



AMB. SEBASTIAN GROTH, AMBASSADOR OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY TO KENYA

The Ambassador expressed deep appreciation for Kenya's devolution journey, highlighting the transformative role of Counties, governors, and MCAs in advancing citizen-centred governance. He underscored the Devolution Conference as a key platform for recommitting to equity, inclusion, and social justice, and emphasized Germany's strong partnership with Kenya in supporting devolution initiatives, including efforts to strengthen local climate resilience.

The Ambassador noted that bringing decision-making closer to communities has yielded notable progress in health, infrastructure, agriculture, and climate resilience, while stressing that effective service delivery depends on reliable and timely transfer of funds from the national government to Counties. He further highlighted the need for Counties to enhance own-source revenue generation, strengthen public financial management, and ensure transparency and accountability to build citizen trust. Inclusive public participation, particularly of women,

youth, and persons with disabilities, and continuous engagement with citizens, especially young people, were emphasized as essential for sustaining trust and democratic governance.

To consolidate the gains of devolution, the Ambassador recommended targeted actions to strengthen financing, governance, and citizen engagement.

- Ensure consistent and timely transfer of funds to support County functions.
- Modernize and expand County revenue collection systems using technology.
- Strengthen accountability and transparency in public financial management.
- Institutionalize inclusive public participation frameworks that engage marginalized groups.
- Enhance partnerships between national and County governments and development partners to address priority areas, including climate resilience.

1.4.2 Dr. Joseph Siaw Agyepong, Executive Chairman, Jospong Group of Companies



DR. JOSEPH SIAW AGYEPONG, EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, JOSPONG GROUP OF COMPANIES

Dr. Agyepong highlighted the Ghana-Kenya partnership in addressing Africa's growing waste challenges through African-led solutions. Drawing on lessons from Jospong's integrated waste

management systems, he noted that Kenya's rapidly urbanizing cities Nairobi, Mombasa, Eldoret, and Homabay, face rising waste pressures, with current manual handling creating environmental, health, and economic risks. Dr. Agyepong emphasized that waste should be treated as a resource, enabling recycling, climate action, and green job creation, estimating over 52,000 potential jobs annually. He further called for regional clustering of Counties to share integrated systems efficiently and stressed the importance of partnerships and capacity building to sustain these solutions. Dr. Agyepong also noted that the significant green job creation potential (over 52,000 jobs annually) exists in the waste management value chain, from collection to transport and processing and carbon market-related activities. In conclusion, he recommended the following action points.

- Establish regional clusters of Counties in Kenya, each served by an integrated waste management plant.
- Leverage innovations like Jospong's proven waste management model to develop similar plants across Kenya.
- Harness waste as a resource through recycling, composting and energy recovery to drive climate action and economic growth.
- Create an enabling environment for private-public partnerships to drive infrastructure investment and job creation.

1.4.3 Safaricom

The video highlighted the pivotal role of Kenya's cooperative and community groups in driving economic and social progress, rooted in Harambee, self-reliance, and collective action. Despite their importance, these groups face persistent challenges due to manual, paper-based systems, causing inefficiencies, delayed loan approvals, and high default rates. Safaricom showcased its Groups Connect platform, in partnership with the Makueni County Empowerment Fund, as a transformative solution that enhances efficiency, transparency, and equitable access to financing. Homa Bay County has expressed interest in adopting Groups Connect to map, organize, and support its community groups, addressing the current lack of visibility that hampers planning, partnerships, and resource allocation. There was emphasis that cooperative and community groups are constrained by outdated systems, making it difficult for Counties to track and support them

effectively, while groups without a digital footprint face barriers to growth, partnerships, and access to resources.

Finally, the following action points were recommended,

- Scale up digital tools like Groups Connect to improve group registration, lending, and investment management.
- Use group-level data to guide resource allocation and targeted support.
- Strengthen partnerships between private sector innovators and local governments to sustain digital transformation.

1.4.4 Mr. John Okulo, Director of Corporate Banking Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB), Kenya



MR. JOHN OKULO, DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE BANKING KENYA COMMERCIAL BANK (KCB)

Mr. John Okulo, representing CEO Mr. Paul Russo, reaffirmed KCB Group's commitment to Kenya's devolution journey and regional economic transformation. He emphasized how devolution has brought decision-making closer to the people and aligned with the conference theme on equity, inclusion, and social justice. Mr. Okulo highlighted the need for inclusive financial solutions accessible to all citizens and the importance of complementing banking services with social empowerment initiatives targeting youth, women, and MSMEs. He also showcased the measurable impact of KCB

Foundation programs, particularly 2Jiajiri, which has created over 187,000 jobs and trained more than 40,000 youths in self-empowerment skills. Sustaining devolution gains, he noted, requires multi-sector collaboration and continued investment in people-driven programs.

The following were the recommended action points moving forward:

- Deepen partnerships with all 47 Counties to support both operational and community-level economic growth.
- Expand financing for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), start-ups, and women-led enterprises, with a focus on sustainability and accessibility.
- Scale up initiatives like KCB Foundation's youth empowerment initiatives to reach more beneficiaries nationwide.
- Continue aligning corporate interventions with national development priorities and devolution objectives.
- Foster innovation in service delivery to ensure equitable distribution of economic opportunities.

EVOLUTION CONFERENCE 2025



CHAPTER 2: PLENUM SESSIONS



Session Moderator
MR. ERICK LATIFF

2.0 Day 1: THEME - GOOD GOVERNANCE

SUB-THEME: Empowered Communities, Accountable Counties: Rebuilding the Foundations of Good Governance

Session Objective: To evaluate the extent to which devolved governments have entrenched good governance principles and propose actions that can be adopted to foster transparency, accountability and participatory decision-making for better service delivery at the local level.

Session Moderator: Mr. Erick Latiff

Panellists

1. Governor Dr. Ochillo Ayacko, EGH, Governor, Migori County
2. Mr. Joseph Mogosi Motari, PS, Social protection and senior citizens affairs
3. Senator Catherine Muyeka Mumma, Nominated senator
4. Justice George Odunga, Court of Appeal Judge
5. Mr. Oliver Waindi, Executive Director, Uraia Trust
6. Mr. Brian Odongo, Representative Law Society of Kenya
7. Mr. FCPA John Lolkoloi, Director, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission



2.1 Introduction

The Good Governance Plenum served as a critical forum for evaluating the entrenchment of good governance principles within Kenya's devolved governments. Themed "Empowered Communities, Accountable Counties: Rebuilding the Foundations of Good Governance," the session aimed to assess how County governments have advanced transparency, accountability, and participatory decision-making to enhance service delivery at the local level. Targeted

questions posed to the distinguished panel explored practical strategies to address challenges such as mismanagement of resources, declining public trust, and incomplete devolution of functions. Discussions focused on strengthening intergovernmental collaboration, enhancing civic engagement, leveraging legal frameworks like the Conflict-of-Interest Act, 2025, and fostering ethical conduct to rebuild accountable and inclusive County governance.

1.4.5 Keynote Speaker: Amb. Henriette Geiger, European Union (EU) Ambassador to Kenya



AMB. HENRIETTE GEIGER, EUROPEAN UNION (EU) AMBASSADOR TO KENYA

In her keynote address at the Devolution Conference 2025, Ambassador Henriette Geiger highlighted that devolution is not merely a legal reform, but a transformative process aimed at bringing development closer to every County, community, and household. She described devolution as the most significant governance transformation in Kenya's history, enabling Counties to respond directly to local needs and contributing to the reduction of historical inequalities, particularly in sectors such as healthcare, infrastructure, and agriculture.

Ambassador Geiger commended County governors, assemblies, and staff for their leadership and dedication in driving Kenya's devolution journey. She

acknowledged the COG for its role in unifying County voices, coordinating initiatives, and documenting County-level achievements and innovations through the “Maarifa” knowledge centre, feeding into national policy and development dialogue.

She underscored the EU’s long-standing support for Kenya’s devolution process, from the transition phase (2010–2013) to the present, reaffirming continued partnership. Notably, she highlighted the EU’s latest contribution under the “Strengthening Good Governance in Kenya” program, co-financed with the German government and implemented by GIZ. This initiative focuses on enhancing County-level governance in 15 partner Counties, promoting transparency, accountability, sound public financial management, and performance management, all aimed at improving service delivery. She emphasized that performance management is a strategic tool for building public trust and enhancing the quality of life for all Kenyans.

On the theme of the conference, “For the People; For Prosperity: Devolution as a Catalyst for Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice,” Ambassador Geiger observed that for devolution to fulfil its promise, institutions must be accountable, staff empowered, and systems function efficiently and transparently. She noted that the past twelve years have focused on establishing legal, institutional, and political foundations for devolution, and the next phase must prioritize effective governance, responsive service delivery, and citizen-centred development.

Ambassador Geiger called for bold, deliberate action to rebuild the foundations of good governance, including:

- Addressing historical marginalization and directing resources to marginalized regions.
- Strengthening budget management, execution, and oversight mechanisms.
- Ensuring perpetrators of corruption face serious consequences.
- Enhancing institutional capacity at both County and national levels to deliver services with integrity and efficiency.
- Prioritizing citizen engagement to keep devolution people-driven and inclusive.

She emphasized that realizing the full potential of devolution is a shared responsibility among the

national government, County leaders, assemblies, administrative officers, civil society, and development partners. Ambassador Geiger encouraged delegates to use the three-day conference to reflect on ways to enrich and improve the devolution process, noting that devolution is a continual journey requiring reflection, adaptation, and collaboration.

In conclusion, she called on all stakeholders to honour the “mothers and fathers of devolution” and work collectively to ensure that all Kenyans can enjoy its benefits.

1.4.6 Panel Discussion

The panel discussion focused on the critical challenges and opportunities in County governance, emphasizing the need for accountability, transparency, and effective service delivery. Panellists examined the constitutional and operational frameworks guiding County functions, highlighting areas where devolution has improved governance and areas where gaps persist. The conversation centred on issues such as resource management, social protection, oversight coordination, and public trust, with participants exploring practical solutions to strengthen County autonomy, enhance civic engagement, and ensure ethical conduct in line with Kenya’s constitutional and legal mandates.

1.4.7 Emerging Issues

The panel identified several critical challenges that continue to affect the effectiveness, accountability, and credibility of County governance as follows:

1. Mismanagement of public resources remains a major concern, with frequent allegations of corruption, wastage, and non-transparent allocation of funds undermining citizen trust and eroding the credibility of devolved governance.
2. Social protection programs, particularly those shared between the national and County governments such as Inua Jamii, face coordination difficulties that result in inefficiencies, inequitable access, and instances of clientelism, limiting their intended impact.
3. The constitutional framework presents ambiguities, as social protection is not explicitly assigned to either the national or County level, which complicates implementation and accountability and often leads

to disputes over responsibilities.

4. Coordination of oversight between the Senate and County assemblies is weak, with overlapping roles and duplicated efforts reducing the effectiveness of governance mechanisms and weakening accountability at the County level.

5. Attempts by the national government to reclaim devolved functions threaten County autonomy, undermining service delivery and contravening the principles of devolution as outlined in Chapter 11 of the Constitution.

6. Public trust in County governments is declining, reflected in low civic engagement and protests, which limits the ability of citizens to participate meaningfully in governance and hold leaders accountable.

7. Restoring public confidence requires strengthening accountability mechanisms, improving transparency, and ensuring that Counties fulfil their promises to citizens in alignment with the principles of devolution.

8. Ethical conduct and corruption remain persistent challenges, with over 10,500 reported cases between 2013 and 2023 highlighting the urgent need for robust enforcement of the Conflict-of-Interest Act, 2025, and for instilling stronger ethical standards across County administrations.

1.4.8 Way Forward/Action Points

1. Counties should implement practical measures such as robust financial management systems, regular public audits, and transparent reporting mechanisms to address allegations of resource mismanagement. To improve public trust, Counties should engage citizens through open forums, publish detailed expenditure reports, and adopt digital platforms for real-time access to financial data.

2. The Ministry should enhance coordination with Counties by clearly defining roles in social protection programs, ensuring Counties have adequate resources and authority to implement pro-poor initiatives. Inua Jamii programs should incorporate transparent beneficiary selection processes, digital tracking systems to prevent corruption and clientelism, and public awareness campaigns to

ensure inclusivity and access to information. Scaling up successful programs requires joint planning and resource-sharing frameworks between national and County governments.

3. The Senate and other stakeholders should advocate for legislative clarity on shared functions like social protection, potentially through amendments or policy frameworks that assign specific responsibilities to each level of government. To avoid duplication, the Senate and County assemblies should establish formal coordination mechanisms, such as joint oversight committees or standardized reporting protocols, to streamline accountability processes.

4. Judges should leverage their authority to protect devolution by issuing rulings that uphold Chapter 11 of the Constitution, particularly by blocking attempts to claw back devolved functions. The judiciary should prioritize cases involving intergovernmental disputes and ensure Counties' autonomy is respected, reinforcing legal precedents that support devolution.

5. Civil society organizations like Uraia Trust should expand civic engagement programs, such as community workshops and digital campaigns, to educate citizens on their rights and responsibilities in holding Counties accountable. CSOs should leverage recent unrest to promote participatory governance, encouraging citizens to demand transparency and engage in public participation forums.

6. The Law Society of Kenya should partner with Counties to develop legal frameworks that promote transparency, such as County-level anti-corruption policies and whistleblower protections. Law Society of Kenya (LSK) should also conduct public legal education to restore confidence and advocate for institutional reforms that position Counties as centres of good governance, including adherence to the rule of law and ethical standards.

7. The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) should use the Conflict-of-Interest Act, 2025, to enforce stricter ethical standards in Counties, including mandatory declarations of assets and liabilities by County officials and sanctions for violations. The EACC should also support Counties with training on ethical conduct and establish County-level anti-corruption units to monitor compliance, thereby restoring public trust.

1.5 Day 2: THEME - HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

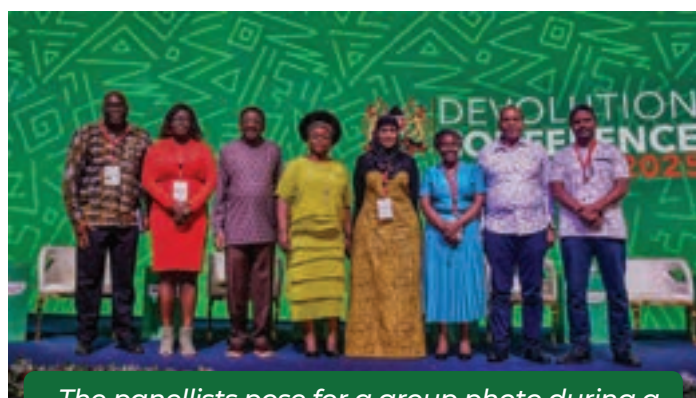
SUB-THEME: Leading at the Forefront: Subnational Governments as Protectors of Human Rights and Social Justice

Session Objective: To reflect on the status- in subnational governance- of mainstreaming of socio-economic, political, civil and cultural rights and social justice principles of access to resources, inclusion, equality and diversity; and identify interventions that will place County and local governments at the centre of realization of human rights.

Session Moderator: Ms. Jaki Mbogo

Panellists

1. Governor Hon. James Orengo, EGH, Governor, Siaya County
2. Hon. Odhiambo, Millie Odhiambo, Member of Parliament, Suba North Constituency
3. Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, Chairperson, National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC)
4. Mr. Hussein Khalid, Chief Executive Officer, VOCAL Africa
5. Ms. Ruth Bolo, Chairperson, Young Women Leaders Connect
6. Senator Danson Mungatana, Senator Tana River County
7. Mr. Duncan Okello, Associated Director, Kenya Judiciary Academy



The panellists pose for a group photo during a human rights and social justice side event

1.5.1 Introduction

On Day 2 of the Devolution Conference 2025, the focus shifted to the critical role of subnational governments in protecting human rights and advancing social justice. Under the theme “Leading at

the Forefront: Subnational Governments as Protectors of Human Rights and Social Justice,” the session sought to assess how Counties have mainstreamed socio-economic, political, civil, and cultural rights, and to identify interventions that place County and local governments at the centre of realizing these rights. Moderated by Ms. Jaki Mbogo, the session provided a platform to reflect on both the constitutional obligations of Counties and the practical challenges they face in ensuring inclusion, equity, and access to resources for all citizens, particularly marginalized groups such as women, youth, and persons with disabilities.

1.5.2 Keynote Speaker: Hon. Judith Pareno



HON. JUDITH PARENO

The session began with a keynote by Hon. Judith Pareno, Principal Secretary for the State Department for Justice, Human Rights, and Constitutional Affairs, who emphasized Counties’ moral and constitutional responsibility to uphold human rights and social justice. She highlighted devolution’s transformative potential to advance equity and inclusion, while noting persistent challenges such as poverty, discrimination, limited access to education, and inadequate infrastructure that continue to marginalize communities, particularly in pastoralist and remote areas.

Hon Pareno emphasized that protecting minority rights requires more than policy statements; it

necessitates deliberate representation, targeted budget allocations, inclusive planning, and equitable service delivery. She called for legislative reforms, including amendments to Anti-Corruption laws, the Public Participation Bill 2025, and the Victim Protection Act, to strengthen transparency, accountability, and access to justice.

Furthermore, she urged Counties to incorporate vulnerability analyses into their County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs), adopt digital governance tools to enhance citizen outreach, and improve reporting on human rights progress to national and international bodies. These measures, she noted, are essential for fostering inclusive, equitable, and accountable County governance.

1.5.3 Panel Discussion

This panel discussion explored the pivotal role of Counties in upholding human rights and advancing social justice within Kenya's devolved governance framework. Panellists examined the constitutional mandate of Counties to protect and deliver both civil and socio-economic rights, while highlighting the persistent challenges that limit citizen participation, accountability, and inclusion.

The conversation addressed the shrinking democratic space, gaps in resource allocation and oversight, and the need to strengthen mechanisms that ensure equitable service delivery, particularly for marginalized groups such as women, youth, and persons with disabilities. By drawing attention to both legal obligations and practical constraints, the panel underscored the importance of embedding human rights, transparency, and good governance at the core of County operations.

1.5.4 Emerging Issues

Key Highlights from the Panel Discussion:

1. Kenya's Constitution, particularly Chapter 4 (Bill of Rights) and Article 10, enshrines human rights as central to governance, mandating Counties to deliver socio-economic rights such as healthcare, water, and education. Implementation gaps, however, leave many communities underserved.

2. Concerns were raised over human rights regression post-independence, including abductions, enforced disappearances, and suppression of freedom of expression, which undermine devolution's gains and citizens' ability to hold governments accountable.

3. While the Senate and County Assemblies have oversight roles, resistance from County governments limits accountability. Mismanagement of equitable resource shares, such as Ksh 27 billion, underscores the need for transparency and effective fund utilization.

4. Public participation remains limited, particularly for young women and marginalized groups, due to inadequate frameworks, exclusion from decision-making, sexual harassment, and lack of supportive facilities such as lactation rooms.

5. Representation of youth and persons with disabilities has improved, but challenges like femicide, female genital mutilation (FGM), and gender-based violence (GBV) persist. Counties struggle to mainstream vulnerable groups in budgeting and policymaking.

6. Civil society organizations play a critical role in monitoring County service delivery, while debates continue balancing efficiency with equitable access to socio-economic rights, including suggestions to reduce the number of devolved units.

7. Counties are central to realizing socio-economic rights through devolved functions, but weak coordination with the national government, inadequate resource sharing, and limited autonomy hinder progress. A cultural shift toward transparency, accountability, and inclusive governance was emphasized as essential.

1.5.5 Way Forward/Action Points

1. Counties must allow Senate and County Assembly oversight without resistance, ensuring transparent utilization of funds to deliver services and uphold human rights, with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) playing a key role in monitoring accountability.

2. Develop robust structures to protect and include young women, PWD, and other marginalized groups in County governance, addressing issues like sexual harassment and providing facilities (e.g., lactation rooms) to ensure meaningful participation.

3. Counties should adhere to Article 10 by integrating youth, women, and PWD in budgeting and policy development, with NGEN training clerks to ensure inclusive budgeting and policies that address FGM,

GBV, and femicide.

4. Adopt digital tools to enhance fund utilization transparency, improve service delivery, and facilitate inclusive public participation, ensuring young women and other groups can engage effectively in governance processes.

5. Strengthen partnerships between Counties, the national government, Senate, MCAs, and CSOs to align resource sharing, reset mindsets for inclusivity, and achieve better human rights records, learning from models like Russia and South Africa.

1.6 Day 3: THEME - FINANCING EQUITY AND INCLUSION

SUB -THEME: Sealing the Fault Lines: Strategies for Action in Financial Inclusivity.

Session Objective: To examine the role of subnational governments in promoting access to financial opportunities to address systemic economic inequalities and disparities.

Moderator: Ms. Wangari Muikia, Managing Director, Expertise Global

Panellists

1. Senator Oketch Eddy Gicheru, Chair, Senate Committee on Roads, Transportation & Housing
2. Hon. Samuel Atandi, Chair, National Assembly Budget and Appropriations Committee
3. Hon. Chege Mwaura, Secretary General, County Assemblies Forum (CAF)
4. Ms. Nyabenyi Tito Tipo, FAO Representative in Kenya
5. Ms. Fridah Githuku, Head of Programme, Women's Rights, Irene M. Staehelin Foundation
6. Dr. Ouma Oluga, Principal Secretary, State Department for Medical Services, Ministry of Health



1.6.1 Introduction

On Day 3 of the Devolution Conference 2025, attention turned to the practical pathways for achieving financial inclusivity across Kenya's devolved system of governance. Under the theme "Strategies for Action in Financial Inclusivity," the session aimed to explore how subnational governments can expand access to financial opportunities and tackle persistent economic inequalities that affect communities at the grassroots level. The discussions focused on the role of Counties in creating enabling environments for inclusive finance, supporting small businesses, strengthening local economic participation, and removing barriers that prevent marginalized groups from fully engaging in economic life. Moderated by a distinguished facilitator, the session offered an opportunity to reflect on both the policy commitments and real-world actions needed to ensure that women, youth, persons with disabilities, and rural communities can meaningfully benefit from financial systems that serve their needs.

1.6.2 Keynote Address: Dr. Abraham Rugo, Executive Director, Bajeti Hub



Dr. Abraham Rugo delivered a keynote titled "Sealing the Fault Lines: Strategies for Action in Financial Inclusivity." Marking his 20th year in devolution and public finance, and the 15th anniversary of Kenya's

2010 Constitution, Dr. Rugo reflected on devolution as an "adolescent" seeking identity and independence yet constrained by structural and self-imposed limitations. His address focused on the pivotal role of subnational governments in enhancing financial access to reduce economic inequalities, underscoring equity and inclusion as enshrined in the Constitution.

Dr. Rugo highlighted five key strategies or "fault lines" for strengthening devolution to promote growth, equity, and financial inclusion:

1. Constitutionalism Beyond the Document: He called for a shift in mindset toward core values like respect for humanity and the rule of law. Devolution should distribute power for equitable development rather than perpetuate County dependence on the national government. Dr. Rugo stressed addressing national-level reluctance to fully embrace devolution and the marginalization of ethnic minorities within Counties, urging new equity-focused thresholds.

2. Clear Functions and Sufficient Finances: Emphasizing subsidiarity, he advocated for assigning functions to the most competent level, ensuring Counties receive adequate resources. He highlighted funding disparities: while the national budget share has grown by 250% since 2013, County allocations have increased only 110%, representing roughly 10–14% of total national expenditure (excluding debt). Counties bear significant responsibilities, particularly in health and agriculture. He recommended zero-based budgeting, building on unbundled functions, and factoring in population, service delivery costs, and development levels.

3. Quality Services Over Mere Structures: Dr. Rugo urged Counties to focus on delivering equitable services, especially to vulnerable populations reliant on public provision. In resource-constrained environments, he emphasized coordination, efficiency, and phased implementation. He questioned the overlap of grassroots structures (ward administrators, chiefs, Constituencies Development Fund (CDF) offices) and recommended strengthening County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) for integrated service delivery across sectors.

4. Accountability, Not Just Transparency: Citing Bajeti Hub and International Budget Partnership research,

Dr. Rugo noted improved transparency nationally (55/100) and at County level (64/100 in 2024), but weak accountability, with Counties scoring only 12/100 in public participation reporting. Auditor General reports highlighted consequences such as delayed treatments, school dropouts, business hardships, and citizen apathy. He stressed that robust accountability enhances governance and policy effectiveness.

5. Incomes, Not Just Opportunities: Highlighting Kenya's largely informal economy (80%) and persistent income challenges, Dr. Rugo stressed that financial exclusion affects 45.6% of rural youth (18–25), while 4 in 10 Kenyans live in poverty and 7 in 10 youth are unemployed. Most access finance privately (mobile money, chamas) rather than through government programs. He proposed that the government facilitate enterprise by lowering business barriers, enforcing the rule of law, consolidating public resources for impact, ensuring accessible services, simplifying taxes with incentives (e.g., for persons with disabilities (PWDs) and women), and reforming Semi-Autonomous Government Agencies (SAGAs) to optimize resource use.

Dr. Rugo concluded with a call for collective action to make devolution work for all, positioning government as a business enabler. He supported his recommendations with Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) Financial Inclusion survey data.

1.6.3 Panel Discussion

The panel discussions focused on County resource management, governance, and service delivery challenges. Key topics included delayed and limited transfers of national revenue, misalignment between governors' manifestos, County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs), and legislative frameworks, and the impact on MSMEs, particularly those led by youth, women, and persons with disabilities. Panellists addressed the unsustainability of donor reliance, advocating for self-reliance through social health insurance, hospital reforms, and inclusive agri-food systems. Discussions also covered the need for early engagement with Treasury and IGRTC for function transfers, integration of indigenous voices in County planning, harmonization of legislation, and constitutional reforms to expand the Senate's oversight role to ensure accountability and effective delivery of devolved functions.

1.6.4 Emerging Issues

Key insights from the discussion included:

1. Counties currently receive only 15% of audited national revenues, with delays affecting payroll, non-discretionary expenses, and development projects. Panellists emphasized the need for the Senate to expand its legislative and oversight role to ensure resources follow devolved functions.

2. Disputes over revenue estimation and rising debt obligations have constrained resource allocation, though recent increases in transfers demonstrate progress.

3. Weak coordination between governors' manifestos, CIDPs, and legislative frameworks undermines support for MSMEs and hampers policy coherence. Panellists called for harmonized legislation, capacity-building, and financial autonomy for County assemblies to strengthen oversight and collaboration.

4. Reliance on donor funding is increasingly unsustainable. Panellists highlighted the importance of promoting self-reliance through social health insurance, hospital reforms, and sustainable agri-food systems embedded in CIDPs.

5. Public participation in public finance management remains low in marginalized regions, particularly Arid and semi-arid Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) areas, due to climate impacts, insecure land tenure, and limited access to credit and infrastructure. Integrating indigenous voices into County planning was emphasized as critical for inclusion and sustainability.

6. Pending bills, delayed audits and submission of audit reports, and the national government's clawback on devolved functions, particularly in health, were noted as major challenges. Panellists advocated for constitutional reforms to expand the Senate's mandate to protect the integrity of devolution.

1.6.5 Way Forward/Action Points

1. Legislative Reform: The Senate should pursue a constitutional review to expand its mandate over money bills, enabling it to have a more comprehensive role in the legislative process, including originating and influencing financial legislation that impacts devolution. This would address current limitations where the Senate's input

is restricted, leading to imbalances in revenue sharing and function transfers. Meanwhile, County assemblies are encouraged to leverage their newly granted financial autonomy to enhance oversight capabilities and produce higher-quality legislation, fostering better coordination with executives, reducing dependency on national structures, and ensuring policies are more responsive to local needs such as MSME support and service delivery.

2. Revenue Allocation: The National Assembly, Senate, Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA), and National Treasury must harmonize revenue projections and expedite the approval of audits to prevent delays that disadvantage Counties, such as relying on outdated 2021-2022 financials for current budgeting. This collaborative effort would ensure more accurate and timely resource distribution based on ordinary revenue, excluding elements like public debt and grants. Additionally, there is a need to develop equitable formulas that account for County viability beyond mere payroll and non-discretionary expenses, incorporating factors like population adjustments, service delivery costs, and development levels to enable genuine investment in infrastructure, health, and economic growth, ultimately making Counties more self-sustaining and effective in addressing inequalities.

3. MSME Support: Counties should disaggregate own-source revenue data to clearly capture contributions from Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), allowing for better tracking of growth drivers, identification of policy impacts, and targeted incentives like tax simplifications or incubation programs. To prevent financial distress, especially in an informal economy where 70% of startups fail within three years, there must be strict enforcement of prompt payment for pending bills, with affirmative action prioritizing enterprises owned by women, youth, and PWDs to mitigate the effects of high-cost loans and operational disruptions. Furthermore, harmonizing SME-related legislation across the 47 Counties through forums like the County Assemblies Forum would eliminate duplication, bridge policy gaps, and create a consistent business environment, including streamlined registration, reduced taxes, and incentives that align with national frameworks to boost viability and employment.

4. Health Financing: Counties need to invest in comprehensive hospital reforms to ensure that services align with financing commitments under the Social Health Authority, such as delivering on benefit packages for high-cost treatments like dialysis and cancer care, thereby improving accessibility and efficiency in a resource-constrained environment. To achieve sustainability amid declining donor support from partners like President's Emergency Plans for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the Global Fund, innovative approaches like blended finance combining public funds, private insurance, and credit guarantees should be explored, alongside robust risk-pooling mechanisms in social health insurance that protect against poverty-inducing illnesses regardless of socioeconomic status. This transition would involve means-tested contributions, tax-funded primary care for 65% of services, and County sponsorship for indigents, ultimately fostering a self-reliant health system that supports broader economic inclusivity.

5. Marginalized Communities: Counties must integrate the voices of marginalized and indigenous communities into CIDPs and annual budgets through inclusive consultations, ensuring that priorities like climate-resilient projects in ASAL regions are addressed via frameworks aligned with national development plans. To unlock financial opportunities, there should be accelerated registration of community land, currently at around 40% to provide formal tenure rights that serve as collateral for credit, enabling participation in markets and reducing exclusion from infrastructure and agricultural financing. Scaling up value-chain specific investments in ASAL areas, such as those supported by organizations like FAO, would focus on local needs like livestock or fisheries, incorporating sustainability measures to ensure long-term benefits post-donor involvement and promoting equitable growth for vulnerable groups including women, youth, and PWDs.

6. Citizen Engagement and Accountability: Civil society and philanthropy should strengthen citizen agency by resourcing community-led initiatives and watchdog roles, empowering Kenyans to demand transparency and hold leaders accountable through data-driven advocacy and public participation in budgeting processes. To shift from politics-based

lobbying to needs-based budgeting, institutions must prioritize socioeconomic data from sources like KNBS and citizen-generated inputs, ensuring resource allocation targets the most vulnerable and reduces inequalities rooted in historical marginalization.



CHAPTER 3:
**SIDE EVENT
SESSIONS**

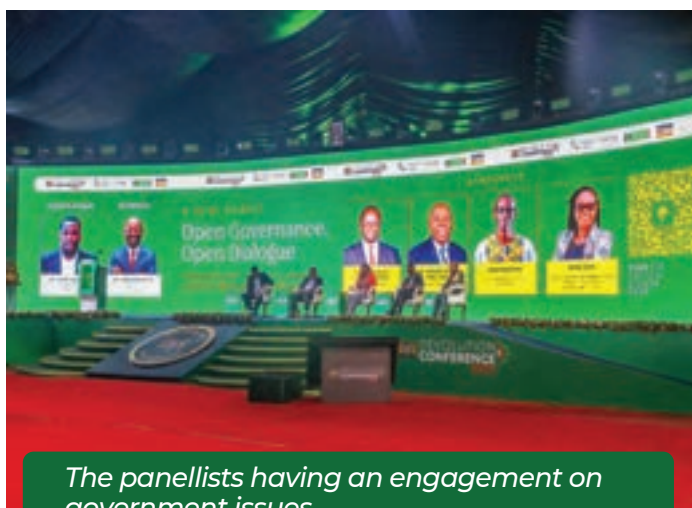
1.7 Day 1: GOOD GOVERNANCE

1.7.1 Open Governance, Open Dialogue: Towards Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice in Devolved Governance

Session Objective: The session sought to assess the progress made by devolved governments in embedding good governance principles within their structures and operations. It explored how transparency, accountability, and participatory decision-making are being advanced at the County level, while also identifying gaps that continue to undermine effective service delivery. The discussion further focused on proposing actionable strategies that Counties can adopt to strengthen governance systems, deepen citizen engagement, and ensure that devolution delivers tangible benefits to local communities.

Panellists

1. Dr. Henry Paul Gichana, Devolution and Research Lead, Katiba Institute
2. CPA Kithinji Kiragu, MBS, OGW, Chairperson, IGRTC
3. Mr. John Kinuthia, Deputy Executive Director, Bajeti Hub
4. Ms. Sonia Aima, Devolution and Anti-Corruption Lead, TISA



The panellists having an engagement on government issues

Introduction

The session underscored that good governance is the foundation of effective devolution, determining how national and County governments collaborate to deliver equitable services to citizens. Panellists emphasized that transparency, adherence to the rule of law, meaningful public participation, and social accountability are central to building trust in public

institutions and advancing inclusive development. These principles were presented as essential for deepening devolution and ensuring that it remains responsive to citizen needs while upholding the integrity of democratic governance in Kenya.

Emerging Issues

The panel highlighted that citizen participation in devolution remains weak and often inaccessible to ordinary Kenyans. While platforms such as the Devolution Conference exist, barriers like high costs and limited inclusivity prevent grassroots voices from being heard. Concerns were also raised about persistent corruption, fiscal indiscipline, and weak accountability mechanisms that continue to undermine public confidence in County governments.

Another recurring issue was the incomplete transfer of functions and resources from the national government to Counties. Despite growth in national revenues, County allocations remain low, while the national government still controls key devolved sectors such as health, agriculture, and transport. The panel called for a review of revenue-sharing frameworks, enforcement of fiscal discipline, and revitalization of intergovernmental forums to fully entrench devolution.

Finally, the discussion underscored the fragility of County governance institutions and their vulnerability to political interference. Strengthening civic education, expanding civil society oversight, and fostering meaningful citizen-government partnerships were emphasized as critical to enhancing accountability and ensuring that devolution delivers equitable development and improved services.

Way Forward / Action Points

1. Develop a Sessional Paper on Devolution and Public Sector Management to mainstream good governance principles in County governments.
2. Establish a mechanism for periodic audits to track progress towards equity, inclusion, and other devolution objectives.
3. Invest intentionally in civic education and meaningful public participation to ensure citizens influence socio-economic development.
4. Accelerate inclusive socio-economic development through stronger collaboration between national and

County governments.

5. Increase investment in public participation frameworks that empower citizens to shape decision-making processes.
6. The National Treasury should enforce its mandate under the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) to ensure fiscal discipline, stop the accumulation of pending bills, and restore accountability.
7. County Assemblies should insist on evidence-based annual revenue projections when reviewing budgets to address pending bill challenges.
8. Convene regular, policy-oriented consultative forums to strengthen coordination and joint planning across levels of government.
9. Fast-track a national public participation law to provide a clear framework for citizen-led socio-economic development.

1.7.2 Advancing Social Equity, Inclusion, and Justice through Public Participation: The Strategic Role of Effective County Governance

Convenor: Kenya Institute of Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA)

Session Chair: Dr. John Karanja

Session Objective: To reflect on the role of participatory governance in addressing socioeconomic disparities and enhancing accountability at the County level.

Panellists

1. Dr. Eldah Onsomu, Ag. Executive Director, The Kenya Institute of Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA)
2. Professor Paul Wachana, Board Chair, KIPPRA
3. Boniface Makokha, Principal Secretary, State Department for Economic Planning
4. Governor Benjamin Cheboi, County Government of Baringo
5. Dr. Joab Odhiambo, Office of the Executive Director, KIPPRA
6. Justice Boaz Munga, Senior Policy Analyst, KIPPRA
7. Nicholas Nzioka, Makueni County
8. Hanna Wangombe, Natural Resources Lead, Oxfam
9. Pamela Owori, County Executive Committee Member in Kenya (CECM) County Government of Busia
10. Syrus Ondari, Director Economic planning, County Government of Kakamega



**GOVERNOR, BENJAMIN CHEBOI, EBS, EGH
GOVERNOR BARINGO COUNTY**



**DR. BONFACE MAKOKHA, PS. STATE
DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING**



Participants doing a session hosted by KIPPRA

Introduction

This session emphasized the importance of evidence-based research, inclusive public participation, and social equity in advancing Kenya's devolved governance. Presenters highlighted the role of policy research in strengthening County capacity, stakeholder engagement, and tailored studies, with

an emphasis on translating findings into practical tools such as training programs, gender-focused hubs, and monitoring frameworks. Public participation was recognized as a constitutional pillar, though challenges of exclusion, apathy, and trust deficits persist, requiring digital platforms, simplified information, and greater investment. Education inequities were also noted, with calls to reform bursary systems and better target subsidies to disadvantaged households. Overall, the session underscored County-specific strategies, civic education, and collaborative monitoring as critical to building transparent, inclusive, and equitable governance.



Presentation during the KIPPRA side event

Emerging Issues

Discussions revealed that persistent disputes between national and County governments stem from overlapping mandates and unclear roles, resulting in duplication and inefficiencies that undermine service delivery. Public participation, while constitutionally guaranteed, remains weak due to limited civic education, poor community engagement, and low trust, often leading to contested decisions and litigation. Policy implementation also suffers from gaps in legal compliance and inadequate stakeholder consultation, eroding public confidence.

The session further noted that social protection programs are constrained by overlapping roles and limited County capacity, although localized innovations show potential when paired with stronger planning and engagement. Chronic funding shortfalls such as annual deficits in roads and health continue to frustrate service delivery, while judicial backlogs, limited rural access, and reliance on

executive goodwill weaken justice delivery. Although youth inclusion is improving, weak systems and uneven constitutional literacy hinder accountability.

Examples from model Counties such as Baringo, Bungoma, Kisii, and Kajiado illustrated how sustained civic education can build accountability, but uneven uptake across regions limits impact. Participants stressed the urgency of updating legal frameworks to reflect evolving realities in devolution, especially in areas like social protection and intergovernmental coordination. Stronger collaboration between national and County governments, civil society, and development partners backed by robust data systems such as the Enhanced Single Registry was highlighted as key to addressing poverty, unmet social needs, and governance challenges.

Way Forward / Action Points

1. Clarify mandates and strengthen intergovernmental coordination to reduce duplication and improve service delivery.
2. Scale up civic education to empower citizens, reduce mistrust, and make participation meaningful and inclusive.
3. Update legal frameworks to address gaps in social protection, intergovernmental coordination, and citizen inclusion.
4. Enhance social protection delivery through stronger planning, streamlined roles, and community-driven approaches.
5. Increase funding and close resource gaps in critical sectors such as health and roads to meet citizen expectations.
6. Strengthen the judiciary by addressing case backlogs, expanding access in rural areas, and reinforcing independence from the executive.
7. Develop and deploy stronger monitoring and data-sharing systems, including the Enhanced Single Registry, to support transparency and accountability.
8. Support and scale lessons from model Counties that have demonstrated the benefits of sustained civic education and inclusive governance.
9. Promote structured collaboration among Counties, national government, civil society, and development partners to address poverty and inequality.

1.7.3 Accelerating Equitable Health Access Through Drone Technology and Innovative Partnerships

Convenor: Fly Zipline Kenya

Session Chair: Charles Kariuki, CEO of Zipline

Session Objective: To examine the role of drone technology and innovative partnerships in accelerating equitable health access for communities focusing on enhancing the timely delivery of essential medical supplies.

Panellists

1. Hon. Dr. Erick Mutai, Governor, Kericho County
2. Dr. Donald Mogoi, CECM Health, Nyamira County
3. Dr. Gregory Ganda, CECM Health, Kisumu County
4. Caroline Kiunga, Global Humanitarian Relief Director at UPS Foundation
5. Dr. Betty Langat, Director of Health, Kericho County
6. Lynette Apindi, Muhoroni, SubCounty EPI Coordinator
7. Dr. Donald Mogoi, CECM Health, Nyamira County.



Introduction

This session highlighted the use of drone technology and innovative partnerships to enhance equitable health access across the Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB). The CEO of LREB, Mr. Victor Nyagaya, recounted a benchmarking visit to Rwanda that inspired Kisumu County to pioneer Zipline's medical drone services, targeting all 15 million residents in the bloc, including those in hard-to-reach areas. The keynote on "Transforming Last Mile Healthcare: Harnessing Innovation and Partnerships for Equitable Access" was delivered on behalf of Hon. Dr. Erick Mutai, Governor of Kericho County, by Dr. Donald Mogoi, CECM Health, Nyamira County. It was noted

that Zipline, in partnership with Homa Bay, Kisumu, and Nyamira Counties, has served over 280 facilities, delivering 213,492 vaccine doses with Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) support, 953 units of blood (reducing referrals by 30% and wastage by 34%), 23,800 deliveries of essential medicines, and 75,500 HIV medication deliveries reaching over 106,000 youth. The session emphasized that the success of such innovations relies on robust collaboration among Counties, LREB, development partners, the Ministry of Health, community health systems, and the private sector to accelerate both health and economic outcomes.

Emerging Issues

From the discussion, several emerging issues were highlighted regarding access to healthcare and the role of technology in strengthening service delivery. Participants noted that limited infrastructure in rural communities continues to restrict access to essential healthcare, particularly for pregnant women requiring urgent emergency care and for youth in need of HIV prevention and reproductive health services. These gaps not only exacerbate health disparities but also expose the vulnerability of communities in hard-to-reach areas.

Another key concern raised was the inefficiency of the current referral and supply chain systems. Delays in referrals, high costs, and challenges in storage and distribution have resulted in expired drugs and vaccines, undermining timely healthcare delivery. In contrast, Zipline's drone delivery system was cited as a transformative innovation in LREB Counties, ensuring the timely delivery of antiretroviral's (ARVs), vaccines, and other critical commodities. The system has reduced stockouts, minimized wastage, supported real-time ordering, and eased the workload of health workers by integrating monitoring, evaluation, and sub-County data reviews.

However, the discussion also revealed challenges in sustaining such innovations. Resistance to new delivery methods was observed, with some facilities reverting to motorbike transport during fuel crises rather than fully relying on drones. This underscored the need for stronger change management and integration of drone technology into procurement systems like Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (KEMSA). Additionally, limited awareness and

misconceptions among both communities and health teams were flagged as barriers, highlighting the importance of targeted sensitization and training to foster acceptance and optimize the use of drone technology.

Way Forward/Action Points

1. Develop a comprehensive framework to enable all Counties to adopt drone technology for health service delivery, ensuring equitable access to essential medical supplies across Kenya.
2. Allocate specific budgets to support drone-based delivery systems, facilitating sustainable integration into County health supply chains and addressing funding gaps.
3. Extend drone delivery to other sectors, such as livestock and agriculture, to optimize resource use and enhance efficiency across multiple domains.
4. Promote strong leadership to integrate drone technology into procurement systems, dispel misconceptions, and train health staff, sub-County teams, and local administration on its benefits for delivering medical essentials.
5. Encourage Counties to coordinate orders, such as blood products for multiple regions, to optimize costs and enhance efficiency, while sensitizing communities on the importance of drones in delivering lifesaving health products.

1.7.4 Inclusive Pathways for Accelerating Implementation of the SDGs at the Devolved Levels

Convenor: CMD Kenya

Session Chair: Tracy Osogo, Team Lead for the People Dialogue Festival and Program Officer for Dialogue Political Party Strengthening & Youth, CMD

Session Objective: To enable the COG (COG) to support County Assemblies in legislating, budgeting for, and implementing policies that advance the realization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within devolved functions.

Panellists

1. Hon. Chege Mwaura, MCA Ngora, Secretary General, County Assemblies Forum
2. Arnold Gekonge, Danish Embassy Youth Sounding Board.
3. Kizito Wangalwa, Director, Committees and Programs COG



Hon. Chege Mwaura (to the left) and Dir. Kizito Wangalwa (to the right) contributing to the discussions



Mr. Arnold Gekonge during a discussion on Implementation of SDGS of devolved levels

Introduction

The Centre for Multiparty Democracy Kenya (CMD-Kenya) convened this discussion to examine how devolved governance can be leveraged to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The conversation brought together diverse voices from government, civil society, and development partners to reflect on the progress made at the County level, as well as the persistent gaps that continue to slow down impact. The panel focused particularly on the role of County governments in aligning legislation, planning, and budget priorities with the SDGs, while strengthening

accountability structures that ensure resources are directed toward inclusive development. Speakers also emphasized the critical role of youth, highlighting the need to position them not only as beneficiaries but as active agents of change who can drive innovation and hold leaders accountable.

Emerging Issues

The discussions highlighted that development processes must be responsive to the needs of youth, women, and PWDs, ensuring inclusivity through innovation, participatory forums, and tailored programs. While some young people are involved in County-level processes such as budgeting in Kitui County many prefer digital platforms for engagement, but their participation is restricted by limited tools, low awareness of legal frameworks, and weak sensitization efforts. Civil society organizations and partners are working to bridge these gaps through digital advocacy platforms, disability-inclusive programming, and Recognition of women's caregiving roles to enhance equitable participation.

Participants also noted that several Counties are making progress through targeted initiatives. For example, Kakamega County is advancing SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) by building young women's political leadership through training and dialogue, while Nyamira County integrates gender inclusion and social safeguards in infrastructure projects. Youth leaders emphasized the importance of translating SDGs into child- and youth-friendly language, prioritizing mental health, and establishing platforms that link global expertise to local innovations for stronger youth-government engagement.

Despite these promising efforts, critical challenges remain. Counties face limited technical capacity to localize and track SDGs, weak integration of gender-sensitive budgeting, and inadequate CIDPs. Poor data collection continues to undermine evidence-based decision-making, particularly for marginalized groups. At the same time, many young people remain reluctant to engage physically in County processes, and sustainable advocacy platforms are lacking to uphold constitutional rights and keep communities informed about SDG initiatives.



Panellists pose for a photo during the discussion on SDGs

1.7.5 Lessons from the Grave Through County Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR): Call to Action for Ending Preventable Maternal and Newborn Deaths by Upscaling Quality Maternal Care.

Convenor: MPDSR Initiative

Session Chair: Kenneth Ogendo, Dr. James Amenge, Dr. Muthoni Ogola

Session Objective: This session highlighted the magnitude and preventable nature of maternal and newborn deaths, demonstrated how MPDSR contributed to improving the quality of healthcare delivery, and showcased County-level achievements, lessons learned, and best practices from across Kenya.

Panellists

1. Governor, Muthomi Njuki, Tharaka-Nithi County, and COG Chair, Health Committee
2. Hon. Senator Catherine Muyeka Mumma
3. Prof. Zahida Qureshi, Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Nairobi University
4. Dr. Christine Manyasi, Consultant Paediatrician
5. Dr. Grace Wanjiku, Gynaecologist, Murang'a County
6. Dr. Susan Ontiri, International Centre for Reproductive Health, Kenya (ICRHK), Representative)
7. Lilian Okoth, Midwife



Panellists warming up to the discussions on MPDSR

Introduction

This session, convened under Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response framework (MPDSR) brought together skilled health workers and community stakeholders to discuss and endorse a call for action to address these challenges. The session underscored the critical role of MPDSR in reducing maternal and newborn deaths by systematically identifying, analysing, and addressing their causes. County and inter-County MPDSR meetings, championed by the COG, were highlighted as key drivers of improved outcomes in maternal and perinatal health.

Speakers drew attention to sobering statistics: globally, a woman dies every two minutes from pregnancy or childbirth complications, with Sub-Saharan Africa accounting for 70% of these deaths. In Kenya, a maternal death occurs every two hours, 70% of which are preventable. The country's Maternal Mortality Ratio of 355 per 100,000 live births and Neonatal Mortality Ratio of 21 per 1,000 have remained stagnant for the past decade, with significant County-level disparities. As a result, Kenya is off track to achieve the SDG targets of a Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) of 70 per 100,000 and an Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) of 12 per 1,000 by 2030.

Emerging Issues



Presentation on MPDSR

The discussion revealed several persistent challenges undermining progress in maternal and newborn health. County budgets were often found to be misaligned, with resources directed toward less urgent areas while critical services such as emergency obstetric and neonatal care remain underfunded. This funding imbalance is compounded by significant human resource and infrastructure gaps. Participants highlighted the acute shortage of skilled midwives, inadequate training opportunities, and poorly equipped facilities as major barriers to the delivery of effective care.

Despite ongoing interventions, mortality rates remain unacceptably high. Kenya still loses about 90 newborns every day, mostly from preventable causes, while maternal deaths from haemorrhage, eclampsia, and sepsis continue due to delays in diagnosis and treatment. The problem is further obscured by underreporting and inconsistencies between census and facility data, which limit the ability to accurately track deaths and guide targeted responses. Weak referral systems also remain a challenge, with poor communication during transfers and inadequately equipped ambulances contributing to avoidable maternal deaths.

Panellists further observed that the implementation of the Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR) strategy is limited, with only about a third of Counties fully operationalizing its activities. This weakens accountability and diminishes the strategy's potential impact. Newborn care was also noted to receive far less investment and attention compared to maternal health, reflecting a broader imbalance in prioritization. Unequal partner support has created disparities across Counties, with some benefitting disproportionately from donor and partner interventions while others remain underserved.

Finally, the panel drew attention to the underutilization of proven innovations such as the E-Motive method for haemorrhage management, which are yet to be widely adopted. This was linked to broader issues of weak local ownership, as participants stressed the urgent need for stronger leadership from both national and County governments to drive sustainability and ensure interventions are aligned with local priorities.

Way Forward/Action Points

1. Prioritize funding and realign County budgets to maternal and newborn health, with resources directed to emergency care, infrastructure, and equipment.
2. Strengthen workforce and infrastructure by recruiting and training more midwives, upgrade skills of healthcare workers, and modernize facilities, especially at Level 3 and Level 4 hospitals.
3. Scale up MPDSR and accountability and ensure County committees consistently report, budget, and track actions, while expanding inter-County forums to improve referrals and share lessons.
4. Fix referral systems and adequately equip ambulances and strengthen communication protocols to reduce delays in managing emergencies.
5. Promote local ownership and equity to foster County-level leadership, integrate development partners into government-led structures, and ensure fair distribution of support across Counties.
6. Adopt innovations and accelerate uptake of proven tools and interventions, while addressing logistical barriers to their use.

1.7.7 Performance Management: Restoring Trust and Excellence in County Governments

Convenor: GIZ

Session Chair: Eric Latiff

Session Objective: This session examined the critical role of performance management (PM) in strengthening devolution, enhancing accountability, and building public trust in Kenya's County governments. It reviewed the evolution of PM since 2013, highlighted persistent structural and operational challenges, and drew lessons from Germany's federal system. The discussion also explored strategies for institutionalizing PM, strengthening County capacity, applying sanctions and rewards, and aligning monitoring tools with citizen needs to improve governance and service delivery.

Panellists

1. Amb. Henriette Geiger, Ambassador, European Union to Kenya
2. Governor Wilber K. Otichillo, Governor, Vihiga County

3. Amb. Sebastian Groth, Ambassador, Federal Republic of Germany to Kenya
4. PS Michael Lenasalon, Principal Secretary, State Department for Devolution
5. PS Ahmed Ibrahim, Principal Secretary, National Coordination)
6. Seth Mwatela, Chairperson, County Assemblies Forum
7. Maureen Oduori (WFD), Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD), Kenya Office
8. Prof. Fred Jonyo, University of Nairobi (UoN)



Panellists contributing to the discussions on Performance management in County Governments

Introduction

The panellists reflected on the role of performance management (PM) in strengthening devolution, enhancing accountability, and building public trust in County governments. Discussions traced Kenya's PM journey since 2013, underscored persistent structural and operational gaps, and drew comparative lessons from Germany's federal model of decentralization. Panellists also examined the role of stakeholders, including citizens, development partners, and County assemblies, in shaping a more effective and accountable PM framework. This session featured key Panellists discussing the centrality of performance management in enhancing accountability, public trust, and effective service delivery. The discussions reviewed Kenya's PM trajectory since 2013, identified structural and operational weaknesses, and drew comparative lessons from Germany's federal system.

Emerging Issues

From the panel discussion, several critical issues emerged regarding the state of performance management in Kenya's County governments. One of the key concerns raised was the shift in donor support, with the European Union moving away from direct economic funding toward capacity building, largely in

response to past misuse of resources and limited impact. This shift underscores the risk that Counties may lose donor confidence if inefficiencies and mismanagement persist.

The discussion further highlighted that PM, introduced under the County Governments Act in 2013, has been slow to take root. The Kenya Devolution Support Programme (KDSP 1) was significantly constrained by resource gaps, and without stronger oversight, sustainable funding, and adequate legal backing, KDSP 2 faces similar risks. These shortcomings are compounded by systemic weaknesses such as the absence of a performance management index, outdated staff registers, the persistence of ghost workers, absenteeism, politicized recruitment, and corruption all of which continue to undermine effective service delivery.

Comparative lessons from Germany's federal system were also shared, illustrating how decentralization can drive growth through regional competition, fiscal equalization, and robust oversight—features that remain largely absent in Kenya's devolved governance framework. At the same time, participants noted that County assemblies, despite their constitutional authority, face severe limitations in fulfilling their oversight role due to budgetary constraints and donor programs that often bypass them.

Citizen engagement emerged as another area of concern. While public participation is a constitutional requirement, it remains weak in practice, with inaccessible reports and ineffective feedback mechanisms limiting impact. Panellists emphasized that digital-native youth remain an untapped accountability resource, and Counties need stronger mechanisms to meaningfully integrate citizen voices into governance processes. Finally, the lack of a statutory legal framework for performance management was identified as a fundamental gap. Without standardized tools, performance incentives, and a clear regulatory basis, accountability structures remain fragile and public trust continues to erode.

Way Forward/Action Points

The panel proposed the following measures to strengthen performance management in County governments:

1. Fast-track the PM Bill to provide statutory authority,

with enforceable sanctions and rewards for accountability.

2. Implement KDSP 2 tools consistently to enable comparability, benchmarking, and measurable outcomes across Counties.

3. Introduce transparent reward and sanction mechanisms to address underperformance, eliminate ghost workers, and curb patronage-based hiring.

4. Strengthen County Assemblies' oversight role by ensuring donor programs engage them directly and by addressing their budgetary constraints.

5. Re-engineer citizen engagement through simplified reporting, digital platforms, and robust feedback loops that integrate public input into PM.

6. Benchmark against successful models like Germany's by adopting fiscal equalization, competitive benchmarking, automated staff registers, merit-based recruitment, and up-to-date County websites to boost transparency and service delivery.

1.7.8 Health and Technology: Leveraging Emerging Technologies to Achieve UHC

Convenor: Jacaranda Health

Session Chair: Sarah Okuro

Session Objective: To explore how emerging technologies can be leveraged to advance UHC in Kenya's devolved system, focusing on integrating innovative digital solutions to enhance healthcare access, improve service delivery, and ensure equitable, efficient, and sustainable health outcomes for all citizens.

Panellists

1. Governor Dr. Irungu Kangata, Governor, Muranga County
2. Lucy Mulili, Deputy Governor, Makueni County
3. Dr. Ouma Oluga, Principal Secretary, State Department of Medical Services
4. Eng. John Kipchumba, CBS, Principal Secretary, State Department of ICT and Digital Economy
5. Ms. Cynthia Kahumbura, Co-Executive Director, Jacaranda Health
6. Ms. Moreen Maria, PROMPTS Beneficiary and Implementer



Panellists contributing to the discussions on health technologies

Introduction

Across Kenya, technology is transforming access to healthcare from mobile maternal and adolescent telemedicine services to Artificial Intelligence (AI)-assisted diagnostics and real-time disease tracking. As these innovations advance, it is essential to ensure they reach every community. This session featured a panel of leaders from government, technology, healthcare, and the community, bringing diverse perspectives to the discussion.

Emerging Issues

During the panel discussion, several critical gaps and challenges were highlighted in advancing digital health. Panellists emphasized the persistent risks of exclusion, particularly for rural, low-income, and vulnerable groups such as teenage mothers. Limited access to smartphones, low digital literacy, and delays in receiving information make it difficult for these populations to benefit fully from digital health platforms. Persons with disabilities also face significant barriers, as many platforms and government websites are not designed to be fully accessible. Information often reaches them late or in non-accessible formats, and public events frequently lack inclusive measures such as sign language interpretation.

The discussion further underscored infrastructural and operational limitations. Unreliable electricity, weak internet connectivity, and the high costs of devices hinder the expansion of digital health in rural and underserved areas. Panellists noted that while fibre-optic internet is being rolled out, its expansion is not viable everywhere, pointing to the need for alternatives like wireless or satellite connectivity. The limited availability and maintenance challenges of

digital hardware in health facilities also constrain service delivery. At the same time, concerns over data privacy and security were flagged, with emphasis on the need for stronger governance frameworks, ethical Artificial Intelligence (AI) practices, and interoperability to build public trust.

Panellists also drew attention to systemic and institutional issues. Multiple fragmented health information systems remain unlinked, limiting oversight and continuity of care, while capacity gaps persist among healthcare workers, public servants, and communities. Heavy reliance on donor funding continues to threaten sustainability, especially given high operational costs for platforms such as SMS-based programs. Quality of care remains uneven, with reports of disrespectful maternity care and weak monitoring systems undermining patient trust. Finally, the panel observed that positive County-level innovations and success stories are underutilized, as they are not consistently documented or shared in ways that encourage learning and replication across the system.

Way Forward/Action Points

1. The Digital Health Agency, Ministry of ICT, and County Governments to expand connectivity across public hospitals by installing fixed networks in Level 4, 5, and 6 facilities, and by providing tablets with prepaid bundles in Level 2 and 3 facilities.
2. The Ministry of Health, Ministry of ICT, County Governments, and Development Partners to strengthen the organization of health commodities before moving to digitization, so that digital health solutions are built on a solid and efficient foundation.
3. The Ministry of ICT and Digital Economy, together with the Ministry of Health and the Digital Health Authority, to advance the implementation of the national Artificial Intelligence policy by developing healthcare use cases that could fast-track diagnosis, support providers, and improve the quality of care.

1.7.9 Good Governance: Ensuring that Governance and Policies are Responsive to and Work for the Youth.

Convenor: SHOFCO

Session Chair: Edward Ndari, SHOFCO Youth Leader, Machakos County

Session Objective: Ensuring that Governance and Policies are Responsive to and Work for the Youth

Panellists

1. Arthur Odera, Deputy Governor, Busia County
2. Kennedy Odede, Chief Executive Officer, SHOFCO CEO
3. Nzomo Mbithuka, Commissioner of the National Gender and Equality Commission
4. Hon. Eddy Oketch, Senator Migori, Social Accountability
5. Sylvia Brenda Odhiambo, Governance & Policy Lead, SHOFCO



Panellists contributing to the discussions on youth responsive policies

Introduction

This side event convened youth leaders, County officials, civil society actors, and development partners for a vibrant discussion on the role of young people in advancing civic engagement, social accountability, and citizen oversight. The session featured interactive dialogue, audience reflections, and case studies of county-level innovations. Key themes included meaningful participation, transparency, inclusivity, youth economic empowerment, and bridging the gap between policy and practice.

Emerging Issues

From the discussions, panellists highlighted that the 30% Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) allocation for youth often remains on paper, with loopholes allowing older individuals to use youth as proxies. They suggested that while youth policies exist, young people continue to be excluded from meaningful decision-making, even on matters that directly affect them. Public participation processes were described as episodic, largely dominated by older citizens, and not designed to reach youth, where they are especially online.

It also emerged that Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions are inadequately equipped, leaving a disconnect between the skills imparted and actual market demands. Participants noted that young people still face steep barriers in accessing affordable financing, with collateral requirements and delayed government payments making entrepreneurship difficult. Engagement of youth in governance was at times viewed as tokenistic, with young people brought in for optics rather than genuine influence.

Concerns were raised that digital infrastructure remains underutilized, as existing ICT hubs often lack reliable internet, consistent power supply, or skilled trainers. Youth political participation also appeared weak, with low membership in political parties, high entry barriers, and the absence of structured, long-term mobilization strategies. Some leaders continue to dismiss organized youth movements as “leaderless” or “tribeless,” eroding trust and creating a disconnect.

Finally, participants felt that opportunities in manufacturing remain largely missed, with prohibitive costs, financing challenges, and lack of County-level industrial hubs holding back youth-led industrialization efforts.

Way Forward / Action Points

1. Reform and enforce AGPO by tightening verification, ensuring timely payments, and introducing upfront capital or concessional loans for youth contractors.
2. Adopt Youth-Led Policy Models by scaling up successful ward-level consultation approaches, such as those used in Homa Bay, to County and national levels.
3. Institutionalize Continuous Participation through hybrid (online and offline) citizen engagement platforms that deliberately target youth spaces.
4. Equip and Sustain TVETs with modern tools, qualified trainers, and curricula aligned to ICT, trades, and agribusiness opportunities.
5. Unlock Youth Capital by expanding collateral-free loans, creating microfinance linkages, and establishing government-backed de-risking mechanisms.

6. Strengthen Digital Infrastructure by ensuring rural hubs have reliable electricity, internet, and trainers, and by promoting productive technology use.

7. Expand Mentorship and Leadership Development to build respectful youth-leader partnerships, foster servant leadership, and extend mentorship beyond politics.

8. Support Manufacturing Entry through County-supported manufacturing hubs, shared facilities, and reduced entry costs for young entrepreneurs.

9. Enhance Political Inclusion by enforcing the constitutional youth bracket (18–35) in appointments, supporting political apprenticeships, and promoting collective electoral strategies.

10. Promote Servant Leadership and Inclusivity by embedding service, fairness, and transparency as guiding values across governance levels.

Quotes

“Sometimes, what these young people want... is just for someone to believe in them.”

Kennedy Odede, SHOFCO

“When something must be explained by too many names, the message is lost, keep it simple.”

Kennedy Odede SHOFCO

“Public participation is not an event. It is an ongoing set of conversations on topical issues.”

Hon. Arthur Odera Deputy Governor, Busia

1.7.10 Participatory Multilevel Governance and Localization of SDGs: Cities and the Blue Economy & Community-led Social Housing in Urban Areas

Convenor: UN HABITAT

Session Chair: Mary Ndungu, Director Slum upgrading, Ministry of Housing

Session Objective: To evaluate the impact of community-led social housing initiatives under the Partnership Implementing the New Urban Agenda (PINUA) program in Kisumu and Nairobi, supported by the Kenya government, UN Habitat, and funded by the European Union.

Panellists

1. Prof. Peter Anyang Nyongo, Governor Kisumu County
2. Mr. Kalen Guo, Director, BLUETTI
3. Anne Kariuki, Secretary Ex Grogon Settlement
4. Benedict Onono, Secretary Shauri-yako Settlement Executive Committee, Muhoroni
5. Dancun Amolo, Chairman Kibuye settlement
6. Jemima Moraa, Youth representative



Panellists contributing to the discussions on Localization of SDGs

Introduction

This session assessed the impact of community-led social housing in urban areas under the partnership implementing the New Urban Agenda (PINUA) program in Kisumu and Nairobi. This is a joint program by the Kenya government and UN Habitat funded by the European Union to create greener, safer and inclusive housing.

Emerging Issues

The panel discussion highlighted that urban areas, particularly informal settlements, are experiencing a severe housing shortage driven by rapid urbanization and rural-to-urban migration. Despite the growing demand, the supply of affordable housing remains

limited, leaving many families in precarious living conditions.

Community participation emerged as a critical factor in the success and sustainability of housing initiatives like the PINUA project. Residents bring valuable insights into the unique challenges faced in informal settlements, and their active involvement enhances accountability, effectiveness, and efficiency.

The panel further emphasized that housing should not be seen as stand-alone shelter but as part of an integrated settlement that includes markets, recreational spaces, schools, clean water, sanitation, and waste management systems. Financial constraints, however, remain a major barrier, with both households and developers struggling to access funding amidst the rising cost of construction materials. This situation underscores the urgent need for stronger private sector engagement and innovative financing models to unlock the potential of affordable housing programs.

Way Forward / Action Points

1. Strengthen community participation in housing development programs to ensure that residents, local governments, and private sector actors co-create affordable housing solutions and promote ownership.
2. Promote an incremental housing approach that enables low-income households to progressively save, build, and expand eco-friendly housing units over time according to their needs.
3. Integrate essential social amenities such as schools, markets, children's playgrounds, sanitation facilities, and green spaces into housing projects to create holistic and liveable settlements.
4. Develop innovative financing mechanisms to ease financial constraints, including affordable credit facilities and community savings models that empower households and developers to invest in housing.
5. Engage County governments in fostering partnerships with the private sector to design and implement affordable housing initiatives that respond to the realities of informal settlements.

6. Explore cost-reduction strategies in construction, including the adoption of alternative, sustainable, and locally available building materials, to make housing more affordable and scalable.

Part II Cities and the blue economy

Convenor: UN HABITAT

Session Chair: Florian Lux, Project Manager Go Blue Project Manager-UN HABITAT

Session Objective: The blue economy in Kenya has not been there for long and therefore the country is yet to harness its full potential. This includes sectors like marine and lake transport, fisheries, tourism, fish farming and renewable energy. There is a need to ensure job creation, livelihood improvement and the sustainability of the environment.

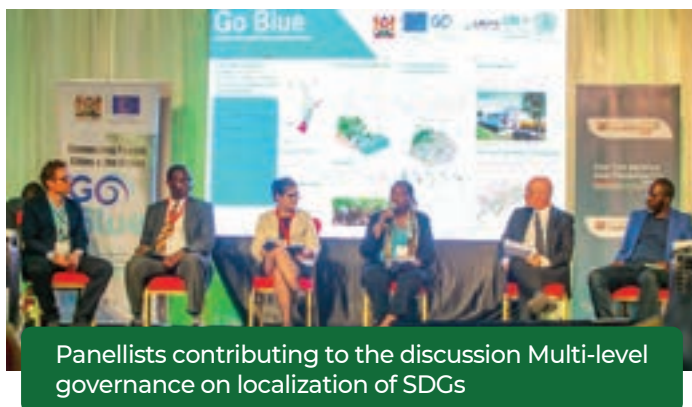
Speaker: H.E. Henriette Geiger, the European Union Ambassador to Kenya,

Ambassador Geiger highlighted the EU's longstanding support for regional initiatives aimed at developing Kenya's blue economy. She noted that several coastal startups have already benefited from EU-backed programs, demonstrating the potential of targeted support to drive innovation and economic growth in the sector.

Ambassador Geiger emphasized the critical need to strengthen maritime security, including the capacity of the navy and coast guard, to ensure the safety of communities and investments across Kenya's oceanic zones. She further underscored the importance of directing greater attention to investment opportunities within the blue economy, advocating for strategic actions that can unlock sustainable growth and resilience for both coastal communities and the national economy.

Panellist Part II:

1. Governor Paul, Otuoma, Busia County Chair Blue Economy COG
2. David Ogiga, Blue economy incubation, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Sote hub
3. Amb. Henriette Geiger, EU Ambassador
4. Dr. Jaqueline Uku, Principal Researcher, KEMFRI)



Emerging Issues

The blue economy sector in Kenya, while holding significant potential, faces several emerging challenges that could hinder its sustainable growth. One of the primary constraints is the lack of comprehensive data. Being a relatively new sector, there is limited information available to guide policy, planning, and investment decisions, making evidence-based development difficult.

Additionally, extension services for fishermen remain inadequate. Many small-scale fishers lack access to training, technical support, and advisory services that could enhance productivity, ensure sustainable practices, and improve livelihoods. Compounding this challenge is insufficient funding from government sources, which limits the capacity of relevant agencies to implement programs, provide infrastructure, and support sector development.

Environmental concerns also pose a major threat to the sector. Both marine and freshwater systems are increasingly affected by pollution, which compromises the health of ecosystems and the quality of fish stocks. The policy and regulatory environment is equally fragmented; uncoordinated policies and overlapping legislation hinder effective governance and create uncertainty for investors and community stakeholders.

Finally, insecurity has emerged as a pressing issue for those working in the sector. Fishermen have reported harassment, theft of fishing equipment, and other threats in both lakes and oceanic areas, undermining their safety and economic stability. Addressing these challenges will require coordinated efforts across government, private sector, and community actors to build a sustainable, safe, and data-driven blue economy in Kenya.

Way Forward/Action Points

1. County governments should enhance investment on opportunities in the blue economy like the improvement of the infrastructure around the lake region and at the coast.
2. The government should consider creating a national blue economy fund with the participation of the private sector. This will create a pool where farmers can get grants to boost their investment.
3. Counties should develop clear policies to guide cage farming and also train farmers on cage farming guidelines.
4. The government should support continuous research and development in the blue economy to ensure that the country stays afloat with the emerging issues in the sector.
5. Heavy investment in the blue economy sector. The government should increase investment on innovative technologies (like use of remote sensing), research, and training programs to communities.
6. Enhance community engagement and partnerships through planning and implementation of the blue economy programs. This will foster community ownership of the blue economy initiatives.

1.7.11 Investment Ready Counties: Re-Engineering Systems for Shared Prosperity and Inclusion

Convenor: KEPSA

Session Chair: Charles Kamau, Deputy Chief of Staff, Kilifi County

Session Objective: To explore strategies for re-engineering County systems to foster shared prosperity and inclusion, focusing on creating investment-ready environments that enhance economic opportunities, promote equitable development, and ensure sustainable growth for all communities within Kenya's devolved governance framework.

Session Moderator: Charles Kamau, Deputy Chief of Staff, Kilifi County

Panellists

1. Jaswinder Bedi, Chair, Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA)
2. Flora Chibule, Deputy Governor, Kilifi County
3. John Mwenda, OGW, - CEO, Kenya Investment Authority (KenInvest)
4. Dr. Owen, Representative, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS)



Panellists contributing to the discussion on Re-Engineering Systems for Shared Prosperity and Inclusion in Counties

Introduction

The session focused on how County Governments can become investment-ready by creating conducive environments for private sector engagement. Key discussions included regulatory reforms, addressing infrastructure gaps, tackling pending bills, and supporting digital transformation as a catalyst for inclusive development and prosperity

Emerging Issues

The panel discussion highlighted that pending bills remain a significant obstacle for businesses, as they undermine liquidity, contribute to loan defaults, and limit access to credit. Participants suggested that addressing these financial bottlenecks could unlock private sector growth. They also noted that excessive bureaucracy at County levels ranging from licensing procedures to inter-County levies and delayed supplier payments, continues to weigh heavily on businesses and discourages investment.

Another recurring theme was the persistence of infrastructure gaps, particularly poor road networks and weak digital connectivity, which deter investors and slow down business operations. Closely tied to this is the absence of harmonised taxation frameworks across Counties, which creates unpredictability for enterprises and makes long-term planning difficult. The panel further reflected on the limited investment readiness at the County level,

citing weak frameworks for investor engagement and project packaging. Participants suggested that greater focus on value addition and branding, especially in agriculture and tourism, would strengthen Kenya's competitiveness, which currently remains constrained despite high production volumes.

The discussion also revealed the lack of sufficient collaboration among Counties, which limits the potential of regional economic blocs. Panellists pointed to the need for Counties to focus on niche sectors for instance, Kilifi has prioritised the blue economy, renewable energy, and agro processing but cautioned that this requires alignment with private sector needs. A disconnect persists between business realities and County regulations, often due to insufficient dialogue and feedback mechanisms. Furthermore, digital transformation remains underutilised despite its potential to improve service delivery and efficiency, while weak private sector representation in some Counties continues to constrain coordination and information flow. Finally, the panel underscored that weak data systems hinder evidence-based planning and investor targeting, making it difficult for Counties to attract and retain investment.

Way Forward / Action Points

1. Develop structured investment frameworks, anchored by investment committees, to coordinate and streamline efforts.
2. Resolve pending bills through stronger legal and regulatory measures, supported by national budgetary allocations.
3. Harmonise licensing, levies, and taxes across Counties to ease the cost of doing business and improve predictability for investors.
4. Strengthen branding and value addition, with emphasis on agriculture and tourism sectors.
5. Accelerate digital service delivery to enhance efficiency, transparency, and investor confidence.
6. Invest strategically in enabling infrastructure such as roads, industrial parks, and internet connectivity to attract and retain investors.
7. Promote regional economic blocs to foster inter-County collaboration and create pooled investment opportunities.
8. Build capacity for County officials in investment readiness, project preparation, and public-private partnerships to increase uptake of opportunities.

9. Strengthen institutional data systems to enable evidence-based investment planning and effective impact monitoring.

10. Establish and expand public-private engagement platforms to align County policies with private sector priorities.

11. Encourage a shift from primary agriculture to agribusiness by developing stronger value chains and supporting market access.

Quotes

"Let's move away from minimum wage to productivity wage. It will enhance productivity and ensure that workers achieve their potential and eventually make more income."

Jaswinder Bedi, Chair, Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA)

"Despite the independence of Counties, they need to collaborate to ensure sustainable growth" **Dr. Owen, KAS: , Representative, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS)**

1.7.12 Forest Sector Governance and the Journey Towards the Devolution of Forestry Functions to Counties for the Prosperity of Kenyans

Convenor: Kenya Forest Services

Session Chair: Dr. Robert Nyambati- Kenya Forest Research Institute

Session Objective: Trees for the People and Prosperity

Panellists:

1. Francis Kariuki, Deputy Chief Conservator for Forests, Kenya Forest Service (KFS) Regional Forestry Conservation
2. Jane Ndeti, Deputy Chief Conservator for Forests (KFS)- Drylands and Investments
3. Dr. Thomas Kiptoo, Deputy Chief Conservator for Forests (KFS) Forestry Advisory and County Liaison
4. Oscar Simanto, Partnerships & Private Voice (KFS)
5. Fredrick Ashiono, Senior Chief Conservator (KFS) Nurseries
6. Wilson Leboo, Deputy Commandant (KFS) Directorate of Forest Protection and Security



Kenya Forest Team pose for a group photo after the session

Introduction

The panel discussion focused on the structure, achievements, challenges, and ongoing reforms within the KFS. Panellists highlighted the role of technology, community engagement, and innovative partnerships in promoting sustainable forest management. The session provided insights into KFS's conservation efforts, security operations, collaborations with communities, and the integration of digital tools to address forest crime and climate-related challenges. The discussion also examined gaps in policy implementation, financing, and equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms that continue to shape the future of forest governance in Kenya.

Emerging Issues

Discussions revealed that while KFS operates through 10 conservancies with dedicated directorates for conservation, partnerships, corporate services, and security, its capacity is constrained by limited resources and enforcement challenges. Despite recruiting more than 840 new personnel since 2023, and successfully recovering encroached land, safeguarding mangroves, and implementing fencing in critical forests such as Maasai Mau and Karura, these gains remain vulnerable due to inadequate funding and the impacts of climate variability.

The adoption of drones, satellite tools such as Survey123, and digital crime reporting systems has improved surveillance and forest management. However, the limited technical capacity and financial resources have prevented these innovations from being scaled nationally. Community Forest Associations (CFAs) have become important partners in intelligence gathering, seed production, and firefighting, as well as in implementing nearly 1,700 livelihood projects, including woodlots, fruit orchards,

and tree nurseries. Yet, heavy community dependence on forest resources continues to drive illegal activities such as logging and grazing.

Participants further noted that climate variability particularly erratic rainfall, undermines tree survival, while post-COVID economic pressures have weakened communities' ability to sustain forest-friendly enterprises. Encroachment, forest fires, and insufficient ranger housing remain persistent threats to forest security. In addition, although Kenya's Forest Conservation and Management Act (2016) and Forest Policy (2023) provide a strong framework for participatory management, gaps in implementing the Forest Conservation Amendment Act such as delays in establishing the Forest Tribunal limit accountability.

On financing, public-private partnerships, international collaboration, and instruments such as green bonds and carbon credits have emerged as promising tools. However, risks of elite capture, weak carbon finance governance, and lack of transparency in benefit-sharing undermine their potential. Communities also remain under-informed about new carbon trading regulations, while Counties face restrictions in generating their own revenues from timber and carbon-related economies due to centralized control.

Way Forward/Action Points

1. Decentralize forest management by shifting greater authority to Counties under Article 69 of the Constitution, clarifying land tenure systems, introducing land-use zoning, and fully implementing the Forest Conservation Amendment Act, including operationalizing the Forest Tribunal.
2. Strengthen CFAs by expanding their roles in surveillance, seed production, and firefighting, and by scaling up income-generating opportunities such as bamboo cultivation, ecotourism, and value-added forest products.
3. Scale up digital innovations by investing in drones, GIS mapping, blockchain platforms, and real-time digital crime reporting to enhance surveillance, transparency, and carbon credit traceability.
4. Establish a National Forest Investment Facility ("green bank") to pool resources from public, private,

and donor partners to finance reforestation, agroforestry, and sustainable forest enterprises.

5. Align carbon finance with legal frameworks by developing clear governance structures, strengthening community awareness of carbon trading regulations, and ensuring equitable and transparent benefit-sharing.
6. Increase human resource capacity by recruiting and training more forest officers and rangers, improving ranger housing, and deploying personnel to County and sub-County levels with emphasis on marginal and restoration-targeted areas.
7. Promote climate-resilient restoration approaches by integrating drought-tolerant tree species, diversifying reforestation methods, and supporting community-led adaptation initiatives.
8. Enhance security measures against illegal logging, encroachment, and forest fires by improving inter-agency collaboration, investing in modern firefighting equipment, and strengthening intelligence systems.

1.7.13 Devolution@13 Citizens' perspectives

Convenor: Kenya Devolution Sector Working Group

Session Chair: Ms. Wanjiru Gikonyo, Governance Consultant

Session Objective: To understand citizens' concerns and perspectives on devolution after 13 years and examine the pertinent issues around the transfer of functions and funds, corruption, streamlining administrative compliance, public participation and legislation.

Panellists:

1. FCPA Fernandes Barassa OGW, Governor Kakamega County
2. Mr. Evans Kibet, National Convener, Kenya Devolution Civil Society Working Group (KDCWG)
3. Dr. Kipkurui Chepkwony, Chief Executive, Inter-Governmental Relations Technical Committee (IGRTC)
4. Mr. Mahat Osman Shalle, Secretary, Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations State Department for Devolution (SDD)
5. Dr. Charles Rasugu, Deputy Director, Finance and

Accounts, EACC

6. Hon. Jael Omumani, MCA, Kakamega County

7. Mr. Chris Owalla, Steering Committee, KDCWG

8. Mr. Japheth Ojjo, CSO/Citizens Representative, Homabay County

9. Ms. Anna Bwana, Executive Director, Twaweza East Africa

10. Mr. Michael Mburu, KDCWG (co-moderator)

11. Ms. Bancy Kubutha, Governance Practitioner (co-moderator)



Participants keenly listening to the Panellists discussions during Devolution@13 Citizens' perspectives.

Introduction

The session focused on citizen perspectives on devolution after 13 years further looking at tackling corruption, the lack of public participation from Kenyan citizens, anti-corruption and accountability. We had seen the gains of devolution impacting economic development. In 2020, only 33 Counties were publishing their budget documents and currently the number had increased to 68% which was a great improvement. However, there were still gaps. Citizens wanted more accountability and details, and to make budget information easily available. Because of the lack of accessibility, public participation and confidence was low. Corruption remained rampant morphing into all aspects of development making the country less competitive with our neighbours.

Emerging Issues

The panel discussion revealed that citizens remain deeply concerned about the state of accountability, governance, and service delivery under devolution. Participants highlighted persistent challenges such as poor accountability, conflict of interest, misappropriation of funds, weak coordination between the two levels of government, and delays in the transfer of the equitable share to Counties. Stalled projects and mounting pending bills were also flagged

as issues threatening the promise and progress of devolution.

A significant share of citizens expressed dissatisfaction with how public resources are managed. Surveys showed that 68% of Kenyans are not satisfied with accountability in the use of funds, while 75% disagreed with how tenders are awarded. On the availability and quality of public services, 51% said they were not satisfied, reflecting a widespread feeling that the government lacks genuine commitment to fighting corruption. For many, corruption was described as “a business,” deeply entrenched and normalized within government systems. Notably, 72% of citizens reported witnessing corruption by public officers, while 64% said they would never report it, believing no action would be taken.

The discussion also brought out frustrations with public participation and democratic processes. Many citizens felt excluded or treated as a mere rubber stamp in policy and budget processes, with their contributions often ignored. Suppression of free expression and even cases of abductions were mentioned as indicators of a shrinking democratic space. Civil society organizations were also criticized for failing to rebuild trust and for sometimes being seen as part of the broader accountability problem.

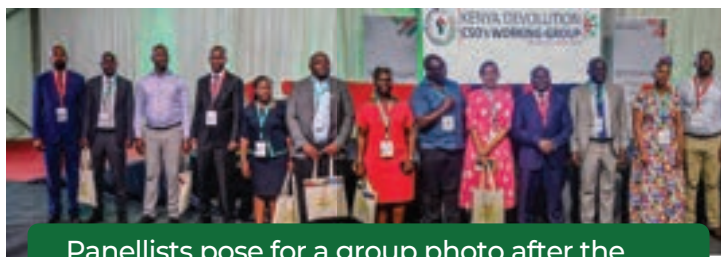
On the transfer of functions and resources, panellists noted that while 14 functions had already been transferred, funds to support them remained at the centre. Of the Ksh 667 billion allocated, Kshs. 272 billion was still pending. In addition, 94 pieces of legislation still required amendment or review to align with devolved functions. Citizens also raised concerns over budget rationalization, emphasizing the need to properly cost functions to improve allocation, make the budgeting process more transparent, and enhance service delivery at the County level. The lack of compliance with public participation requirements in supplementary budgets was highlighted as another gap.

Anti-corruption efforts were a central theme. Citizens questioned what the EACC was doing differently, given the perception that corruption cases rarely result in accountability. Panellists acknowledged the need for more vigorous lifestyle and social audits of projects, while noting that EACC is focusing on high-impact cases, asset recovery, and partnerships with Counties to raise public awareness. However,

there was consensus that the justice process remains weak and often discouraging.

Legislation and oversight within Counties also emerged as a critical issue. Key Bills, such as the Omnibus Bill and the Public Participation Bill, are still pending, delaying the establishment of stronger frameworks for oversight. County assemblies were described as struggling with limited capacity, lack of public trust, and persistent questions about transparency in the use of County funds. Concerns were also raised about procurement processes, with citizens calling for full disclosure, strict compliance with existing policies, and greater openness in tendering.

Finally, the role of civil society organizations and government agencies in facilitating public participation was scrutinized. Current policies and guidelines were seen as inadequate, with a strong call for CSOs to engage more meaningfully with citizens to ensure public participation is not only inclusive but also impactful.



Panellists pose for a group photo after the discussions on Devolution@13

1.8 Day 2: HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

1.8.1 Closing The Gap: The Role of Digitization in Health Care in Promoting Social Equity, Justice and Inclusion

Convenor: Digital Health Authority

Session Chair: Dr. Thurania Kauguria, Ministry of Health

Session Objective: To evaluate the impact of digitization on equity and inclusion in health service provision by analysing its advantages and challenges, sharing experiences and lessons from the Ministry of Health and County governments on digitization efforts, and launching the First Strategic Plan for the Digital Health Agency to guide equitable digital health transformation.

Panellists

1. Dr. Gregory Ganda, CECM Health, Kisumu County
2. Dr. Angelin Chirchir, CECM Health, Nandi County
3. Dr. Brian Leshenka, Chairman, Rural & Urban Private Hospitals Association of Kenya
4. Dr. David G. Kariuki, CEO Kenya Medical Practitioners & Dentists Board
5. Dr. Daniel Mwai, Presidential Health Advisor
6. Dr. Gichanga, Representative of Private Health Facilities



The Panellists pose for a group photo after discussions on the role of Digitization in Health Care in Promoting Social Equity, Justice and Inclusion

Introduction

The panel session, convened by the Digital Health Authority (DHA) on Day 2 of the Devolution Conference 2025 in Homa Bay County, focused on leveraging digital technologies to advance UHC and reduce healthcare disparities. Discussions emphasized equity, inclusion, and social justice, particularly for marginalized populations including rural communities, women, persons with disabilities, and low-income groups. The session highlighted the potential of digitization to bridge socio-economic gaps in healthcare access and improve efficiency in service delivery.

Emerging Issues

During the panel discussion, participants highlighted both successes and challenges in the implementation of digital health initiatives across Kenya. Counties such as Nandi and Kisumu demonstrated the potential of the Taifa Care Hospital Management System to improve healthcare delivery. In Nandi, strong leadership from the Governor and a focus on training younger employees enabled the effective use of dashboards to visualize patient and claims data, helping manage workloads efficiently. Kisumu County faced challenges with unstable internet connectivity, which were addressed through Starlink, demonstrating the critical role of reliable infrastructure in supporting digital systems.

Private and faith-based healthcare providers also reported difficulties in fully adopting digital systems, citing limited government support. Panellists emphasized the importance of co-creation between public and private hospitals, regulatory oversight, and alignment with national digitization standards. Progressive adoption of digital systems has already resulted in more facilities applying for annual licenses, signalling growing awareness and uptake.

Operational challenges were a recurring theme. Unstable internet and claims gadgets, change management issues, and unpredictable system rules affected the efficiency of patient registration, claims processing, and supply chain management. Capacity gaps among healthcare workers and ICT officers in Counties yet to be fully digitized remain a barrier to scaling digital health solutions.

The panel underscored the importance of interoperable health systems, robust data governance, cybersecurity measures, and cloud-based platforms to enable shared patient records across facilities. The collaboration between the Digital Health Authority and the Social Health Authority, which has registered over 25 million individuals, exemplifies the role of partnerships in scaling digitization. Panellists also noted that digital health initiatives could enhance equity, efficiency, transparency, and citizen empowerment, particularly for marginalized groups such as rural populations, women, persons with disabilities, and low-income communities. However, realizing these benefits requires continued investment in infrastructure, capacity building, public-private partnerships, and citizen engagement to ensure inclusive and sustainable adoption.

Way Forward / Action Points

- Learn from global best practices in healthcare digitization.
- Develop and operationalize a County Compass/Compact for digital health.
- Create one inclusive Service Charter per County for digital health.
- Ensure at least one certified staff member for digital health in every County.
- Develop a County-level Protection Bill to safeguard against cyber threats.
- Leverage WHO supports for scaling equity through digitization and participation in global platforms.
- Build capacity of health workers and ICT officers for effective digitization.
- Invest in health data protection measures.

- Ensure digital health platforms are accessible to persons with disabilities.
- Design patient-centred, data-driven digital health platforms.
- Support provision of gadgets and infrastructure to enable digitization through DHA.

Quotes

"Equity is not an outcome it is a design choice."

Hon Adan Duale, EGH CS for Health

"As we reflect on the next frontier of devolution, let us reaffirm our collective commitment to equity, justice, and inclusion through technology-enabled health systems."

Hon Adan Duale, EGH, CS for Health

"COG has very good relations with the Digital Health Agency. Digitization is progressively addressing inconsistency of health data. It allows for cumulative build-up of patient data that is recorded across diverse health facilities but consolidated as one patient-specific database."

H.E Governor Muthomi Njuki, Chair COG Health Committee

"Good policies are anchored on accurate, hygienic data",

Hon Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Minister for Foreign Affairs

1.8.2 Digitalization of County Government Services to Enhance Efficiency, Productivity and Sustainable Growth

Convenor: The Institution of Engineers of Kenya

Session Moderator: Eng. Jacton Mwembe, Member of the Institution of Engineers, Kenya (MIEK), Honorary Secretary

Session Objective: To champion the transformative integration of engineering-driven digital solutions in County government operations, aiming to optimize service delivery, enhance operational efficiency, boost productivity, and ensure sustainable, inclusive growth.

Panellists:

1. Eng. Shammah Kiteme, President, Fellow of the Institution of Engineers of Kenya (FIEK)
2. Eng. Christine Ogut, 2nd Vice President (FIEK)
3. Eng. Jeniffer Korir, Honorary Treasurer (FIEK)
4. Qs. Susan Ruto, General Manager, Registration and Compliance, National Construction Authority (NCA)



Panelists and participants engage on Digitalization of County Government Services to Enhance Efficiency, Productivity and Sustainable Growth

Introduction

Eng. Christine Ogut highlighted the critical role of engineers in driving the digitization of County government services to enhance efficiency, productivity, and sustainable growth. She emphasized that engineers are essential in planning, designing, implementing, and maintaining robust digital solutions that are user-centric, scalable, and aligned with national and County priorities. Drawing on global, regional, and Kenyan examples, Eng. Ogut illustrated successful applications of smart technologies across sectors such as agriculture, infrastructure, health, water, urban planning, the blue economy, and emergency response. The session brought together engineering experts, County leaders, and stakeholders to explore how engineering expertise can transform service delivery, promote transparency, and ensure equitable access to resources, particularly for marginalized communities.

Emerging Issues

Panel discussions revealed several challenges limiting the adoption and impact of digital technologies in County governments. Persistent delays in service delivery were attributed to bureaucratic processes and the lack of automation, while limited integration and interoperability of digital systems hindered seamless information sharing across Counties. Many Counties continue to rely on paper-based records for infrastructure, utilities, and service management,

making data retrieval, monitoring, and planning cumbersome.

Gaps in digital literacy among County staff, inadequate ICT infrastructure, and unreliable connectivity further constrained the effective use of technology. Funding constraints were highlighted as a major barrier to upgrading digital infrastructure, acquiring modern tools, and maintaining ICT systems. The panel also noted the underemployment of specialized engineers in Counties, which restricts technical capacity for designing, implementing, and sustaining digital solutions. Resistance to adopting new digital platforms due to limited training, change management challenges, or institutional inertia was identified as another factor affecting transparency, efficiency, and citizen trust. These issues collectively limit the potential of Counties to fully leverage engineering expertise and smart technologies for improved public service delivery.

Way Forward / Action Points

1. Integrate engineering expertise at every stage of County digitalization, from design and development to implementation and ongoing maintenance.
2. Digitize all County infrastructure, utilities, land, health, and service records, ensuring secure, interoperable, and easily accessible systems.
3. Implement real-time monitoring and GIS-based platforms for infrastructure, land management, health, water, and emergency services to enhance planning, oversight, and responsiveness.
4. Invest in sustainable and green ICT solutions, including paperless offices, solar-powered ICT hubs, and energy-efficient smart systems.
5. Strengthen capacity through training programs, workshops, and mentorship for County staff and engineers to improve digital literacy and technical skills.
6. Foster collaboration with development partners, the private sector, and technology innovators to enhance service delivery, attract investment, and promote innovation.
7. Encourage policy alignment between national and County governments, coupled with harmonized technical standards to enable scalability of digital solutions.
8. Promote public awareness and adoption of digital platforms to improve transparency, citizen engagement, and accountability.

1.8.3 End to End Climate Resilient Planning in Kenya

Convenor: World Resources Institute

Session Moderator: Victor Otieno, Research Associate, WRI

Session Objective: The Resilience Revolution: Polycentric Governance Systems for Climate Action Through Decentralized Lens for Inclusive Sustainable Development

Panellists:

1. Lucy Mulili, Deputy Governor, Makueni County
2. Rubbina Karruna, British High Commission
3. Morris Kamae, Deputy Director, Climate Change- Nairobi City Council
4. Tim Mwangi, Head Programmes Practical Action



Panellists pose for a group photo during the End to End Climate Resilient Planning in discussions

Introduction

An overview of Africa's energy access challenge was presented, highlighting that over 565 million people still lack electricity, while urbanisation in sub-Saharan Africa has reached 43%. County-level interventions addressing energy access, climate change, and sustainable development were showcased. Discussions emphasised the importance of partnerships between County governments, national governments, and development partners driving progress toward climate and energy goals. The overarching message: climate and energy solutions must be jointly owned by communities, Counties, and partners built on cooperation, planning, and equitable partnerships.

Emerging Issues

Panel discussions highlighted several critical challenges in advancing energy access and climate-resilient development at the County level.

While initiatives such as Makueni County's solar-powered hospital demonstrated substantial cost savings and efficiency, scaling such interventions remains constrained by financing and capacity gaps. Counties often struggle to develop bankable proposals and attract co-financing for projects like solar cold storage, green schools, and water infrastructure, limiting the pace of implementation.

Coordination challenges emerged as a recurring issue, with weak alignment between Counties, development partners, and national frameworks slowing progress. Although Nairobi and other Counties have adopted innovative solutions such as urban tree mapping, solar-powered cold storage, and renewable energy integration, the uneven support from partners and insufficient technical capacity hinder widespread adoption. Data-driven planning and monitoring, essential for climate-resilient infrastructure, are not consistently applied across Counties, while alignment with CIDPs is often lacking.

Counties are actively exploring renewable energy options, including solar, wind, and biogas, and seeking to integrate climate-resilient infrastructure that reflects local community needs. However, the panel noted that successful scaling of these solutions requires strengthened partnerships, capacity building, and more structured approaches to mobilizing finance, both locally and internationally. Efforts by international actors, such as the UK's USD 200 million climate finance target, highlight the importance of linking Counties with global investors to support sustainable, equitable energy access and climate adaptation initiatives.

Way forward/Action Plan

County governments must lead climate and energy solutions by developing robust plans, fostering equitable partnerships, and aligning with community and national priorities. Leveraging technical assistance and international support will drive sustainable, inclusive growth for marginalized communities. Some way forward include:

1. Use data-driven tools like the Energy Access Explorer to prioritize renewable energy and electrification in off-grid areas.
2. Create investment prospectuses, integrate projects into budgets, and pursue public-private co-financing for clean energy initiatives.
3. Invest in climate-resilient roads, markets, and facilities, scaling models like Makueni's solar projects.

4. Prioritize public participation to ensure ownership and inclusivity in project design and implementation.
5. Establish inter-County knowledge-sharing platforms and direct partners to underserved Counties.
6. Provide leadership training and strengthen data systems for evidence-based decision-making.
7. Expand successful interventions like solar water pumps and cold storage into regional programs.
8. Integrate climate initiatives into CIDPs, showcasing expertise at global forums like the African Climate Summit.

1.8.4 Affordable Housing Program

Convenor: Affordable Housing Board

Session Moderator: Obrien Kimani, Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC)

Session Objective: To drive affordable home ownership across Counties.

Panellists:

1. Sheila Waweru, OGW, Ag. CEO, Affordable Housing Board
2. Johnstone Oltetia, CEO and MD, Kenya Mortgage Refinance Company (KMRC)
3. Rose Kananu, Interim GM, Kenya Property Developers Association (KPDA)
4. Chris Chege, Credit Officer, Shelter Afrique
5. David Nyandoro, Chief Land Registrar, State Department for Land



Panellists pose for a group photo during discussions on affordable housing

Introduction

The session on Affordable Housing emphasized the critical role of Kenya's Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) in addressing housing deficits, creating jobs, and fostering inclusive communities, particularly in

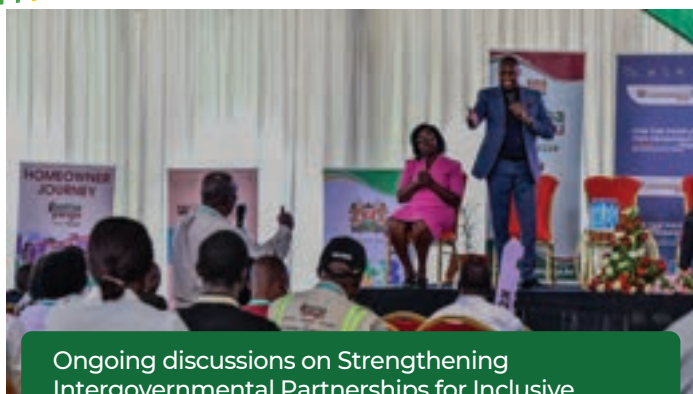
the context of a challenging economy and high youth unemployment. Kenya, one of five African countries with an affordable housing program, is leveraging this initiative to drive economic and social transformation. The discussions highlighted job creation, the need for high quality housing with smart technologies, private sector incentives, land ownership reforms, and the importance of expanding housing schemes to municipalities. Key challenges included slow land alienation processes, bureaucratic delays in issuing permits, and urban over-concentration.

Emerging Issues

Panel discussions highlighted that the AHP has already generated significant employment, with over 250,000 jobs created and potential estimates suggesting more than one million jobs when accounting for both direct and indirect effects. This employment impact has contributed to boosting household incomes across Kenya. Out of 212,000 housing units under the programme, 140,000 are aimed at promoting home ownership, supported by plans to issue approximately 150,000 new mortgages. The Kenya Mortgage Refinance Company (KMRC) plays a key role in enabling affordable lending, helping address the country's historically low mortgage penetration of just 31,000 households for a population of 51 million.

Projects such as Mukuru exemplify the integration of smart technologies fibre connectivity, pre-paid gas systems, and lifts alongside critical social amenities like schools, hospitals, and malls. These features promote high-quality living standards while stimulating local industrialization through support for domestic manufacturing. The AHP also targets a broad range of households, providing social, affordable, and mid-class housing with deposit assistance and flexible payment schemes, including a 1.5% Housing Levy for informal sector workers.

Supportive policies and incentives, such as VAT exemptions, the Sectional Properties Act (2020), and the updated Building Code, aim to attract private investment, complemented by Shelter Afrique's MSME financing initiatives. However, slow County-level land alienation and delayed issuance of titles remain key bottlenecks. Additionally, rapid urban concentration in major cities underscores the need to expand housing to municipalities like Maseno to address accommodation shortages and enhance regional housing access.



Ongoing discussions on Strengthening Intergovernmental Partnerships for Inclusive Development for Refugees and Host Communities

Way forward/Action Points

1. Counties should invest in roads, water, and electricity to create an enabling environment that incentivizes private sector participation in the Affordable Housing Programme.
2. Counties should streamline building permit processes to reduce delays and enable private developers to scale up housing delivery efficiently.
3. The Affordable Housing Programme should be extended to municipalities to ensure equitable access to housing across urban and peri-urban areas.
4. Counties should streamline land conversion and alienation processes to facilitate timely issuance of titles under the Sectional Properties Act.
5. The Kenya Mortgage Refinance Company's role should be strengthened to expand access to affordable mortgages, particularly for informal sector workers.
6. Counties and developers should integrate smart technologies and social amenities to ensure sustainable, high-quality living communities.
7. Public-private collaboration should be enhanced, leveraging VAT exemptions and Shelter Afrique's support to make projects more bankable and attractive to investors.

1.8.5 Strengthening Intergovernmental Partnerships for Inclusive Development for Refugees and Host Communities

Convenor: Refugee Consortium of Kenya (Inter-governmental)

Session Moderator: Ms. Grainne Kidakwa, the Resident Program Manager of VNC International

Session Objective: The session was set to unpack refugee and migration management issues in the country and discuss issues around the importance of collaboration among national, County, and development partners to promote inclusion, social justice, and protection for displaced populations.

Panellists:

1. Dr. John Erus, Deputy Governor, County Government of Turkana
2. Ms. Mercy Mwasaru, Commissioner, Department of Refugees Services (DRS)
3. Ms. Anab Gedi, Founder, Halgaan Women Refugee Organization, Dadaab, Refugee representative
4. Mr. Suhail Awan, Strategic Partnerships Adviser, UNCHR Kenya
5. Mr. Allan Mukuki, Director International Partnerships, Strathmore University and Expert Refugee Affairs



Panellists contributing to the discussions on Affordable housing

Introduction

The session focused on strengthening intergovernmental partnerships to promote inclusive development for refugees and host communities. Panellists emphasized the importance of effective collaboration among national and County governments, development partners, and international agencies to ensure social justice, protection, and smooth transitions in refugee management and integration. While key partners have made significant contributions to ongoing efforts, the discussion centred on identifying persistent challenges and exploring collaborative strategies to enhance governance, strengthen partnerships, and improve service delivery at both national and County levels.

Emerging Issues

During the panel session on the Shirika plan, participants highlighted the ambitious nature of the initiative and emphasized the need to involve key

institutions, including the COG (COG) and the Senate, in consultations and implementation discussions. Panellists noted that strong institutions like the COG can play a pivotal role in linking national policy directives with County-level action. County governments were recognized as central to driving integration and leading implementation, though they face challenges related to resource mobilization and localizing the plan to reflect County realities. The discussion underscored the importance of ongoing strategic consultations and stakeholder engagement to unpack the Shirika plan and guide the development of a comprehensive, long-term strategic roadmap for refugee management.

The panel drew attention to successful grassroots initiatives such as the Halgaan organization, which has trained over 800 mothers and girls in refugee camps, with 300 now generating income from their businesses. This highlighted the value of supporting community-driven solutions and adopting a whole-of-society, ecosystem approach that engages both government and non-government actors. Panellists stressed the need for inclusive and streamlined coordination structures at national and County levels to reduce bottlenecks and ensure effective service delivery.

Further, the integration of refugee data into national databases was identified as a critical step toward inclusion. Panellists emphasized the need for legal clarity and strengthened operational capacity, including amendments to the Refugees Act and related subsidiary legislation. Counties hosting refugees should play a decisive role in shaping policies, allocating budgets, and delivering services, supported by a robust intergovernmental framework to reduce fragmentation. The panel also highlighted the importance of policy guidance enabling refugees to open bank accounts and access loans, while encouraging Counties to identify and build upon existing local capacities to enhance refugee support and integration.

Way forward/Next Steps

1. To enhance refugee integration in Kenya, the COG and all 47 County governments should prioritize discussions on refugee issues, focusing on good governance, effective service delivery, and social inclusion to ensure cohesive policies and practices.

2. Continued collaboration with the COG is essential to elevate refugee-related concerns to the national level, fostering alignment with national development goals.

3. An implementation matrix for the Shirika Plan should be developed, accompanied by a realistic budget to ensure its effective execution.

4. Legal and policy reforms are needed to promote refugees' financial integration, granting them access to banking services, business registration, and property ownership, thereby enhancing their economic contributions.

5. Ongoing dialogue with the refugee donor group should be maintained to support the Shirika Plan's implementation, ensuring coordinated funding and resources. Efforts should focus on narrowing gaps between stakeholders in refugee management to eliminate duplication and enhance efficiency.

6. The Shirika Plan must be clearly communicated to County governments, assemblies, and relevant leadership, with its legal and operational frameworks clarified through amendments to the Refugees Act and subsidiary legislation.

7. A constitutional impact assessment by the State Law Office is critical to ensure compliance and coherence.

8. A deliberate legislative process is recommended to address policy tensions, ensuring alignment across legal frameworks.

9. Long-term investments and partnerships should be pursued to support refugee integration, underpinned by transparent financial systems.

10. Strengthening institutional capacity is vital to sustain these efforts, enabling Counties to effectively manage and integrate refugee populations.



Panellists pose for a group photo after the refugee and Host communities discussions

1.8.6 Accelerating Agroecology Adoption Through Devolution: Advancing Inclusive Prosperity and People-Centered Development

Convenor: PELUM Kenya

Session Moderator: Dr. Martin Oulu, Scholar, University of Nairobi

Session Objective: To explore how County governments can leverage devolution to integrate agroecology into local agricultural systems, ensuring sustainable, climate-resilient food production aligned with constitutional mandates on food security and environmental management.

Panellists:

1. Dr. David Mudavi, Executive Director, Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT)
2. Mr. David Gitahi, Director of Linkages and Devolution, Murang'a County Government
3. Mrs. Manei Naanyu, Head of Programme, Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM Kenya)
4. Mr. Derrick Ngugi, Youth Farmers Representative, Muranga County



Panellists contributing to discussion on Accelerating Agroecology Adoption through Devolution

Introduction

The session brought together key stakeholders to explore how County governments can leverage their devolved powers to mainstream agroecology and transform Kenya's agricultural landscape. Framed by Dr. Mudavi's keynote, agroecology was positioned as a vital driver of national food system transformation, capable of feeding a growing population, generating profits, and ensuring sustainability provided conventional practices are reimagined. Discussions focused on integrating climate-resilient, sustainable food production methods into local agricultural systems, aligning with constitutional mandates on

food security, environmental stewardship, and the right to a healthy environment. The session offered a platform to move from policy dialogue to actionable, County-led strategies, highlighting successful models and addressing systemic barriers to scaling agroecology across the country.

Emerging Issues

During the session, panellists highlighted Murang'a County as a leading example in agroecology adoption. As the first County to implement a dedicated agroecology policy, Murang'a has achieved notable progress in food security by promoting sustainable farming practices that enhance soil health and biodiversity. The County's approach combines government leadership with private-sector engagement, including partnerships with Murang'a University and the University of Nairobi to develop research and curriculum in sustainable agriculture. Initiatives such as food pharmacies advance nutrition-sensitive agriculture, while emerging organic markets with developing traceability systems ensure both market access and consumer confidence, positioning Murang'a as a scalable model for other Counties.

Despite this success, the session revealed a substantial gap between national agroecology policies and County-level implementation. Only a few Counties have functional policies, and limited coordination, inadequate funding, and low awareness hinder progress. Most Counties continue to rely on conventional, unsustainable farming methods. The high cost of transitioning to agroecology estimated at Ksh. 300,000–400,000 per farmer remains prohibitive for smallholders and youth, especially given limited access to credit, subsidies, and affordable infrastructure such as composting units.

Market barriers also persist, with the absence of harmonized standards and certification for agroecological products limiting farmers' ability to access premium markets or export opportunities. Counties generally lack staffed agroecology units and trained extension officers, forcing farmers to depend on conventional agricultural advice, which undermines sustainable practices and contributes to low yields and environmental degradation. Youth face additional challenges, including limited access to land, which restricts their ability to invest in long-term agroecological practices and often drives urban migration. Moreover, farmers frequently lack access to

systematized knowledge on agroecology, with fragmented resources and minimal dissemination platforms, particularly in remote areas, further slowing the adoption of effective, sustainable practices.



Participants pose for a group photo after the discussions on Accelerating Agroecology adoption through Devolution

1.8.7 Strengthening Disability Inclusion in County Governments by Turning Policy Commitments into Practical Actions

Convenor: National Council for Persons with Disability (NCPWD)

Session Chair: Charles Kamau, Deputy Chief of Staff, Kilifi County

Session Objective: To explore strategies, frameworks, and actionable measures for translating disability inclusion policies into tangible actions within County governments, in alignment with the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2025, and the National Policy on Persons with Disability 2025

Session Moderator: Jane Theuri, TV Presenter, Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC)

Panellists

1. Governor, Simon Kachapin – West Pokot County; Chair, Social Protection Committee (COG)
2. Ms. Linda, State Department of Social Protection
3. Eric Ngondi, Chair, United Disabled Persons of Kenya (UDPK)
4. Benross Muteithia, Vice Chair, Youth with Disability Kenya
5. David Munyalo, Country Director, Christian Blind Mission (CBM) International
6. Richard Mativo, Country Director, Light for the World Kenya
7. Moses Kamau, Director of Social Assistance at the State Department for Social Protection and Senior Citizen Affairs



Panellists contributing to the discussions on strengthening Disability Inclusion in County Governments by Turning Policy Commitments into Practical Actions

Introduction

During the session, the discussion emphasised Kenya's progress in advancing disability rights through the new Persons with Disabilities Act, 2025, replacing the 2003 law, and the approval of the National Policy on Persons with Disability, 2025. Both frameworks provide a roadmap for coordinated disability inclusion efforts across national and County levels. Presentations highlighted achievements in accessibility, employment, education, and social protection, while also noting persistent gaps in funding, outdated policies, and underrepresentation.

Emerging Issues

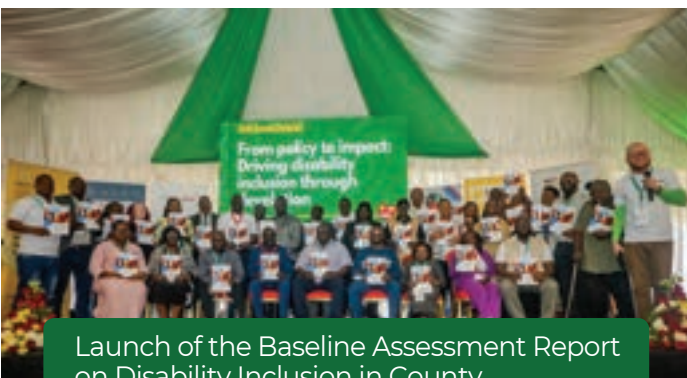
The panel discussion highlighted the need for a sector-wide, cross-departmental strategy to mainstream disability inclusion across County governments. Such a strategy would ensure cohesive policies and programs spanning health, education, and other sectors, promoting equitable service delivery and fostering inclusion for persons with PWDs. Participants emphasized the critical role of a national disability data inventory in identifying service gaps, targeting interventions, and monitoring progress, noting that accurate data enables Counties to allocate resources effectively and make evidence-based decisions.

A "15 for 15" budgeting principle was proposed, calling for 15% of County development resources to be directed toward programs benefiting the 15% of Kenyans living with disabilities. This principle aims to ensure sufficient funding for disability-inclusive initiatives, such as providing assistive devices, facilitating corrective surgeries through health partnerships, and creating inclusive learning environments for students with disabilities. Counties were urged to domesticate the 2025 Disability Act, aligning local policies with national legislation and tracking progress regularly in collaboration with stakeholders to translate law into measurable outcomes.

The discussion also identified persistent barriers faced by PWDs in accessing education, employment, and healthcare, highlighting the need for tailored interventions that address physical, social, and systemic obstacles. Monthly forums with civil society organizations were recommended as a mechanism to review and strengthen disability inclusion, share best practices, and ensure community voices shape County policies. Participants stressed integrating disability issues into County budgeting processes to secure consistent, long-term funding rather than relying on ad-hoc initiatives.

Counties are implementing programs to support all learners through accessible infrastructure, specialized teaching aids, and teacher training, aiming to reduce dropout rates and create equitable educational opportunities. Disability interventions were framed as “intangible investments” that prioritize human impact over physical infrastructure, enhancing dignity, independence, and social participation. However, stigma particularly toward individuals with invisible disabilities such as mental health conditions or hearing impairments remains a significant barrier, necessitating public awareness campaigns and community engagement.

The session underscored gaps in harmonizing disability mainstreaming frameworks across Counties, which lead to inconsistent policies and implementation. Minimal representation of PWDs in County decision-making limits their influence on policies affecting them, reinforcing the need for inclusive governance structures. Finally, underfunding, outdated County legislation misaligned with the 2025 Disability Act, and a lack of comprehensive disability data continue to hamper effective programming, highlighting the urgency of legislative updates, increased budget allocations, and a robust national disability data inventory to guide interventions.



Launch of the Baseline Assessment Report on Disability Inclusion in County Governments in Kenya

Way forward/Action Points

1. Counties should comprehensively review, amend, or enact legislation to ensure full compliance with national standards, incorporating clear enforcement mechanisms and implementation timelines.
2. Dedicated disability focal points, staffed with trained personnel, should be established across all County departments and agencies to coordinate and monitor inclusive policies.
3. Functional disability assessment and screening units, equipped with qualified professionals and accessible technologies, should be set up at the County level to accurately identify and address the needs of persons with disabilities (PWDs).
4. Counties must rigorously enforce the constitutional 5% employment quota for PWDs in public sector roles through affirmative action plans and regular audits.
5. A minimum of 15% of County budgets should be allocated to disability inclusion programs, with transparent expenditure tracking to support initiatives like assistive devices, inclusive education, and healthcare access.
6. Enforcement of at least 5% of eligible procurement opportunities should be reserved for PWD-owned businesses, with compliance monitored through annual reports to the Office of the Auditor General and public disclosure for accountability.
7. Strengthening of strategic partnerships with organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) through formal, ongoing consultation forums to ensure inclusion plans reflect lived experiences and community-driven solutions.
8. Accessibility of public infrastructure, health facilities, schools, and information services should be enhanced by retrofitting existing structures, adopting universal design standards for new projects, and ensuring digital platforms are compatible with assistive technologies.
9. Disability data should be integrated into County planning through a centralized, real-time system managed by the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD), linked to the national disability data inventory to support evidence-based

decision-making and monitoring.

Quotes

“Disability inclusion is not peripheral; it is central to building the Kenya we want.” - **Hon. Simon Kachapin, Governor, West Pokot County**

“We don’t just build roads; we touch hearts.”
- **Eng. Elijah Munga, CECM, Sports, Gender, Youth & Social Services, Homa Bay County**

1.8.8 Powering UHC Through Community Health Partnerships in Kenya: Community Healthy Units 4 UHC (CHU4UHC) Approach

Convenor: CHU4UCH

Session Objective: To empower UHC in Kenya by strengthening community health partnerships through the CHU4UHC approach, ensuring equitable, sustainable, and inclusive healthcare access for all.

Session Moderator: Hilda Mundoki, Living Goods

Panellists

1. Dr. Sultani Matendechedero, Senior Deputy Director, Ministry of Health, Public Health and Professional Standards.
2. Dr. Ganda, CECM, Kisumu County
3. Dr. Meshack Ndirangu, Country Director, African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF), Health Africa in Kenya (CHU4UHC Partner Representative)
4. Anthony Gitau, Director, Program Delivery and Impact, Africa and Middle East, Johnson & Johnson
5. Millicent Miruka, Community Health Promoter, Migori County (Rongo Sub-County).



Ongoing discussions on powering UHC through community Health Partnerships in Kenya

Introduction

The session focused on strengthening community health partnerships as a critical pathway to achieving UHC and equitable primary healthcare in Kenya. Panellists highlighted the growth of community health initiatives over the past five years, the role of political commitment from national and County governments, and the strategic integration of Community Health Promoters (CHPs) into primary healthcare delivery. Discussions emphasized leveraging partnerships, data-driven innovations, and policy frameworks to improve service delivery, particularly for marginalized populations, including persons with disabilities, while sustaining Kenya’s long-term health outcomes.

Dr. Kimani highlighted the growth of community health partnerships over the past five years, which have expanded from five initial partners to a broad network supporting community health initiatives across Kenya. She emphasized that current successes in community health are rooted in strong political commitment from both national and County governments. Under the bottom-up economic transformation agenda (2022–2027), the government is focused on delivering services directly in people’s homes through the Community Health Strategy and primary care networks.

Kenya now has 11,000 community health units spread across all 47 Counties, linked to local health facilities. Dr. Kimani underscored the importance of investing in primary healthcare, noting that every shilling invested yields significant returns in health outcomes and economic benefits, ultimately contributing to a healthier population. She stressed that the session would identify gaps, challenges, and opportunities in community health while demonstrating how partnerships can improve outcomes, particularly for

marginalized populations and persons with disabilities. One highlighted initiative is training CHPs in sign language to serve the deaf community, addressing long-standing inclusion gaps.

Dr. Kimani's keynote was complemented by insights from WHO's Health Sector Coordinator, who highlighted the role of global partnerships in advancing UHC and achieving SDG 17's "Leave No One Behind" goal. Over 108,000 CHPs now use the electronic Community Health Information System (eCHIS) to deliver accountable primary healthcare. WHO supports Kenya's Ministry of Health through technical guidance, workforce capacity building, and nationwide scaling of eCHIS. Key priorities moving forward include leadership development, sustainable financing, strengthening supply chains, enhancing digital platforms, and creating career pathways for CHPs to ensure sustained UHC progress.

Emerging Issues

The panel discussion further highlighted the contributions and challenges within Kenya's community health system. Personal stories underscored the impact of CHPs on communities; for example, a Nairobi CHP shared her journey as an HIV-positive mother whose life was saved through CHP intervention, inspiring her to join the program. Another panellist highlighted training Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) to mitigate poor infrastructure challenges, which has contributed to reductions in maternal and infant mortality, increased skilled deliveries, and women's empowerment. Panellists also noted persistent challenges, including the heavy gender burden on female CHPs, poor infrastructure, cultural barriers, healthcare worker shortages, and insufficient County prioritization.

Key takeaways from the panel included the critical role of political goodwill in advancing UHC, reinforced through the Kenya Kwanza manifesto. The four pillars of UHC—health products and technologies, healthcare financing, health information systems, and human resources provide a comprehensive framework for strengthening Kenya's health system. CHPs were recognized as central actors in mapping and treating at-risk populations, significantly improving health outcomes at the grassroots level. Counties have leveraged data-driven innovations to target high-need areas and deploy CHVs for interventions such as

hypertension and diabetes screening.

Advocacy efforts, particularly through the Community Health Units for UHC (CHU4CHV) coalition, have successfully unified partners, amplified CHP support, and enhanced resource allocation. CHPs' efforts have led to tangible outcomes, including reductions in maternal mortality, improved referral systems, and better nutrition through community-based education and interventions. Robust policy frameworks, such as the Community Health Services Policy 2020–2030, the Community Health Strategy (CHS) Strategy 2020–2025, and the Community Health Digitization Strategy 2020–2025, provide a strong foundation for sustainable programs. Legislative milestones, including the CHS Bill 2020 and the Primary Health Care Act 2023, have strengthened the legal framework for community health.

Finally, panellists highlighted the importance of flagship initiatives like nationwide eCHIS implementation, community scorecards in 23 Counties, and capacity-building programs for CHCs and CHVs, all demonstrating scalable, impactful interventions. Partnerships were underscored as critical not only for policy development but also for mobilizing resources, ensuring sustainable investment, and securing long-term improvements in Kenya's community health system.



Participants and panelists, pose for a group photo after the UHC discussions

Way forward/Action Points

1. Foster strategic partnerships with national and County government leaders, as well as technical working groups, to ensure effective management and support of CHWs in delivering quality health services.
2. Employ and invest in the capacity building of additional CHWs to bridge the existing 47% workforce gap.
3. Prioritize the integration and digitisation of health services, equipping CHWs with digital tools for accurate tracking of community members and

improved data quality.

4. Allocate budgetary provisions for CHW kits in County health budgets, ensuring last-mile delivery and long-term sustainability.

5. The government should transition from short-term legacy projects to long-term generational projects that outlive the current administration and create sustainable impact for future generations.

6. Recognize and support the ongoing life-saving work of CHWs in communities.

7. Increase County-level financing for primary healthcare to guarantee the continuity and accessibility of services to all communities.

8. Support the oversight and roll-out of Afya Nyumbani across all Counties.

9. Ensure that Community Health Units are fully functional, well-resourced, and impactful.

10. Sustain and enhance digital health systems such as eCHIS, CHW registry.

11. Document and share stories of impact from community health workers to inspire continued collective action.

12. Implement social accountability frameworks such as Community Scorecards that foster transparency and community engagement.

13. Maintain rigorous quality performance reviews and motivate our community health promoters through innovative self-help and savings groups.

14. County Governments to fully operationalise the Facilities Improvement Fund and PHC Acts to ensure sustained investments in primary health care.

15. Development Partners to align resources and technical support with national and County UHC priorities, focusing on measurable community-level impact.

16. The national government to maintain strong policy leadership, resource mobilisation, and coordination for a resilient and inclusive health system.



Dr. Maureen Kimani Head, Division of Community Health Services, MoH,

Dr. Maureen Kimani - Head, Division of Community Health Services, MoH, made the welcome remarks during this session, highlighting that community health partnerships were created five years ago and have grown in leaps and bounds over time from about five partners to the many partners as it is today.

Dr. Kimani stated that the successes that are being witnessed currently in community health were a result of high-level political commitments by both the national and County governments. The government, through the bottom-up economic transformation agenda, 2022 to 2027, has committed to delivering services in people's homes through the Community Health Strategy and the primary care networks.

In Kenya, there are 11,000 community health units spread across all 47 Counties and linked to the health facilities. The government is committed to ensuring a healthy population, preventing illnesses even before they occur, and ultimately, reducing healthcare costs. A well-financed community health system would save the country's population. There is an internal investment of nine shillings for every 1 shilling you invest in primary healthcare; there's a return of 16 shillings or \$16, so ultimately, in the future, we are looking forward to a healthier population, because that's the aspiration and commitment to the people of Kenya.

She remarked that the side event would identify gaps, challenges, and opportunities that exist, and demonstrate how partnerships can help to bridge these gaps and improve the health of communities in primary healthcare. The government is committed to the "Leave no one Behind" principle, including the marginalized groups and people living with disability. The CHPs are being trained on sign language to take care of the deaf community, who, for a long time, were left out.

Remarks: Dr. Sultani Matendechere, Senior Deputy Director, Ministry of Health, Kenya on Behalf of Mary Muthoni, CBS, HSC, Principal Secretary, State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards, Ministry of Health



Dr. Sultani Matendechere giving remarks before the panel discussions

The opening remarks were presented by Dr. Sultani Matendechere, Senior Deputy Director, Ministry of Health, on behalf of Mary Muthoni, PS, State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards at the Ministry of Health.

Dr. Matendechere urged delegates to continue to harness the power of partnership because together we are catalysts for a healthier and more equitable Kenya. He noted that the journey toward UHC is a collective effort, a partnership driven by shared responsibility, mutual trust, and collaboration across all sectors. The PHC approach extends beyond treating illness; it emphasizes prevention and health promotion, focusing on the well-being of individuals and communities. Achieving this requires a multi-sectoral, team-based approach that leverages the strengths of government, community, civil society, development partners, and the private sector.

The State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards recognizes that partnership is at the heart of delivering on our collective UHC agenda. He noted the invaluable role played by community health partners in advancing community health through the CHU4UHC platform. These partnerships have fuelled progress in key initiatives. Dr. Matendechere noted that communities are not passive recipients but empowered agents of change.

By strengthening community health services and fostering partnerships at every level, from the individual, family, and community, we catalyse healthier behaviours and better socio-economic outcomes. He urged leaders to increase County-level financing for primary healthcare to guarantee the continuity and accessibility of services to all communities and support the oversight and roll-out of Afya Nyumbani across all Counties, while ensuring that Community Health Units are fully functional, well-resourced, and impactful.



Panellists and participants during a discussion on power CHU4UHC

In his remarks, Governor Anyang' Nyong'o, represented by CECM Health Kisumu, Dr. Gregory Ganda, commended the CHU4UHC consortium for its pivotal role in advancing UHC in Kenya. He highlighted the consortium's contributions not only in supporting service delivery but also in mobilizing resources and advocating for sustained attention and funding for community health services. The CHU4UHC platform, he noted, represents a collaborative initiative of leading development organizations committed to strengthening community health across the country.

Since its inception in 2020, CHU4UHC has been at the forefront of community health innovation, currently piloting key interventions in ten Counties: Kwale, Nyeri, Migori, Kisumu, Kajiado, Laikipia, Makueni, Tharaka Nithi, Nakuru, and Nairobi. These pilot projects serve as critical learning sites, refining strategies to ensure interventions are effective, scalable, and aligned with national UHC objectives. The knowledge and insights generated from these pilots are expected to inform community health programming across Kenya, thereby accelerating progress toward comprehensive health coverage for all citizens.

Governor Nyong'o further emphasized the consortium's strategic and multi-faceted approach to enhancing community health. Key focus areas include:

1. Advocating for policies that strengthen the foundation of community health in Kenya.
2. Securing sustainable funding to ensure uninterrupted support for community health services.
3. Empowering CHPs with the requisite knowledge and skills.
4. Building robust leadership and governance structures to sustain community health initiatives.
5. Enhancing data collection and management to improve health outcomes.
6. Strengthening the accessibility, efficiency, and responsiveness of community health services to meet local needs.

He stressed that the long-term success and sustainability of CHU4UHC initiatives hinge on close engagement with the COG and County governments during the design and implementation phases. Given that health is a fully devolved function, the consortium's efforts are critical in supporting the devolution agenda and providing comprehensive, County-level assistance that aligns with national health priorities.

Remarks on Behalf of the WHO Representative to Kenya, Dr Abdourahmane Diallo



Chipo Takawira, Health Sector Coordinator,
WHO Kenya Office

The keynote address was delivered by Chipo Takawira, Health Sector Coordinator at the WHO Kenya Office, on behalf of the WHO Kenya Representative, Dr. Abdourahmane Diallo. In her remarks, she emphasized

the need to strengthen global partnerships to support and achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as highlighted in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 17), which seeks to "Leave No One Behind." Reaffirming WHO's commitment to Kenya's UHC journey, she noted that achieving this vision requires the collective efforts of national and County governments, civil society, development partners, and communities themselves.

When partnerships are strong, progress is accelerated in bringing services closer to communities, strengthening the health workforce, and building resilience for health systems work. Currently, over 108,000 Community Health Promoters have been deployed and professionalised, with many using the electronic Community Health Information System (eCHIS) to deliver timely and accountable services. The achievements of CHP in primary healthcare are aligned with key global and regional commitments. The WHO is proud to be working collaboratively with the Kenya Ministry of Health in translating these commitments into action and aligning partner support with the Government's UHC priorities.

She reiterated that, through this collaboration, the WHO works towards providing technical guidance and policy support, strengthening the health workforce, capacity building for Primary Care Networks and introducing evidence-based planning tools such as the Health Labour Market Analysis, and supporting the MOH to scale up the utilisation of eCHIS nationwide.

Moving forward, focus must be on leadership and governance, sustainable financing, stronger supply chains, fully institutionalised digital platforms, and long-term career pathways for CHPs. These will sustain progress and keep community health central to UHC.

Fireside Chat: “Voices from the Frontline” with Margaret Odera - CHP, Na irobi & Wendo Sahar - Founder, Dandelion Africa

Moderator: Sandra Mudhune - Chief Program Officer, Lwala Community Alliance



Fireside Chat: “Voices from the Frontline” with Margaret Odera - CHP, Na irobi & Wendo Sahar - Founder, Dandelion Africa

This session featured Margaret Odera, a CHP from Mathare North, Nairobi, and Wendo Sahar, Founder of Dandelion Africa. Margaret provided a first-hand account of her daily work as a CHP, as well as her personal journey as a mother living with HIV, raising two HIV-negative sons. She described how her life had been saved through the intervention of a CHP and highlighted her commitment to giving back to her community by saving lives.

Margaret recounted her struggles before accepting her HIV-positive status, sharing moments of despair, including being ostracized by her church for not believing in miracle healing. She expressed deep gratitude to the CHP who persisted in supporting her, even when she had almost lost hope. The CHP’s intervention prompted Margaret to seek medical care, discovering that her health records had already been meticulously documented. She reflected, “If the hospital is willing to support me to the end, then I should also support myself.” From that turning point, she committed to living positively with HIV and later disclosed her status to her then-boyfriend; they are now married, living as a discordant couple, exemplifying resilience and empowerment through community health support.

Wendo Sahar highlighted structural and systemic barriers in many communities, including limited

access to health facilities and poor infrastructure. She emphasized that training and equipping CHVs is essential to bringing primary healthcare closer to the communities. Wendo underscored that effective systems lead to:

- Lives saved and reduced maternal and infant mortality rates.
- Increased skilled deliveries and improved child survival rates.
- Enhanced reproductive health awareness among young girls and women and greater protection from gender-based violence.
- Recognition, training, and adequate resourcing of CHPs, ensuring they are supported to deliver quality care.

The discussion also addressed persistent barriers that affect the performance of CHPs and CHWs:

- The majority (75%) of CHPs are women, who face additional gender-related burdens while serving as primary caregivers.
- Poor infrastructure and long distances to health facilities impede timely access to care.
- Cultural norms, including the need for women to seek permission to access contraceptives or funds to visit health facilities.
- A shortage of healthcare workers, particularly nurses, leading to overwork and burnout.
- Competing priorities at the County level that sometimes overshadow community health needs.

Overall, the session illustrated both the transformative impact of community health services on individuals and families and the structural and systemic challenges that must be addressed to strengthen Kenya’s primary healthcare delivery.

Quote

“When we invest in CHPs, we invest in stronger communities. I call for a transition from stipends to salaries.”

Wendo Sahar, Founder, Dandelion Africa.

Panel Discussion: Catalysing UHC through Integrated Community Health and Primary Care Partnerships

Moderator: Hilda Mundoki, Living Goods

Panellists

1. Dr. Matendechere, Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards; Dr. Ganda, CECM, Kisumu County.
2. Dr. Meshack Ndirangu, Country Director, Amref Health Africa in Kenya (CHU4UHC Partner Representative).
3. Anthony Gitau, Director, Program Delivery and Impact, Africa and Middle East, Johnson & Johnson.
4. Millicent Miruka, Community Health Promoter, Migori County (Rongo Sub-County).

Key Highlights

- Kenya Kwanza's manifesto has five pillars, one of which is UHC. This provided the much-needed political goodwill and support for UHC implementation, becoming the catalyst that pushed the agenda forward.
- UHC is anchored on four pillars: health products and technologies; healthcare financing; health information systems and data collection, including their utilization and digitization; and human resources for health.
- CHPs are central to strengthening primary healthcare, and Kenya is leading the way in ensuring the successful implementation of community health strategies.
- The national government is the largest financier of health, with stipends for CHPs accounting for the biggest cost.
- Many Counties are leveraging innovation to identify areas with the greatest need for community health services. CHVs are deployed to support communities requiring interventions such as hypertension and diabetes screening, among others.
- The power of collective advocacy has been demonstrated through the CHU4CHV platform/coalition, which was established during the last electioneering period. It created unity of purpose and amplified the voices of all partners, enabling the government to listen, culminating in the national launch and greater support for CHPs.

Quote

"One CHV can impact one life, which can then impact other lives. Stars may align once but let us make them align twice so that we can bring on board all government entities passionate about community health. When the political class aligns, they unlock resources we never knew existed." **Anthony Gitau, Director, Program Delivery and Impact, Africa and Middle East, Johnson & Johnson**

Quote

"A key role of CHPs is preventive and promotive care. If they do their work well, we save money, and we can quantify and demonstrate these savings. This is why CHPs deserve greater support: because the more they save, the more they should be empowered." **Millicent Miruka, Community Health Promoter, Migori County (Rongo Sub-County).**



Participants keenly following the Panellists discussions



Participants keenly following the Panellists discussions on catalysing UHC

Key Achievements

1. Reduction in maternal mortality, as mothers are now mapped and treated accordingly.
2. Referral cases have improved significantly due to the efforts of CHPs.
3. Malnutrition, once a major challenge, is now being addressed as CHPs help women identify its causes and seek solutions.
4. Development of crucial policies and strategies such as the CHS policy 2020-2030, CHS Strategy 2020-2025, Community Health Digitization Strategy 2020-2025, and relevant curricula.
5. Advocacy efforts to embed community health and primary care into political party manifestos, reinforcing commitment across the political spectrum.
6. Championing the CHS Bill 2020, which laid the foundation for the PHC Act 2023, an enduring legislative achievement born out of strong collaborative efforts.
7. Implementation of flagship projects like eCHIS in 47 Counties, Community Scorecards in over 23 Counties, and Training programs for CHCs and CHVs.
8. Mobilizing resources for community health by

showing that partnership extends beyond policy to tangible action and sustainable investment

Quote

"The power of pooled funding cannot be overstated. On behalf of the coalition, I urge us to pool resources through country-led coalitions that align us all to a unified agenda in addressing the issues before us. Stakeholders must stand together and build coalitions that work with government, not in silos."

Meshack Ndirangu, Country Director, AMREF Health Africa

Key Resolutions and actions

1. Foster strategic partnerships with national and County government leaders, as well as technical working groups, to ensure effective management and support of CHWs in delivering quality health services.
2. Employ and invest in the capacity building of additional CHWs to bridge the existing 47% workforce gap.
3. Prioritize the integration and digitisation of health services, equipping CHWs with digital tools for accurate tracking of community members and

improved data quality.

4. Allocate budgetary provisions for CHW kits in County health budgets, ensuring last-mile delivery and long-term sustainability.

5. The government should transition from short-term legacy projects to long-term generational projects that outlive the current administration and create sustainable impact for future generations.

6. Recognize and support the ongoing life-saving work of CHWs in communities.

7. Increase County-level financing for primary healthcare to guarantee the continuity and accessibility of services to all communities.

8. Support the oversight and roll-out of Afya Nyumbani across all Counties.

9. Ensure that Community Health Units are fully functional, well-resourced, and impactful.

10. Sustain and enhance digital health systems such as eCHIS, CHW registry.

11. Document and share stories of impact from community health workers to inspire continued collective action.

12. Implement social accountability frameworks such as Community Scorecards that foster transparency and community engagement.

13. Maintain rigorous quality performance reviews and motivate our community health promoters through innovative self-help and savings groups.

14. County Governments to fully operationalise the Facilities Improvement Fund and PHC Acts to ensure sustained investments in primary health care.

15. Development Partners to align resources and technical support with national and County UHC priorities, focusing on measurable community-level impact.

16. The national government to maintain strong policy leadership, resource mobilisation, and coordination for a resilient and inclusive health system.

1.8.9 Accelerating County-Led Solutions for Ending the Tripple Threat of New HIV Infections, Mistimed Pregnancies and Sexual & Gender - Based Violence (GBV) Among Adolescents

Convenor: National Syndemic Diseases Control Council

Session Objective: To accelerate County-led solutions that end the triple threat of new HIV infections, mistimed pregnancies, and sexual and gender-based violence among adolescents through targeted, inclusive, and sustainable interventions.

Session Moderator: Trevor Ombija

Panellists

1. Governor, Wisley Rotich, Elgeyo Marakwet County
2. Hon. Senator Catherine Muyeka Mumba
3. Dr. Mohamed Sheikh, National Council for Population and Development
4. Brian Rettman, PEPFAR
5. Dr. Samuel Kinyanjui, AIDS Healthcare Foundation



Ongoing discussion on Accelerating County-Led Solutions for Ending the Tripple Threat of New HIV Infections, Mistimed Pregnancies and Sexual & Gender - Based Violence (GBV) Among Adolescents

Introduction

The session brought together County leadership, legislators, policymakers, youth representatives, development partners, and community mobilizers to deliberate on strategies for ending the triple threat of new HIV infections, mistimed pregnancies, and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) among adolescents aged 10–19 years. The discussions emphasized the need for County-led, multisectoral, and sustainable approaches to address these interconnected challenges, which have significant health, social, and economic implications.

Keynote speaker H.E Governor Wisley Rotich of Elgeyo

Marakwet called poverty the root driver of the triple threat, urging for household-level economic empowerment through cash crops, strong leadership in confronting GBV, and rejection of kangaroo courts in favour of formal justice processes. He stressed that community leaders must lead by example in addressing issues affecting young people.

Panellists, including Sen. Catherine Muyeka Mumma, highlighted that the triple threat persists due to both cultural taboos and policy implementation gaps, with conversations on sexual health still prohibited in many homes and schools despite the growing influence of digital media. Youth voices, represented by Shalon, a peer educator, and Jecinter Achieng, a County mobilizer, shed light on the stigma adolescents face when seeking services, the need for youth-friendly facilities, and the importance of genuine youth involvement in planning, budgeting, and implementation.

Contributions from other speakers, such as Dr. Mohamed Sheikh (National Council for Population and Development), Brian Rettman (PEPFAR), and Dr. Samuel Kinyanjui (AIDS Healthcare Foundation), stressed the importance of disaggregated data for policy action, the urgency of reducing donor dependency, and the need to adopt locally-driven financing models. Discussions also touched on breaking programmatic silos, expanding access to services for persons with disabilities, addressing period poverty, and improving coordination between health, justice, and gender departments.

Emerging Issues

The panel discussion highlighted several persistent challenges in adolescent sexual and reproductive health and HIV programs. Stigma around sexual health remains widespread, and young people continue to have limited opportunities to participate meaningfully in decision-making processes that affect their lives. Existing policies are often weakly enforced, and cultural taboos surrounding sexual health education further inhibit open dialogue and awareness.

Many programs remain heavily dependent on donor funding, raising concerns about long-term sustainability and the ability of Counties to maintain interventions independently. Coordination across key sectors including health, education, justice, and gender is fragmented, reducing the effectiveness of cross-sectoral responses to adolescent health needs. Additionally, there is insufficient collection and

utilization of disaggregated County-level data, which limits the capacity to implement targeted, evidence-based interventions.

Harmful social norms continue to impact both girls and boys, with emerging reports of sexual and gender-based violence affecting young men, highlighting the need for inclusive protective measures. Access to youth-friendly, confidential, and accessible services remains limited, particularly for young people with disabilities, further exacerbating inequalities in health outcomes. Finally, the economic and social consequences of adolescent pregnancies such as school dropouts and loss of future productivity pose significant challenges to individual well-being and broader community development.



Panellists and participants pose for a photo after the discussions on Accelerating County-Led Solutions for Ending the Triple Threat of New HIV Infections, Mistimed Pregnancies and Sexual & Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Among Adolescents

Way forward/Action Points

- Prioritize adolescent health as a core development agenda at County and national levels.
- Adopt an integrated, multisectoral approach with clearly defined stakeholder roles.
- Strengthen youth participation in all stages of planning, budgeting, and implementation.
- Expand youth-friendly services, establish GBV desks in police stations, and waive fees for GBV-related medical services.
- Mobilize communities - men, boys, elders, and faith leaders—to challenge harmful norms and promote positive behaviour.
- Enhance parental education and engagement to enable open discussions on sexual health.
- Develop blended financing models by leveraging County Facility Improvement Funds and private sector partnerships.
- Build robust County-level data systems to track

indicators and inform policy.

- Enforce existing laws and policies, including the Return-to-School Policy for adolescent mothers.
- Address period poverty as part of broader reproductive health interventions.

Quotes

"The triple threat is bigger than lack of policy, it's about lack of Recognition and lack of strategy."

Senator Catherine Muyeka Mumma

1.8.10 Reengineering Human Capital for Efficient and Effective Service Delivery in Collaboration with County Governments

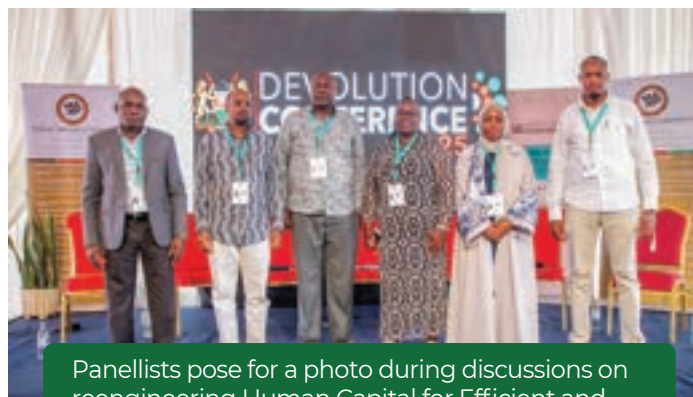
Convenor: Public Service Commission

Session Objective: To outline the critical role that the Public Service Commission (PSC) can play in driving a collaborative re-engineering of the human capital based on our mandate, long history, and shared responsibility for human resource management and transformation.

Session Moderator: Dr Sylvester Obong'o, Deputy Commission Secretary, Public Service Commission (PSC)

Panellists

1. Mr. Boya Molu, Commissioner, PSC
2. Joan Machayo, Commissioner, PSC
3. Mr. Francis Meja, County Capacity Building
4. Mr. Hassan Billow Issack, Chairperson County Secretaries Caucus (Insider view on Human Resource Management & Development (HRM&D) operational environment in the Counties from the County secretaries' lens)
5. Ms. Farida Abdalla, Chairperson, County Public Service Boards (CPSB) (focus - HR policy and practice dichotomy in Counties)



Panellists pose for a photo during discussions on reengineering Human Capital for Efficient and Effective Service Delivery in Collaboration with County Governments

Introduction

The session on the PSC provided a comprehensive overview of the Commission's pivotal role in transforming Kenya's public service. Participants highlighted how the PSC ensures a skilled, motivated, and accountable workforce across both national and County levels, positioning the public service to meet evolving development needs. The discussion underscored the legal and constitutional framework guiding the PSC, including Articles 10 and 232 of the Constitution, the Public Service Commission Act (2017), and the Public Service (Values and Principles) Act (2015), emphasizing adherence to principles of meritocracy, transparency, and professionalism in public service delivery. The session also explored ongoing challenges in human resource management, staff capacity, governance, and accountability, setting the stage for actionable recommendations to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of Kenya's public service.

Emerging Issues

The discussion highlighted multiple challenges affecting County human resource management and service delivery. Counties continue to experience significant skill disparities among staff, compounded by faulty recruitment practices such as hiring without proper interviews and the submission of fake documentation. Weak linkages to establishment approvals have resulted in overstaffing and inflated wage bills. Additional challenges include non-publicized vacancies, inadequate human resource audits, inconsistent implementation of the national HR framework, and the absence of harmonized HR manuals and standard operating procedures. Combined with weak oversight, these factors undermine effective service delivery.

Skills gaps and limited training funds further restrict staff development, with budget constraints deprioritizing capacity building for HR officers and County public service board members, ultimately weakening workforce competency. Politicized appointments and unclear delineation of roles between County secretaries and public service boards cause operational friction, while weak disciplinary procedures often influenced by political or union interference delay case resolutions and reduce accountability.

Staff disillusionment, driven by mistreatment, lack of

dignity, and stalled career progression, has led many employees to request transfers to the national government. The inconsistent adoption of Public Service Commission standards exacerbates career stagnation. Manual payroll systems remain vulnerable to manipulation, with retired employees and ghost workers inflating costs. Non-remittance of statutory deductions and difficulties maintaining the 35% wage bill cap indicate widespread financial mismanagement.

Delays in establishing County public service boards and the lack of uniform HR norms across government levels hinder staff mobility, while the absence of a universal HR law results in inconsistent County practices. Direct appeals to the Public Service Commission without exhausting County-level processes, along with the failure to implement appeal decisions, weaken dispute resolution and accountability. Unpiloted HR systems disrupt payroll and allowance payments, underscoring the need for reliable and tested technological solutions.

Other critical concerns include abuse of affirmative action policies, non-compliance with the 70-30 ethnic representation rule, and the failure to allocate 30% of entry-level posts to non-dominant ethnic groups, leading to imbalanced boards and limited inclusivity. Finally, the lack of uniform performance frameworks and key performance indicators, superficial appraisals, weak enforcement, and the absence of links between performance and promotions reduce accountability and diminish incentives for improved staff performance.

Way forward/Action Points

- Support County public service boards with technical expertise to identify skills gaps and redundancies.
- Develop a national talent database as a shared pool of specialized professionals accessible to all Counties.
- Standardize recruitment policies to ensure merit-based, fair, and uniform recruitment guidelines across both levels of government.
- Implement joint training programs with a common curriculum on governance, ethics, and technical skills.
- Establish a leadership academy to train senior public servants from both national and County governments in shared best practices.
- Launch an intergovernmental mentorship program pairing experienced national officers with County counterparts.

- Adopt a uniform performance management system with standardized Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and evaluation tools for all levels of government.
- Integrate human resource information systems to track performance, training, and career growth.
- Enforce a consistent disciplinary framework with clear, fair, and uniform rules for accountability.
- Hold regular joint forums to facilitate knowledge sharing and dispute resolution between PSC, County Public Service Board (CPSBs), and County Assembly Service Boards (CASBs).
- Facilitate staff secondment and transfers with clear policies for smooth movement between national and County governments.
- Serve as an impartial mediator in human resource disputes arising between the national and County governments.
- Finalize and implement affirmative action regulations to ensure diversity, gender equity, and inclusion targets are met in all recruitments.

Quotes

“Devolution is not an event, it is a continuous process that requires constant nurturing, collaboration, and investment in human capital.”

**Ambassador Anthony M. Muchiri –
Chairperson, Public Service Commission**

“Our goal is to build a public service that is professional, ethical, and inclusive, capable of delivering quality services to all Kenyans, regardless of where they live.” **Ambassador Anthony M. Muchiri – Chairperson, Public Service Commission.**

1.8.11 Unlocking the Future: Innovative Strategies for Nutrition Financing, Strategic Planning, and Transforming Children’s Food Systems to End Malnutrition.

Convenor: Ministry of Health

Session Objective: To unlock innovative strategies for nutrition financing, strategic planning, and transforming children’s food systems to end malnutrition, ensuring sustainable, equitable access to nutritious food for all children in Kenya.

Session Moderator: Veronica Kirogo, Head of Division of Nutrition and Dietetics

Panellists

1. Ms. Terry Watiri Senior Economist MoH, Planning/Finance
2. Hon. Kizito Wangalwa Director of Committees and Programmes
3. Ms. Joy Kiruntimi Dep. Country Director Nutrition International
4. Dr. Lynette Dinga Head of Nutrition World Food Program
5. Ms. Sicily Matu Nutrition specialist UNICEF
6. Ms. Nancy Mwangi County Nutrition Coordinator, Muranga County
7. Ms. Chebet Mungo Chief Officer, Health, West Pokot County
8. Dr. Elias Maina, County Executive Committee Member, Health, Kiambu County
9. Dr. Mwatha Stephen, Director, Preventive and Promotive Health and Coordinator for Partners in Health, Makueni County



Ms Veronica Kirogo moderating a session on Unlocking the Future: Innovative Strategies for Nutrition financing, strategic planning, and transforming Children's Food Systems to end malnutrition

Introduction

The Side Event, was hosted by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with the State Department for Children Services, Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services, UNICEF, GAIN, Nutritional International and the County Government of Homa Bay, the session convened national and County leaders, development partners, nutrition experts, and civil society actors to spotlight nutrition as a driver of human capital development and inclusive growth. Framed by the overarching goal of linking nutrition to Kenya's socio-economic transformation agenda, the side event underscored that nutrition is not merely a health concern but a socio-economic imperative critical to reducing inequalities, boosting productivity, and ensuring equitable development. The discussions highlighted the first 1,000 days of life as a pivotal

window for intervention, linking early childhood nutrition to lifelong health, educational attainment, and economic productivity.

Emerging Issues

The discussions during the session emphasized nutrition as a cornerstone for a healthy, innovative, and prosperous nation, noting that inadequate nutrition presents a barrier to achieving Kenya's industrialization and broader economic goals. Increasingly, political leaders are recognizing the critical role of nutrition, creating opportunities to prioritize resource allocation and develop policies that address malnutrition while fostering sustainable food systems and positive health outcomes. Innovative financing mechanisms and strategic planning were highlighted as essential to transform children's food systems, ensuring equitable access to nutritious foods and tackling the root causes of malnutrition.

County-led solutions were identified as central to overhauling food systems, with approaches integrating nutrition-sensitive agriculture, school feeding programs, and community health initiatives to eliminate malnutrition and improve overall health outcomes. Kenya currently faces undernutrition, with 18% of children under five stunted, and rates varying between 9–37% across Counties. Micronutrient deficiencies—including iron, zinc, and vitamin A remain widespread, while rising overweight and obesity rates, affecting 45% of women, are driving non-communicable diseases (NCDs), underscoring the need for County-specific interventions. Urbanization has further exacerbated poor dietary habits, with increased consumption of sugary drinks and ultra-processed foods, coupled with inadequate fruit and vegetable intake, contributing to 39% of deaths and over 50% of hospital admissions from diet-related NCDs, necessitating targeted public health campaigns and food marketing regulations.

Despite these challenges, nutrition receives only 4% of County health budgets, and implementation averages around 65%, often overshadowed by visible infrastructure projects, which limits interventions such as school feeding programs. While national nutrition frameworks exist, weak County-level translation has led to fragmented services, with few Counties operationalizing programs like breastfeeding promotion, undermining national nutrition goals.

Even food-secure Counties experience poor nutrition outcomes due to information gaps and low diet quality, highlighting the importance of nutrition education and access to diverse, nutrient-rich foods. Additional barriers include limited workplace lactation spaces and cultural perceptions that hinder exclusive breastfeeding, contributing to stunting and micronutrient deficiencies, pointing to the need for workplace policies and awareness campaigns.

The session also highlighted capacity gaps, including a shortage of trained nutritionists and weak multi-sectoral alignment across health, agriculture, and education sectors, which impedes nutrition-sensitive interventions. Donor support remains fragmented and small-scale, limiting scalability, and underscoring the need for domestic resource mobilization and innovative financing mechanisms to sustain programs. Furthermore, localized nutrition data are underutilized due to limited analytical capacity, representing missed opportunities for evidence-based targeting and accountability in County planning. With malnutrition costing Kenya approximately Kshs. 373 billion annually and a Human Capital Index of 0.55, the session stressed the urgent need for strategic investment in nutrition to prevent long-term productivity losses and advance national development objectives.



Governor Prof. Hillary Barchock, EGH, Bomet County giving his remarks during the nutrition financing session.

Way forward/Action Points

1. Counties should establish dedicated nutrition budget lines, ring-fence allocations, increase domestic financing to reduce donor dependency, and improve budget execution efficiency.
2. Nutrition indicators and actions should be embedded in County Integrated Development Plans, Annual Development Plans, and the Fourth

Medium-Term Plan, guided by Kenya Nutrition Action Plan (KNAP) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNaPs) for effective localization.

3. Fiscal policies should introduce or raise levies on unhealthy products, such as sugar-sweetened beverages, and earmark the revenues for nutrition programming.
4. County nutrition staffing should be expanded, CHV capacity strengthened, and MCAs and executives sensitized on the economic case for nutrition, while County nutrition coordination structures are reinforced.
5. Breastfeeding support should be scaled up through workplace lactation stations, Baby-Friendly Community and Facility Initiatives, Father-to-Father groups, and Early Childhood Development (ECD)-linked nutrition programs.
6. Production and consumption of diverse, locally available nutrient-rich foods should be promoted, alongside context-specific diet behavior change initiatives.
7. Nutrition programs and schemes should leverage UHC and PHC funds, school feeding, the Child Nutrition Fund, and County matching arrangements to co-finance nutrition commodities and services.
8. Inter-County peer learning should be institutionalized to replicate proven models, such as insurance reimbursements for nutrition services and localized school-feeding inputs.
9. County nutrition scorecards and shared dashboards, including ECD metrics, should be operationalized, with routine data use mandated in planning, budgeting, and performance reviews.
10. Universal access to child nutrition and protection services should be advanced, integrating disability inclusion throughout programming.

1.8.12 Investing in the Future: Promoting Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development in the LREB Region

Convenor: Lake Region Economic Block (LREB)

Session Objective: To promote nurturing care for early childhood development in the LREB region by

investing in integrated, equitable, and sustainable interventions that enhance child health, nutrition, and learning outcomes, fostering long-term human capital development.

Session Moderator: Dr. Edgar Otumba, CECM for Education, Siaya County

Panellists

1. Governor, James Orengo, Siaya County
2. First Lady, Emily Nyaribo, Nyamira County
3. Prof. David Godia, Chairman, National Faith Leaders, ECD Advisory Council
4. Dr. Monica Ogutu, Executive Director, Kisumu Medical and Education Trust (KMET)
5. Prof. Simon Onywere, lecturer, Kenyatta University
6. Victor Nyagaya, CEO, Lake Region Economic Block (LREB)
7. Evelyn Odada, CEO Health, Homabay County
8. Stephen Wandei, Director Medical Services, Kakamega County
9. James Adede, Grants Manager, Child Fund
10. Betty Nakholi, CECM Education, Busia County
11. Martin Opere, CECM Education, Homabay County
12. Tobias Aulo, ADS Nyanza region
13. Beatrice Ogutu, Executive Director, ICS-SP



Panellists and participants engage in discussions on Investing in the Future: Promoting Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development in the LREB Region

Introduction

The session focused on promoting early childhood development (ECD) within the Lake Region Economic Bloc, emphasizing the foundational role that early experiences play in shaping children's health, behavior, learning, and future productivity. Participants highlighted the importance of investing in ECD as a critical strategy to reduce poverty and inequality, while fostering long-term human capital development. The discussion explored ways Counties can implement nurturing care, integrate multi-sectoral approaches, and create sustainable,

community-driven programs that give every child the best start in life.

Emerging Issues

Participants emphasized that early childhood development is essential for ensuring children receive holistic care encompassing health, nutrition, and early learning opportunities. Such nurturing care supports physical, cognitive, and emotional development, laying the groundwork for breaking cycles of poverty and fostering human capital. Counties were urged to lead the implementation of sustainable, multi-sectoral ECD models that integrate health, education, and social services. Initiatives like Siaya's Smart Start program, which targets adolescent mothers using a human-centred approach, demonstrated the potential for County-led programs to address diverse community needs and served as models for replication across the region.

Sustainable local resource mobilization was highlighted as critical to ensure long-term funding for ECD programs, with Counties encouraged to prioritize budget allocations for child health, nutrition, and education. Active involvement of parents and communities was identified as key to protecting children's well-being, with fathers encouraged to take primary caregiving roles to promote gender equity in childcare responsibilities. Policy reforms were deemed necessary to strengthen County-level ECD education, while also addressing social challenges such as child labour, early marriage, and gender-based violence. Community sensitization programs, including initiatives like botanical and kitchen gardens, were proposed to improve household nutrition and empower women.

The session underscored the value of partnerships with County first ladies, religious leaders, interfaith organizations, and development agencies to increase grassroots adoption of ECD programs. Collaboration with agencies was also recommended to enhance access to nutrition and sanitary products for girls, thereby reducing barriers to education and health. Platforms for Counties to share experiences, best practices, and innovative approaches, such as Siaya's Smart Start and Kisumu's breastfeeding booths, were highlighted as important mechanisms to strengthen multi-sectoral approaches and foster cooperation.

Ensuring equitable access to maternal care and protecting children's rights were also discussed, including proposals to enhance free maternal services, prevent hospitals from penalizing women seeking care, and impose stiffer penalties for child abuse cases such as rape. The involvement of children and youth in decision-making around ECD programs was emphasized to ensure initiatives are responsive to their needs and community priorities. Education was recognized as a critical tool for breaking the cycle of poverty, with strong early childhood programs seen as foundational to equipping children with the skills and opportunities necessary for lifelong success.



Ongoing discussions on Nurturing care for Early Childhood Development

Way forward/Action Points

1. The national and County governments should increase resource allocation to early childhood development at the grassroots level. This involves improving the Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) centres by providing appropriate infrastructure and learning materials to enhance childhood development.
2. Institutionalize multi-sectoral collaboration across all relevant County departments and national government, partners, religious leaders to deliver coordinated and inclusive nurturing care for early childhood development services.
3. Deepen community engagement and ownership, from the household level, ward level, sub-County and County level both men and women to enhance awareness, behavior change and community-led monitoring of nurturing care for early childhood development.

4. Allocate and safeguard adequate financial resources for early childhood development, to ensure these allocations are integrated within County budget plans, and to invest in continuous training and capacity building of County staff.

5. The government should initiate programs and policies for disability inclusion in programs that are geared towards providing nurturing care to children especially in schools.

6. The County government should promote equal opportunities to both young girls and boys to access quality education and nutrition.

7. There should be strategies for enhancing male engagement in caregiving, rooted in faith cultural values, calling for practical, sustainable approaches that can be replicated to ensure male caregivers remain actively involved. Male involvement must be normalized and strategically integrated into caregiving programs across Counties.

8. Create a platform that enhances co-creation and co-design jointly with implementing partners and the entire national and County leadership.

9. Engage communities to undertake programs that enhance capacity of women on early marriages, rape, gender-based violence and maternal health.

10. Working with County first ladies as champions of early childhood development and also religious leaders to increase grassroots uptake.

11. The government should work with interfaith organizations to help vulnerable children from poor families get good nutrition and living conditions.

12. The government should impose stiffer penalties to child offenders.

13. Have a whole government approach in implementing nurturing care for early childhood development.

1.8.13 Knowledge, Data, Digitalization and Capacity Development: Training for Municipal Boards in Kenya on People-Centred Smart Cities

Convenor: UN HABITAT

Session Objective: To enhance the capacity of municipal boards in Kenya through training on knowledge, data, digitalization, and people-centred smart city initiatives

Session Moderator: Ali Matha, Head of UNITAC, UN-Habitat Innovation Lab

Panellists

1. Dr. Julius Malombe, Governor, Kitui County
2. Ambassador Beatrice Karago, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kenya
3. Isabel Friemann, Smart Cities and Innovation Expert, UN-Habitat
4. Jeremy Ougo, Technical Project Manager, UN-Habitat Kenya Country Office
5. Helen Odera, Facilitator, UN-Habitat
6. Mr. John Paul Okwiri, CEO, Konza Technopolis Development Authority



Session moderator guiding discussions on Knowledge, Data, Digitalization and Capacity Development

Introduction

The session focused on the role of digital transformation and smart technologies in enhancing local governance structures and municipal service delivery in Kenya. It was anchored in the broader ambition of ensuring inclusive, people-centred urban development. UN-Habitat convened the session to present tools, global learnings, and frameworks to guide County governments and municipal boards in building resilient, smart, and inclusive urban centres.

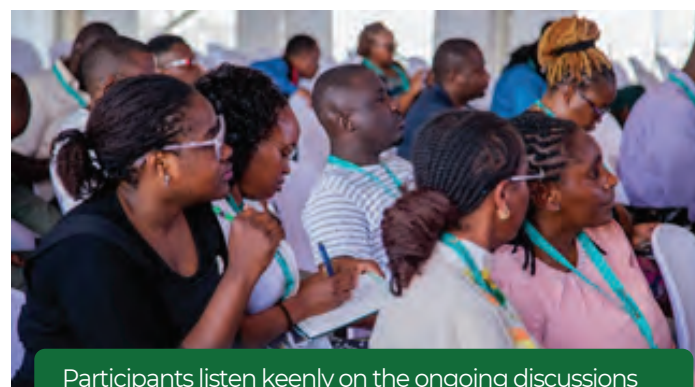
Emerging Issues

The session highlighted that Kenya's urban centres,

including major cities such as Nairobi, Kisumu, and Mombasa, have seen limited adoption of comprehensive smart city frameworks. Rapid, unstructured urban growth has often preceded planning, creating challenges for infrastructure development and effective urban management. Traditional public engagement approaches were noted to be costly and logistically difficult for Counties to implement, while current legal and policy frameworks fail to adequately recognize or integrate digital participation, limiting opportunities for citizen involvement in planning processes.

The digital divide remains a significant barrier, with widespread digital illiteracy in peri-urban and rural communities risking the exclusion of large segments of the population from digital services and participatory planning initiatives. Counties also face critical data gaps, lacking accurate and up-to-date information needed to guide service delivery and monitor urban systems, including waste management and infrastructure. Capacity-building needs were emphasized, with Counties requiring technical support to develop digital strategies, spatial planning systems, and the skills necessary to implement smart city initiatives effectively.

Municipalities are additionally contending with climate-related and resilience challenges, such as flooding, without sufficient digital infrastructure or tools to respond efficiently. Despite these challenges, opportunities exist with artificial intelligence and machine learning tools, including platforms like BEAM for settlement mapping and Waste Wise Cities, which are enhancing data-driven urban planning and monitoring. The discussions underscored the need for integrated digital solutions, strategic planning, and technical capacity building to realize Kenya's smart city ambitions while ensuring equitable citizen participation.



Participants listen keenly on the ongoing discussions

Way forward/Action Points

1. Support Counties in Developing Smart City Strategies: Counties should be assisted in co-developing integrated, inclusive digital strategies aligned with their realities.
2. Mainstream Digital Public Participation: Counties and policymakers should lobby for inclusion of digital platforms in national public participation policies and legal frameworks.
3. Invest in Digital Capacity Building: National and international actors should support training for municipal boards and urban managers in digital tools, data systems, and citizen engagement.
4. Bridge the Digital Divide: Deploy community-level digital literacy initiatives to ensure equitable participation in smart city transformation.
5. Expand the Use of AI Tools for Urban Planning: Promote tools like BEAM to map urban growth patterns and Waste Wise platforms for real-time waste tracking.
6. Leverage Existing Examples (e.g., Konza, Tatu City): Use successful smart city cases as models to inspire and guide County-level adoption.
7. Collaborate with Youth and Communities: Utilize platforms like Minecraft and digital hubs to encourage inclusive design and engagement in public space development.
8. Create Affordable, Scalable Digital Tools: Develop low-resource-demanding tools tailored to County realities, particularly in rural and peri-urban areas.
9. Ensure Data Governance and Security: As digitalization increases, frameworks must ensure data protection and ethical AI deployment.

Quotes

“Let us plan together with the people. Let them walk parallel to us - if not ahead of us - so they own the vision from the start.” **Governor Dr. Julius Malombe (Kitui County)**

“The idea of people-centred smart cities is not about technology first. It is about people first, technology is only an enabler.”

Ali Matha (UNITAC)

“We must lobby for digital public participation to be recognized within national legal and policy frameworks.”

Angela Sidima (Kakamega County)

1.8.14 Rethinking Urban Expansion: Planning the Periphery for Equity and Inclusive Growth

Convenor: Africa Urban Lab

Session Objective: To demonstrate how effective urban expansion planning in East African municipalities fosters equity and inclusive growth by addressing challenges such as infrastructure deficits, informal settlements, and climate resilience, while sharing practical lessons and experiences to guide sustainable peripheral development.

Session Moderator: Nicodemus Mbwika, Head of Urban Committee, COG Secretariat

Panellists

1. Dr. Patrick Lamson, Lead, Urban expansion; Periphery Program, African Urban Labs
2. Abdikadir, Executive Director, Municipality of Kibiri, Somaliland
3. Eunice Muyama, Senior, Urban Planner, Mbale Municipality Uganda
4. Dr. Konyango, CECM Physical Planning, Kisumu County
5. Buteyo Wanyonyi, Chair, Board of Municipalities, Homa Bay County, Kenya
6. Charles Obondo, Director Physical Planning, Homa Bay County
7. Husna Mbarak, DGLP Manager, FAO
8. Philip Ngila, Manager, Emali Municipality

Introduction

This session explored the challenges and opportunities presented by rapid urban expansion in African cities, with a focus on strategic planning, governance, and sustainable development. Panellists discussed frameworks, lessons, and practical

interventions to manage growth effectively while safeguarding food security, enhancing municipal capacity, and promoting inclusive, community-driven urban development. The dialogue highlighted the importance of proactive planning, multi-sectoral collaboration, and the use of technology to strengthen urban management and service delivery.

Emerging Issues

Panellists highlighted that urban expansion across African cities is accelerating, yet it currently occupies only a small portion of arable land, meaning food security has not been critically threatened. The Urban Expansion Plan (UXP) Framework was discussed as a proactive model for urban growth, based on five pillars: strategic planning, zoning for specific uses, securing land for development, controlling implementation, and protecting ecologically sensitive areas. The framework encourages municipalities to go beyond administrative boundaries, build staff capacity to reduce reliance on consultants, and actively involve communities to ensure inclusive development.

Challenges with implementation were noted, including complex land tenure systems in countries like Uganda, where freehold ownership limits planning enforcement. Municipalities also face resource constraints, with revenue from physical planning often not reinvested into strengthening planning capacity. Low budgets, understaffing, and limited technical expertise hinder sustainable urban management. Panellists also pointed to legislative misalignments, including conflicts between the Urban Areas and Cities Act and the Physical Planning and Land Use Policy Act, as well as inconsistencies between County Integrated Development Plans and Municipal Integrated Development Plans, which create enforcement gaps.

Peri-urban areas were identified as particularly vulnerable to unplanned growth due to reactive planning approaches, while the conversion of agricultural land for urban use raises long-term concerns about food security. Panellists emphasized the importance of including economists, food scientists, and communities in planning processes and raising public awareness about urban planning. Over \$100 million is currently spent on spatial planning, highlighting the need for cost-effective approaches. Strengthening institutional capacity,

leveraging GIS technology, and integrating social components into university curricula were proposed as strategies to improve planning efficiency, save resources, and enhance local ownership. Panellists also recommended scenario-based planning to anticipate future urban challenges, control implementation effectively, and adapt to evolving needs.

Way forward/Action Points

1. The government should establish a National Urban Development Fund to provide dedicated resources for sustainable urban growth and infrastructure.
2. Counties should develop urban planning models for populations of approximately 2,000 people to proactively manage expansion and prevent unplanned urban sprawl.
3. Existing policies, including the Urban Areas and Cities Act (UACA) and the Physical Planning and Land Use Policy Act (PLUPA), should be consolidated into a comprehensive omnibus framework to streamline urban planning and resolve legislative conflicts.
4. Municipal staff capacity should be strengthened through training and professional development to reduce reliance on external consultants and ensure greater efficiency and ownership of planning processes.
5. Municipalities should actively engage in knowledge exchange programs with peer cities, such as Wajir-Somaliland and Busia-Mbale, to share best practices, innovative solutions, and lessons learned.
6. Counties should develop structured models for stakeholder negotiations to ensure inclusive, participatory, and community-driven urban planning initiatives.
7. Revenue collected within municipalities should be managed locally in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act, while an Urban Areas and Cities Development Fund should be created to address funding gaps and sustain development projects.
8. Political leaders should be continuously engaged and briefed to secure support for urban planning

initiatives, while urban city courts should be established to enforce regulations and ensure compliance, drawing on successful models like Kisumu.

9. Strong, structured connections between urban and rural areas should be created to promote integrated and sustainable regional development.

10. Urban food systems, including initiatives like the Urban OCT concept, should be fully integrated into planning processes, ensuring involvement of economists, food scientists, and communities to address food security challenges.

11. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) should be institutionalized across Counties to improve planning efficiency, reduce costs, and enhance local ownership, complemented by university curriculum reforms that include social and technological planning components.

12. Counties should strengthen consultation and communication channels with municipalities and communities, adopting voluntary governance planning approaches to ensure inclusive engagement of all stakeholders.

13. Urban areas should be clearly defined and demarcated to guide planning, resource allocation, and equitable development strategies.

14. County and municipal enforcement units should be aligned and coordinated to streamline development control, clarify roles, and ensure underutilized staff, such as Public Health Officers, are effectively deployed.

1.8.15 Digitizing Surgical Equity: An Innovation-Led Collaboration to Strengthen Access, Patient Safety, and Devolution

Convenor: Proximie Limited

Session Objective: Enhance surgical equity through innovative digitization, fostering collaboration to improve access, patient safety, and local devolution

Session Moderator: Dr. Michael Mwachiro, President, Surgical Society of Kenya

Panellists

1. Ms. Faith Gitonga-Ngokonyo, Country Director, Tony

Blair Institute for Global Change

2. Dr. Caesar Bitta, Vice President, Surgical Society of Kenya

3. Dr. Abdulaziz Ali, Medical Officer, Frontline Beneficiary, Makueni County

4. Prof. Meoli Kashorda, Executive Director, Kenya Education Network Trust (KENET)

5. Pradeep Kakkattil, Founder & CEO, Health Innovation Exchange, Switzerland



Panellists contributing to the discussions on digitizing surgical Equity

Keynote speakers

1. Governor, Muthomi Njuki, Session Chair and Governor of Tharaka-Nithi County, Chair of Health Committee, COG

2. Lucy Mulili, Deputy Governor, Makueni County

3. Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o, Governor, Kisumu County, Member of Health Committee, COG

4. Dr. Shannon Shibata, Head of Global Health Proximie Limited

5. Leigh Stubblefield, British Deputy High Commissioner and Development Director to Kenya

6. Dr. Michael Mwachiro, President, Surgical Society of Kenya

Introduction

The session highlighted the transformative potential of digital innovation in surgical care across Kenya, emphasizing both the improvements in patient outcomes and the need for equitable healthcare access. Presenters celebrated the role of surgeons as dedicated professionals who serve vulnerable populations despite resource constraints, embodying Kenya's "harambee" spirit of collective effort. A pioneering County's implementation of a digital surgery platform Kenya's and Africa's first demonstrated measurable improvements in surgical outcomes across five hospitals by enabling remote

knowledge-sharing, reducing human resource costs, and enhancing operational efficiency. This success has catalysed plans to scale the technology to additional Counties, although challenges such as unstable internet connectivity persist. Panellists stressed the importance of involving surgeons in County planning and budgeting to meet equipment needs, while collaborations between Counties, national government, and global partners were highlighted as essential for advancing healthcare digitization and achieving equitable access to surgical services.



Presentation by Proximie

Emerging Issues

The session highlighted several critical insights from speakers and panellists regarding digital innovation in surgical care and equitable healthcare access across Kenya. Presenters underscored the transformative role of digital technologies, celebrating surgeons as dedicated professionals who serve patients under challenging conditions, embodying Kenya's "harambee" spirit of collective action. A pioneering County's adoption of a digital surgery platform was recognized as a historic milestone, marking Kenya and Africa's first such implementation. The platform has improved surgical outcomes in five hospitals by enabling remote knowledge-sharing, reducing human resource costs, and enhancing operational efficiency. Building on this success, plans are underway to scale the technology to additional Counties, although challenges such as unstable internet connectivity remain.

Panellists emphasized the need for surgeon involvement in County planning and budgeting to ensure appropriate allocation for equipment and operational requirements. Digital equity emerged as a central theme, with telesurgery and telemedicine

identified as vital tools to address shortages of specialists, limited surgical theatres, and under-equipped rural facilities. These innovations have already led to measurable improvements, including an 82% enhancement in surgical care in some Counties through real-time mentorship and collaboration. However, persistent challenges were highlighted, including budget constraints, inadequate blood banks, outdated equipment, and difficulties in retaining surgeons in rural areas.

Speakers noted that the successful adoption of health technology in Counties requires high-level advocacy and multi-stakeholder buy-in, involving governors, County health committee members, consultants, medical officers, and facility managers. Effective budgeting for technology must encompass not only equipment but also power backup, internet connectivity, and ongoing operational costs. Given competing health priorities, it is crucial to demonstrate the health and economic impact of technology to secure policy and financial support. Panellists further observed that health is cross-cutting, with sectors such as roads, water, and agriculture influencing health outcomes, reinforcing the need for integrated approaches.

While Kenya's adoption of healthcare technologies is progressing, the panel highlighted that it is not occurring rapidly enough, with historical delays in policy and infrastructure rollouts serving as cautionary examples. Outdated digital health policies were identified as a barrier, lacking provisions for modern technology integration. Partnerships among government, private sector, and donors were deemed essential to scale and sustain innovations. The adoption of Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS) was recognized for generating clear economic returns, reducing patient costs, and shortening recovery times. Technologies such as Proximie empower remote medical officers with real-time specialist guidance, improving survival rates in emergencies. Nonetheless, rural and remote facilities continue to face shortages of specialists, poorly equipped theatres, and unreliable blood banks, highlighting the ongoing need for telemedicine and telesurgery solutions.

Finally, speakers emphasized innovative financing models, such as vendor-managed equipment or fee-for-service systems, as practical solutions to

overcome funding constraints and expand access to advanced tools without incurring prohibitive upfront costs. The COG's advocacy for a national rollout of these innovations was praised for leveraging collective demand to attract vendors and reduce costs. The discussions concluded with the consensus that digital surgical innovations are a cornerstone of resilient health systems, empowering clinicians, improving outcomes, and ensuring equitable access for patients in both urban and rural settings.



Panellists and participants pose for a photo during the Digitizing Surgical Equity discussions

Way forward/Action Points

1. Expand the rollout of surgical and telemedicine technologies, including platforms like Proximie, to additional Counties, prioritizing rural and underserved areas, while ensuring local staff are trained to use the tools effectively.

2. Integrate technology operations into County health budgets, covering not only capital costs but also recurring expenses such as reliable internet connectivity, backup power, maintenance, and subscriptions.

3. Review and update digital health policies in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, County governments, and relevant stakeholders to include provisions for telemedicine, telesurgery, and other modern health technologies, accompanied by actionable guidelines and clear accountability mechanisms.

4. Strengthen public-private partnerships by formalizing collaborations between County governments, private healthcare providers, technology companies, and donors to share costs,

leverage innovation, and address gaps in infrastructure and training.

5. Adopt vendor-managed equipment models, such as fee-for-service or lease arrangements, allowing Counties to access high-cost medical technology without large upfront investments, making technology deployment scalable and sustainable.

6. Use data and evidence from early adopters like Makueni and Mombasa Counties to demonstrate patient outcomes and economic benefits, building a compelling case for prioritizing health technology in County budgets.

7. Enhance mentorship and continuous professional development by using telemedicine systems to connect rural medical officers with specialists, ensuring sustained skills transfer and improved patient care.

8. Integrate surgical services, including MIS and telemedicine, into UHC frameworks to reduce the need for patient referrals to distant facilities, thereby minimizing travel time, delays, and overall treatment costs.

1.8.16 Nourishing Kenya's Future: School Feeding as a Catalyst for County Development, Equity, and Economic Empowerment

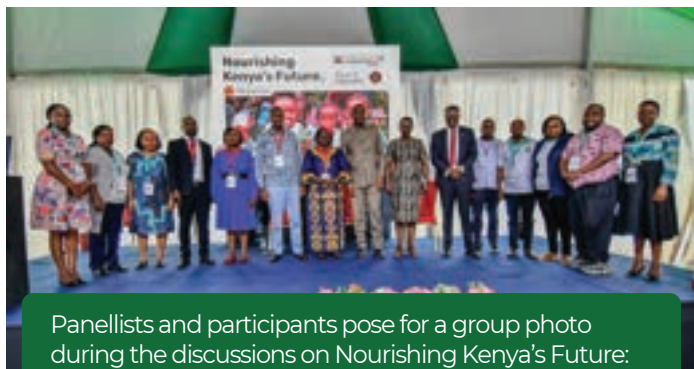
Convenor: Food for Education

Session Objective: Promote County development, equity, and economic empowerment in Kenya by leveraging school feeding programs as a catalyst for nourishing the country's future

Session Moderator: Georgie Ndirangu, Global Communications Professional at Africa Leadership and Dialogue Institute

Panellists

1. Prof. Governor Hillary Barchok, Bomet County
2. Governor Moses Ndirangu Kiarie, Nyandarua County & Vice Chair Education Committee, COG
3. Governor, Dr. Irungu Kang'ata, Murang'a County
4. Shalom Ndiku, Director of Public Affairs, Food for Education



Panellists and participants pose for a group photo during the discussions on Nourishing Kenya's Future: School Feeding as a Catalyst for County Development, Equity, and Economic Empowerment

Introduction

The session explored how school feeding programs are reshaping education, nutrition, and local economies in Kenya. Food for Education, the main convenor, showcased their journey since 2012, growing from feeding 25 learners to now reaching 570,000 learners daily across 12 Counties. The discussions focused on impacts, sustainability, and the role of County governments in institutionalising school feeding as an equity and development strategy.



Panellists engage during the discussions

Emerging Issues

During the session, several key issues and experiences regarding school feeding programs were highlighted by panellists. Concerns were raised about the impact of cheap rice imports on local farmers. While large-scale procurement often relies on imports, local sourcing remains a priority, with quality and reliability being critical for the success of school feeding programs. The sustainability of Murang'a County's early childhood development (ECD) uji program beyond 2032 was emphasized as dependent on embedding it within recurrent County budgets. Murang'a's success has been driven by piloting programs, engaging Members of County Assembly (MCAs), and passing supportive motions, illustrating

how political and moral leadership choices influence program outcomes.

Bomet County's milk program, operational since 2019, provides milk to 60,000 ECD learners, boosting enrolment and generating employment in transport and supply chains. Challenges, such as upfront payment demands from the Kenya Cooperative Creameries (KCC), have prompted the County to partner directly with local cooperatives to ensure consistent supply. The discussion also highlighted the benefits of decentralized kitchen models, as seen in Murang'a, where localized kitchens have increased community buy-in and created jobs, offering a scalable approach for sparsely populated areas.

Modernized kitchen infrastructure remains a challenge due to limited recurrent budgets, but Murang'a is piloting sustainable energy solutions, such as briquettes, to address these needs cost-effectively. Strong policy frameworks and partnerships between Counties were underscored as essential for effective school feeding programs, with a new national model policy slated for piloting in five Counties to enhance implementation consistency and accountability. Community engagement was also highlighted, with parents in Murang'a electing "uji champions" to oversee quality and accountability, ensuring children receive fortified, nutritious porridge and building trust in the program. Finally, questions were raised about Food for Education's capacity to scale programs to all 47 Counties, with the organization expressing confidence in successful expansion provided sufficient County funding and strong local partnerships, citing achievements in Nairobi, Embu, and Murang'a.



Governor Prof. Governor Hillary Barchok engage participants during the discussions

Way forward/Action Points

1. The introduction of a national model policy on school feeding represents a critical step toward standardizing and scaling effective feeding programs across Kenya's 47 Counties. This policy should establish clear guidelines on funding, nutritional standards, procurement processes, and accountability mechanisms to ensure consistency and equity in program delivery.

2. Counties must prioritize allocating funds within their recurrent budgets. This requires advocacy to convince County leaders and MCAs of the long-term benefits of feeding programs, such as improved school enrolment, better academic performance, and enhanced child health outcomes. Murang'a's success in securing political support through MCA engagement and supportive motions provides a replicable model.

3. Counties should establish dedicated budget lines for feeding programs, with clear timelines for incremental increases in funding to cover operational costs, including kitchen staff salaries, food procurement, and infrastructure maintenance. Partnerships with national government and development partners can provide initial seed funding to ease the transition, while Counties develop fiscal strategies to sustain these allocations, ensuring programs like Murang'a's uji initiative remain viable beyond 2032.

4. Strengthening local farmer cooperatives is essential to prioritize local sourcing over cheap imports, which harm local agricultural economies. Bomet's shift to partnering directly with cooperatives to source milk for 60,000 ECD learners demonstrates the potential to create jobs and stimulate local economies.

5. Counties should invest in capacity-building programs for cooperatives, providing training on quality control, supply chain logistics, and compliance with nutritional standards to meet the demands of large-scale feeding programs. Financial mechanisms, such as revolving funds or microloans, can address challenges like upfront payment requirements previously faced with entities like the KCC.

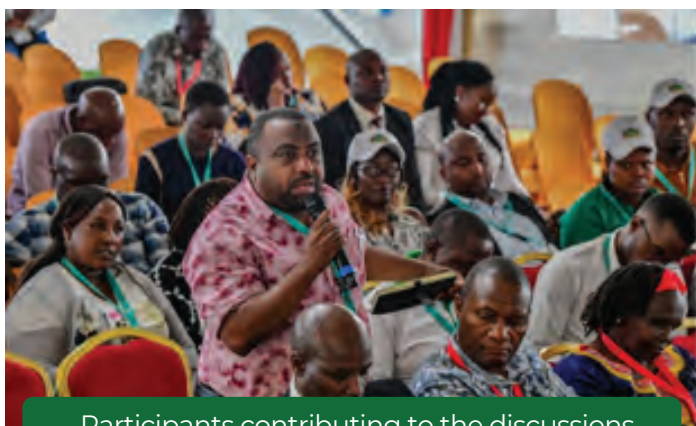
6. Counties should establish formal agreements with cooperatives to ensure reliable supply chains, while national policies should incentivize local procurement through subsidies or tax breaks, balancing quality, reliability, and economic benefits for farmers.

7. The proven models in Murang'a, Bomet, and Nairobi offer valuable lessons for scaling school feeding programs. Murang'a's decentralized kitchen model, which enhances community buy-in and creates local jobs, can be adapted to sparsely populated areas where centralized kitchens are inefficient. Bomet's milk program, boosting enrolment and supporting supply chain jobs, highlights the impact of targeted nutritional interventions. Nairobi's partnership with Food for Education showcases the potential for urban Counties to leverage external expertise. Expansion strategies should include detailed case studies of these models, disseminated through platforms like the COG (COG), to guide other Counties. Pilot programs in additional Counties should be supported with technical assistance and funding to replicate key elements, such as community-elected "uji champions" for accountability or cooperative-based procurement, tailored to local contexts.

8. The Tap to Eat system, as utilized by Food for Education, exemplifies how technology can enhance transparency and efficiency in school feeding programs. This digital platform can track food distribution, monitor nutritional intake, and ensure accountability by providing real-time data to County officials and parents. Counties should invest in scaling such technologies, integrating them with existing systems like GIS for supply chain mapping or mobile apps for community feedback.

9. Platforms such as the COG should facilitate regular knowledge-sharing forums, like the Devolution Conference, where Counties like Wajir, Somaliland, Busia, and Mbale can exchange experiences. Structured peer-learning programs, including site visits and documented case studies, should highlight best practices, such as Murang'a's community engagement or Bomet's cooperative partnerships.

10. A centralized repository of lessons learned, accessible through COG's digital platforms (Maarifa Centre), can support Counties in adapting models to their unique needs. Incentives, such as Recognition awards for innovative Counties, can motivate adoption, while cross-County task forces can harmonize approaches, ensuring equitable access to resources and expertise across urban and rural areas.



Participants contributing to the discussions

1.8.17 Financing Resilience of Cities and Communities: Sharing Insights and Learning About Support Opportunities

Convenor: GIZ

Session Objective: To address climate resilience finance opportunities for Counties

Session Moderator: Abel Omanga, COMSSA Kenyan Focal Person at GIZ

Panellists

1. Raymond Kinyua, CECM Lands, Housing, Physical Planning, Embu County
2. Everlyne Otieno, European Investment Bank (EIB)
3. Dr. Olufiso Somorin, Regional Principal Officer, African Development Bank (AfDB)
4. Mithika Mwenda, Pan African Climate Alliance



Ongoing discussions on Financing Resilience of Cities and Communities

Introduction

This side panel explored the pivotal role of Counties in driving climate action and building urban and rural resilience. Discussions centred on how local governments can translate national climate

commitments, such as Kenya's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targeting a 35% reduction in carbon emissions, into actionable, locally-led initiatives. Panellists highlighted the challenges Counties face, including funding gaps, limited capacity, political constraints, and the need for structured climate finance mechanisms. The session also emphasized the importance of community engagement, inter-County collaboration, and innovative financing approaches to ensure that climate projects are sustainable, scalable, and responsive to local needs. Overall, the event underscored that effective County-level action is essential for achieving national climate goals and protecting vulnerable populations from the adverse impacts of climate change.

Emerging Issues

During the panel session, several key points emerged regarding the role of Counties in climate change mitigation and financing. Panellists emphasized that Counties are central to driving climate action, with some having already established frameworks to guide interventions. However, operational units within Counties must actively support these frameworks to translate policies into actionable programs. Participants stressed that County planning and budgets should deliberately prioritize climate-related projects, and locally led actions that engage communities are essential to ensure grassroots ownership and sustainability. Training and capacity building for County officials and communities were highlighted as critical to enhancing understanding of climate challenges and solutions.

Panellists also noted the importance of Counties meeting key requirements to access climate financing, such as conducting clean audits, structuring viable projects, developing repayment plans, and securing national government guarantees. Programs like those offered by the European Investment Bank (EIB) can support Counties in structuring projects, often requiring inter-County collaboration or bundling to attract funding. However, a lack of harmonization between the language and expectations of African Counties and global financiers creates barriers, and over-reliance on concessional loans and grants underscores the need to diversify financing instruments. Counties were encouraged to prioritize revenue-generating projects to sustain climate interventions.

Challenges to County participation were also discussed. Political dynamics at the County level can sometimes undermine viable climate projects, while national government restrictions limit Counties' ability to borrow directly. Panellists highlighted the need for greater openness to County-level capital borrowing and the use of public-private partnerships (PPPs) to fund bankable green projects. Overall, the session underscored that effective climate action requires not only policy frameworks but also strategic financing, community engagement, and strengthened County capacities.



Panellists pose for a group photo after the discussions on financing resilient cities

Way forward/Action Points

1. Allocate domestic funds for climate financing, recognizing the urgency as a sovereign state and reducing reliance on multilateral funding.
2. Establish the Climate Fund as mandated by the Climate Change Act to ensure consistency and ring-fencing of resources, enabling conditional grants for cities and Counties to support climate initiatives.
3. Convene a roundtable with the devolution donors working group to further explore climate financing options and strategies.
4. Encourage Counties to adopt innovative financing mechanisms, such as floating green bonds, using the Laikipia infrastructure bond as a template to fund climate change mitigation efforts.
5. Urge the Senate to provide conditional grants to urban areas specifically for climate change initiatives to enhance urban resilience.
6. Advocate for donors to prioritize auditing the use of climate change-related funds rather than imposing stringent conditions, ensuring accountability while

easing access to financing.

7. Ensure County planning and budgets deliberately prioritize and integrate climate change-related projects and funding to address local environmental challenges effectively.

8. Promote locally led climate action by engaging communities to develop solutions and fostering ownership of projects at the grassroots level.

9. Provide training and capacity building for County officials and communities to enhance understanding of climate change issues and effective solutions.

10. Support Counties in meeting climate financing requirements, including clean audits, well-structured projects, repayment plans, and securing national government guarantees.

11. Encourage the national government to facilitate County-level capital borrowing and PPPs for bankable green projects, removing restrictions that hinder direct access to financing.

12. Address County-level political challenges that may undermine viable climate projects, ensuring effective implementation of climate initiatives.

1.8.18 The Resilience Revolution: Polycentric Governance Systems for Climate Action Through Decentralized Lens for Inclusive Sustainable Development

Convenor: Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)

Session Objective: To establish polycentric governance systems that enhance climate action through decentralized approaches, fostering inclusive and sustainable development by empowering local communities and Counties to drive resilient, locally led climate initiatives

Session Moderator: James Ketta, Action Aid

Panellists

1. Nixon Otieno, Programmes Director, Habitat for Humanity
2. Shirlene Adhiambo, Executive Director, Siaya Muungano

3. Lucy Sembei, Kenya Red Cross Representative
4. Douglas Onkeo, Nyamira County CSO Focal Point-FLLoCA
5. Wendy Mitoko, Kisumu County CSO Focal Point-FLLoCA
6. Dan Adino, FLLoCA Program Implementation Unit (PIU) Representative
7. Hon. Samwel Mugo, County Executive Committee Member of Water Environment Climate Change and Natural Resources, Nyandarua County
8. Geoffrey Ngovi Muthoka, Chief Officer, Environment, Mining and Climate Change- Makueni County
9. Philip Akello, Royal Danish Embassy, Climate and Resilience Unit



Ongoing discussions on Polycentric Governance Systems for Climate Action through decentralized Lens for Inclusive Sustainable Development

Introduction

This session brought together national and County government representatives, development partners, civil society organizations, and grassroots actors to discuss how decentralized governance can drive inclusive and resilient climate action. Devolution, Kenya's most transformative governance reform since independence, has brought government closer to the people, promoted equitable development, and addressed historical marginalization. The Financing Locally Led Climate Action (FLLoCA) programme was highlighted for its grassroots, people-centred approach, empowering Counties and communities to strengthen local climate resilience. The session, which featured the launch of the FLLoCA delivery report, provided an opportunity to review progress, celebrate successes, acknowledge challenges, and reaffirm commitment to advancing effective climate action in Kenya.

Emerging Issues

The panel discussion highlighted a range of County-led and community-driven initiatives advancing climate resilience across Kenya. In Siaya County, the Siaya Women's Rights and Development Network showcased the impact of community-led interventions. Through integrating environmental education into local group meetings, promoting kitchen and conical gardens for food security, and facilitating economic empowerment via savings and loans, communities have adopted climate adaptation practices such as drought-resistant crops, including sweet potatoes. The Network connects groups to funding sources like the Next Level Grant Facility for large-scale climate-resilient farming, establishes "Food Forests" in schools as educational and food production hubs, rehabilitates water systems in special needs schools, and conducts social audits and public expenditure tracking to ensure accountability in climate projects.

Habitat for Humanity emphasized the importance of climate-resilient housing for low-income families. Panellists discussed a 2020 case study in Nahaiva, where 70% of residents had been displaced by floods. Rapidly assembled, thermally efficient, and cost-effective homes built at Kshs. 25,000 per square meter using hollow building materials—provided secure housing while training local builders on sustainable construction practices, thereby ensuring both economic benefits and community ownership. The Kenya Red Cross presented its approach to localizing disaster risk management, combining nature-based solutions such as tree planting and environmental restoration with emergency preparedness through 13 County-level emergency operation centres. Their 2024–2029 roadmap prioritizes early warning systems, anticipatory action, and socio-cultural considerations while promoting climate-adapted agriculture through research, innovation, and affordable farming solutions.

In Nyamira County, the Greening Nyamira Initiative, led by Empowered Citizens Against Poverty, focuses on awareness-raising and youth engagement. The initiative trains 35 "Greening Champions" to disseminate climate action knowledge across wards, partners with a Dutch organization to install waste recovery machines and engages students through 4K Clubs in schools aligned with the Competency-Based

Curriculum. Water resource management strategies, including spring protection and water harvesting, were emphasized to reduce reliance on boreholes.

The panel also highlighted challenges in implementing the FLLoCA program. Kisumu County noted that, despite FLLoCA's goal of promoting locally led interventions, poor coordination among County structures and weak alignment with grassroots realities often hinder implementation. The panel stressed the need for stronger community-driven processes to ensure local ownership and effective execution of climate initiatives.

GROOTS Kenya shared insights from its 29 years of grassroots mobilization, demonstrating how women-led initiatives and community networks can build resilience. Their approach includes training local leaders in climate governance, environmental conservation, and resource accountability, while supporting community monitoring of FLLoCA resources to ensure transparency. GROOTS Kenya collaborates with Counties to co-create climate solutions, such as climate-smart agriculture in Nyandarua, agroforestry in Kakamega, and sustainable fishing practices in Homa Bay, integrating local innovations with technical expertise to enhance impact and scale successful interventions.

Kajiado County's experiences underscored the challenges and successes of aligning community priorities with County climate plans. Initiatives focused on water harvesting, pasture reseeding, livestock feed banks, rangeland rehabilitation, and training community climate champions, blending indigenous knowledge with modern practices. The County has established water pans and small-scale irrigation schemes, improving household and livestock water security, while sensitization forums and strengthened partnerships between communities, County departments, and development agencies have enhanced resilience among pastoralist households. However, panellists noted persistent challenges, including delayed disbursement of FLLoCA funds, limited technical capacity within communities, poor inter-departmental coordination, and cultural resistance to new land management practices, highlighting the need for streamlined processes and enhanced capacity building.

Overall, the panel emphasized that effective climate action relies on multi-level collaboration combining County leadership, community engagement, technical support, and innovative financing to achieve sustainable, locally owned solutions that address both environmental and socio-economic vulnerabilities.



Participants pose for a photo after the discussions on polycentric governance systems

1.8.19 Leveraging ICT Infrastructure for Inclusive, Smart and Equitable Counties

Convenor: Technology Service Providers Association of Kenya

Session Objective: This session aimed to explore how Counties can leverage ICT infrastructure to drive inclusive development, smart governance, and equitable service delivery, ensuring no citizen is left behind in Kenya's digital economy.

Session Moderator: Dr. Fiona Asonga, Technology Service Providers Association of Kenya (TESPOK)

Panellists

1. Mr. John Omagwa, Chief Operations Officer, Mawingu
2. Mr. Lawrence Ochieng, Manager, Planning and Design of Infrastructure, Soliton Telmec
3. Mr. Kenneth Murage, Chief Technical Officer, Wananchi Group
4. Ms. Daisy Ogola, Regulatory and Public Policy Management, Safaricom Plc
5. Ms. Jacquelyne Kimani, Chief Officer ICT, Kiambu County

6. Mr. James Turuthi, Chairman, TESPOK
7. Mr. Stephen Isaboke, Keynote Speaker & PS, Broadcasting



Panelists having to the discussions on Leveraging ICT Infrastructure for Inclusive, Smart and Equitable Counties

Introduction

This session brought together representatives from the Ministry of Digital Economy and ICT, the Communication Authority of Kenya, the private sector, and other stakeholders to discuss the role of digital connectivity in advancing Kenya's development. The session focused on strengthening collaboration between national and County governments to implement the country's digital economy blueprint and master plan. Particular emphasis was placed on youth engagement and skills development to enable meaningful participation in the digital economy. The session featured a panel discussion and audience participation, providing a platform to identify challenges, share experiences, and explore actionable solutions to enhance ICT services and infrastructure across Counties.

Emerging Issues

Discussions highlighted several challenges facing Kenya's digital development. Speakers noted the lack of standardized digital processes for revenue collection and service delivery, which hinders efficiency. Weak coordination between Counties and national parastatals, such as Kenya Power & Lighting and Lighting Company (KPLC), Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA), and Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA), has led to duplication of efforts and inefficient planning of ICT infrastructure. Policy misalignments between County and national ICT frameworks were identified as a key driver of high costs, arising from complex licensing requirements, poor infrastructure sharing, and regulatory conflicts.

Counties face technical and financial constraints that limit their ability to implement and maintain digital infrastructure, while public awareness and buy-in for digital projects remain low. Inconsistent licensing regimes across Counties exacerbate these challenges, and the fact that ICT infrastructure remains largely a non-devolved function creates jurisdictional conflicts that complicate local implementation. Panelists underscored that addressing these issues will require stronger intergovernmental coordination, policy harmonization, and targeted capacity building to fully leverage technology as a driver of economic growth.



Panelists and participants pose for a group photo after the discussions on ICT infrastructure

Way forward/Action Points

1. To accelerate the deployment of inclusive and equitable digital infrastructure, a multi-faceted strategy focused on policy alignment, process efficiency, and innovative deployment is essential.
2. Harmonize County legislation with national digital plans, such as the Digital Superhighway initiative. This ensures that County by-laws on zoning, wayleaves, and fees do not inadvertently contradict or impede national strategic goals, creating a consistent regulatory environment for investors.
3. Introducing unified licensing and permitting systems where operators can apply for all necessary County and national approvals simultaneously would drastically cut through bureaucracy and reduce rollout timelines from months to weeks.
4. Advocate for ICT infrastructure devolution or clearer intergovernmental framework to establish whether Counties are owners, facilitators, or regulators of digital assets, preventing jurisdictional conflicts and ensuring seamless cooperation between levels of government.

5. Incentivize infrastructure sharing such as ducts, masts, and fibre through targeted waivers or tax breaks, to discourage wasteful duplication of resources, lowers the capital expenditure barrier for new entrants, and minimizes environmental disruption.

6. Counties should lead by digitizing their own operations to improve efficiency and set a precedent. This involves efforts to digitize land maps and service applications, creating a transparent and easily accessible database that simplifies planning for infrastructure rollout.

Quotes

"Waivers for ICT infrastructure deployment boosted private sector participation, but sustainability requires standardized policies."

Ms. Jacquelyne Kimani (Kiambu County)

"Counties must treat digital infrastructure like roads shared assets critical for development."

Mr. John Omagwa (Mwingu)

"Aligning County licensing with national standards will cut rollout costs by 30%"

Ms. Daisy Ogola (Safaricom)

1.8.20 Advancing Inclusive, Accessible and Quality ECD Services through County-Level Coordination and Investment

Convenor: ECD Network

Session Objective: To enhance the coordination and investment in Early Childhood Development (ECD) services at the County level to advance their inclusivity, accessibility, and quality..

Session Moderator: Oscar Kadenge, Board

Chairperson, Early Childhood Development Network (ECDN)

Panellists

1. Professor Teresa Mwoma, Associate Professor, Department of Early Childhood Development and Special Needs Education, Kenyatta University
2. Sally Moraa, ECD Researcher, Advocate, Leader, World Forum Foundation
3. Martin Kiyeng' Partnerships Manager, Kidogo Early Years
4. Linet Kaloki, ECD Specialist, Aga Khan University, Institute for Human Development
5. Jacqueline Chebi Program Manager, Early Childhood Development, Catholic Relief Services



Panellists contributing to discussion on advancing Inclusive, Accessible and Quality ECD Services through County-Level Coordination and Investment

Introduction

The session, organized by the ECD network for Kenya and partners Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Kidogo, Nurture First, and the Aga Khan University, focused on advancing inclusive, accessible, and quality ECD services through County-level coordination and investments. Keynote speakers included the Honourable CS Commissioner Abdille Yussuf Mohamed, Speaker County Assembly of Wajir and the Deputy Governor of Wajir County H.E. Ahmed Muhumed Abdi, who highlighted significant gaps in ECD financing, childcare provision, and data accountability. Key issues discussed were the need for better resource allocation, integrated ECD planning, and the development of legislative frameworks. The session emphasized the economic importance of ECD and the necessity of political will and coordinated action to improve early childhood development outcomes in Kenya and the central role of County governments in ensuring resource allocation, policy implementation, and service integration for children aged zero to eight years.

The panel discussion on ECD in Kenya featured experts from various organizations. Jacqueline Chebi from CRS highlighted CRS's collaboration with faith-based organizations and County governments to promote ECD best practices. Martin Kiyeng' from Kidogo Early Years discussed the challenges of scaling childcare services across 12 Counties. Lynette Kaloki identified barriers such as poor infrastructure, food insecurity, and cultural norms in marginalized communities. Sally Mora shared insights from an evidence-based parenting program in Singapore. The ECD systems measurement study revealed that Counties allocate 34% of education funds to ECD but only spend 65-72%. Strategies for improvement included ring-fencing funds and creating frameworks for budget allocation.

Emerging Issues

The panel discussion highlighted a significant gap between budget allocations ECD and actual expenditure in Counties. On average, Counties dedicate approximately 34% of their education budgets to ECD; however, only 65-72% of these funds are ultimately spent. Delays in fund disbursement, reallocation to other sectors, and lack of prioritization were cited as key reasons for this shortfall, limiting the effectiveness of ECD programs.

The complexities of Kenya's devolved system further exacerbate challenges. Each of the 47 Counties operates with unique dynamics, leading to fragmented service delivery and limited coordination across critical sectors such as education, health, and social welfare. Marginalized communities are particularly affected, facing barriers that include poor infrastructure, food insecurity, a shortage of trained teachers, and cultural norms that may deprioritize formal ECD.

A substantial proportion of young children are cared for in informal, home-based settings. Most of these providers about 93% lack formal ECD training, operate with inadequate infrastructure, and face economic vulnerability. Despite serving large numbers of children, these informal providers are often unrecognized and unsupported by the formal system, leaving significant gaps in coverage and quality.

Finally, the panel emphasized the underutilization of available data. While Counties collect information on

Introduction

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Panellists and participants pose for a group photo after the discussions on quality ECD services

Way forward/Action Points

1. Ring-fence Funds: Earmark allocated ECD funds to prevent their reallocation to other sectors.
2. Increase Advocacy: Advocate for increased budget allocation at both national and County levels and improve resource mobilization.
3. Ensure Transparency: Create a clear framework for budget allocation and expenditure to ensure transparency and hold officials accountable.
4. Establish a robust multi-sectoral coordination system between national and County governments to harmonize policies and standardize quality benchmarks.
5. Develop supportive policies and frameworks to recognize, train, and subsidize informal home-based childcare providers, bringing them into the formal support structure.
6. Improve the regulation of all childcare services to ensure quality and safety.
7. Train Teachers and Caregivers by providing large-scale capacity building and technical assistance for ECD teachers and caregivers, focusing on nutrition, child protection, and pedagogy.
8. Invest in and scale cost-effective, evidence-based programs like parenting education that engage both mothers and fathers, which can be delivered in-person

or remotely.

9. Continued and expanded collaboration with faith-based organizations and community leaders to advocate for ECD and implement services at the local level.

10. Actively use existing data and research to inform policy, planning, and program design, ensuring they are evidence-based and address community needs.

11. Mainstream inclusivity in all ECD programs, with a specific focus on children with disabilities and early intervention in the first 1000 days of a child's life.

1.8.21 Bridging Gaps: Digital Health as a Driver and Enabler of Equity in Devolved Systems

Convenor: Centre for Fiscal Affairs

Session Objective: To utilize digital health as a foundational driver for achieving equity in devolved healthcare systems by bridging critical gaps in access, information, and quality of care through integrated technology, collaborative governance, and community-centric innovation.

Session Moderator: Martha Ogutu, Kenya Legal and Ethical Issues Network (KELIN)

Panellists

1. Dr. Gregory Ganda, CECM, Health, Kisumu County
2. Gift Winnie, Kenya Community Advisory Team (K-CAT)
3. Dr. Joyce Wamiche, Technical Lead, Digital Health Agency
4. Stephen Osedo, Executive Director, Centre for Fiscal Affairs.



Bridging Gaps: Panellists having discussions on Digital Health as a Driver and Enabler of Equity in Devolved Systems

Introduction

This session captured discussions on how digital health can advance social justice and improve equitable access to healthcare across Kenya. Access to quality healthcare remains a challenge, particularly in rural and marginalized areas, due to limited infrastructure, workforce shortages, and inefficiencies in service delivery. Under the 2010 Constitution, County governments are tasked with ensuring accessible, affordable, and quality health services, and digital technologies such as telemedicine, electronic health records, mobile health applications, and AI-driven diagnostics offer innovative solutions to bridge these gaps, especially for youth, women, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups.

The session also highlighted the persistent “digital divides” caused by socio-economic and gender inequalities, which limit access to essential information and services. While technology has advanced rapidly, regulatory frameworks and governance mechanisms have struggled to keep pace, leaving marginalized voices underrepresented in decision-making. Drawing on lessons from successful County implementations, the panel explored scalable solutions, cross-sectoral collaboration, and strategies to align digital health initiatives with national and global priorities, including Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) and Kenya’s Vision 2030.

Emerging Issues

During the panel discussion, Kisumu County’s digital health initiatives were highlighted as a model of integrating innovative technology within County health systems. Dr. Ganda presented key achievements, emphasizing how Kisumu has successfully aligned its digital health strategy with national frameworks, particularly through the Electronic Community Health Information System (E-CHIS), which contributes to the broader Kenya National Digital Superhighway. The initiative is structured around a clear leadership hierarchy based on the Primary Care Network model, ensuring effective coordination and accountability.

A central feature of Kisumu’s approach is the innovative “Mother’s Journey” model, a digitized, patient-centric care pathway that tracks mothers from antenatal visits through delivery and postnatal care. This model creates dedicated digital cohorts,

allowing continuous follow-up and monitoring of maternal and newborn health outcomes. Since its inception in October 2024, the program has enrolled 1,800 mothers and recorded 312 deliveries, with only one maternal death and four perinatal deaths, reflecting significant improvements in survival rates. Health facilities have also benefited financially, earning Kshs 2.6 million through a value-based healthcare incentive system that rewards adherence to care protocols.

The program's success relies heavily on empowered Community Health Providers (CHPs), who use digital tools to manage conditions like high blood pressure and provide continuity of care in community settings. The value-based incentive system further promotes quality care by linking rewards to performance metrics for mothers, CHPs, and healthcare workers. Panellists emphasized that Kisumu's digitization efforts extend beyond data collection, aiming to transform and save lives. The County's philosophy was aptly described: the national government provides the policy "forest," while the County nurtures the individual "trees" through local implementation and community care.

Kisumu's experience with digital health platforms including Dawa, Taifa Care, Marwa, and the Safe Mama Care Project supported by Pharm Access demonstrates the potential of AI and other digital tools to improve maternal health outcomes. The panel identified several success factors for effective County-level digital health implementation: strong and intentional leadership, identification of County champions such as faith leaders and community influencers, assessment of County readiness in terms of infrastructure and human resources, and a proactive approach to the evolving health landscape.

The panel also discussed human rights considerations associated with digital health interventions, referencing the K-CAT study "Paying the Costs of Connection." Key risks include unequal access to digital health services, particularly for young people lacking smartphones or reliable internet infrastructure; challenges related to overlapping legal frameworks for data safety and protection; and concerns about privacy and surveillance. Young people expressed fears that sensitive health information, including gender identity and health status, could be accessed by family members or monitored by government authorities, potentially

restricting their freedom to engage openly with digital health platforms. Panellists highlighted the importance of addressing these issues to ensure that digital health expansion remains equitable, secure,



Way forward/Action Points

1. Actively promote partnerships between Counties to share data, best practices, and digital health solutions. This ensures equitable progress and prevents any County from falling behind, creating a more unified national health system.
2. Recognize that Counties are the primary units of service delivery. Each County must develop a well-structured digital health plan with clear stakeholder mapping to form strategic partnerships with private sector actors, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and community-based organizations.
3. Prioritize obtaining unwavering commitment from County leadership. This commitment must frame digital health as essential for fulfilling the right to health and must be demonstrated through deliberate policy support and budget allocation.
4. Invest in training and sensitizing local influencers including village elders, cluster leaders, and chiefs. As the closest authorities to the community, they are critical for building trust, driving adoption, and ensuring the community embraces new digital services.
5. Proactively document and share evidence of positive impact, such as improved maternal health outcomes in Kisumu. These tangible stories build a

compelling case for investment and support from both the public and policymakers.

6. Identify and empower enthusiastic advocates at the community level, whether in health facilities, churches, or schools. These champions can motivate others and provide vital on-the-ground support for digital health initiatives.

7. Evaluate each County's existing infrastructure, staff capacity, and technological literacy before implementation. This ensures digital health solutions are appropriate, sustainable, and effectively address local needs and gaps.

8. Encourage Counties to embrace change and reform. Acknowledge that digital transformation is an inevitable and necessary shift away from traditional methods to improve healthcare efficiency and quality in the modern era.

1.8.22 Catalysing Food Systems Transformation through Youth Empowerment

Convenor: Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)

Session Objective: To leverage devolution as a transformative framework for promoting equity, inclusion, and social justice by empowering local governments to prioritize youth in agriculture through targeted budget allocations, enabling policies, and multi-stakeholder partnerships, while integrating climate-smart innovations and youth-driven networks to ensure inclusive participation across the agricultural value chain.

Session Moderator: Martha Ogutu, Kenya Legal and Ethical Issues Network (KELIN)

Panellists

1. Hon. Kenneth Lusaka, Governor, Busia County
2. John Macharia, Country Director, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)
3. Violet Chege, Youth Representative, Murang'a County
4. Sholen John, Sheep breeder
5. Abed Kiwia- Programme Officer, AGRA
6. Njagi Njue, CECM Agriculture, Tharaka Nithi County
7. Dr. Stephen Kimwele, CECM Kitui County
8. Jael Heartman, One Acre Fund
9. Tracy Ngoya, Youth



Presentations ongoing during the discussions on Catalysing Food Systems Transformation through Youth Empowerment

Introduction

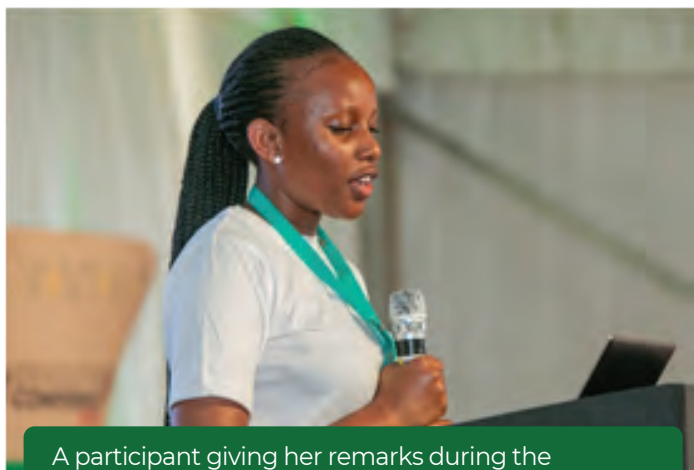
The session, convened by AGRA, underscored the central role of youth engagement in transforming County food systems through innovation, inclusivity, and targeted support. The hackathon component featured two tracks: the Food Systems Group and the Innovation Group, each addressing systemic barriers and proposing actionable solutions. Later the panel discussion discussed practical pathways for youth empowerment in agriculture.

Emerging Issues

During the panel discussion, participants highlighted that many young people perceive agriculture as outdated, physically demanding, and financially unrewarding, often considering it an occupation of last resort. This perception is largely driven by limited exposure to modern, technology-driven agribusiness models that are both profitable and intellectually stimulating.

The panellists identified several interconnected obstacles that hinder youth entry and success in agriculture. Access to affordable land - through ownership or secure, long-term leasing remains a major barrier, while limited collateral and credit history restrict access to formal loans needed for inputs, technology, and scaling ventures. Market inefficiencies, including poor infrastructure, price volatility, exploitation by middlemen, and limited direct access to reliable markets, further constrain opportunities.

Youth representation in agricultural boards, cooperatives, and policy forums was noted to be low, resulting in their challenges and ideas being largely absent from laws, programs, and budget allocations. The discussion also highlighted the slow adoption of technologies and practices that improve resilience and productivity, such as drip irrigation, solar-powered tools, and soil moisture sensors, which is driven by high upfront costs, lack of awareness, insufficient training, and perceived risks, leaving youth particularly vulnerable to climate-related shocks.



A participant giving her remarks during the discussions

Way forward/Action Points

1. To effectively engage youth in agriculture, County governments must allocate specific budgetary resources and develop policies that address the unique challenges and opportunities faced by young people. This involves recognizing youth as a critical demographic for agricultural transformation and economic development.

2. Collaboration among stakeholders is essential to create a supportive ecosystem for youth in agriculture. Governments provide policy and infrastructure support, the private sector brings investment and innovation, NGOs offer training and advocacy, and youth groups ensure programs are relevant and inclusive. Partnerships can bridge gaps in resources, knowledge, and opportunities.

3. Promote techniques like drip irrigation, conservation agriculture, and agroforestry through training programs tailored for youth. Subsidize access to climate-resilient seeds and organic inputs.

4. Scale access to digital platforms like mobile apps for weather forecasting, market price tracking, or precision farming. Provide training on tools like drones, IoT sensors, or blockchain for supply chain transparency.

5. Establish agricultural tech incubators to support youth in developing and scaling innovations, such as apps for farmer-buyer connections or renewable energy solutions for farming.

6. Create funding mechanisms, like innovation grants or venture capital, to support youth-led startups focused on Centre for the Study of Adolescence (CSA) and agtech.

7. Pair experienced young farmers or agripreneurs with novices to provide guidance on business planning, market access, and technology adoption. Use digital platforms for virtual mentorship to reach rural youth.

8. Harmonize national agricultural strategies (e.g., food security or export policies) with County-level plans to ensure youth are prioritized across the value chain. For example, align national agribusiness incentives with County-level youth training programs.

9. Incorporate agricultural entrepreneurship into school curricula and vocational training to prepare youth for diverse roles in the value chain.

Quote

"The future of our nation rests in the hands of the youth – agriculture is not punishment; it is an opportunity." –

Governor Kenneth Lusaka



Participants keenly listening to the ongoing discussions on youth empowerment

1.8.23 Sustainable Infrastructure & Urban Resilience; Promoting Equitable Development through Devolution

Convenor: National Construction Authority

Session Objective: To harness devolution for equitable development by prioritizing sustainable infrastructure and urban resilience, ensuring inclusive, climate-adaptive urban planning and resource allocation that empowers local communities.

Session Moderator: Dr Cyrus Babu Ong'ondo, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT)

Panellists

1. Arch. George Arabbu, President, Architectural Association of Kenya
2. Eng. Shammah Kiteme, President, Institute of Engineers of Kenya
3. Planner Fawcett K'omollon, President, Kenya Institute of Planners
4. Rose Kananu, General Manager, Kenya Property Developers Association



Panellists pose for a photo during discussions on Promoting Equitable Development through Devolution

Introduction

The session focused on the critical role of sustainable infrastructure and urban resilience in advancing equitable development through devolution. Discussions highlighted how the National Building Code (NBC) serves as a transformative tool, promoting inclusivity, innovation, and climate resilience at the County level. Panellists reflected on the challenges and opportunities in implementing the NBC, emphasizing the need for capacity building,

harmonization with planning frameworks, and broader stakeholder engagement especially with informal and semi-formal construction actors. The session also addressed urban issues such as open spaces, green infrastructure, and emerging technologies like electric mobility.

Emerging Issues

During the panel discussion, participants highlighted that most construction artisans in Kenya learn on the job, emphasizing the need for the National Building Code (NBC) to be made more accessible to informal builders, or Fundis, to improve compliance with standards. Panellists stressed the importance of differentiating between building control and development control to ensure effective enforcement and alignment with planning objectives. Counties were reported to face significant challenges, including staff shortages and a lack of qualified technical personnel, which hampers their ability to enforce building standards adequately.

Concerns were raised about approval processes prioritizing speed over quality, resulting in insufficient adherence to standards such as the Eurocodes. Urban development, particularly in emerging cities like Naivasha, was noted to lack adequate green and public open spaces. While the NBC currently addresses open spaces at a high level, panellists called for better integration with physical planning handbooks and urban plans. Professionals also emphasized the importance of preserving cultural diversity in building typologies to strengthen urban identity.

The discussion acknowledged emerging trends, such as sustainable mobility and e-mobility, highlighting the need for regular updates to the NBC to maintain relevance. Panellists advocated for continuous sensitization and education of both professional and informal sector stakeholders on NBC requirements. Finally, the session underscored that institutional collaboration is essential for embedding sustainability, resilience, and social justice into urban infrastructure and development.

Way forward/Action Points

- Simplify and popularize the NBC by translating it into formats understandable by informal construction workers and artisans.
- Strengthen County capacity by recruiting and

training sufficient qualified planners, engineers, and architects to enforce the NBC effectively.

- Mandate integration of green spaces in all urban development plans with minimum standards to ensure liveable environments.
- Align the NBC with planning instruments such as urban renewal plans, zoning regulations, and physical planning handbooks for coordinated development.
- Institutionalize a five-year review cycle for the NBC to incorporate technological advances, climate resilience measures, and evolving urban needs.

Quotes

"If we do not involve those building this country, the informal Fundis and self-trained artisans in the implementation process, we risk missing the mark on real impact." **Arch. George Arabbu**

"Planning is a tool for spatial justice, ensuring the variety and cultural identity of buildings reflect our diverse communities."

Planner Fawcett K'omollon

"Green spaces are not a luxury but a necessity for urban well-being; the code and plans must make this mandatory."

Ms. Rose Kananu

"We must think boldly about future infrastructure, integrating innovations like electric mobility into the building code."

Arch. George Arabbu

1.8.24 Unlocking County Trade Potential by Strengthening Local Value Chains for Inclusive Growth.

Convenor: State Department for Trade

Session Objective: The aim was to provide an interactive platform for the government and private sector to explore ways of unlocking County level trade opportunities to reduce inequalities thereby empowering vulnerable groups such as women and youth and addressing regional disparities.

Session Moderator: Peter Quest, Head of Youth Programs, Kenya School of Government

Panellists

1. Ms. Regina Ombam, Principal Secretary, State Department of Trade
2. Dr. Francis Ndwiga, Chair CECs Trade Caucus
3. Lucy Komen, Ag. CEO Warehouse Receipts System Council
4. Jacky Maloba, Chair, One Voice Women in Trade Network
5. Fanuel Kidenda, Ag. CEO, Kenya National Multi-Commodity Commodities Exchange Limited (KOMEX)
6. Lucy Anangwe, Managing Director, Kenya National Trading Corporation (KNTC)
7. Shalton Amolo, Founder and Director ELSO Farms Limited
8. Dr. Ehud Gachungu, Deputy CEO & Global Director, Youth and Jobs, Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA)
9. Felix Chege, Founder & CEO, Real Sources Africa
10. Floice Mukabana, Ag. CEO, Kenya Export Promotion Branding and Branding Agency (KEPROBA)
11. Daniel Owoko, Senior Advisor to the CS-MITI



Ongoing discussions on Unlocking County Trade Potential by Strengthening Local Value Chains for Inclusive Growth

Introduction

In her keynote remarks, PS. Ombam noted that the side event coincided with a critical moment in Kenya's economic transformation, driven by the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda, which seeks to enhance livelihoods through inclusive and sustainable growth. The ministry plays a central role in aggregating, adding value, and marketing within agricultural value chains, emphasizing trade as a vital catalyst for sustainable development by connecting farmers, manufacturers, service providers, and innovators to regional and global markets. Counties hold immense potential to drive Kenya's economic progress but unlocking this requires addressing bottlenecks that limit trade efficiency and competitiveness. The national government is committed to supporting Counties through a coherent policy framework and strategic projects while fostering a business-friendly environment. The presenter stressed that simplifying regulations and investing in critical infrastructure such as roads, energy, water, storage facilities, and market spaces is key to unlocking value chains in agriculture, tourism, mining, hospitality, and other sectors. These efforts, she noted, can stimulate localized growth while contributing significantly to national economic development.

Emerging Issues

During the panel discussion, speakers emphasized that Counties should identify and prioritize at least one value chain to develop local economic growth, with the national government supporting feasibility studies to attract investors. Panellists highlighted the importance of establishing certified commodity banks or warehouses in Counties, particularly supporting women and youth-led enterprises, to improve storage, trade efficiency, and market readiness. The discussion underscored promoting cross-border trade, stressing collaboration with groups, associations, and cooperatives to ensure that exported goods are competitive and of high quality.

Panellists also noted significant challenges affecting County-level business growth, including the high cost of doing business due to multiple and overlapping County licenses and high energy expenses. They observed a persistent lack of youth interest in agriculture and entrepreneurship, compounded by limited access to capital, which restricts the expansion of small and medium-sized enterprises. The panel highlighted that many entrepreneurs and farmers do

not form groups, associations, or cooperatives, limiting access to funding and other development opportunities. Furthermore, overlapping policies between national and County governments were cited as barriers, necessitating stronger policy alignment to facilitate economic activities.

The panel agreed that both national and County governments should actively support the operationalization of industrial parks to strengthen value chains and stimulate economic development. Participants also stressed the need for Counties to establish digital trading platforms and for the government to empower youth to engage in digital trade to broaden market access. Finally, they called for business-friendly reforms to cross-border trade policies, especially for youth and women, through targeted regulatory adjustments aimed at reducing barriers and encouraging inclusive economic participation.

Way forward/Action Points

1. The government should enhance digital capabilities to tap into a huge number of digitally active youths in a bid to unlock trade potential in Counties. Use of AI technologies and digital marketing mechanisms to grant them access to the digital market.
2. There is need for a participatory approach between national and subnational levels of government, partners and traders to strengthen engagement to support SMEs at the local level.
3. The County governments should support and give visibility to youth owned value chains to enable them get access to cross border markets.
4. Counties should strive to identify and specialize in one value chain thereby investing heavily to enhance production and boost local economies. Invest in aggregation centres and industrial parks.
5. The government should create a platform for information sharing and awareness creating among the youth to ensure that they embrace entrepreneurship. Organize a hackathon in both levels of government.
6. Facilitate MSMEs, women and youth groups to access market and financial opportunities.
7. Establish and empower local incubation hubs.

1.8.25 Sparking Change, Saving Lives for Mothers and Babies: Lessons from Exemplar Facilities

Convenor: AMREF

Session Objective: To identify, analyse, and disseminate the key practices and strategies employed by exemplar healthcare facilities that have successfully improved maternal and newborn survival rate.

Session Moderator: Scholar Wabwire, Program Officer, Reproductive, Maternal, and Newborn Health (RMNH) Monitoring, Evaluation, Research & Learning, Ministry of Health

Panellists

1. Prof. Elijah Songok, Director General & CEO, Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), Keynote Speaker
2. Fidelina Ndunge, Program Manager, Amref, Session Chair
3. Dr. Gordon Okomo, County Health Director, Homa Bay County
4. Janelika Kagundu, Nursing Services Manager, Gatundu Hospital, Kiambu County
5. Christine Ogolla, Senior Nurse Midwife, Pumwani Maternity Hospital, Nairobi County
6. Dr. Sheila Sanga, Paediatrician, St. Clare Hospital, Bomet County
7. Dr. Peter Kamau, Director of Medical Services, Kiambu County



Lessons from exemplar facilities on Sparking Change and Saving Lives for Mothers and Babies

Introduction

The side event explored innovative, evidence-based approaches to reduce maternal and newborn deaths in Kenya, drawing lessons from high-performing Counties and facilities. It emphasized that maternal

and newborn health is not just a healthcare challenge but a socio-economic and human rights priority requiring coordinated action. The discussion highlighted disparities across Counties, systemic bottlenecks, and proven enablers that can be scaled nationally to save lives.

Emerging Issues

In his keynote address, Prof. Songok positioned maternal and newborn health (MNH) as a pivotal social justice and development concern, highlighting the profound societal impact of maternal and neonatal deaths. He noted that the loss of a mother undermines the stability of families and communities, while the death of a newborn represents a loss of future potential and human capital. In Kenya, maternal mortality remains critically high at 355 per 100,000 live births, far exceeding the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of fewer than 70, while neonatal mortality stands at 21 per 1,000 live births, surpassing the SDG goal of under 12. Evidence from KEMRI's Children and Mothers Partnerships (CHAMPS) and PRISMA studies underscores that most stillbirths and neonatal deaths are preventable through timely, effective interventions, yet systemic challenges continue to hinder progress.

These challenges include delayed antenatal care attendance, limited access to skilled healthcare providers, frequent stock-outs of essential supplies, inconsistent quality of care, and workforce shortages, particularly of specialists covering nights, weekends, and holidays. High-burden Counties and facilities account for a disproportionate share of maternal and neonatal deaths, highlighting opportunities for targeted, high-impact interventions. Conversely, exemplar Counties such as Nyeri, Lamu, Samburu, Kiambu, and Homa Bay, along with facilities like Pumwani, Gatundu, and St. Clare Kaplong, have demonstrated measurable reductions in mortality through strong leadership, accountability, process improvement, and community engagement. The AMREF Change Model was highlighted as an effective framework for sustainable MNH improvements, combining leadership development, process enhancements, cultural transformation, and adequate resourcing.

Panel discussions further reinforced several emerging issues, including the high concentration of maternal

and neonatal deaths in a small number of Counties and facilities, inadequate early risk detection with late Antenatal Care (ANC) attendance, and persistent workforce shortages that compromise 24/7 service coverage. Weak referral systems and inconsistent application of clinical guidelines impede timely care, while limited community-facility linkages reduce early Recognition of danger signs and delay referrals. Supply chain gaps for life-saving commodities remain a significant barrier, and there is a pressing need for stronger political and leadership commitment to elevate MNH as a priority in County agendas. Finally, insufficient integration between health and social sectors such as roads, water, and energy continues to restrict access to essential care, underscoring the necessity of multi-sectoral approaches to improve maternal and newborn health outcomes across Kenya.

Way forward/Action Points

1. Strengthen MPDSR systems across all facilities, ensuring non-punitive, learning-oriented reviews and timely follow-up on recommendations.
2. Scale proven low-cost, high-impact interventions such as Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC, MEOWS, Modified, Early, Obstetric Warning System (MEOW), heat-stable carbetocin, and human milk banks.
3. Invest in workforce capacity, increase specialist availability, institutionalize regular Childhood Maltreatment Experiences (CMEs), mentorship, and simulations.
4. Enhance referral pathways with real-time communication, integrated CHP roles, and dedicated maternal ambulances.
5. Foster political and executive leadership commitment at County and facility levels.
6. Institutionalize structured handovers and role clarity to improve continuity of care.
7. Leverage technology (telemedicine, AI-enabled foetal monitoring) for remote specialist input and better decision-making.
8. Build community trust and engagement through incentives, outreach, and involvement of TBAs in

referral systems.

9. Improve data use shifts from data collection to actionable insights guiding decisions and resources.
10. Mobilize domestic resources to sustain gains beyond donor funding.

1.8.26 Public Health Priorities for Cleaner and Safer Communities in Kenya

Convenor: State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards

Session Objective: To establish and implement a strategic framework for improving environmental health and public safety, ensuring cleaner and safer communities across Kenya.

Session Moderator: Dr. Sultani Matendebero, Senior Deputy Director, Ministry of Health, Public Health and Professional Standards

Panellists

1. Chipo Takawira, World Health Organisation (WHO) Representative
2. Ann Mathu, Vice Chairperson, National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA)
3. Dr. Abraham Rugo, Executive Director, Bajeti Hub
4. Joel Gitali, Chairperson, Kenya Tobacco Control Alliance



Dr. Sultani Matendebero welcoming the Panellists to the discussions

1.8.26.1 Session Part I: Tobacco control and drug abuse management

Introduction

In her message, the Principal Secretary for Public Health highlighted Kenya's significant progress in reducing tobacco use, with prevalence dropping from 11.6% in 2014 to 8.5% in 2022, driven by high taxes, strict regulations, and robust awareness campaigns. However, challenges persist, particularly with over

650,000 adolescents experimenting with tobacco or nicotine products and the rising popularity of flavoured nicotine pouches among university students.

The Ministry of Health has responded with a multi-agency strategy, a completed review of the Tobacco Control Act 2007, enforcement operations seizing illicit products, and a nationwide awareness campaign rolled out across all 47 Counties from November 2024 to 2025. Support for farmers transitioning from tobacco to sustainable agriculture has expanded in Counties like Meru, Migori, Bungoma, and Busia, alongside plans for integrated outpatient cessation centres to provide counselling and recovery support. Strategic partnerships with research institutions and the national treasury have strengthened evidence-based policies and increased tobacco taxes. A special side event at the devolution conference, themed “Strengthening Devolved Responses to Drugs and Substance Abuse,” scheduled for August 14th, will foster collaboration between national and County governments to develop localized solutions to drug and substance abuse.

The Panellists further addressed pressing public health challenges related to tobacco use and drug abuse. Their discussions emphasized the critical role of County governments in implementing effective policies to combat these issues, aligning with the conference theme of promoting equity, inclusion, and social justice through devolution.



Discussion on Public Health Priorities for Cleaner and Safer Communities in Kenya ongoing

Emerging Issues

The panel discussion highlighted several emerging issues around public health, with a particular focus on tobacco control and drug abuse management at the County level. Tobacco use continues to pose significant health risks, contributing to 1.7% of deaths in Kenya, while second-hand smoke further

endangers public health. Panellists noted that global and national policies, including the 2023 tobacco control treaty, aim to protect future generations by reducing tobacco-related mortality, enhancing quality of life, preventing youth initiation, and increasing smoking cessation rates.

Drug abuse was identified as an area where County responsibility remains underutilized. Although the Kenyan Constitution assigns Counties the mandate to control drugs and pornography, interventions are often centralized, and recovery efforts face high relapse rates due to limited socio-psychological support from families and communities. Policy and implementation gaps were also discussed, including insufficient monitoring, inadequate funding, and weak coordination, which hinder the effectiveness of County-level interventions. Counties like Baringo, which have enacted local laws and established surveillance and support mechanisms, were highlighted as positive examples, though there remains a need for robust licensing frameworks and dedicated resources for rehabilitation centres.

Finally, panellists emphasized the critical role of grassroots actors and civil society organizations in supporting Counties to design and implement community-driven policies, underscoring that sustainable public health outcomes require multi-sectoral collaboration and local engagement.

Way forward/Action Points

1. Implement tobacco control policies and fully enforce the 2023 tobacco control treaty to reduce youth initiation, promote smoking cessation, and protect non-smokers through stringent regulations and public awareness campaigns.
2. Integrate drug abuse into County health systems through incorporation of drug abuse into health packages, adopting best practices like Baringo's local laws and leveraging technologies such as AI for enhanced surveillance and efficiency. Establish committees in every County, allocating 15% of resources to rehabilitation efforts.
3. Enhance funding and coordination and ring-fence resources for rehabilitation centres, ensure sustained funding, and provide ongoing training to improve coordination at the County level. Strengthen partnerships with CSOs to foster grassroots

participation in policy development.

4. Strengthen rehabilitation and monitoring by investing in rehabilitation centres with comprehensive socio-psychological support to reduce relapse rates. Implement robust monitoring systems to track drug use onset and enable early interventions.



Panellists contributing to the discussions

1.8.26.2 Session Part II: Epuka Uchafu Afya Nyumbani Campaign

The second part of the side event centred on the nationwide Epuka Uchafu Afya Nyumbani campaign, a primary health care and WASH-driven initiative to prevent disease through personal and environmental hygiene, health protection at points of entry, and access to clean water and sanitation. Stakeholders from County governments, NGOs (AMREF, UNICEF), faith-based health networks, Christian Health Association of Kenya (CHAK), and Kenya Red Cross aligned on multi-sectoral collaboration, monthly Public Health Action Days, child- and school-centred behaviour change, and scalable County activation. Commitments were made to resource mobilization, policy alignment, and coordinated rollout across additional Counties, emphasizing prevention as the backbone of UHC.



Participants keenly following the discussions



Participants keenly following the discussions

Emerging Issues

The panel discussion focused on the Epuka Uchafu Afya Nyumbani initiative, a nationwide effort to enhance hygiene and sanitation across Kenyan Counties. Panellists emphasized a multi-sectoral approach, advocating for active participation from all County departments to address disease drivers holistically. A County-level hygiene program covering 219 health facilities was highlighted as a model, incorporating routine cleanliness days, supportive supervision, standard operating procedures for public toilet cleaning, provision of protective equipment, improved waste management through the closure of legacy dumpsites, and climate-sensitive interventions such as nutrition and stress-reducing landscaping in health facilities.

The critical role of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) in strengthening primary healthcare and reducing preventable diseases like diarrheal and respiratory illnesses was underscored. A County's achievement of open defecation-free status, which significantly reduced diarrheal diseases, was cited as

evidence of WASH's impact. Panellists committed their organizations' support for the initiative, advocating for national campaigns linking cleanliness with health and economic benefits. They proposed a collaborative approach involving Counties, national agencies, civil society, faith-based organizations, and partners, including clergy and teachers as hygiene champions, to ensure sustainable integration of WASH into healthcare systems and continuous tracking of progress.

Speakers highlighted the potential of leveraging platforms such as churches, schools, and colleges to disseminate hygiene messages, stressing co-creation during program design to ensure contextually relevant interventions. Controlled piloting at community and facility levels was recommended to maximize impact. Youth engagement emerged as a key driver, with youth clubs positioned to sustain behaviour change and support County-specific cleanup policies. Schools were recognized as critical entry points for promoting hygiene, linking WASH with nutrition programs, and treating educational institutions as extensions of community health strategies. Panellists advocated for increased budget allocations for WASH, peer-to-peer learning through school health clubs, and the inclusion of children in community-led sanitation initiatives to promote gender equity and improve health outcomes.

The session concluded with remarks from Dr. Agnes Ochilo, First Lady of Migori County, who accepted the role of County champion for the Epuka Uchafu Afya Nyumbani initiative. She emphasized Migori's heightened public health risks as a major port of entry and highlighted challenges including cholera and mpox outbreaks, exacerbated by flood- and drought-prone areas. Dr. Ochilo shared her existing multi-sectoral initiatives, including a steering committee with the Principal Secretary, the County's first Nutrition-WASH conference, expansion of sickle cell clinics, fistula repairs, empowerment of widow groups, distribution of ECD chairs, piloting school feeding programs, Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination advocacy, and mentorship programs for schoolgirls and boys.

Dr. Ochilo committed to mobilizing community engagement to embed hygiene practices into daily life, ensuring sustainability beyond ceremonial events. She proposed revisiting the scheduling of Public Health Action Days to better align with local cultural

and religious practices, thereby enhancing participation and impact. Her remarks emphasized a vision of sustained, community-driven change, demonstrating how County leadership can champion hygiene and sanitation while contributing to broader public health and development goals.

Way forward/Action Points

1. Adopt and Localize Public Health Action Days: Implement monthly Public Health Action Days with County-specific flexibility to align with local cultural and religious contexts, ensuring consistent, nationwide activation to promote hygiene and sanitation practices.
2. Strengthen School-Centred WASH: Scale school-centred Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) programs, ensuring adequate toilets, menstrual hygiene management (MHM) facilities, handwashing stations, and safe water, while embedding hygiene education in early childhood development (ECD) curricula to foster lifelong habits.
3. Leverage Faith and Community Platforms: Utilize faith-based platforms to deliver brief hygiene messages during worship services and engage youth networks, such as community clubs, to lead cleanups and promote behaviour change through peer education and local innovations.
4. Promote Multi-Sectoral Governance: Establish interdepartmental teams across health, water, environment, and education sectors to coordinate efforts, integrating civil society organizations to ensure inclusive and effective governance for sanitation initiatives.
5. Enhance Budgeting and Resource Consolidation: Advocate for increased sanitation budget allocations in County Annual Development Plans (ADPs) and County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs), consolidating fragmented funding streams to support cohesive WASH interventions across sectors.
6. Address Points of Entry and Waste Management: Implement standard operating procedures (SOPs) and inspections at high-risk points of entry, such as borders and transport corridors, and transition legacy dumpsites to modern landfills to mitigate disease spread and environmental health risks.

7. Sustain Initiatives Beyond Ceremonial Days: Embed hygiene and sanitation practices in daily community routines through continuous engagement, ensuring long-term behaviour change beyond one-off public health events.

8. Establish a National Collaborative: Create a cross-partner collaborative to coordinate the design, delivery, and monitoring of the initiative, standardizing SOPs, toolkits, and monitoring frameworks to enhance accountability and scalability across Counties.

1.9 DAY 3: FINANCING EQUITY AND INCLUSION

1.9.1 Financing Social Sectors for Equity and Inclusion at Devolved Level

Convenor: UNICEF

Session Objective: To examine the role of subnational governments in promoting access to financial opportunities to address systemic economic inequalities and disparities. This session aims to trigger candid conversations on allocation of resources to address systemic inequalities and promote fairness in the access of finances by all

Session Moderator: Paul Kuria, Director Programs and Research, National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC)

Panellists

1. Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o, Governor, Kisumu County
2. Dr. Boniface Makoha, PS State Department for Economic Planning
3. Dr. Gabby Guerrero, UNICEF
4. Eldah Onsomo, Ag. Executive Director, Kenya Institute for Public Policy and Research (KIPPRA)
5. Careen Agengo, PS State Department for Children Services
6. Mendi Njonjo, Director, Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) Foundation
7. Wangui Karanja, Chief of UNICEF, Kisumu Field Office

Introduction



Governor Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o, Kisumu County giving his remarks during the discussions on Financing Social Sectors for Equity and Inclusion at Devolved Level



Panellists pose for a photo after the discussions

This session, organized by UNICEF, KIPPRA, and KNBS, focused on the intersection of child vulnerability and women's empowerment in Kenya, coinciding with the launch of two key reports. Brighter Futures evaluates the vulnerability of Kenyan children and explores its links to women's empowerment, while the Women's Empowerment Report introduces a metric to measure and track women's empowerment across the country, highlighting areas for targeted intervention.

In a compelling address, the Principal Secretary emphasized that children Kenya's future must have their needs for health, nutrition, and education prioritized. They highlighted that over half of Kenyan children experience multidimensional poverty, with the highest deprivation rates in Mandera, Wajir, and Marsabit. The PS further underscored women's empowerment as a critical lever for social

transformation, noting that empowered women are more likely to secure essential services for their children. They called for urgent action to expand inclusive child benefits, improve rural nutrition, invest in education, strengthen child protection systems, enhance climate resilience, and advance women's empowerment as a foundation for sustainable child development.

Emerging Issues

The panel discussion centred on tackling multidimensional child poverty in Kenya, examining systemic challenges and identifying practical solutions to strengthen social sector investments and coordination. Panellists collectively emphasized the need for coordinated, people-centred, and evidence-based interventions that prioritize efficient resource allocation, cross-sectoral collaboration, and the empowerment of households and communities to achieve sustainable development outcomes.

Speakers highlighted the pressures of population growth on social services, noting that households experiencing multiple deprivations are often unreached due to imprecise data on the most vulnerable children. Counties, critical for delivering health, water, and education services, allocate roughly 42% of their budgets to social sectors but frequently operate in isolation, resulting in fragmented interventions. Challenges include siloed operations, a focus on infrastructure (hardware) over systems and services (software), inefficient targeting, and exposure to external shocks such as floods, droughts, and inflation.

The discussion called for the establishment of a dedicated state department for children's services to systematically address child poverty. Panellists cited initiatives like cash-plus transfers for pregnant mothers and school feeding programs targeting ASAL regions and urban informal settlements, emphasizing the importance of evidence-based needs assessments to ensure resources effectively address specific deprivations.

While recognizing the necessity of infrastructure investments, the panel stressed that development outcomes are maximized when spending prioritizes people—particularly children, mothers, and health workers. Despite increased social sector budgets at both national and County levels, gaps remain in sanitation, housing, and water access, which continue

to worsen. Hidden drivers of deprivation were identified, including low education levels among household heads, orphanhood, co-residence with persons with disabilities, and young maternal age at first birth, whereas higher maternal education and empowerment, as well as being female, correlated with reduced deprivation.

The panellists concluded by advocating for sustained investment in social sectors, with particular emphasis on early childhood development and expanded social protection programs. They emphasized that targeted, well-coordinated investment is essential to reducing child poverty, building human capital, and bridging the gap between social sector spending and tangible poverty reduction outcomes.



Panellists pose for a group photo after the launch of the reports on Children and women

Way forward/Action Points

1. Adopting a convergence approach with coordinated budgets across departments, prioritizing investment in functional systems over new infrastructure, and focusing on household economic strengthening to make social protection a springboard rather than a permanent safety net.
2. National and County governments should upscale efforts to mobilize resources for social sectors—health, nutrition, education, social protection, and WASH through innovative financing mechanisms.
3. The national government should expand social protection to reduce child poverty and build human capital. Expanding cash transfers to vulnerable families with children.
4. The County governments should enhance investment in early childhood development for inclusive growth. Kenya must double its spending on ECD per child to reduce rising inequalities.

5. Multi-sectoral approach to address children's needs and vulnerability early in life through timely interventions.

6. Ring fence the budget allocation for health and education and also come up with ways of mobilizing resources to fund activities supporting the most vulnerable children.

7. Incentivizing models like food for education to ensure that the number of school enrolment increases.

8. Amplifying women's agency in household and community decision making and challenging harmful social norms that perpetuate gender-based violence.

9. Have a collaboration approach between both levels of government to ensure that the most vulnerable children in the society are reached.

10. Mobilizing innovative financing for social sector transformation. Public-private partnerships to unlock jobs, boost MSMEs, and create sustainable livelihoods in every County.

Quotes

"Too often, the focus is on roads and buildings-but real development is a bout people. Infrastructure is important-it's the investment in children, mothers and health workers that truly transform",

Gaby Guerrero.

1.9.2 County Energy Futures: Liquefied Petroleum Gas LPG Infrastructure & Fiscal Planning in County Energy Strategy

Convenor: Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA)

Session Objective: To have an interactive discussion around the future of County energy, focusing on financing, equity, and inclusion. Importantly, the role of County governments in energy development would be explored. How could Counties embrace Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) growth identifying various strategies and infrastructure and further explore the national plan to increase LPG use and the regulatory frameworks needed at the local level.

Session Moderator: Dr. Sultani Matendechero, Senior

Deputy Director, Ministry of Health, Public Health and Professional Standards

Session Moderator: Norman Mudibo, Communications Expert and Award-winning journalist

Panellists

1. Stella Opakas, Deputy Director of Mid and Downstream Petroleum, Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA)
2. Elly Odhiambo, National Coordinator, Clean Cooking Association of Kenya (CCAK)
3. Stanley Okati, Director, Multi Energy Limited MENGAS
4. Wilfred Kenga Baya, Caucus Chair County Energy Directors in Kenya
5. Newton Munyolo, Manager for Pricing & Competition, Energy & Petroleum regulatory Authority (EPRA)
6. Dr. Stephen Ikikii, Alternate to the Cabinet Secretary, the National Treasury
7. Benard Osawa, Chair of the Energy Sector Board & Governor of the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA).
8. Anna Mwangi, Assistant Manager, KenGen
9. Cynthia Muhati, Acting Chief Executive Officer & Executive Secretary, Kenya Renewable Energy Association

Introduction



Panellists contributing to discussions on County Energy Futures

The first session focused on the LPG growth strategy and infrastructure in the Counties. EPRA aimed to transition 80% of Kenyans from biomass to LPG by 2026, targeting a 6.5 kg increase in LPG consumption. Key challenges included affordability, distribution, and safety. Counties like Kilifi were leveraging existing networks and engaging investors to increase LPG availability. The Clean Cooking Association of Kenya (CCAK) supported policy advocacy, market activation,

and infrastructure development. Further, industry challenges included regulatory compliance, safety, and pricing. EPRA emphasized its role in ensuring safety and compliance, and the need for collaboration among all stakeholders.



A panellist contributing to the discussions

and infrastructure development. Further, industry challenges included regulatory compliance, safety, and pricing. EPRA emphasized its role in ensuring safety and compliance, and the need for collaboration among all stakeholders.

The second panel session addressed fiscal planning and energy access in Kenya, emphasizing collaboration between national and County governments. Key points included the need for inclusive energy plans, resource allocation, and public investment. Speakers highlighted the role of Counties in generating revenue and maintaining affordable energy prices. Private sector models like solar-powered mini-grids and biogas projects were discussed and the importance of capacity building and leveraging available funding. Furthermore, geothermal energy's significant contribution to the national grid and its local economic benefits was also highlighted with the need for better coordination and trust between levels of government and the private sector.

Emerging Issues

The panel discussion highlighted the critical role of private sector innovations in driving energy adoption in Kenya. Solutions such as solar-powered mini-hybrids and pay-as-you-go systems are expanding access, while County-level energy services, particularly for industrial and commercial users, are supporting local economic growth and demonstrating scalability potential. However, challenges persist, including last-mile delivery barriers, instances of harassment of County officials, and trust deficits

between stakeholders. Renewable energy initiatives offer broad socio-economic benefits, including job creation and empowerment of youth and women, aligning with Kenya's ambition to achieve 100% green energy dependence.

Geothermal energy was emphasized as a major contributor to the national grid, providing both infrastructure development and employment opportunities. County governments play a pivotal role in facilitating geothermal projects and fostering public acceptance, although gaps in coordination between national and County levels, as well as challenges in groundwater management, were noted. Properly harnessed, geothermal resources can also stabilize the national energy grid.

Regulation of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) by EPRA ensures compliance, safety, and efficiency, with tax reductions improving affordability. Counties are promoting LPG adoption through vendor networks and institutional conversions, targeting hospitals, schools, and other public facilities, with a goal of reaching 80% population transition by 2026. The Clean Cooking Association of Kenya (CCAK) contributes to policy development and awareness raising. Yet challenges remain, including safety concerns from accidents and low-quality accessories, weak County coordination, and shifting land-use designations that can undermine investor confidence.

The panel underscored the need for policy adjustments and fiscal incentives to strengthen County-level renewable energy projects. Obstacles such as inadequate resource allocation, lack of inclusive energy planning, and limited access to climate finance hinder progress. The Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA) was highlighted as playing a key role in funding formulas, while improved coordination between national and County governments, aligned financing strategies, and access to climate finance were recommended to support sustainable energy initiatives.

Counties also face business-related challenges, including harassment, disrupted land-use planning, and trust gaps, which can deter investors. Despite these obstacles, significant opportunities exist, particularly in institutional LPG adoption and related economic empowerment initiatives. The panel emphasized that clear incentives, stakeholder collaboration through conferences, and enhanced

and infrastructure development. Further, industry challenges included regulatory compliance, safety, and pricing. EPRA emphasized its role in ensuring



Panellists and participants pose for a group photo

Way forward/Action Points

1. Counties should create integrated energy plans for renewable and geothermal projects, leveraging available funding and grants.
 - a. Facilitate geothermal initiatives through public engagement and adherence to physical planning regulations to ensure investor confidence and grid stability.
 - b. Enhance expertise in engineering and geothermal fields and improve national-County coordination for resource utilization.
2. Counties should promote LPG through vendors and institutional conversions (e.g., hospitals, schools), aligning with the 80% transition goal by 2026.
 - a. Enforce EPRA-led regulations, conduct public education campaigns, and collaborate with agencies like the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions to address safety concerns.
 - b. Encourage local cylinder production and maintain stable land-use policies to boost investor confidence.
3. Implement resource-sharing mechanisms to support inclusive energy planning between national and County levels.
4. Convene stakeholder conferences to improve collaboration and align financing strategies with national energy goals.
5. Ensure access to climate finance through transparent processes and clear incentives.
6. Counties should eliminate business harassment,

stop demanding funds, and ensure justice and trust in business relationships.

7. Build technical capacity, raise public awareness, and adhere to long-term planning to attract sustainable investments.

1.9.3 Securing the Future: Financing Immunization for Resilient Health Systems

Convenor: HENNET

Session Objective: To strengthen resilient health systems by developing sustainable financing mechanisms for immunization programs, ensuring equitable access and long-term security for public health

Session Moderator: Faith Ndungu, Advocacy and Communications Manager, HENNET

Panellists

1. Governor, Benjamin Cheboi, Baringo County
2. Dr. Ouma Oluga, Principal Secretary, Medical Services
3. Hon. Dr. Jackson Kosgei, Nominated MP (Disability Representative)
4. Dr. Sunday Ogolla, Director of Medical Services, Kisumu County
5. Dr. Margaret Lubaale, Executive Director, Health NGOs Network (HENNET)
6. Sarah Atieno, Community Champion



Panellists contributing to discussions on Financing Immunization for Resilient Health Systems

Introduction

The session was convened by HENNET, brought together a diverse panel of County leaders, civil society organizations (CSOs), development partners, legislators, and technical experts. The goal was to unpack the critical issue of sustainable domestic financing for immunization within the broader

framework of UHC and Primary Health Care (PHC). The session aligned with the day's theme of Financing Equity and Inclusion, examining how devolution can be harnessed to ensure equitable access to life-saving vaccines, particularly for underserved populations in marginalized and remote areas. Discussions also addressed integration of services, energy-health linkages, the role of CSOs, and legislative pathways to ensure Kenya's immunization agenda is truly for the people and supports inclusive prosperity.

Emerging Issues

The panel discussion highlighted several critical issues affecting immunization and primary healthcare financing in Kenya. Heavy reliance on donor funding for vaccine procurement and programming was identified as unsustainable, particularly as Kenya approaches the Gavi transition, underscoring the urgent need for domestic resource mobilization. Immunization budgets remain either absent or poorly visible in both national and County government budgets, and there is a notable lack of ring-fenced financing for vaccines and primary healthcare, despite these interventions being cost-effective and high impact.

The session also raised concerns about disinformation and vaccine hesitancy, amplified by social media, which continues to threaten uptake, particularly in rural communities. Integration of immunization into primary healthcare is further hindered by fragmented financing models and limited facility-level costing, while the role of men in child health and immunization decisions is frequently overlooked, despite their influence as household decision-makers.

County capacities vary significantly in terms of integrating HIV services, vaccine delivery, and health product management. Infrastructure challenges, particularly electricity and power reliability, remain a barrier to maintaining cold chains in rural and hard-to-reach facilities. Solarization has emerged as a promising solution, though high upfront costs limit uptake without strategic partnerships.

CSOs and community health promoters (CHPs) were recognized as essential actors in delivering immunization and health services, yet they often lack structured financing and formal Recognition within budgets. Finally, the panel noted that legislative avenues exist to institutionalize immunization

financing through both Parliament and County Assemblies, presenting an opportunity to secure sustainable, long-term support for vaccine delivery and primary healthcare.



Panellists and participants pose for a group photo

Way forward/Action Points

1. Legislate ring-fenced immunization financing at national and County levels through collaboration with Parliament and Treasury.
2. Develop a National Immunization Sustainability Strategy anchored in PHC and integrated service delivery.
3. Create structured costing models for vaccine services at all levels to enhance budget transparency and efficiency.
4. Promote solarization of health facilities, especially in off-grid Counties, through public-private partnerships.
5. Strengthen public education campaigns to counter disinformation and increase vaccine confidence.
6. Engage and train male champions to become immunization advocates in their communities.
7. Institutionalize CSO and CHP roles in service delivery with clear financing lines and Recognition in County health plans.
8. Link immunization efforts with industrialization and energy planning, especially in the context of local vaccine manufacturing.
9. Integrate UHC and immunization accountability frameworks into public participation during budgeting processes.

Quotes

"You only own the house when you start putting the mud yourself. Vaccines must be owned by the government, not left to donors."

– Dr. Sunday Ogolla

"Health is not a cost. It is an investment. We must change that mindset and reflect it in our budgets."

– Dr. Margaret Lubaale

"Petition Parliament. Don't just talk - bring us structured demands. We will table them in the House."

– Hon. Dr. Jackson Kosge

1.9.4 Strengthening Ecosystem Collaboration and Public Private Partnerships for Improved Financing and Investment in Healthcare Across Kenyan Counties

Convenor: Open Phences

Session Objective: To enhance healthcare financing and investment across Kenyan Counties by fostering robust ecosystem collaboration and public-private partnerships, ensuring sustainable and equitable access to quality healthcare services.

Session Moderator: Prof. Francis Wafula, Executive Director, Open Phences

Facilitators: Lizz Ntonjira-Zero Malaria Campaign Coalition-Co Chair and Abel Mutua-Film Maker, Zero Malaria Starts with me, Kenya Ambassador

Panellists

1. Governor, Benjamin Cheboi, Baringo County
2. Dr. Ouma Oluga, Principal Secretary, Medical Services
3. Hon. Dr. Jackson Kosgei, Nominated MP (Disability Representative)

4. Dr. Sunday Ogolla, Director of Medical Services, Kisumu County

5. Dr. Margaret Lubaale, Executive Director, Health NGOs Network (HENNET)

6. Sarah Atieno, Community Champion



Ongoing discussions on Improved Financing and Investment in Healthcare Across Kenyan Counties

Introduction

The opening session on "Institutionalizing Public-Private Collaborations in Healthcare in Kenyan Counties" convened national and County leaders, private sector partners, development actors, and academia. Facilitators emphasized the urgency of strengthening County health systems amidst declining donor funding, exploring innovative financing, governance, and collaboration models to sustain healthcare delivery and accelerate progress toward UHC. The session also celebrated Homa Bay County's achievements in malaria control, highlighting lessons in PPPs and community-driven interventions.

Key Highlights:

1. County Leadership and Success Stories: Governor Gladys Wanga presented Homa Bay County's success in reducing malaria prevalence from 17% to 3.6%, attributing the gains to integrated interventions, robust community engagement, targeted distribution of insecticide-treated nets, indoor residual spraying, strengthened diagnostics, and empowered community health workers. She emphasized that sustaining these gains requires mobilizing domestic resources, embedding resilience in primary healthcare, and deepening public-private collaboration.



2. Government Framework and Support: Dr. Terry Kamau, on behalf of Principal Secretary Mary Muthoni Muriuki, highlighted government support for PPPs through key legislative frameworks, the Social Health Insurance Act (2023), Primary Healthcare Act (2023), Facility Improvement Financing Act (2023), and Digital Health Act (2023). The Ministry of Health, together with the COG, is developing the Kenya Health Public-Private Collaboration Strategy and a Resource Toolkit to guide Counties in establishing effective partnerships.



3. National Treasury and PPC Directorate Initiatives: Eng. Keffa Seda detailed how PPPs are enhancing County health systems by leveraging private capital, expertise, and innovation. Key initiatives include:

- Meru Teaching and Referral Hospital: a 50-bed oncology unit with diagnostic and treatment facilities.
- Pwani University Teaching and Referral Hospital: a 2,000-bed facility with centres for telemedicine, informatics, and specialized care.
- Moi and Kenyatta National Hospitals: expansions to accommodate staff, students, and patient families.

The Directorate stressed equity, gender and disability inclusion, affordability, and community-focused outcomes. Challenges highlighted include project delays due to administration changes, lack of experienced County PPC teams, and the need for consistent institutional memory.

1. Homa Bay Statement on Institutionalizing Performance-Based Payment Contracts (PPCs): The symbolic signing formalized stakeholders' commitment to institutionalizing healthcare PPPs. The statement establishes a "Healthy Partnerships Joint Learning Mechanism" for Counties to share knowledge, co-invest, and scale healthcare innovations. Partners agreed to progressively allocate at least 2% of project values to support cross-County learning, discussions, and the identification of scaling pathways. Signatories included County and national government leaders, private sector representatives, and development partners.

2. County Innovations and PPP Models

- **Homa Bay** – *Daktari Smart Telemedicine: Implemented in 5 Counties with 6 health facilities and a mobile unit, this PPP improves paediatric access to specialists through virtual consultations and community outreach. Over 5,500 children have received services, including advanced care for complex conditions. The project strengthens local healthcare capacity, enhances knowledge among healthcare workers, and improves community health promoter skills. Planned expansions include additional hubs, integration into routine services, and cost-effective operational models using local paediatricians.*

- **Tharaka Nithi** – *Chuka Referral Hospital Laboratory: The County partnered with a private provider to upgrade lab services, improve access to diagnostics, strengthen human resource capacity, and establish reliable supply chains. Outcomes include International Organisation for Standardization (ISO) certification in progress, expansion from 30 to over 40,000 tests annually, reduced reliance on external labs, and enhanced referral networks. Key enablers were the Facility Improvement Fund (FIF), governance and stakeholder engagement, revenue-sharing innovations, and political commitment.*

- **Nakuru County** – *Primary Healthcare Model: Nakuru established a model emphasizing ownership, alignment with County health priorities, and reinvestment of resources into facilities rather than external venues. Institutional arrangements include legal and policy frameworks, a Partnership Coordination Committee, and Technical Working Groups. Collaborations with multiple partners, including USAID, Afya Ugavi, Safaricom Mpesa Foundation, and AMREF, focus on equipping facilities, training healthcare workers, and improving service delivery. The partnership model prioritizes patient experience, efficiency, expanded reach, satisfaction, and equitable access.*

Symbolic signing of the ‘Homa Bay Statement’ on Institutionalizing Public-Private Collaborations in Healthcare in Kenya

The process of signing this partnership was spearheaded by Prof. Francis Wafula from Open Phences. There was a proposal for partners who work with County governments to put aside resources to

support the COG and partners to establish a joint learning mechanism for PPCs. This was a statement of intent to establish a mechanism that allows Counties to learn from each other on PPC and investments, so that Counties can learn from others' mistakes.

The proposal was for all partners who work with the national and County governments to progressively aim to allocate at least 2% of project value to support learning and discussions towards scaling, so that Counties can complete the health projects.

The symbolic signing was done as follows.

1. Governor, Gladys Wanga, Homabay County, on behalf of COG
2. Ms. Mary Muthoni, Principal Secretary, State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards, Ministry of Health
3. Hon. Jackson Mandago, Senator, Uasin Gishu County, on behalf of the Senate Committee
4. Dr. James Wambura Nyikal, Chair of the Parliament Health Committee
5. Dr. Kanyenje Gakombe, Chair, Kenya Health Federation, on behalf of the private sector
6. Dr. Bernard Olayo, Senior Health Specialist, Africa Region, World Bank, on behalf of partners.
7. Prof. Francis Wafula, Associate Professor, Strathmore Business School, on behalf of learning institutions.



Emerging Issues

The panel highlighted Kenya's unique position in advancing healthcare innovation and financing, noting that Nairobi serves as a hub for innovative funding, making governance, rather than resources, the primary challenge. With sound strategies, Counties can leverage these opportunities, scale

initiatives rapidly, and accelerate innovation.

Lessons from Counties like Makueni illustrate the value of partnerships. The County hosts an annual conference uniting over 100 partners across sectors, demonstrating how collaboration, particularly in health, enables the delivery of quality services while providing confidence to private investors through transparent project implementation. The growing Recognition of the private sector as a strategic partner was emphasized, with panellists noting that such collaborations not only improve service delivery but also generate revenue, underscoring the immense potential of public-private partnerships.

Strengthening the supply chain remains a work in progress, particularly in elevating KEMSA's performance. Programs like SHA have increased funding flowing directly to frontline providers, yet Counties must develop framework contracts with private vendors to complement KEMSA during stockouts. Panellists stressed that public funds alone are insufficient to meet healthcare needs, making it essential to mobilize private operational and capital resources.

Aligning incentives with outputs was identified as critical, as long queues and resource constraints can reinforce perceptions of patients as a burden. Performance-Based Payment Contracts (PPCs) were highlighted as an effective tool to align provider and patient interests. Panellists further emphasized the importance of structured, ongoing dialogue between private actors and County and national executives to identify high-impact collaborative opportunities. Transparency in all partnerships was deemed essential for trust and success.

Innovation was identified as a cost-effective strategy to improve care, focusing on reducing resource costs while maintaining high-quality services. Finally, the panel underscored the importance of actively involving frontline healthcare workers, communities, and households in identifying solutions that generate meaningful, practical improvements in healthcare delivery.



Panellists and participants pose for a photo after the discussions on Improved Financing and Investment in Healthcare Across Kenyan Counties

Way forward/Action Points

The panel session culminated in the formal adoption of a resolution on institutionalising healthcare investment and public-private collaborations in Kenyan Counties. The resolution underscores the importance of strengthening County-level health systems through evidence-driven partnerships, cross-sector learning, and structured mechanisms to promote innovation, accountability, and scalability.

The resolution further calls for the creation of communities of practice around specific healthcare areas, stronger integration of County experiences into national policy, enhanced multi-sectoral collaboration for initiatives such as malaria control, and transparent, accountable investment practices. It also encourages leveraging international best practices and dedicating a portion of project funds to joint learning activities, ensuring that lessons learned are scaled across Counties for maximum impact. The resolution is shown below.

The Homa Bay Statement-Resolutions

Institutionalising Healthcare Investment and Public-Private Collaborations in Kenyan Counties

We, the stakeholders from the public and private sectors, academia, development partners and community members attending the inaugural event on "Institutionalising Healthcare Investments and Public Private Collaborations in Kenyan Counties", at the 2025 Devolution Conference:

Extend gratitude to the leaders and people of Homa Bay County for hosting the event, particularly acknowledging Her Excellency, Governor Gladys Wanga's leadership on using partnerships, and the COG' hosting of the Devolution Conference to take

stock of progress made in devolution.

Extend gratitude to the Ministry of Health leadership on establishing structures to support County governments' movement towards UHC, particularly acknowledging Principal Secretary Mary Muthoni Muriuki's leadership in championing the establishment of a more robust health sector coordination and partnership framework.

Applaud the Kenya Healthcare Federation's efforts towards organising and giving voice to the private sector as a key partner in healthcare, and championing for increased collaboration with the public sector to meet the Country's health goals.

Welcome the commitment from both houses of parliament to establish a policy and regulatory framework that strengthens the public sector healthcare organisational autonomy and operations, and the private sector participation in health service delivery at national and County levels.

Acknowledge the Kenyan constitutional mandate of Counties being responsible for organising and delivering health services through the public and private sector, and the existence of policy, legal and regulatory instruments to support public-private collaborations and partnerships.

1.9.5 Empowering MSMEs through Sustainable Financing and Market Linkages

Convenor: Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Session Objective: To explore strategies for enhancing Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) growth through innovative financing, market access, capacity building, and strategic partnerships.

Session Moderator: Caroline Njuki, Chief Trade Officer, International Labour Organization (ILO)

Panellists

1. Farida Salim, CECM, Kisumu County
2. Patience Njau, Deputy Commissioner, KRA
3. Kenneth Onditi, National Director, KNCCI Nyanza Region
4. Eric Kiniti, Group Corporate Affairs Director, EABL
5. Justus Ewoi, Chairman, KNCCI, Turkana



Ms. Caroline Njuki welcoming the panellists to the session on Empowering MSMEs through Sustainable Financing and Market Linkages

Introduction

The keynote address by the KNCCI Chairperson underscored the central role of SMEs in driving innovation, building community resilience, and stimulating economic growth. While acknowledging their potential, the speech highlighted persistent challenges, particularly limited access to affordable finance, with surveys showing over 23% of SMEs struggling to secure capital. Women-owned and rural enterprises have been especially affected by declining access.

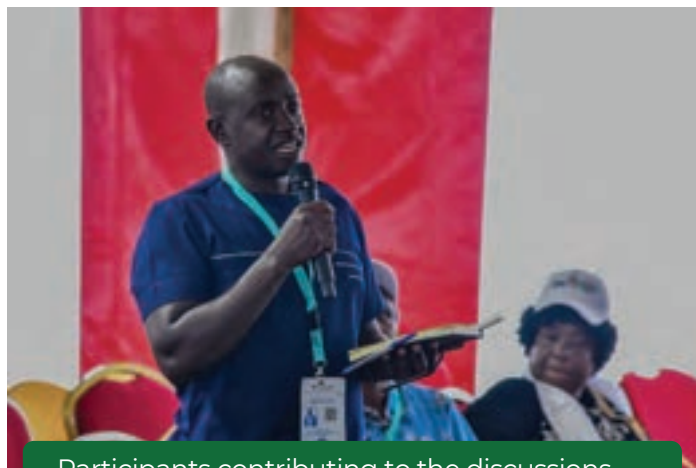
The government has introduced various financing initiatives, including the Hustler Fund, Women Enterprise Fund, Youth Enterprise Fund, Wezesha Fund, and the Credit Guarantee Scheme, which have disbursed billions to millions of beneficiaries. However, barriers such as collateral demands, small loan sizes, and short repayment periods continue to limit the reach and impact of these programs.

The address also showcased KNCCI's efforts in bridging these gaps through strategic partnerships such as the Jiinue Program with MasterCard Foundation, Equity Bank, and the African Guarantee Fund. These initiatives have provided financial literacy training to tens of thousands, linked SMEs to markets, facilitated billions in financing, and promoted digital transformation and sustainability. The Chairperson called on financial institutions to embrace blended financing models, County governments to create local credit guarantee schemes, and development partners to focus resources on women and youth enterprises. The overarching message was that improving access to finance is not merely about capital, but about unlocking the full potential of entrepreneurs, farmers, and manufacturers to scale their businesses and compete globally through coordinated action across sectors.

Emerging Issues

The panel discussion highlighted several pressing challenges facing MSMEs in Kenya, underscoring barriers to growth, competitiveness, and sustainability. Financing emerged as a major constraint, with high interest rates on loans discouraging borrowing and making the cost of capital prohibitive for businesses operating on thin profit margins. In addition, MSMEs often struggle with capacity and skills deficiencies, including weak bookkeeping and limited financial literacy, which impede effective operations and the ability to present credible financial statements to lenders.

Market access remains a significant hurdle, with many MSMEs perceived as lacking the capacity to handle large corporate contracts. Insufficient product quality standards and the absence of proper certification further restrict entry into premium markets that demand high compliance levels. Taxation and licensing were identified as ongoing challenges, with double taxation at both County and national levels creating financial strain, and inconsistent licensing procedures across Counties adding complexity and operational costs.



Participants contributing to the discussions

Regulatory compliance continues to be a barrier despite technological solutions like the Electronic Tax Invoice Management System (eTIMS), whose adoption is limited due to low awareness or technical capacity. Suppliers often lack proper receipts or understanding of digital tax systems, complicating compliance. Refugee-owned businesses face additional hurdles, including difficulties in obtaining Alien PINs and permanent identification, which limits their ability to participate fully in the formal economy. Limited access to financing, markets, and business support structures

further marginalizes refugee entrepreneurs, highlighting the need for policy interventions that integrate them into economic planning.



Participants contributing to the discussions

The discussion also noted that MSMEs underutilize academic institutions as a resource for growth and innovation. While universities offer research, innovation, and market solutions, MSMEs tend to rely on consultants, missing opportunities for collaborative problem-solving that could enhance operations, improve product development, and drive competitiveness. Cultural perceptions and mindsets, particularly regarding agribusiness, were identified as additional barriers, with many young people discouraged from pursuing agricultural enterprises due to perceptions of low viability or prestige.

Overall, the panel emphasized the need for targeted interventions to improve financing access, capacity building, regulatory alignment, market linkages, and cultural transformation to strengthen MSMEs and enable them to contribute effectively to Kenya's economic growth.

Way forward/Action Points

1. Develop affordable loans with flexible collateral, expand programs like Jinue to reach underserved MSMEs, and strengthen financial literacy on credit and cash flow management.
2. Facilitate MSME links to corporate supply chains, support compliance with quality standards and certifications, and create trade fairs and digital platforms for visibility.

3. Implement the standardized licensing law, harmonize County and national taxes to reduce double taxation, and expedite government pending bill settlements.

4. Partner with universities and academies for training on compliance, innovation, and business management, integrate digital skills, and provide entrepreneurship mentorship for women and youth.

5. Integrate refugee entrepreneurs into KNCCI and County plans, enable permanent refugee IDs and Alien PINs, and include refugee and host community businesses in County development plans.

6. Establish university innovation hubs for MSMEs and promote joint research to address market gaps and drive practical solutions.

7. Launch youth-focused campaigns showcasing agribusiness success and provide incentives like access to land and irrigation to attract young entrepreneurs.

1.9.6 Scaling Foundational Learning: Building Inclusive and Resilient Early Childhood Education Systems Together

Convenor: INPIRED-EDT

Session Objective: To explore collaborative strategies for scaling high-quality, inclusive foundational learning by strengthening early childhood education (ECE) systems.

Panellists

1. Martha Odundo, Director ECE Directorate, Ministry of Education
2. Kizito Wangalwa, Director, Committees, COG
3. Wanjiku Mbugua, Innovation and County Lead, Kenya, EdTech Hub
4. Everlyne Ngare, Director, Development and Partnerships, The Action Foundation
5. Charles Odol, Inclusion Lead, Education at Sightsavers
6. Dr. Karanja Mutitu, Head of Research & Development, Centre for Mathematics and STEM Education (CEMASTEAM)
7. Clotilda Nyongesa, Foundational Numeracy, CEMASTEAM
8. Gladys Masai, Director of Research & Innovation, CEMASTEAM Team



Panellists and participants pose for a group photo

Introduction

Early Childhood Education (ECE) is the cornerstone of lifelong learning and societal resilience. As Kenya advances foundational learning reforms, collaborative action across governments, innovators, and communities is critical to ensure equitable access and quality outcomes, especially for marginalized learners. This session brought together policymakers, technocrats, and practitioners to explore data-driven strategies, cross-sectoral partnerships, and inclusive models that can scale resilient ECE systems nationwide.



Dir. Kizito Wangalwa contributing to the discussions on Building Inclusive and Resilient Early Childhood Education Systems Together



Dir. Irene Ogamba giving her thoughts during the discussion



participants following on the discussions

Emerging Issues

The panel highlighted significant challenges in aligning national education policies, such as the Draft Foundational Learning Guidelines, with County-level implementation, particularly in ECE. While national frameworks provide comprehensive standards, Counties often struggle to adapt them due to variations in resources, capacity, and local priorities, resulting in inconsistent infrastructure, teacher training, and curriculum delivery. Coordination between the Ministry of Education and the COG remains limited, leading to uneven allocation of resources for teaching materials, infrastructure, and training programs.

Policy silos further hinder the effective integration of educational technologies (EdTech), as national solutions often overlook County-specific contexts such as language diversity, internet access, and teacher preparedness, reducing their utility and adoption. Marginalized learners, especially children with disabilities, face additional barriers due to inadequate accessible infrastructure and the lack of tailored curricula, which perpetuates inequities and limits participation.

Promising interventions were also highlighted, including CEMASTEAs use of error analysis to train teachers across 15 high-need Counties and Sightsavers' community mentorship model to co-create inclusive classrooms, demonstrating the potential of evidence-based, localized approaches to improve learning outcomes.

Way forward/Action Points

1. Finalize and disseminate the National Foundational Learning Guidelines, ensuring Counties receive clear instructions for implementation.

2. Establish County-level statistics bureaus to collect, analyse, and utilize education data, drawing on resources from the Maarifa Centres for local planning and decision-making.

3. Retool teachers on inclusive curricula and error-analysis techniques through training programs like those from CEMASTEAs to enhance classroom outcomes.

4. Scale EdTech localization pilots, such as the Turkana initiative, to other Counties, adapting digital learning tools to local languages, connectivity levels, and school contexts.

5. Allocate funds for disability-accessible ECDE centres following models like Diabetes Prevention Recognition Program (DPRP) to improve access for learners with disabilities.

6. Launch the World Bank-funded ECD survey to map gaps in service provision, infrastructure, and teacher capacity across Counties.

7. Track learner transitions using unique identifiers to monitor educational progression across institutions and Counties.

8. Mandate quarterly intergovernmental caucuses between MoE, COG, and other stakeholders to coordinate policies, align priorities, and ensure effective implementation of early childhood education initiatives.

1.9.7 Financing People-Centred Health: The Role of Public Financial Management (PFM) in Delivering Quality Healthcare in Devolved Units

Convenor: AMREF

Session Objective: To explore and agree on practical Public Financial Management (PFM) reforms and financing strategies that enhance health facility autonomy, improve efficiency and accountability in resource use, and ensure timely, equitable, and sustainable funding for people-centred healthcare services in Kenya's devolved system.

Session Moderator: Anita Musiega, Wellcome Trust

Panellists

1. Hon. Senator Catherine Muyeka Mumma
2. Dorcas Muli, Health Desk, Office of the Auditor General
3. Boniface Mbuthia, Technical Manager, Health Financing, Amref Health Africa
4. Alex Onduko, Caucus Chair and Chief Officer, Finance, Kwale County
5. Dr. Collins Masika, Medical Superintendent, Vihiga County Teaching and Referral Hospital



special Moderator Ms. Anita Musiega, Welcoming the Panelists and participants to the discussions

Introduction

This session brought together policymakers, financial managers, healthcare providers, and oversight bodies to explore how PFM reforms can strengthen financing for people-centred health services in Kenya's devolved system. With health being a life-and-death service under the Constitution, the discussion focused on translating financial flows into equitable, quality healthcare at County level, improving governance and transparency, and ensuring that frontline facilities have the autonomy and resources to deliver on UHC.



Senator Catherine Muma Giving her remarks on the PFM and quality healthcare discussions

Emerging Issues

Counties face significant financial challenges in the health sector, starting with inadequate and delayed funding. Allocations are often lower than required because outdated audited accounts are used to determine equitable share, there is heavy reliance on the National Treasury, and disbursements are frequently delayed.

Centralized public financial management systems further constrain Counties, limiting the autonomy of health facilities and their ability to respond quickly to emergencies. Even the funds that are available are not always fully utilized, as pending bills consume resources before new priorities can be addressed. Governance and oversight gaps compound these issues, with weak facility boards, absent or underperforming audit committees, and insufficient internal audit capacity undermining accountability.

Capacity constraints are also a concern, including shortages of qualified accountants and financial managers at the facility level, and reliance on manual revenue tracking systems that are prone to errors and omissions. Procurement bottlenecks caused by stringent laws and control-heavy financial management approaches delay the acquisition of critical health inputs, particularly in emergencies. Additionally, wasteful expenditure in Counties, such as overstaffing in non-health administrative roles, misaligned priorities, and incomplete projects, diverts funds away from essential health services, further limiting the sector's effectiveness.



Boniface Mbuthia, Technical Manager, Health Financing, Amref Health Africa Contributing to the discussion

Way forward/Action Points

1. Strengthen Health Facility Financial Autonomy by fully implementing the Facility Improvement Financing (FIF) Act 2023, enabling facilities to retain and utilise funds directly, establish functional facility boards and audit committees, and deploy qualified accountants.

2. Reform PFM Systems to be Service-Oriented by shifting from control-heavy to facilitative models, amending procurement laws to allow emergency, life-saving purchases at facility level, and improving timeliness of resource flows.

3. Enhance Transparency and Accountability through digitization of revenue tracking, strengthening internal audit capacity, and ensuring regular financial reporting at facility level.

4. Improve Resource Allocation Mechanisms by using up-to-date audited accounts for equitable share, aligning County budgets with actual health needs, and negotiating conditional grants for priority health services.

5. Prioritise Human Resources and Emergency Preparedness by recognizing specialized health workforce costs as development expenditure, ensuring adequate staffing and equipment at referral facilities, and reducing wasteful spending on non-core functions.

Quotes

"Health is a life-and-death matter... it must be adequately supported to sustain life."

– **Senator Catherine Muma**

"When money is not available, it affects service delivery and even the health-seeking behaviour of our communities."

Mr. Alex Onduko – Caucus Chair and Chief Officer, Finance, Kwale County

"Facility autonomy is not just about money—it's about bringing decision-making closer to the people, with boards and committees providing real oversight."

– **Dorcas Muli, Office of the Auditor General**

1.9.8 Advancing Equity and Social Justice Through Devolved Climate Action: Community-Led Adaptation as a Tool for Equity

Convenor: FLLoCA

Session Objective: Showcase FLLoCA innovative model by demonstrating how County climate change Funds (CCFs) decentralize climate finance and empower Counties through impactful projects. It also seeks to engage Governors in policy dialogue to scale locally led climate action in line with Kenya NDC targets while mobilizing cofunding from development partners and the private sector.

Session Moderator: Trevor Ombija, Senior Anchor and Reporter

Panellists

1. Governor Dr. Wilber, K. Otichilo, EGH, Vihiga County & Chair, COG Committee on Environment and Climate Change
2. Governor, Gladys Wanga, EGH, Governor Homa Bay County
3. Governor, Stephen Sang, EGH, Governor, Nandi County
4. Governor Cecily Mutitu Mbarire, EGH, Governor, Embu County
5. Hamisi, M. Williams, Assistant FAO Representative for Kenya



Governor Sang, Egh giving his remarks during the discussions on Advancing Equity and Social Justice Through Devolved Climate Action

Introduction

The Financing Locally Led Climate Action (FLLoCA) programme emerged as a pioneering model for devolved climate finance in Kenya, channelling resources and decision-making directly to Counties and communities. It responds to the urgent climate crisis by prioritising local adaptation, resilience building, and equity. Since its inception in 2022, FLLoCA has enabled all 47 Counties to enact Climate Change Acts, establish Climate Change Units and Funds, and implement over 2,200 projects. Development partners including the World Bank, Germany (KfW), Denmark, Sweden, and the Netherlands alongside domestic County contributions, have provided critical financial and technical support.

The session brought together national and County government leaders, development partners, civil society, FAO, and youth representatives. It celebrated FLLoCA's achievements, examined policy and financing gaps, and reaffirmed the central role of grassroots leadership. The discussions underscored that climate action is both a justice and development imperative, requiring systemic inclusion, sustainable financing, and evidence-based implementation.

Emerging Issues

The panel discussion highlighted the significant progress Kenya has made in addressing climate change at the County level. Participants noted that all 47 Counties now have Climate Change Acts, policies, and operational County Climate Change Funds, with over KSh 7.94 billion allocated to support Financing locally Led Climate Action (FLLoCA) projects. During the first year alone, more than 2,245 projects were

implemented across 1,137 wards, directly benefiting over 1.37 million people and demonstrating the potential and scalability of locally driven climate initiatives.

Panellists emphasized the importance of community-led adaptation, explaining that participatory climate risk assessments help ensure that priorities such as water access, agriculture, and ecosystem restoration guide investment decisions. They highlighted that including marginalized groups, including women, youth, and persons with disabilities, in planning and implementation committees strengthens both equity and effectiveness.

The discussion also underscored the need for youth engagement, with panellists calling for the establishment of an independent Green Youth Fund to finance youth-led climate action and entrepreneurship. They noted that integrating young people into leadership roles early is critical to building long-term resilience and fostering innovation, ensuring that youth can develop solutions relevant to their communities.

Despite the successes, panellists acknowledged ongoing financing challenges. Delays in fund disbursement from the World Bank, national budget cuts, and higher-than-expected County qualification rates in the first cycle have constrained timely implementation. The panel stressed that predictable and timely financing is necessary to sustain and scale FLLoCA initiatives.

Institutional strengthening was another key theme, with discussions highlighting the integration of climate-sensitive budgeting into County planning and public finance systems. Capacity-building efforts have promoted climate-aware development planning beyond FLLoCA projects, enabling Counties to implement climate-resilient strategies and embed sustainability into long-term development plans.

Finally, panellists noted the global significance of the FLLoCA program, describing it as a model for locally led climate finance comparable to Kenya's M-PESA in terms of transformative potential. They emphasized that by linking climate-smart agriculture and resilience-building efforts to Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), the program

provides a replicable framework for other countries seeking to advance local climate action while contributing to global sustainability goals.



FCPA HON. JOHN MBADI, EGH, CS NATIONAL TREASURY AND ECONOMIC PLANNING

Way forward/Action Points

1. Establish a National Climate Change Fund as mandated by the Climate Change Act to support cross-cutting national projects and County access, negotiate an additional \$150 million from the World Bank to sustain FLLoCA for the next five years, diversify funding through carbon markets, green bonds, and climate-linked instruments, and facilitate direct County access to financing from various funders.
2. To strengthen climate action, the President should constitute the National Climate Change Council, harmonize County Climate Change Acts with the national framework, and mainstream climate-sensitive budgeting across all County departments to ensure cohesive, equitable, and sustainable climate resilience strategies.
3. Institutionalise youth participation from national toward level and support community-driven innovations and indigenous knowledge.
4. Train County and community committees to improve project value-for-money and accountability,

while strengthening partnerships with CSOs, NGOs, and private sector for co-financing and technical expertise.

5. Enhance transparency through performance - linked disbursements and verifiable reporting, track and report climate expenditure systematically.

1.9.9 Integrated Urban and Territorial Planning, Management, Investment and Finance: Sustainable Mobility Panel

Convenor: UN HABITAT

Session Objective: Advancing Sustainable Urban Mobility through County Leadership and Innovative Frameworks

Session Moderator: Daniel Munene, UN-HABITAT

Panellists

1. Mr. Terrence Pkenden, Associate Active Mobility Officer, ITDP Africa
2. Mr. Gitau Thabanja, City Manager, Nakuru City
3. Eng. Moses Kuyiki, Nairobi City, Transport Department
4. Mr. Peter Wechuli, World Bicycle Relief



Panellists during discussions on Integrated Urban and Territorial Planning, Management, Investment and Finance: sustainable mobility panel

Introduction

This session covered the state of sustainable urban mobility in Kenya, highlighting that active transport modes, particularly walking, cycling, and inclusive public transport, remain underfunded and under-prioritized. Panellists noted that this neglect disproportionately affects marginalized groups, including children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and low-income residents, leaving them with unsafe, inaccessible, and unhealthy transport options.

The discussion emphasized the growing importance of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP) as essential tools for guiding cities and Counties toward inclusive, efficient, and climate-smart mobility. To support institutionalization, the Government of Kenya, in collaboration with UN-HABITAT and ITDP Africa, has developed a National SUMP Guideline tailored to the Kenyan context. At a continental level, the Pan-African Action Plan for Active Mobility (PAAPAM) provides a comprehensive framework for national and subnational governments to prioritize the needs of the one billion people in Africa who rely on walking and cycling.

Emerging Issues

The panel session focused on sustainable urban mobility, emphasizing the pivotal role of County governments, particularly Governors, in mainstreaming SUMP and aligning local initiatives with frameworks like PAAPAM. Strong leadership is essential for securing financing, institutionalizing inclusive transport, and scaling initiatives to ensure safe and equitable mobility.

Kisumu, Nakuru, and Nairobi were highlighted as leading examples. Kisumu has collected travel data from 2,762 households, showing 53% of residents walk, with women (60%) and men (44%) relying on walking. The city promotes cycling, car-free days, and decongestion, while addressing challenges such as incomplete footpaths, vandalism, and public transport inefficiencies. Nakuru is developing its SUMP through public participation, city mapping, and green energy transitions, while Nairobi continues to transform its Central Business District (CBD) with public engagement and political support.

Panellists recommended wider walkways, improved

freight logistics, parking fees, and financing through national and County budgets. SUMP aligned with national and Pan-African guidelines were deemed essential, with private sector support and community initiatives, such as distributing bicycles to health promoters, highlighting progress while noting ongoing challenges in congestion mitigation and non-motorized transport.



Participants comparing notes during the discussions

Way forward/Action Points

1. Counties should pursue partnerships with development organizations, the private sector, and regional bodies to implement high-impact projects like Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) systems, drawing lessons from Tanzania's Dar es Salaam model and leveraging funding from institutions such as the African Development Bank or World Bank.
2. Counties should establish PPP frameworks with clear cost-sharing, maintenance, and operational roles, while engaging regional bodies and national agencies like KURA to align projects with continental frameworks and streamline execution.
3. SUMP should be developed through participatory processes that include public forums, stakeholder workshops, digital feedback platforms, and engagement with transport operators, community leaders, and marginalized groups to address diverse mobility needs.
4. Technical taskforces of urban planners, engineers, and community representatives should guide SUMP implementation, aligned with Kenya National SUMP Guidelines, while ensuring transparency through regular progress updates.
5. Counties should allocate dedicated budgets for



Ongoing discussions between participants

SUMP projects, including infrastructure, maintenance, and public awareness campaigns, supported by national funding through agencies like Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA) or the State Department for Transport.

6. Phased implementation of high-impact, low-cost interventions, such as parking fees or congestion charges, can optimize resources and generate revenue for reinvestment.

7. Counties should explore innovative financing, including SDG-aligned grants, green bonds, or carbon credit schemes, while presenting SUMPs as bankable proposals with feasibility studies, cost-benefit analyses, timelines, and evidence of community impact.

8. Counties should integrate SUMPs into national development frameworks, such as Vision 2030 or the National Urban Development Policy, and engage financial or urban development experts to strengthen proposals for development partner funding.

9. Street furniture, including benches, shade structures, tactile paving, ramps, signage, bike racks, and EV charging points, should be incorporated along high-traffic pedestrian routes to promote accessibility and support green transport.

10. Community consultations, particularly with women and disability groups, should inform street furniture placement and design, with funding sourced from SUMP budgets or private partnerships through Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) initiatives.

11. Regular maintenance plans must be established to

prevent vandalism and ensure long-term usability, enhancing the urban experience for all residents.

1.9.10 Advancing Human Rights and Social Justice through Assistive Technology and Rehabilitation Services in Kenya

Convenor: Clinton Health Access Initiative

Session Objective: To promote inclusive policies, sustainable financing, and multi-sectoral collaboration to enhance access to assistive technology and rehabilitation services, advancing equity and social justice for persons with disabilities in Kenya.

Session Moderator: Dr. Monicah Bitok, Acting Head, Eye Health Section, Ministry of Health

Panellists

1. Kennedy Mugambi, Program Manager, Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI)
2. Dr. Lyndon Marani, Ministry of Health
3. Mr. John Kabuchi, Strategic Partnerships & Resource Mobilisation, Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (KEMSA)
4. Ms. Katra Ali, Director, Directorate of Health Committee, COG
5. Fredrick Haga, Director, Special Needs, Ministry of Education
6. Dr. Lillian Wairimu Mokoh, Neuro-Otologist, Cochlear Specialist
7. Dr. Shem Patta, Chief Officer for Medical Services, Mombasa County
8. David Munyendo, Country Director & CEO, Christian Blind Mission (CBM)
9. John Ondiengo, Head, Orthopaedic Unit, Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) & Chair, Supply Chain Committee
10. Nickson Kaakiri, President, Kenya National Association of the Deaf (KNAD)



Ongoing discussions on Advancing Human Rights and Social Justice through Assistive Technology and Rehabilitation Services in Kenya

Introduction

The session highlighted the critical role of assistive technology (AT) and rehabilitation in promoting human rights, inclusion, and social justice for persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Kenya. Speakers emphasized alignment with constitutional and policy frameworks, including the Persons with Disabilities Act, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Sustainable Development Goals, while noting the importance of County-level implementation and multi-stakeholder partnerships to scale access and reduce inequities.



COG CEO MS. MARY MWITI, EBS giving her remarks during the discussions on advancing human rights and social justice.

Ms. Mary Mwiti, CEO of the COG, showcased the AT Scale program in partnership with the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), which provides assistive devices and healthcare worker training across all 47 Counties, contributing to notable health outcomes such as extended periods without maternal deaths. Samson Waweru of the Kenya Society for the Blind highlighted gaps in early identification and access to costly devices, leaving thousands of school-aged children unenrolled. Dr. Wako Edesa of KEMSA framed AT as a human right and described integration efforts into logistics systems to distribute wheelchairs and hearing screening equipment efficiently, urging Counties to prioritize AT in their budgets.

CHAI's Rosemary Kihoto underscored the need for awareness, training, and facilities such as optical labs and adapted play materials to support learning and

rehabilitation. County Disability Director Mary Mwaniki stressed treating AT as a prescribed tool rather than charity and called for inclusion in UHC. Dr. Agnes Mithamo shared a personal testimony on AT's transformative impact, while Dr. Ouma Oluga highlighted challenges of social stigma, underreporting, and sustainable financing, advocating for comprehensive surveys, economic justification, and alignment with UHC by 2030.

Emerging Issues

The session highlighted several critical emerging issues affecting AT and disability inclusion in Kenya. Panellists noted that the high cost of AT devices remains a major barrier, driven by reliance on imports, taxes on materials, and limited economies of scale. The lack of a robust local manufacturing sector restricts supply, prolongs waiting times, and increases dependence on imported devices that may not fully meet local needs. Gaps in early identification and screening were also emphasized. Health and education systems lack integrated screening services, functional assessment centres, and adequately trained frontline personnel, while community-based screening programs are limited. These deficiencies lead to delayed interventions, exacerbating the effects of disabilities.

Financing constraints were another key concern. AT and rehabilitation services remain underfunded, heavily dependent on donor support, and vulnerable to funding cycles that may not reflect local priorities. The absence of dedicated County budget lines further undermines program sustainability.

Accessibility challenges in infrastructure and health facilities were also discussed. Many public spaces, transport systems, and healthcare facilities do not meet universal design standards, limiting mobility, independence, and access to essential rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities. Collectively, these issues underscore the need for comprehensive, well-funded, and locally adapted strategies to scale AT access, integrate early detection, address stigma, strengthen County-level policy implementation, and improve infrastructure accessibility.



Panellists and participants pose for a photo after the session

Way forward/Action Points

1. ReCOGNise Assistive Technology and rehabilitation as human rights: Position AT and rehabilitation services as rights-based obligations under national and international frameworks, ensuring equitable access for all persons with disabilities as a matter of dignity, justice, and equity.
2. Integrate AT and rehabilitation into UHC (UHC): Mainstream AT services into national and County health systems as an essential component of UHC, ensuring coverage includes provision, repair, and maintenance of assistive devices.
3. Secure sustainable financing: Establish dedicated AT and rehabilitation budget lines within County allocations and explore innovative financing mechanisms, including public-private partnerships, to reduce donor dependence.
4. Strengthen local manufacturing and supply chains: Incentivise local production through tax exemptions on raw materials, technology transfer partnerships, and investment in quality control systems. Improve distribution networks to reach rural and underserved areas.
5. Build capacity of healthcare workforce and technicians: Expand training for health workers, rehabilitation professionals, and technicians in the provision, fitting, and maintenance of assistive devices. Include training in sign language and inclusive communication methods.
6. Adopt standardized specifications and data systems: Develop and implement national standards for AT devices, alongside robust data collection and monitoring systems to inform planning, procurement,

and service delivery.

7. Enhance early intervention and screening programs: Integrate disability screening into maternal, child health, and school health programs, and strengthen functional assessment centres. Promote community awareness to encourage early referrals.

8. Promote inclusive policies and legal frameworks: Ensure disability inclusion is mainstreamed across sectors, health, education, transport, housing, and employment, and that County development plans align with national disability strategies.

9. Foster multi-sectoral collaboration: Strengthen partnerships between national and County governments, civil society, the private sector, and development partners to align priorities, share resources, and scale innovations in AT provision.

Quotes

“Access to assistive devices is a matter of rights, dignity and justice.”

- Wako Egesa, CEO, KEMSA

“With assistive technology, disability is not a barrier but an opportunity for inclusion.”

- Mary Mwaniki, Director of Disability Mainstreaming, Kirinyaga County



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From data to action; Cross sectoral and Intergovernmental collaboration and Advancing quality, equity and inclusion in ECE.



Martina Colaninno, Director SA&I Directorate



Mr. Khilko Mungaiwa, Director Commstock



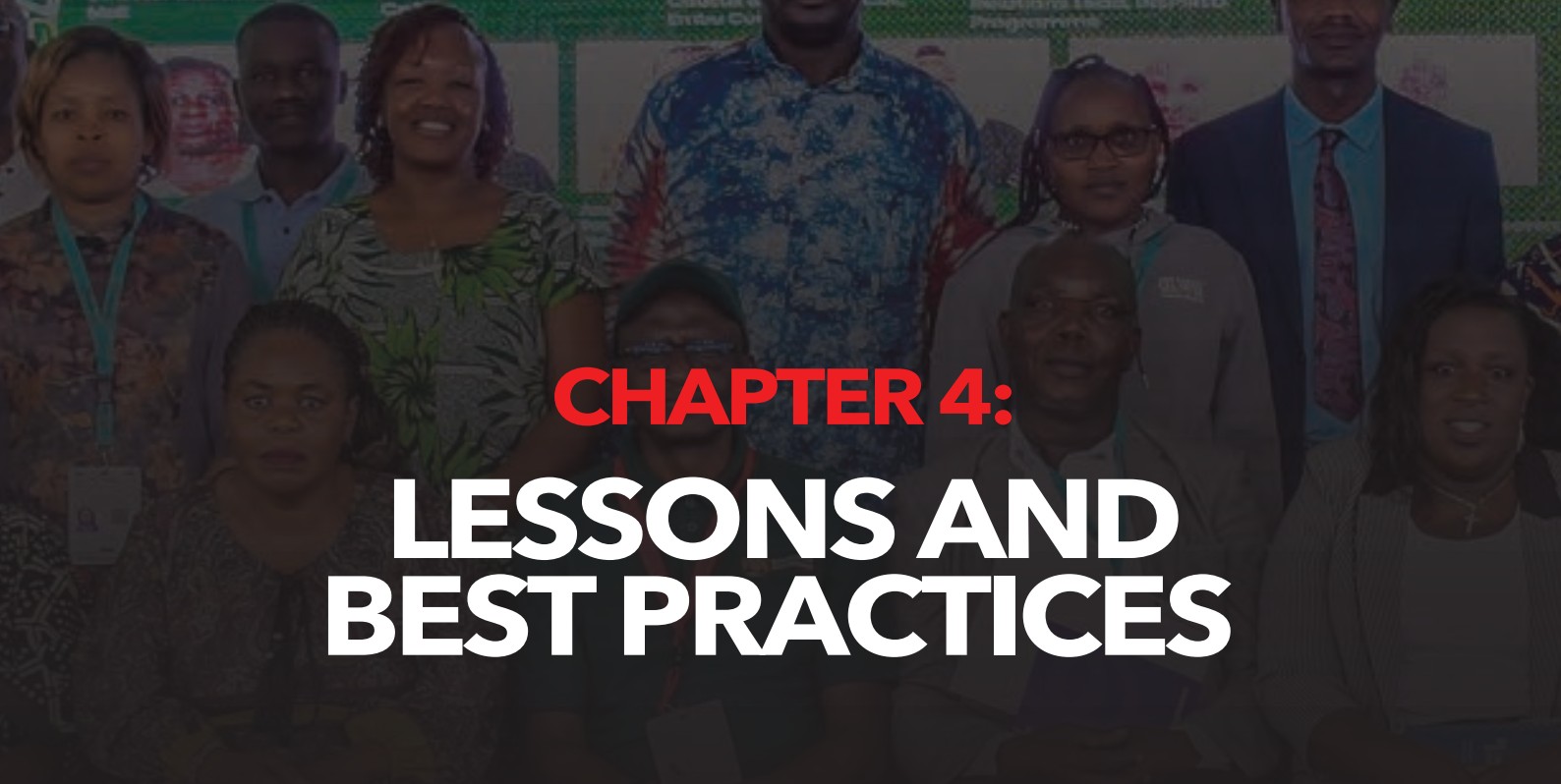
Dr. James Chirwa, Chairperson of the Commission



Eric Nyabwera, Policy & Government Relations Lead



...-Kenya ... EdTech Hub



CHAPTER 4:

**LESSONS AND
BEST PRACTICES**

2.1 Good Governance – Lessons and Best Practices

Good governance is the cornerstone of Kenya's devolution journey, shaping how Counties plan, deliver, and remain accountable to their citizens. Experiences from across the country reveal that governance extends beyond compliance with legal frameworks—it encompasses inclusivity, citizen voice, transparency, and the capacity to use evidence for decision-making. Counties such as Kisumu, Bungoma, and Kajiado have shown that when governance systems integrate technology, data, and meaningful participation, service delivery improves and trust in institutions grows. At the same time, challenges such as resource constraints, weak enforcement of participation frameworks, and policy inconsistencies continue to test the resilience of devolved systems. This section unpacks the key lessons learned, best practices, persistent governance challenges, and pathways for strengthening devolution moving forward, as captured during DevCON 2025.

2.1.1 Lessons Learned

- Devolution is most effective when citizen participation is meaningful and consistent. Experiences from Baringo, Kisii, Kajiado, and Bungoma demonstrate that civic education programs and inclusive public forums strengthen ownership of County decisions, enhance oversight, and build trust in devolved systems.
- Evidence-based decision-making significantly improves service delivery outcomes. Counties that adopted Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping, real-time dashboards, and national tools such as the Kenya Institute for Public Policy and Research's (KIPPRA's) County Monitoring Tool have been able to optimize healthcare staffing, target infrastructure, and allocate resources more equitably.
- Digital governance and smart-city innovations are no longer optional but central to modern governance. Pilots such as Konza Technopolis and Tatu City, combined with tools like BEAM for urban mapping and Waste Wise for waste management, demonstrate how digital platforms can enhance transparency, efficiency, and inclusivity.
- Youth engagement through interactive platforms like Minecraft highlights how technology can give

communities, especially young people, a direct voice in shaping their cities and services.

- Participatory approaches to urban mobility generate stronger, more sustainable solutions. Examples from Kisumu's Sustainable Urban Transport initiative, Nakuru's Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan, and Nairobi's street-by-street central business district (CBD) redesign reveal that co-designed transport systems prioritize accessibility, safety, and environmental sustainability.

2.1.2 Best Practices

- Counties are adapting models from Konza and Tatu City while embedding data governance principles and creating spaces for young people to shape urban futures through platforms like Minecraft. This approach ensures that urban innovation remains inclusive, resilient, and relevant to diverse County contexts.
- Mainstreaming digital public participation through formal policy reforms and targeted capacity building. Counties that invest in digital literacy and strengthen the technical capacity of municipal boards make online engagement a routine part of governance. This institutionalization of digital participation ensures that public voices are consistently integrated into decision-making processes, even in rapidly urbanizing environments.
- Counties have also established best practices in institutionalizing data tools for planning and decision-making. The adoption of BEAM for urban mapping, Waste Wise for waste management, and County-level GIS labs, such as in Kisumu, demonstrates how building internal data systems reduces reliance on consultants, cuts planning costs, and builds sustainable in-house expertise.
- Counties that have combined non-motorized transport networks, bus rapid transit readiness, and international support from institutions such as the African Union (AU) and UN-Habitat have been able to deliver more sustainable and accessible mobility systems. These partnerships demonstrate how Counties can leverage external expertise while ensuring local ownership.

2.1.3 Key Challenges

- Inadequate civic awareness, weak enforcement of

public participation frameworks, and emerging attempts to recentralize devolved functions have undermined the promise of devolution. Without robust citizen oversight, the legitimacy and sustainability of governance reforms remain fragile.

- Persistence of chronic resource shortfalls and fiscal misalignments. Large gaps in road maintenance and health sector financing, underutilization of County revenues, and limited direct access to development partners have constrained County capacity to deliver services. These challenges point to the need for more sustainable financing frameworks at both County and national levels.

- Counties also face structural and policy-related barriers that limit governance effectiveness. Inconsistent digital literacy across peri-urban areas, unplanned urban expansion before zoning or planning, and unresolved conflicts between legal frameworks, such as between UACA and PLUPA in Kisumu, continue to weaken enforcement and long-term planning.

- Operational risks persist in the implementation of governance innovations. Overreliance on external consultants, vandalism of critical infrastructure like street lighting, incomplete rollouts of pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, and tensions with existing transport operators such as matatus have slowed progress. These issues highlight the challenge of embedding governance reforms into everyday practice.

2.1.4 Moving Forward

- Counties should look in meaningful public participation by pairing civic education with participatory budgeting. Establishing minimum standards for inclusion and auditing the participation of women, youth, and persons with disabilities will ensure that governance systems remain responsive and equitable.

- Another priority for the future is building strong in-house technical capacity. Counties should establish urban governance and data units, invest in continuous training, and promote peer learning exchanges, such as the Busia–Mbale collaboration, to reduce dependence on external consultants and strengthen institutional memory.

- Counties must also scale digital and data governance systems to all planning functions. Tools such as County monitoring dashboards, the Enhanced Single Registry, BEAM, and Waste Wise should be mainstreamed, with accompanying open-data policies and safeguards for privacy, interoperability, and quality assurance.

- Finally, Counties need to strengthen financing and enforcement mechanisms to secure long-term governance gains. This includes leveraging PPPs for urban infrastructure, ring-fencing operations and maintenance budgets, tapping regional and international funding sources, and enforcing legislative reforms such as the Conflict-of-Interest Act (2025) through transparent procurement platforms.

2.2 Human Rights and Social Justice – Lessons and Best Practices

Promoting social justice and human rights in Kenya's Counties requires intentional inclusion of marginalized groups, from women and youth to persons with disabilities (PWDs). While devolution has created opportunities to mainstream equity in governance and service delivery, disparities in representation, access, and outcomes remain entrenched. Counties that have piloted rights-based approaches demonstrate that equity-driven policies, civil society partnerships, and community-led climate resilience initiatives can improve inclusivity and accountability. Yet, cultural stereotypes, limited technical capacity, and gaps in funding coordination continue to hinder full realization of human rights at the County level.

2.2.1 Lessons Learned

- Inclusive representation in governance strengthens ownership and accountability. Siaya County's inclusion of youth and PWDs in County assemblies demonstrates that representation is not symbolic but essential for embedding diverse perspectives in policymaking.

- Cultural stereotypes and gender role expectations remain significant barriers. Women are often confined to caregiving roles, men are expected to provide financially, and PWDs are excluded from leadership and economic decision-making. These rigid roles reinforce exclusion and must be intentionally dismantled.

- Civil society organizations (CSOs) are indispensable oversight partners. Groups such as VOCAL Africa and Siaya Women's Rights Network have highlighted accountability gaps, mobilized grassroots voices, and ensured that social justice issues are addressed in County planning and service delivery.

2.2.2 Best Practices

- Counties that prioritize equity in policy and budgeting have seen tangible results. Kisumu County's breastfeeding booths in public markets and Murang'a's decentralized school feeding programs address gender-specific needs while embedding dignity and inclusivity into service delivery.

- Community-centred approaches. Initiatives like Smart Start in Siaya and Murang'a's "uji champions" integrate nutrition, health, and education through participatory design, ensuring that interventions reflect community realities and foster long-term ownership.

- Organizations such as Siaya Women's Rights Network and Smart Start Initiative strengthen rights advocacy, conduct social audits, and hold Counties accountable for equity commitments. These partnerships amplify grassroots voices and promote citizen-driven governance.

- Rights-based approaches to basic services are models of embedding dignity in County development. Migori's Epuka Uchafu campaign, Nakuru's hygiene programs, and school-centred WASH interventions across Counties demonstrate how housing, sanitation, and health programs can simultaneously deliver services and uphold rights.

2.2.3 Key Challenges

- A persistent challenge is weak institutionalization of equity frameworks. Despite progressive policies, implementation often depends on political will, leaving marginalized groups vulnerable to shifting priorities.

- Funding and coordination gaps also undermine progress. For example, delays in accessing FLLOCA climate funds and weak grassroots alignment in Kisumu show how poor coordination stalls community-driven human rights and climate initiatives.

- Cultural and social resistance continues to challenge

rights work. Deeply rooted gender stereotypes, stigma against PWDs, and community pushback against progressive policies limit uptake of inclusive programs.

- Lastly, limited technical and human capacity at the County level hampers the design, monitoring, and scaling of rights-based initiatives. Without adequate expertise, Counties risk implementing tokenistic rather than transformative interventions.

2.2.4 Moving Forward

- Counties should institutionalize equity frameworks by embedding human rights into budgeting, planning, and service delivery. This ensures that inclusive practices outlast political cycles and remain central to County governance.

- Strengthening partnerships with civil society is critical to sustaining accountability. CSOs should be engaged not as observers but as co-creators of rights-based County programs.

- There is also a need to scale multi-sectoral, community-centred interventions that address both social and health needs. Nutrition-linked social protection programs, school-centred WASH, and climate-resilient livelihoods offer scalable models for equity.

- Finally, investing in capacity and coordination mechanisms is essential. Counties must build technical expertise, align with grassroots initiatives, and streamline funding channels to ensure that equity and justice are not aspirational ideals but lived realities for all citizens.

2.3 Financing, Equity, and Inclusion – Lessons and Best Practices

Finance remains a cornerstone of effective devolution, determining whether Counties can deliver quality services and sustain development initiatives. The lessons emerging from Kenya's Counties underscore that sound financial management requires transparency, fiscal discipline, participatory planning, and effective revenue mobilization. At the same time, best practices demonstrate that leveraging technology, strengthening oversight, and fostering citizen involvement in budgeting processes can greatly enhance accountability and efficiency. Despite progress, persistent challenges around inadequate revenue bases, delayed disbursements, and weak compliance with financial regulations continue to limit Counties' capacity, pointing to the urgent need

for stronger financial governance and innovation.

2.3.1 Lessons Learned

- Counties have learned that domestic resource mobilization such as Siaya's savings and loan groups and Bomet's expanded nutrition budgets reduces dependency on external funding while fostering local ownership and sustainability.
- Experiences from Kajiado's FLLoCA program and Homa Bay's climate information centers demonstrate that climate financing and blended models can attract resources for adaptation and resilience, while aligning with community priorities.
- Makueni's annual health and nutrition conference, which brings together over 100 partners, reinforces the lesson that multi-stakeholder platforms not only mobilize resources but also sustain donor alignment with local priorities.

Equity-focused financing approaches show that when women, youth, and PWDs are intentionally targeted in trade and agricultural value chains, inequality gaps are reduced and inclusive economic growth is achieved.

- Finally, regional and continental collaborations with actors like KAM, the African Union, and UN-Habitat demonstrate that Counties cannot operate in isolation partnerships unlock both financial resources and technical expertise.

2.3.2 Best Practices

- Structured public-private partnerships are effective in mobilizing resources and scaling services. Zipline's medical drone deliveries, Nakuru's primary healthcare PPPs, and County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIPs) in Homa Bay and other Counties illustrate how collaboration with private actors improves efficiency and strengthens local economies.
- Equity-driven innovations, such as Kajiado's Disability Participatory Rehabilitation Model (DPRM) and inclusive ECDE initiatives supported by Sightsavers, show how financing can be directed to marginalized groups, improving social integration and reducing exclusion.
- Technology investments like Chuka Referral Hospital's diagnostic infrastructure funded through FIF and PPADA, and Makueni/Mombasa's adoption of

minimally invasive surgery show how Counties can build strong cases for financing through efficiency gains, cost reductions, and improved outcomes.

- Community-based models, such as Nyandarua and Kakamega's agroforestry and climate-smart agriculture initiatives with GROOTS Kenya, demonstrate how local innovations tied to financing and market access ensure sustainability while strengthening resilience.

2.3.3 Key Challenges

- Counties still face funding shortages, delayed disbursements, and heavy reliance on external donor support, which undermine continuity and scale.
- Policy gaps, including the absence of comprehensive County-level financing frameworks, weaken integration of equity, disability inclusion, and gender mainstreaming into County budgets.
- Poor inter-departmental coordination, as seen in Kajiado's FLLoCA program, undermines resource allocation and weakens accountability.
- Cultural resistance to new land and financial practices, as well as widespread digital illiteracy, continue to limit uptake of innovations in financing and accountability tools.
- Limited access to development partner funding at County level constrains investment in long-term infrastructure such as sustainable mobility, climate resilience, and health systems.

2.3.4 Moving Forward

- Counties should expand PPPs and regional collaborations to mobilize private sector resources, while also leveraging continental platforms for financing and technical support.
- Dedicated budget lines for equity, climate action, disability inclusion, and gender-responsive programming will ensure marginalized groups benefit systematically from financial investments.
- Counties should invest in digital innovations such as online monitoring platforms, GIS-based planning, and mobile-based financial tracking to enhance transparency, accountability, and evidence-based allocation.

- Counties should institutionalize multi-stakeholder platforms like Makueni's annual conference to sustain alignment of donor, government, and private sector investments with County priorities.
- Finally, there is need to strengthen staff capacity to design financing frameworks and reduce reliance on consultants for long-term sustainability of County-led initiatives.



CLOSING CEREMONY

3 CLOSING CEREMONY

3.1 H.E. Prof. Kithure Kindiki, EGH, Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya



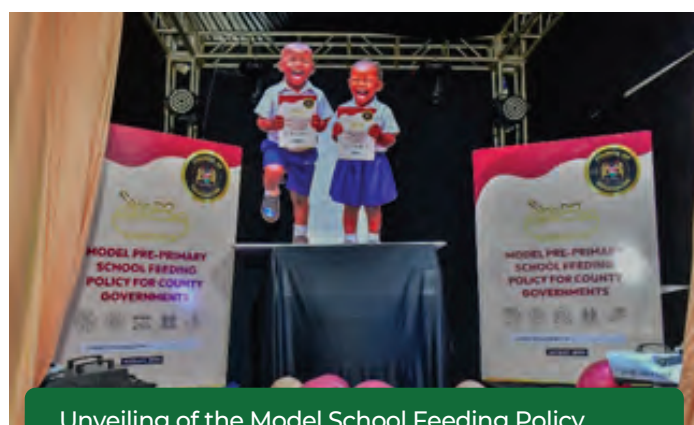
H.E. PROF. KITHURE KINDIKI, EGH, DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

In his keynote address at the closing of the 9th and the 2nd Biennial Devolution Conference in Homa Bay, Deputy President Prof. Kithure Kindiki reaffirmed devolution as the “crown jewel of the Constitution,” emphasizing its central role in Kenya’s governance and development framework. He highlighted youth, technology, and partnerships as key drivers of the country’s 21st-century transformation, urging stakeholders to leverage these elements to enhance service delivery and economic progress. The Deputy President candidly addressed corruption, sectarianism, and violent extremism as existential threats to devolution, calling for collaborative efforts between national and County governments to tackle these challenges. He praised the recent legislation granting County assemblies financial independence and challenged them to exercise responsible oversight to ensure accountability and transparency. In closing, he officially declared the 9th Devolution Conference concluded, urging participants to translate discussions into tangible, citizen-centred outcomes.

The Deputy President outlined several key proposals and commitments to strengthen devolution, structured around governance, rights, and financing

as captured in the conference’s Joint Communiqué. He committed to implementing the Communiqué’s 24 resolutions, which address critical areas such as resource allocation and intergovernmental coordination. To enhance accountability, he emphasized strengthening the oversight role of County assemblies following their newfound financial autonomy, advocating for capacity-building and robust monitoring mechanisms. He also stressed the importance of intergovernmental fiscal discipline, ensuring that funds align with devolved functions to avoid delays and mismanagement. Additionally, the Deputy President called for deeper engagement with youth, women, persons with disabilities, and marginalized groups to promote inclusive governance. He proposed expanding public-private partnerships to finance devolved functions, such as infrastructure and healthcare, to bridge funding gaps. To safeguard devolution, he reiterated the need to combat corruption, sectarianism, and violent extremism through coordinated strategies, including stronger anti-corruption institutions and civic education. Furthermore, he advocated for embedding technology and innovation in service delivery, such as e-governance and digital revenue systems, to improve efficiency and accessibility. Ultimately, he emphasized translating promises into measurable outcomes, setting a clear agenda for advancing devolution’s impact on Kenyan citizens.

The Deputy President formally announced the official closure of the ninth biennial devolution conference and concluded by paying tribute to the late Dr. Crispin Odhiambo for his fight for a devolved and more equitable Kenya. He also praised the exemplary leadership of women and young people from the region, citing them as a testament to the County’s potential. H.E. Kindiki thereafter presided over the launch of the Model School Feeding Policy, a significant initiative aimed at promoting equity and access to education.



Unveiling of the Model School Feeding Policy



Launch of the Model Pre-Primary School feeding policy for County Governments

3.2 Governor Gladys Wanga, Homa Bay County



**GOVERNOR GLADYS WANGA,
GOVERNOR HOMA BAY COUNTY**

In her closing remarks, Hon. Gladys Wanga, emphasized devolution as a living engine for equity, inclusion, and social justice, aligning with the conference theme, “For the People, For Prosperity.” Reflecting on the three-day event, she highlighted the focus on good governance on day one, emphasizing transparency, accountability, and innovations like open data portals and drone-delivered medicines; human rights and social justice on day two, ensuring no Kenyan is left behind; and financing equity and inclusion on day three, exploring sustainable funding through private sector partnerships, MSME financing, and climate-resilience grants.

Hon. Gladys Wanga welcomed H.E. Deputy President Kithure Kindiki, praising his reforms to the Intergovernmental Budget and Economic Council (IBEC) and urging him to ensure funds follow devolved functions. She expressed gratitude to key figures, including President William Ruto for opening the conference and inaugurating local projects, the late Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga for advocating enhanced County funding, and various leaders, sponsors, and the 12,000 delegates for their contributions.

Hon. Wanga celebrated the pre-conference activities, such as the #Innovate254 Hackathon, boat racing, and traditional games, which showcased Homa Bay's culture and unity. She emphasized forging lasting partnerships in areas like industrial parks, lakefront tourism, and tech-driven solutions, urging delegates to translate the conference's 24 resolutions into tangible outcomes for citizens. Addressing challenges like corruption, she advocated for technology-driven solutions and called for continued commitment to nurture devolution into maturity.

Concluding her remarks invited delegates to linger in Homa Bay to experience its attractions and return for World Food Day in October, with a call to transform lives through devolution and a heartfelt thank you to all for making the conference historic.

3.3 Governor FCPA Ahmed Abdullahi, Chairperson, COG



**GOVERNOR FCPA AHMED ABDULLAHI,
CHAIRPERSON,**

FCPA Ahmed Abdullahi, Chairperson of the COG and Governor of Wajir County, expressed pride and optimism about Kenya's devolution journey. He highlighted the key themes of the three-day event:

- Good Governance Day: (Wednesday): Focused on deepening public participation, civic education, transparency, rule of law, and citizen oversight, emphasizing that good governance is a continuous practice.
- Human Rights and Social Justice Day (Thursday): Addressed the constitutional promise of dignity, equality, and non-discrimination, stressing the need for Counties to champion human rights and bridge the gap between policy and practice.
- Financing Equity and Inclusion Day (Friday): Explored sustainable funding for devolution, including equitable revenue division and unlocking finance for MSMEs, with solution-driven discussions.

Abdullahi underscored devolution as a lived experience, impacting healthcare, entrepreneurship, and education. He urged leaders, public servants, civil society, and citizens to act on the conference resolutions to uphold Article 174 of the Constitution. He thanked key attendees, including the President, Deputy President, and former Prime Minister, as well as the County Government of Homa Bay, committees, partners, and citizens for their contributions to the conference's success. He concluded by calling for bold leadership and consistent service to sustain the devolution dream, blessing all participants and Kenya.

3.4 Hon. John Mbadi, CS, National Treasury



HON. JOHN MBADI, CS, NATIONAL TREASURY AND ECONOMIC PLANNING

In his closing remarks at the 9th Devolution Conference in Homa Bay on August 15, 2025, Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury, Hon. John Mbadi Ng'ongo, emphasized devolution's role as a catalyst for equity, inclusion, and social justice, aligning with the conference theme, "For the People, For Prosperity." He underscored good governance transparency, accountability, and public participation as the foundation for realizing devolution's promise of bringing government closer to the people.

Hon. Mbadi highlighted the alignment between the 2025/26 Budget Statement and devolution's goals, both focusing on sustainable economic recovery, job creation, and inclusive prosperity under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda. He outlined key National Treasury initiatives, including over Ksh 204 billion allocated for Universal Health Care (UHC) to enhance healthcare infrastructure and digital health systems, financial inclusion programs like the Hustler Fund (lending Ksh 23 billion to 8.8 million women), and Ksh 6.975 billion in County Climate Resilience Investment Grants for climate action.

Hon. Mbadi addressed fiscal challenges, such as public debt and delayed disbursements, committing to improved revenue collection and fiscal consolidation to ensure timely County funding. He called for collaboration on public finance management reforms, including compliance with fiscal responsibility principles and enhancing Counties' own-source revenue. Hon. Mbadi concluded by urging Parliament to fast-track the County Governments Additional Allocation Act, Counties to adopt the Treasury Single Account and e-Government Procurement for better cash management and transparency, and to clear Kshs. 103.2 billion in unremitted pension liabilities to safeguard pensioners' social security. He reaffirmed his commitment to equity and inclusion, appealing for unified efforts to deliver on devolution's promise of opportunity and dignity for all.

3.5 Hon. Polycarp Ouma Okombo, Speaker of Homa Bay County Assembly



HON. POLYCARP OUMA OKOMBO, SPEAKER OF HOMA BAY COUNTY ASSEMBLY

Hon. Polycarp Ouma Okombo praised the Devolution Conference for driving forward critical conversations on governance and the progress of devolution. He underscored the vital role of County assemblies in legislation, oversight, and representation, noting that in Homa Bay, several policies and bills, such as the Entrepreneurs and Affirmative Bill providing start-up capital for local businesses, have enabled the Governor to deliver on promises to voters. He stressed that once reports are tabled, the next step must be their full implementation, with the Senate playing a stronger role in ensuring this happens. He pointed out that gaps identified by the Auditor-General often stem from the late submission of supporting documents, which must be addressed to strengthen accountability.

Hon. Okombo thanked the President for assenting to the law granting County assemblies financial autonomy and called for this independence to be exercised prudently and in an accountable manner. He emphasised that assemblies should not be in conflict with the executive but should work professionally and collaboratively to ensure effective governance. He concluded by stressing that realising the County's economic model depends on both the legislative and executive arms working in synergy to serve the people.

3.6 Presentation of the Joint Communiqué



GOVERNOR DR. KAHIGA MUTAHI, CHAIRPERSON OF DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE 2025

The Joint Communiqué, presented on the final day of the Second Biennial Devolution Conference in Homa Bay (August 15, 2025) by H.E. Mutahi Kahiga, Vice Chairperson of the COG (COG) and Governor of Nyeri County, captured the key outcomes and resolutions of the four-day event. As chair of the National Steering Committee, Governor Kahiga delivered a comprehensive summary of the deliberations, highlighting actionable commitments to advance Kenya's devolution agenda under the theme "For the People, For Prosperity: Devolution as a Catalyst for Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice." The communiqué set out resolutions, structured around three thematic pillars: Good Governance, Human Rights and Social Justice, and Financing, Equity, and Inclusion.

The Devolution Conference 2025 made the following resolutions:

On Good Governance

1. THAT National Governments and County Governments shall work collaboratively in promoting accountability and transparency in order to strengthen credibility, public trust and confidence.

Actor: Office of the Auditor General, Office of The Controller of Budget, National Treasury, County Governments, Development Partners, Citizens

2. THAT National and County Governments shall accelerate adoption of systems that uphold and demonstrate: the national values and principles of governance as upheld in Article 10; the objects of devolution in Article 174 and principles of devolved governance in Article 175 of the Constitution.

Actor: *Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary, County Governments, County Public Service Boards, COG, Public Service Commission*

3. THAT National and County Governments shall ensure communities are informed, engaged, and actively participating in policy design, intervention assessment, and service delivery, as a key building block of empowered communities and accountable government.

Actor: *National Government, County Governments, Non-state Actors*

4. THAT National and County Governments shall strengthen partnership and collaboration with private sector actors in Kenya and beyond to promote equity and innovation to accelerate investments and creation of employment.

Actor: *National Government, County Governments, Private Sector*

5. THAT County Governments shall ensure that resources are distributed equitably in all decentralized units (sub-Counties, cities, municipalities urban areas, and wards), while promoting social justice and the rule of law.

Actor: *Senate, County Assemblies, County Executive, Citizen-led organisations*

6. THAT the two levels of government, Parliament and Judiciary, shall ensure effective enforcement of all anti-corruption laws, including the Conflict-of-Interest Act 2025.

Actor: *Judiciary, EACC, Parliament, County Governments, Civil Society Organisations*

7. THAT Parliament shall fast-track enactment of a Pension Bill for Governors and Members of County Assemblies to secure the welfare of County State Officers.

Actor: *Parliament*

8. THAT County Governments shall collaborate, share best practices, and accelerate the adoption of technology to boost efficiency and enhance performance through the COG

Actor: *County Governments, COG*

9. THAT the Public Service Commission will develop a framework to promote equity and inclusivity in human resource management across the National and County Governments.

Actor: *Public Service Commission, COG*

10. THAT both levels of government shall collaborate in nurturing and supporting the COG-Devolution Institute to strengthen leadership and promote the culture and practice of good governance.

Actor: *Senate, State Department of Devolution, County Governments, Development Partners*

On Human Rights and Social Justice

1. THAT County Governments shall set aside resources to promote and accelerate social protection programs for vulnerable persons, especially children.

Actor: *County Governments, County Assemblies*

2. THAT the two levels of government shall jointly review policy and legal framework to clearly define the role of County Governments in refugee management.

Actor: *Parliament, Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, COG, County Government, Civil Society, Development Partners*

3. THAT County Governments shall develop and implement policies that promote and demonstrate inclusivity and accountability to special interest persons and groups-including young mothers, women, youth, persons with disabilities and children.

Actor: *County Governments, County Assemblies, COG, National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), National Youth Council, State Department for Children Services*

4. THAT there is need to institutionalise the Urban Expansion Planning (UXP) approach in policy to guide peri-urban zoning, ensuring planned growth that integrates housing, infrastructure, and economic hubs while safeguarding agricultural land through a unified regional spatial plan.

Actor: COG, County Governments, Urban Boards, National Government, Development Partners.

5. THAT National and County Governments shall intensify collaboration in Digitisation of Health Care in Promoting Social Equity, Justice and Inclusion.

Actor: Ministry of Health, Ministry of ICT and Digital Economy, Digital Health Agency (DHA), County Governments, COG, Private Sector

6. THAT County Governments shall prioritise and invest in scaling-up high impact and evidence-based interventions for maternal and new-born health, adopt proven best practices that have successfully reduced maternal and new-born deaths and stillbirths and strengthening the Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDRS).

Actor: County Governments

7. THAT the two levels of government shall collaborate in the provision of affordable and social housing while creating employment opportunities in line with Article 43 of the Constitution of Kenya.

Actor: Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development, Affordable Housing Board, County Governments

8. THAT the Judiciary shall improve access to justice and legal information by vulnerable groups and all citizens through supporting paralegal services, witness protection measures, and victim protection in order to ensure that no one is left behind.

Actor: The Judiciary, State Department of Justice and Human Rights, Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ).

9. THAT both levels of government shall ensure meaningful inclusion of the youth and women in a bid to resolve systemic exclusion and inequitable access to public resources, opportunities and

decision-making platforms.

Actor: National Government, County Government, Development Partners, CSOs

10. THAT both levels of government shall undertake a comprehensive review of the planning frameworks (MTEF, Sector Plans, CIDP) and integrate nutrition outcomes.

Actor: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, County Government, Department for Children Services, Development Partners

On Financing Equity and Inclusion

1. THAT the Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee and the National Treasury shall finalise the costing and transfer of all attendant resources of the transferred devolved functions through Gazette Notice No. 16472 of 16th December, 2024 within six (6) months from now.

Actor: Office of the Deputy President, State Department for Devolution, Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee (IGRTC), National Treasury

2. THAT there is need to strengthen County-level capacity in public finance management to enhance service delivery and reinforce people-centred prosperity across the Counties.

Actor: State Department of Devolution, COG, Development Partners, Civil Society

3. THAT County Governments shall enhance collection of own-source revenue by automating revenue collection systems to meet development needs.

Actor: County Governments

4. THAT both National Government and County Governments shall make budgets that are inclusive, responsive, and guarantee equity, social rights and justice

Actor: National Treasury, County Governments, COG

5. THAT both levels of governments shall increase financing of initiatives and programmes that support vulnerable populations to enhance adaptation and

resilience to shocks caused by climate change.

Actor: National Treasury, County Governments, Ministry of Environment, Development Partners, Communities, Non-State Actors

6. THAT both levels of Government shall accelerate strategic investment in value chains and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) to spur industrialization and job creation, and promotion of exports.

Actor: National Treasury, National Government, County Governments, Private Sector, Development Partners

7. THAT both levels of government shall collaborate and increase financing of Early Childhood Development (ECD) services for human capital development.

Actor: County governments, National Treasury, Ministry of Education, State Department for Children Services, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Development Partners, Private Sector and Non-State Actors

8. THAT the Senate shall establish a more efficient way for processing conditional and unconditional grants, so that Counties can draw on them in a timeous manner.

Actor: Senate, National Treasury, COG, County Governments, Development Partners

Further details of the resolutions captured herein will form part of the final conference report.

Implementation of the above resolutions shall be monitored and reported by stakeholders every six (6) months over the next two (2) years, and the progress reported during the next Devolution Conference.

Action: Deputy President, Chair COG.

Finally,

The next Biennial Devolution Conference shall be held in 2027 at a venue that will be announced after Consultation.

3.7 Vote of Thanks Governor Stephen Sang, Governor, Nandi County



Governor Stephen Sang, on behalf of the COG, expressed deep gratitude to all who made the Devolution Conference in Homa Bay a success. He extended special appreciation to President Ruto, the Deputy President Prof. Kindiki, and the late former Prime Minister Odinga, noting that their presence alongside cabinet secretaries, principal secretaries, delegates, and members of the public was a powerful demonstration of national support for devolution. He emphasized that this unity of purpose reinforced the collective commitment to advancing devolution as a cornerstone of Kenya's governance.

Governor Sang also extended heartfelt appreciation to host institutions such as Homa Bay National School, Homa Bay Primary School, Lala Primary School, Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC) Homa Bay, God Agulu Secondary School, and Rabuor Masawa Secondary School for providing critical space and facilities. Vendors, suppliers, exhibitors, and all Counties were recognized for their contributions in showcasing innovation and supporting the event. He praised the dedication of the Steering Committee led by the Vice Chair, the Planning Committee chaired by COG CEO Ms. Mary Mwititi, and the COG' leadership under its chairperson, whose tireless efforts over two months brought the event to fruition. Concluding his remarks, Governor Sang reaffirmed the Council's collective appreciation to all participants and stakeholders, noting that it was through their united effort that the conference became a resounding success, before inviting the host Governor to deliver her closing remarks.



APPENDICES

Scan Here



4.1 APPENDIX 1: THE CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Link: https://devolutionconference.cog.go.ke/documents/DEVOLUTION_CONFERENCE_2025_PROGRAMME_FINAL.pdf

Scan Here



4.2 APPENDIX 2: SIGNED COMMUNIQUÉ

Link: https://devolutionconference.cog.go.ke/storage/COMMUNIQUE_FOR_THE_DEVOLUTION_CONFERENCE_2025.pdf

4.3 APPENDIX 3: CONFERENCE PARTNERS

1. Office of the Deputy President
2. The Senate
3. County Government of Homa Bay
4. Safaricom
5. Kenya Commercial Bank
6. Jospong Group of Companies
7. FLLoCA
8. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
9. European Union
10. CPF
11. Cooperative Bank
12. German Cooperation
13. LAPFUND
14. The World Bank
15. UK International Development
16. Embassy of Denmark, Nairobi
17. AGRA
18. KBL
19. Equity Bank
20. International Labour Organization
21. Isuzu
22. Kenya Airways
23. KEPRO
24. CBM

4.4 APPENDIX 4: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE EXHIBITION BOOTHS

The Devolution Conference 2025, held in Homa Bay County from August 12 to 15, 2025, featured exhibition booths and pavilions showcasing innovations and best practices from various sectors, including national government ministries, departments, and agencies; development partners; private sector entities; financial institutions; professional associations; civil society organizations; academia; research institutions; and faith-based organizations

The exhibition featured 526 booths and 17 pavilions, showcasing innovative County development projects aimed at improving service delivery. The booths and pavilions served as platforms to explore investment opportunities, connect Counties with service providers and development partners, and promote networking and peer-to-peer learning. These efforts aligned with the conference theme, “For the People, For Prosperity: Devolution as a Catalyst for Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice.”

The summary below highlights key innovations displayed both at the Pavilion and Exhibition booths, their impact on devolved governance, and their contributions to service delivery, policy formulation, and social justice.

Homabay County

As the host County, Homa Bay leveraged its platform to showcase a bold and forward-thinking vision, emphasizing sustainable economic development and community empowerment through cutting-edge initiatives. The booth's prominence was underscored by its ability to attract high-profile visitors, including President Ruto and the late Hon. Odinga, whose presence highlighted its significance and the County's growing influence as a model for devolved governance. The booth's well-executed display combined interactive elements, technological integration, and a focus on inclusive development, making it a standout feature of the conference.

A cornerstone of Homa Bay's exhibition was its ambitious plan for establishing special economic zones (SEZs), designed to transform the County into a hub for industrial and commercial activity. These SEZs aim to attract investment, create jobs, and stimulate economic growth by providing infrastructure and incentives for businesses, particularly in

agro-processing and manufacturing. By showcasing detailed plans and virtual presentations of these zones, the booth demonstrated how Homa Bay is positioning itself as a leader in economic innovation, fostering prosperity for its residents while addressing regional disparities. This initiative aligns with the conference's focus on equity, as it seeks to create opportunities for marginalized communities through sustainable economic development.

The booth also highlighted Homa Bay's innovative agricultural value chains, focusing on crops such as cotton, groundnuts, sunflowers, sweet potatoes, and sugarcane. These value chains are designed to enhance the County's agricultural productivity by integrating modern farming techniques, processing facilities, and market access strategies. For instance, the booth showcased how value addition, such as processing groundnuts into oil or sugarcane into refined products, creates higher income streams for local farmers. Interactive displays, including virtual tours of proposed agro-processing plants and success stories from local farmers, illustrated how these initiatives empower rural communities, reduce poverty, and promote food security, directly contributing to social justice and inclusion.



Homa Bay's booth further distinguished itself through its use of technology to enhance public participation and governance. The County showcased its Integrated Development Facility, a people-centred approach to planning that incorporates community input into development projects. Digital tools, such as geospatial mapping for resource allocation and mobile platforms for citizen feedback, were prominently featured, demonstrating how technology can drive transparent and inclusive governance. These innovations ensure that marginalized groups, including women and

youth, have a voice in shaping Homa Bay's development agenda, aligning with the conference's emphasis on equity and inclusion.

The booth's appeal was amplified by its focus on tourism potential, another key pillar of Homa Bay's economic vision. Virtual reality presentations and interactive exhibits highlighted the County's natural attractions, such as Lake Victoria and Ruma National Park, positioning Homa Bay as a destination for eco-tourism and cultural heritage. By promoting tourism as a driver of economic growth, the booth underscored how Homa Bay is leveraging its unique assets to create jobs and foster sustainable development, particularly for youth and local entrepreneurs.

The high-profile attention garnered by the booth, with visits from dignitaries like President Ruto and the late Raila Odinga, reflected its role as a centrepiece of the conference. These visits facilitated discussions on how Homa Bay's innovations could serve as a blueprint for other Counties, emphasizing scalable models for devolved growth. The booth's professional execution, blending multimedia displays, live demonstrations, and data-driven presentations, created an engaging and informative experience that resonated with delegates and reinforced Homa Bay's leadership in devolution.

The Josping Group of Companies (JGC)

Josping Group of Companies, A Ghanaian conglomerate, showcased a standout exhibition. As a platinum partner and the first West African participant aligned with the conference, the booth highlighted innovative waste management solutions through its subsidiary Zoomlion Ghana Limited. Key innovations included integrated waste management systems like composting, recycling, and incineration, showcased via interactive displays and a video of facilities such as the Accra Compost and Recycling Plant. Josping proposed a "clustering strategy" to group Kenya's 47 Counties for shared waste management facilities, addressing the daily 28,000 tonnes of waste and potentially creating over 52,000 jobs annually. The booth emphasized public-private partnerships, exemplified by a collaboration with Mombasa County, and promoted a circular economy by transforming waste into resources like biofertilizers and biogas. Visited by President Ruto, the booth's engaging

multimedia presentations and focus on job creation, equity, and sustainability positioned Josping as a leader in fostering inclusive and environmentally sustainable development in Kenya.



Safaricom

The Safaricom Pavilion was a prominent feature, reflecting the company's role as a platinum sponsor. The pavilion showcased innovative digital solutions designed to enhance service delivery, drive inclusion, and promote sustainable development across Kenya's 47 Counties.



Safaricom centred its exhibit around the theme of leveraging digital innovation to support County governments in delivering efficient, transparent, and citizen-focused services. A key highlight of the pavilion was its demonstration of Internet of Things (IoT) solutions, particularly tailored for County operations. These included smart systems for digitizing public utilities, such as water and electricity management, as well as fleet management technologies to enhance logistical coordination and reduce operational costs for

County service vehicles. These innovations aimed to illustrate how Counties can improve service delivery and operational efficiency through real-time data and automation.

Another standout feature was Safaricom's display of a Digital Public Infrastructure platform designed to streamline and secure County-level financial disbursements. This platform enables transparent, traceable transactions for public funds, particularly for bursaries, school fees, and other social support programs, thereby reducing the risk of mismanagement and ensuring funds reach the intended recipients promptly. In addition, the pavilion showcased financial empowerment tools tailored for individuals and small businesses. Among these were Ziidi MMF, a mobile money fund solution that allows users to invest and grow their savings directly from their mobile phones, and Tunza Mapato, a tool specifically designed to help women manage and grow their income safely and conveniently. These offerings reflect Safaricom's broader commitment to financial inclusion, especially among marginalized groups such as women and rural entrepreneurs.



Throughout the conference, Safaricom positioned its pavilion not only as a display of cutting-edge products but as a vision of how technology can transform devolution. The company reinforced its role as a development partner working to bridge digital gaps, promote economic empowerment, and support Counties in building transparent and resilient systems. The interactive exhibits, expert engagements, and real-life solution demonstrations drew significant interest from delegates, affirming Safaricom's relevance in shaping the future of devolved governance in Kenya.

GIZ (Development Partner)

GIZ, a global development partner, plays a pivotal role in supporting Kenya's devolution agenda through initiatives focused on governance, green energy, and democracy. By working closely with the Kenyan government and local communities, GIZ promotes sustainable development and inclusive governance, ensuring that the benefits of devolution reach all citizens, particularly those in marginalized areas.

One of GIZ's key focus areas is strengthening democracy and governance through locally led initiatives. By promoting public participation and transparency in devolved governance systems, GIZ ensures that citizens have a voice in decision-making processes. This work enhances the accountability of local governments and fosters trust between communities and their leaders, creating a more inclusive and equitable governance framework.

The impact of GIZ's governance initiatives is profound, as they empower communities to actively participate in shaping their future. By making the devolution process more inclusive and accountable, GIZ supports social justice by ensuring that all citizens, regardless of their socioeconomic status, have a say in how resources and services are managed in their communities.

In addition to governance, GIZ promotes climate-smart energy solutions, such as hydrogen energy and energy-saving cook stoves. These initiatives provide affordable and sustainable energy options to rural and marginalized communities, reducing reliance on traditional fuels and mitigating environmental degradation. By prioritizing green energy, GIZ addresses both climate change and social equity, ensuring that underserved populations have access to clean and affordable energy.

The impact of GIZ's green energy initiatives extends to improving the quality of life in rural areas, where access to clean energy can transform households and communities. By providing sustainable energy solutions, GIZ promotes social justice by addressing disparities in energy access and supporting environmentally sustainable development.

Water Resources Authority (WRA)

The Water Resources Authority (WRA) showcased an innovative Early Warning System (EWS) through a

telemetric system designed to monitor flood-prone zones. This system continuously tracks water levels, flow speed, and water quality in real-time, providing critical data that enables timely warnings for communities at risk of flooding. By delivering accurate and prompt alerts, the EWS helps protect lives, property, and livelihoods, particularly in areas prone to flooding. This technology not only enhances disaster preparedness but also promotes social justice by ensuring that vulnerable populations, often disproportionately affected by natural disasters, receive the information needed to stay safe.

The impact of the WRA's Early Warning System extends beyond immediate disaster response, as it contributes to long-term social equity by reducing the devastating effects of floods on marginalized communities. By mitigating flood-related losses, the system helps preserve livelihoods, homes, and infrastructure, enabling communities to recover more quickly and build resilience against future disasters. This focus on protecting vulnerable populations aligns with the principles of social justice, ensuring that no one is left behind in the face of environmental challenges.

To strengthen water resource management at the local level, the WRA collaborates with County water management teams to enhance their capacity to manage water resources effectively. This devolution support ensures that local governments are equipped with the tools, knowledge, and resources needed to address water-related challenges in their jurisdictions. By empowering Counties to take ownership of water management, the WRA fosters decentralized governance, which is critical for addressing local needs and promoting equitable access to water resources across Kenya.

The WRA's initiatives, particularly its use of technology for disaster preparedness, align closely with the theme of social justice. By leveraging advanced systems like the EWS and supporting devolved governance, the WRA ensures that critical information and resources reach marginalized communities, particularly those at risk from floods. This focus on equitable access to information and resources underscores the WRA's commitment to fostering a more inclusive and resilient society.

Digital Health Agency (DHA)

The Digital Health Agency (DHA) in Kenya is driving a transformative agenda to revolutionize healthcare delivery through the integration of digital technologies. With a mandate to improve accessibility, enhance patient outcomes, and ensure robust data security, the DHA is redefining how healthcare services are delivered across the country. By harnessing technology, the DHA aims to bridge gaps in healthcare access, particularly for underserved populations, and create a more equitable and efficient healthcare system that serves all Kenyans.

One of the DHA's flagship innovations is the development of a Digital Health Ecosystem, which includes comprehensive registries for patients, healthcare providers, and facilities. This system streamlines health data management, enabling seamless data portability across healthcare institutions. By creating a centralized and accessible platform for health information, the DHA ensures that healthcare providers can make informed decisions, improve the quality of care and reduce inefficiencies in service delivery. This innovation is a significant step toward modernizing Kenya's healthcare infrastructure.

The impact of the DHA's Digital Health Ecosystem is profound, as it promotes equity and inclusion by making healthcare services more accessible to all, including marginalized and remote populations. By digitizing health records and improving data interoperability, the system ensures that patients, regardless of their location or socioeconomic status, can access consistent and high-quality care. This focus on inclusivity aligns with the principles of social justice, as it reduces disparities in healthcare access and outcomes.

To safeguard sensitive health information, the DHA employs advanced security measures, including biometric identification and two-factor authentication. These technologies protect patient data from unauthorized access, ensuring privacy and building trust in the digital health system. By prioritizing data security, the DHA addresses a critical barrier to the adoption of digital health solutions, particularly among populations wary of data breaches or misuse.

The DHA's efforts to leverage technology for efficient healthcare delivery resonate strongly with the theme of social justice. By ensuring that underserved populations have access to quality healthcare services through digital innovation, the DHA promotes

equitable health outcomes and empowers communities to lead healthier lives. This alignment with social justice principles underscores the transformative potential of digital health in Kenya.

Makueni County

Makueni County has emerged as a model for innovation, governance, and policymaking in Kenya, setting a benchmark for other Counties through its forward-thinking approach to rural development. By leveraging technology and innovation, Makueni has implemented programs that drive economic growth, empower communities, and promote inclusivity.

The County's commitment to harnessing local resources and fostering digital inclusion has made it a leader in devolved governance and sustainable development.

One of Makueni's standout innovations is its Mango Value Chain program, which focuses on adding value to mangoes through products like mango crisps and expanding market access both locally and internationally. By transforming a local agricultural product into high-value goods, the program creates economic opportunities for farmers, boosts household incomes, and reduces poverty in rural areas. This initiative aligns with the goal of prosperity for all, as it empowers local communities to participate in and benefit from economic growth.



The Mango Value Chain has had a significant impact on Makueni's economy, creating jobs and fostering entrepreneurship among local farmers. By connecting farmers to broader markets, the program enhances their livelihoods and promotes sustainable agricultural practices. This focus on economic empowerment contributes to social justice by addressing poverty and creating opportunities for rural communities to thrive.

Makueni has also established ICT hubs across its sub-Counties to promote ICT literacy and job creation. These hubs serve as incubation centres for youth-led innovation, providing training, resources, and support for young entrepreneurs. By equipping young people with digital skills, the hubs address youth unemployment and foster inclusion in the digital economy, enabling youth to contribute meaningfully to the County's development.

The impact of Makueni's ICT hubs is far-reaching, as they empower young people with the skills and opportunities needed to succeed in a technology-driven world. By fostering digital inclusion, the hubs bridge the gap between rural and urban areas, ensuring that youth in Makueni have access to the tools and knowledge required to participate in the global economy. This initiative supports social justice by promoting equal opportunities for all, regardless of geographic or socioeconomic barriers.

Makueni's initiatives, from the Mango Value Chain to its ICT hubs, align closely with the theme of social justice. By fostering local economic growth, creating opportunities for youth, and driving digital inclusion, Makueni demonstrates how devolved governance can promote equity and empower communities to achieve sustainable development.

In addition, and at the core of Makueni's booth was the Integrated County Revenue Management System (ICRMS), a groundbreaking collaboration with Safaricom launched in March 2023 as part of the MyMakueni App. This system, accessible via a USSD short code (*838#), a mini-app on the M-PESA Super App, the Google Play Store, App Store, and a web portal www.myCounty.co.ke, consolidates all County services into a unified digital platform. The booth featured interactive kiosks and touchscreens showcasing how the ICRMS enables residents to pay for services like parking fees, single business permits, market cess, land rates, and property rates seamlessly through multiple channels, including M-PESA and bank integrations. These displays highlighted real-time transaction reporting and reconciliation, which enhance transparency and eliminate inefficiencies associated with manual revenue collection, such as theft and fraud.

DIGIREG (Private Sector)

DIGIREG, a private sector company specializing in ICT

and information management, is making significant contributions to land use monitoring, climate change mitigation, and disaster risk management in Kenya. By leveraging advanced technologies like AI and machine learning, DIGIREG provides innovative solutions that support Counties in urban planning, environmental management, and disaster preparedness. The company's work is critical to building resilient communities and promoting sustainable development.

One of DIGIREG's key innovations is its use of AI and machine learning to map and monitor land use across Kenya. This technology enables Counties to make informed decisions about urban planning, resource allocation, and disaster risk management. By providing accurate and real-time data, DIGIREG helps local governments address challenges like unplanned urbanization and environmental degradation, ensuring that land resources are managed sustainably.

The impact of DIGIREG's land use monitoring initiatives is significant, particularly in the context of climate justice. By equipping Counties with tools to manage land resources effectively, DIGIREG helps mitigate the impacts of climate change, especially in vulnerable regions prone to environmental disasters. This work ensures that communities, particularly those in marginalized areas, are better protected from the adverse effects of climate change, promoting equitable access to safe and sustainable environments.

DIGIREG also fosters public-private partnerships (PPPs) by collaborating with Counties such as Vihiga, Turkana, and Lamu to develop land management systems. These partnerships enhance the capacity of local governments to address complex challenges like climate change and disaster risk, creating a synergy between the public and private sectors. By working together, DIGIREG and County governments can deliver innovative solutions that benefit communities and promote sustainable development.

DIGIREG's efforts to enhance climate resilience and land management align closely with the theme of social justice. By providing Counties with the tools to protect vulnerable communities from climate-induced disasters, DIGIREG ensures that marginalized populations are not disproportionately affected by environmental challenges. This focus on equity and resilience underscores the company's commitment to

fostering a more just and sustainable future.

Siaya County - SIBO Water and Sanitation Company Limited (SIBOWASCO)

Siaya County has embraced public-private partnerships (PPPs) to enhance water management services through its collaboration with SIBOWASCO, a private water company regulated by the County. By leveraging technology and innovation, Siaya is improving access to clean water, ensuring transparency in service delivery, and promoting equitable resource distribution across the County. SIBOWASCO's water management program is a cornerstone of Siaya's efforts to improve water services. The program utilizes smart meters, telemetric systems, and Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping to monitor water usage and reduce non-revenue water, which occurs due to leaks, theft, or inefficiencies. These technologies enable real-time tracking of water distribution, ensuring that resources are used efficiently and that all residents have access to clean water.



The impact of SIBOWASCO's water management program is significant, as it promotes equitable access to water while enhancing transparency and accountability in billing. By reducing non-revenue water, the program ensures that more water reaches consumers, particularly those in underserved areas. This focus on equity aligns with the principles of social justice, as it addresses disparities in access to a critical resource.

Siaya's PPP model, exemplified by its partnership with SIBOWASCO, demonstrates the power of collaboration between the public and private sectors. By combining the County's regulatory oversight with SIBOWASCO's technological expertise, Siaya is able to deliver

high-quality water services that benefit all residents, regardless of their socioeconomic status.

The convergence of Siaya's water management solutions with the theme of social justice is evident in its commitment to ensuring equitable access to clean water. By leveraging technology to enhance service delivery and promote transparency, Siaya's PPP model serves as a model for other Counties seeking to address water-related challenges while fostering inclusivity and accountability.

Kitui County

The Kitui County booth stood out for its creative celebration of Kamba cultural heritage, with a focus on the traditional dish kinaa, served by 66-year-old Peninah Kavinya. In line with the conference theme, "For the People, For Prosperity: Devolution as a Catalyst for Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice," the booth effectively combined cultural preservation with economic empowerment, attracting crowds through its unique presentation.

The key innovation lay in using kinaa, a traditional Kamba dish made from millet flour, sour milk, and sweeteners, as a centrepiece to highlight cultural identity. Live cooking demonstrations and tastings led by Kavinya offered an engaging, hands-on experience that brought traditional culinary methods to life. The booth also showcased Kamba music and dance performances, celebrating Kitui's intangible cultural heritage and positioning the County as a potential cultural tourism hub. Informative displays illustrated opportunities for value addition, such as packaging kinaa for wider distribution, presenting a modern strategy for integrating culture with economic development.

The County also promoted social inclusion by honouring Kamba identity and fostering cultural exchange among a diverse range of delegates. Kavinya's friendly and humorous demeanour created a welcoming environment, helping attendees connect with the experience. By spotlighting women's central role in preparing and promoting kinaa, the booth underscored gender equity and demonstrated how devolution can empower marginalized groups, particularly rural women, to preserve tradition while engaging in economic activities

Kitui's booth showcased entrepreneurial potential by

presenting kinaa as a marketable product, with mock-ups of branded packaging to illustrate how local foods could reach wider markets. It highlighted County-supported initiatives like women's cooperatives and artisan groups, which produce traditional foods and crafts, fostering economic opportunities for rural communities. By promoting cultural tourism and local markets, Kitui demonstrated how devolution can drive entrepreneurship, creating jobs and income for youth and women, aligning with the conference's prosperity and inclusion goals.

In summary, the Kitui County booth leveraged the cultural appeal of kinaa and Kamba heritage to create an engaging, inclusive display that promoted social justice and economic empowerment. Its innovative approach to cultural preservation and entrepreneurship underscored the transformative power of devolution in fostering equitable and prosperous communities.

Kenyatta University Teaching, Referral & Research Hospital (KUTRRH)

The Kenyatta University Teaching, Referral & Research Hospital (KUTRRH) showcased cutting-edge medical innovation, aligning seamlessly with the conference theme of "For the People, For Prosperity: Devolution as a Catalyst for Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice." Represented by Dr. Caroline Ngugi, Director of Training, Research & Innovation, the booth highlighted KUTRRH's advanced medical services, innovative health technologies, and specialized care units, emphasizing patient-centred healthcare. Its prominence was underscored by visits from dignitaries, including high-profile leaders, and its role in fostering health sector collaborations with County governments, positioning KUTRRH as a leader in transforming Kenya's healthcare landscape through devolution. The booth's professional execution, blending interactive technology displays, live demonstrations, and data-driven presentations, made it a focal point for showcasing how innovation can drive equitable access to quality healthcare.

It prominently featured its comprehensive suite of advanced medical services, showcasing its role as a Level 6 National Referral Hospital with a 650-bed capacity. The booth highlighted specialized departments such as oncology, trauma and orthopaedics, renal care, neurosurgery, cardiology, and

obstetrics/gynaecology, all supported by state-of-the-art medical equipment. Interactive panels and virtual tours demonstrated groundbreaking procedures, such as the first Thoracic Endovascular Aneurysm Repair (TEVAR) in a Kenyan public hospital, a minimally invasive heart surgery that reduces recovery time and complications. These displays illustrated KUTRRH's commitment to delivering world-class healthcare, particularly for complex cases, reducing the need for Kenyans to seek treatment abroad and promoting equity by making advanced care accessible locally. It lay strong emphasis on innovative health technologies, showcasing KUTRRH's integration of cutting-edge tools to enhance patient outcomes.

A key highlight was the Integrated Molecular Imaging Centre (IMIC), a unique facility for early cancer diagnosis and treatment monitoring, featuring advanced imaging technologies like PET-CT and the first cyclotron in sub-Saharan Africa. It also showcased the hospital's use of telemedicine, enabling real-time consultations with global specialists, and its CLINAC iX Linear Accelerator (LINAC), one of only two in Kenya's public hospitals, capable of delivering precise radiotherapy treatments. Interactive screens and live-streamed demonstrations of these technologies engaged delegates, illustrating how KUTRRH leverages innovation to provide accurate diagnoses and effective treatments, particularly for underserved populations.

It emphasized KUTRRH's commitment to patient-centred healthcare, where patients are active participants in their care journey. Informational displays highlighted initiatives like the Social Health Authority (SHA) implementation, which, as of October 2024, has covered treatments for 61 chemotherapy patients, 39 dialysis patients, and 10 endoscopy patients, ensuring equitable access to critical care. The booth also featured the KUTRRH Home Afya program, a home-based care initiative for COVID-19 patients, showcasing how technology enables healthcare delivery in remote settings. These efforts were presented through patient success stories and data visualizations, underscoring how KUTRRH's innovations reduce healthcare disparities and empower marginalized communities.

Further, there was a focus on advanced medical

services, innovative technologies, and specialized care units that directly supported the conference's theme of equity, inclusion, and social justice. By showcasing how technologies like telemedicine and advanced imaging make healthcare accessible to marginalized populations, KUTRRH demonstrated its role in reducing disparities in health outcomes. The booth's emphasis on job creation through training programs and partnerships with Counties further aligned with the prosperity goal, empowering healthcare professionals and communities alike. Digital displays and live demonstrations reinforced how devolution enables institutions like KUTRRH to deliver world-class, inclusive healthcare that uplifts all Kenyans.

In conclusion, the KUTRRH booth was a compelling showcase of advanced medical services, innovative health technologies, and specialized care units, all rooted in a commitment to patient-centred care. By fostering collaborations, engaging high-profile visitors, and aligning with the conference's equity and prosperity goals, the booth demonstrated how KUTRRH is leveraging devolution to make cutting-edge healthcare accessible to all Kenyans, setting a benchmark for innovation in the health sector.

Kajiado County

The County stood out as a dynamic showcase of innovative agricultural and livestock management practices, aligning seamlessly with the conference theme highlighting Kajiado's pioneering efforts in modulated pastoralism and value addition for livestock and agricultural products, demonstrating how the County is transitioning from traditional pastoralism to sustainable, technology-driven models that enhance economic resilience and empower local communities. Through interactive displays, data-driven presentations, and cultural elements, the booth drew significant attention, showcasing how devolution enables Kajiado to address climate challenges, promote social inclusion, and drive prosperity for its predominantly pastoralist population.

A centrepiece of Kajiado's booth was its focus on modulated pastoralism, a transformative model aimed at phasing out unsustainable traditional pastoralism in favour of economically and culturally sustainable livestock production systems. This detailed exhibit on Kajiado's partnership with the Seed Systems Group, formalized through a 2023 MoU, promoted sustainable

pasture and fodder production among smallholder agro-pastoralists. Interactive displays, including videos and infographics, illustrated how this model encourages mechanized pasture production and conservation, reducing livestock movement and ensuring feed availability during droughts. The booth showcased technologies like hay harvesting tractors and solar-powered equipment, which enhance fodder production efficiency, demonstrating Kajiado's commitment to climate-smart agriculture that mitigates environmental degradation while sustaining livelihoods.

In addition, their display emphasized innovative value addition in livestock products, particularly beef, milk, and by-products, to boost household incomes and economic resilience. The booth highlighted training programs by the Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP), where meat stakeholders, including farmers, abattoir owners, and veterinary officers, learned advanced meat value addition techniques at the Meat Training Institute in Athi River. Displays featured case studies, such as branded Kajiado meat products like canned meat and sausages, showcasing how every part of the animal, from blood to ruminal content, can be utilized for profit, including as manure or biogas. These initiatives were presented through mock-ups of packaged products and live demonstrations, illustrating how value addition reduces waste and increases profitability for pastoralists, aligning with the conference's prosperity goals.

The booth showcased Kajiado's use of technology to support modulated pastoralism and value addition, including GIS mapping for land use planning and mobile apps for extension services. Nine motorcycles flagged off in 2023 to enhance agricultural extension services in wards like Rombo, Kimana, and Ngong were highlighted, demonstrating how technology improves access to veterinary services and market information. The County's also featured the County's collaboration with the Cooperative University of Kenya to train farmers in livestock management and ecological balance, with digital kiosks showcasing training modules on dairy farming and fodder conservation. These innovations promote social inclusion by equipping smallholder farmers, particularly women and youth, with the skills and tools to thrive in a changing climate, aligning with the conference's

equity focus.

The booth's prominence was evident in its ability to attract delegates, with media coverage noting Kajiado's compelling displays as a highlight of the conference. The integration of multimedia presentations, including videos of successful farmer cooperatives and live demonstrations of value-added products, created an engaging experience. Discussions led by County officials, such as the County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture, Livestock, Irrigation, and Fisheries, emphasized how devolution enables Kajiado to implement tailored solutions for its pastoralist communities. The booth's focus on scalable models, like the clustering of cooperatives and regional fodder production, positioned Kajiado as a leader in sustainable development under devolution.

In conclusion, the County's booth was a compelling showcase of modulated pastoralism and value addition in livestock and agricultural products, blending innovation, cultural heritage, and economic empowerment. Through advanced technologies, community-driven initiatives, and a commitment to social inclusion, the booth demonstrated how devolution enables Kajiado to transform traditional practices into sustainable, prosperous systems, setting a benchmark for equitable development in Kenya's arid and semi-arid regions.

Murang'a County

The Murang'a County booth was celebrated as a benchmark for leveraging technology to enhance service delivery, particularly through its pioneering Health Information Management System (HMIS). Aligned with the conference theme, "For the People, For Prosperity: Devolution as a Catalyst for Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice," the booth showcased Murang'a's innovative approach to digitalizing healthcare, improving governance, and fostering inclusive development. Through interactive displays, live demonstrations, and data-driven presentations, the booth drew significant attention from delegates, including high-profile visitors, positioning Murang'a as a leader in using technology to transform public services. The HMIS, alongside other digital initiatives, highlighted how devolution empowers Counties to deliver equitable, efficient, and transparent services, setting a model for others to emulate.

The centrepiece of Murang'a's booth was its Health Information Management System (HMIS), launched in July 2023 at Murang'a Level 5 Referral Hospital, marking it as the first fully automated system of its kind in a Kenyan public Level 5 hospital. The booth featured interactive kiosks and touchscreen displays demonstrating how the HMIS digitally records and stores patient health data, enabling seamless retrieval and processing for improved decision-making and service delivery. Live demonstrations showcased electronic patient registration and paperless treatment records, eliminating the need for patients to carry physical forms between hospital stations. This innovation, as highlighted by Governor Irungu Kang'ata, streamlines access to medical services, reduces administrative burdens, and enhances patient care by allowing doctors and nurses to access medical histories instantly, facilitating faster and more accurate diagnoses.

The booth emphasized the transformative impact of the HMIS across Murang'a's 157 health facilities, with a focus on its rollout to Level 4 hospitals and plans for full County-wide automation. Data visualizations illustrated how the system improves referral processes from smaller facilities to the Level 5 hospital, ensuring continuity of care for patients, particularly those with chronic conditions. The booth highlighted specific outcomes, such as reduced waiting times, enhanced maternal care through digital onboarding for the maternal support program (offering KSh 3,000 to expectant mothers for antenatal care), and improved drug inventory management to prevent losses due to theft. Testimonials from healthcare workers, displayed on digital screens, underscore how the HMIS empowers nurses and doctors to deliver patient-centred care, aligning with the conference's equity and inclusion goals by ensuring quality healthcare reaches underserved populations.

The County further showcased its commitment to capacity building to support the HMIS, with exhibits detailing extensive training programs for health workers. By August 2023, nurses and other healthcare professionals from sub-County hospitals, health centres, and dispensaries had been trained to operationalize the system, as noted by County Nursing Officer Salome Kimani. Interactive displays included training modules and virtual simulations, demonstrating how health workers learn to use digital

tools for data entry, patient management, and reporting. This focus on upskilling ensures the HMIS's sustainability and promotes inclusion by equipping local healthcare providers, including those in rural areas, with the skills to deliver modernized services, thereby reducing disparities in healthcare access across the County.

Beyond the HMIS, the booth highlighted Murang'a's broader digital transformation efforts, positioning the County as a leader in technology-driven governance. Displays showcased the County's digital land management system, which minimizes fraud and enhances access to land records, and fleet management systems with real-time vehicle tracking for cost efficiency. The booth also featured CCTV integration at Murang'a Level 5 Hospital to monitor service delivery and deter drug theft, a major challenge in public healthcare. These innovations, presented through infographics and live feeds, demonstrated how technology fosters transparency and accountability, aligning with the conference's social justice objectives by ensuring public resources benefit all residents equitably.

The County further emphasized Murang'a's strategic partnerships with private sector entities to develop and scale the HMIS. Collaborations with technology providers were highlighted through case studies, showing how private sector expertise in software development and data management supports the system's implementation. Interactive panels illustrated plans to extend the HMIS to all health facilities, with Governor Kang'ata's directive to fast-track automation across the County showcased as a model for scalable devolved governance. These partnerships ensure the system's reliability and adaptability, positioning Murang'a as a blueprint for other Counties seeking to digitalize public services, thereby promoting equitable access to technology-driven solutions.

The booth's prominence was amplified by visits from dignitaries, including County and national leaders, who praised Murang'a's technological advancements. Media coverage highlighted the booth as a benchmark for service delivery, with delegates engaging with its multimedia presentations, including live HMIS demonstrations and data dashboards showing real-time healthcare metrics. Governor Kang'ata's vision, displayed on digital screens, emphasized how

technology enhances efficiency and accountability, resonating with attendees. The booth's professional design, combining virtual tours of automated hospitals, interactive apps, and compelling case studies, created an immersive experience that underscored Murang'a's leadership in devolved innovation.

Financing Locally-Led Climate Action (FLLoCA)

The Financing locally Led Climate Action (FLLoCA) Pavilion showcased innovative approaches to climate resilience and sustainable development. It emphasized locally led climate initiatives, community-driven solutions, and technological advancements to address climate change challenges in Kenya's Counties. Below is a detailed overview of what the FLLoCA Pavilion showcased, based on available information and the program's objectives.

FLLoCA featured its mission to empower Counties to lead climate action through community-driven projects. Interactive displays and multimedia presentations showcased how FLLoCA, supported by the World Bank and partners like the Government of Kenya, provides financial and technical support to Counties for climate resilience. The pavilion highlighted specific projects, such as afforestation programs, water conservation initiatives, and renewable energy adoption, implemented at the ward level. For instance, case studies from Counties like Makueni and Garissa demonstrated how FLLoCA funds support tree-planting campaigns and sustainable water management systems, ensuring that local communities, particularly marginalized groups, benefit from climate interventions.

It also showcased cutting-edge, climate-smart technologies tailored to Kenya's diverse ecological contexts. Exhibits included demonstrations of solar-powered irrigation systems, drought-resistant crop varieties, and smart water management tools, such as IoT-enabled sensors for monitoring soil moisture and water levels. These technologies were presented through interactive kiosks and virtual simulations, illustrating how they enhance agricultural productivity and resilience in arid and semi-arid regions. It further highlighted FLLoCA's support for clean energy solutions, such as biogas systems for rural households, which reduce reliance on fossil fuels and promote environmental sustainability, aligning with the conference's prosperity and equity goals.

A key focus of FLLoCA was its emphasis on participatory planning and community engagement. Displays showcased how FLLoCA integrates local knowledge into climate action through Climate Change Participatory Assessments, Risk Profiles, and Action Plans.

These tools empower communities, including women, youth, and persons with disabilities, to identify and prioritize climate risks and solutions. The booth featured testimonials and short videos from community members involved in FLLoCA projects, such as women-led cooperatives managing tree nurseries or youth groups implementing waste-to-energy initiatives. This focus on inclusion ensured that marginalized voices shape climate strategies, directly supporting the conference's social justice theme.

The FLLoCA booth emphasized its role in fostering public-private partnerships (PPPs) to scale climate solutions. Exhibits highlighted collaborations with private sector partners to deploy technologies like solar microgrids and waste management systems. For example, partnerships with organizations like the Kenya Climate Innovation Centre were showcased, demonstrating how private sector expertise supports County-led climate projects. To conclude, the booth presented a scalable model for other Counties, with case studies showing how FLLoCA's framework can be adapted to diverse climatic and socio-economic contexts, promoting equitable access to climate finance and technology across Kenya.

4.5 APPENDIX 5: 2025 DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE EVALUATION FEEDBACK

1. Participant Demographics

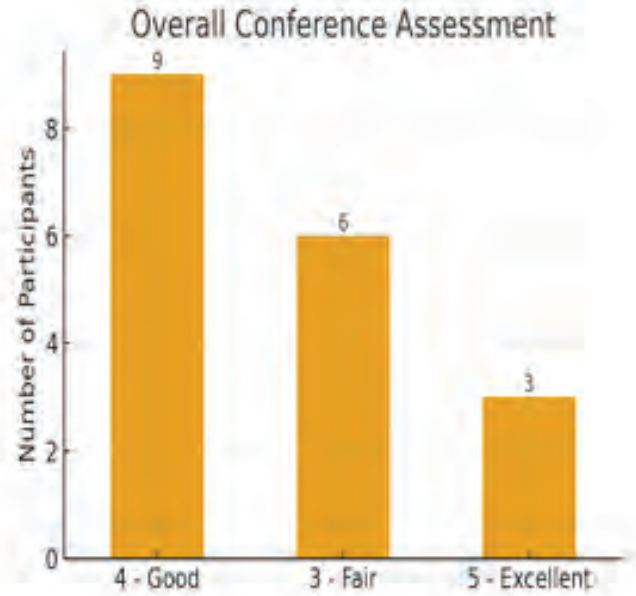
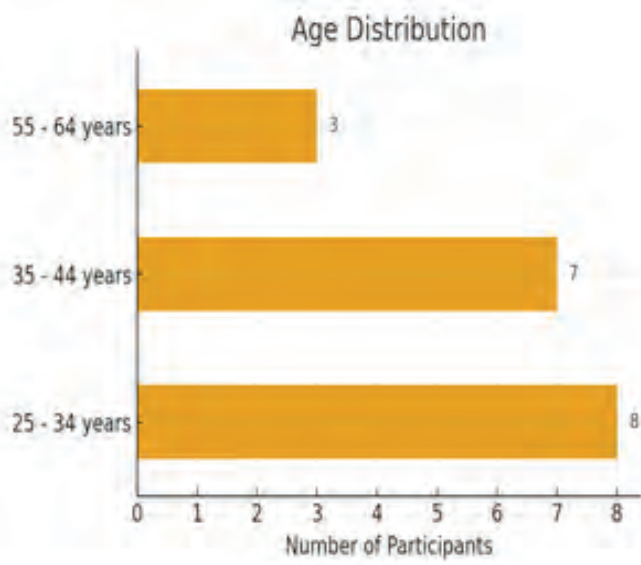
The evaluation survey recorded 18 responses.

Gender representation was balanced with 10 males and 8 females, and most participants were within the 25–34 (44%) and 35–44 (39%) brackets. Only 17% were aged 55–64, highlighting strong youth and mid-career participation. Geographically, the largest representation was from Nairobi (6 participants) and Kiambu (3), Kwale (2), Homa Bay (2), with other Counties including Mandera, Busia, Nyamira, Siaya and

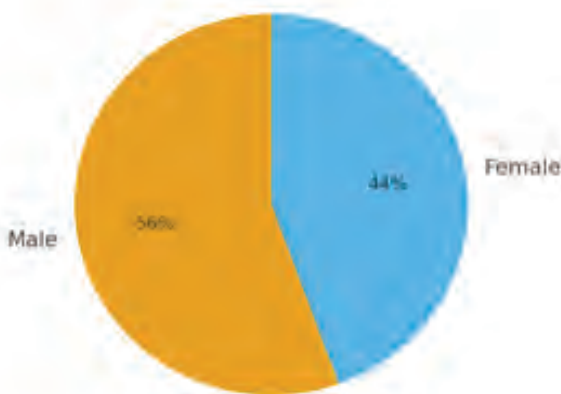
Uasin Gishu each represented by one participant response.

Organizational diversity was notable, with County government (28%), civil society (22%), international organizations (22%), national government (17%), and others (11%). Importantly, 72% of respondents were attending for the first time, pointing to the conference's effectiveness in reaching new audiences.

respondents found the themes (Good Governance, Human Rights & Social Justice, Financing Equity & Inclusion) either "Relevant" or "Highly Relevant." This confirms the strong alignment of the conference theme with participant interests.



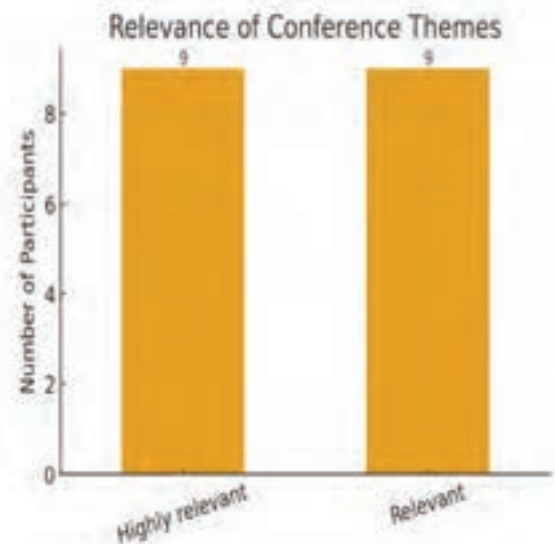
Gender Distribution

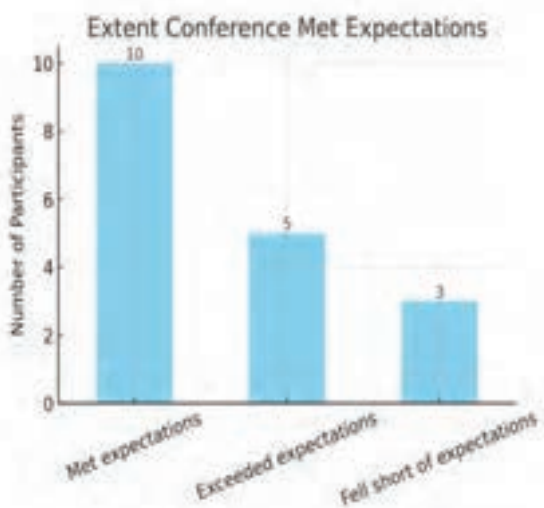


While the responses were drawn from a very small sample, it was notable that first-time attendees (80% of them) tended to rate the conference higher ("Good/Excellent"), while returnees (60%) gave more conservative ratings ("Fair"). Civil society (75%) and international organizations (67%) were most likely to report that their expectations were exceeded, suggesting strong alignment with their advocacy and policy priorities

2. Overall Conference Experience

The overall experience of the conference was generally positive. Half of the respondents rated it "Good," 33% "Fair," and 17% "Excellent." A majority (56%) felt their expectations were met, 28% said exceeded, while 17% said the conference fell short. Encouragingly, all





3. Sessions and Side Events

Participants expressed high satisfaction with the sessions overall. For Keynote Addresses, 78% of respondents gave positive ratings with 56% rating them “Excellent,” 11% “Good,” and 11% “Fair,” while another 11% rated them “Poor.” Panel Discussions were evenly split between “Good” (56%) and “Excellent” (44%). Exhibitions received the strongest feedback, with 56% rating them “Excellent,” 22% “Good,” and 22% “Fair.”

Majority of participants rated the side events positively, citing their relevance to community issues such as health, climate resilience, youth-focused policies and governance, as well as the quality of speakers and leadership commitment that made the discussions impactful. Notable examples included sessions on financing climate change, urban planning and resource management, which respondents felt provided practical and actionable insights. However, one participant rated the side events as “Poor,” noting unclear or minimal engagement.

By contrast, pre-conference activities recorded lower engagement with 28% of respondents reported not to have participated. Among those who did, 60% were “Very satisfied,” while 20% were neutral. Future considerations should be made to boost participation and broaden the appeal of these activities.

Cross-analysis showed that younger participants (25–34 years, 75%) were more engaged inside events and pre-conference activities, while older participants (55–64 years, 67%) focused more on plenary sessions. In addition, County government officials (80%) found exhibitions particularly useful, reflecting their direct relevance to service delivery.

4. Conference Organization and Logistics

Most respondents agreed that the conference was well-organized and easy to follow, with 89% (8 out of 9 respondents that provided feedback to this question) giving positive feedback. Venue settings were also commended, with 100% of those who responded (9/9) noting that they promoted effective participation. However, interaction levels drew mixed views with 67% (6/9) agreeing or strongly agreeing that there were sufficient opportunities for engagement, while 33% (3/9) disagreed, highlighting the need for more interactive formats such as breakout groups or structured dialogues. On the length of the conference, 67% (6/9) felt it was the right length, 22% (2/9) said it was too short, and 11% (1/9) considered it too long.

5. Outcomes and Networking

The conference succeeded in delivering tangible outcomes:

- Networking: All 9 respondents who answered confirmed making useful professional connections.
- Knowledge sharing: 8 participants reported being better equipped with knowledge and ideas to advance devolution; only one disagreed.

6. Reflections on Devolution (2013–2025)

When asked about the progress of devolution over the last 13 years, respondents pointed to:

Achievements	Concerns
Improved County-level service delivery (especially in health, water and education), stronger citizen participation and accountability.	Overlaps between national and County functions, corruption and misuse of funds, and weak intergovernmental coordination.

7. Suggestions for Future Conferences

Participants recommended:

1. Enhancing delegate interaction through structured networking and open dialogue spaces.
2. Expanding inclusivity by reaching marginalized Counties and including more persons with disabilities.
3. Exploring new themes such as climate resilience, urban governance, technology in service delivery, and social justice.
4. Strengthening logistics, especially information flow and food provision.

4.6 APPENDIX 7: LIST OF EXHIBITION BOOTHS AND PAVILIONS

1. ACHELIS KENYA
2. ACTION AGAINST HUNGER
3. ACTIONAID KENYA
4. AFFORDABLE HOUSING
5. AFFORDABLE HOUSING BOARD
6. AFRICA SMART MOBILITY SOLUTIONS KENYA LIMITED-SPIRO
7. AFRICAN ELITE WEAR
8. AFYA REACH LIMITED
9. AGC TENWEK CARDIOTHORACIC CENTRE
10. AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
11. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD AUTHORITY
12. AKIBA MASHINANI TRUST
13. ANTI - COUNTERFEIT AUTHORITY (ACA)
14. ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION OF KENYA
15. BAJETI HUB
16. BANDARI MARITIME ACADEMY
17. BOOSTING SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION PROJECT (BOOST)
18. BRITAM FOUNDATION
19. CAP YOUTH EMPOWERMENT INSTITUTE
20. CARIBBEAN MERCHANTILE BANK
21. CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL HEALTH, EDUCATION AND BIOSECURITY
22. CENTRE FOR MEDICAL MOBILISATION BOARD
23. CEREAL GROWERS' ASSOCIATION
24. CHEM-LABS LIMITED
25. CHILDFUND KENYA
26. CHRISTIAN BLIND MISSION
27. CHU4UHC
28. CHUCACOTECH ASIA AFRICA
29. CLICQ MARKETTING AND COMMUNICATIONS
30. COMMISSION ON ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE (OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN)
31. CO-OPERATIVE BANK OF KENYA
32. COUNCILOF GOVERNORS
33. COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF BARINGO
34. COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF UASIN GISHU
35. COUNTY GOVERNEMNT OF NYERI
36. COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF BOMET
37. COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF BUSIA
38. COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF GARISSA
39. COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF ISIOLO
40. COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KAJIADO
41. COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KAKAMEGA
42. COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KIAMBU
43. COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KILIFI
44. COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KIRINYAGA
45. COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU
46. COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU

47. COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KITUI
48. COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF LAIKIPIA
49. COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF LAIKIPIA
50. COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF MACHAKOS
51. COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF MARSABIT
52. COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF MERU
53. COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF MIGORI
54. COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF MIGORI
55. COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYANDARUA
56. COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF SIAYA
57. COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF TAITA TAVETA
58. COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF WEST POKOT
59. CPF FINANCIAL SERVICES
60. CRAFT SILICON
61. CREAMTEAM ART DESIGNERS
62. CYNREES ENTERPRISES
63. DAVIS AND SHIRTLIFF LTD
64. DEJAVU TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS LTD
65. DHA EAST AFRICA, LTD
66. DIGIREG KENYA LIMITED
67. DIGITAL HEALTH
68. DIGITAL REGENESYS LTD - KENYA
69. DISCOUNT VENTURES LTD
70. EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT NETWORK FOR KENYA
71. EIDU KENYA
72. EMBU COUNTY
73. EMERGENCY MEDICINE KENYA FOUNDATION
74. ENERGY & PETROLEUM REGULATORY AUTHORITY (EPRA)
75. ENGINEERS BOARD OF KENYA
76. EQUALIZATION FUND
77. EQUITY BANK
78. ESAMI
79. ESRI EASTERN AFRICA
80. EVIDENCE ACTION, INC
81. EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT: CABINET OFFICE
82. EXPERTISE GLOBAL CONSULTING LIMITED
83. EXPORT PROCESSING ZONES AUTHORITY
84. FARM AFRICA
85. FARM AFRICA
86. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
87. GALANA ENERGIES LIMITED
88. GIZ AGRICULTURE
89. GIZ ENDEV
90. GRAFFIX GENERAL SUPPLIES
91. GREAT LAKES UNIVERSITY OF KISUMU
92. GREENLIGHT PLANET KENYA LIMITED
93. GREENLIGHT PLANET KENYA LIMITED
94. GREENPINE VENTURES LIMITED
95. HABITAT FOR HUMANITY KENYA
96. HABITAT FOR HUMANITY KENYA

97. HOMA BAY COUNTY ASSEMBLY
98. HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS' EXAMINATIONS BOARD
99. HUNTERS PARADISE COTTAGES, BUNGOMA
100. HUSTLER FUND
101. ICEA LION LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY LTD
102. ICRHK
103. INSIGHT HEALTH ADVISORS
104. INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED SECRETARIES
105. INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC FINANCE LIMITED
106. INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS OF KENYA
107. INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
108. INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION
109. ISK-KENYA
110. ISUZU EAST AFRICA
111. JACARANDA HEALTH SOLUTIONS LIMITED
112. JAFKIMS ENTERPRISES
113. JARAMOGI OGINGA ODINGA TEACHING AND REFERRAL HOSPITAL
114. JEMIT SUPPLIES & GENERAL TRADERS
115. JHPIEGO CORPORATION
116. JIGUYA COLLECTION
117. JOQMA GENERAL SUPPLIERS
118. JOSPONG GROUP
119. KAIZEN INSTITUTE
120. KASNEB
121. KATIBA INSTITUTE
122. KAUNDA MAN
123. KCB BANK
124. KEMSA
125. KENYA ACCREDITATION SERVICE
126. KENYA AIRWAYS PLC
127. KENYA BIOVAX INSITITUTE
128. KENYA BREWERIES LIMITED
129. KENYA BUREAU OF STANDARDS
130. KENYA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
131. KENYA DIABETES MANAGEMENT AND INFORMATION CENTRE
132. KENYA ELECTRICITY GENERATING COMPANY
133. KENYA EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY ORGANIZATION
134. KENYA FISHERIES SERVICE -FISHERIES
135. KENYA FOREST SERVICE
136. KENYA INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY INSTITUTE (KIPI)
137. KENYA INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS(KIPPRA)
138. KENYA INVESTMENT PROMOTION
139. KENYA LAW REFORM COMMISSION
140. KENYA LITERATURE BUREAU
141. KENYA MARINE AND FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE
142. KENYA MARITIME AUTHORITY
143. KENYA MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
144. KENYA MEDICAL SUPPLIES AUTHORITY (KEMSA)
145. KENYA MEDICAL TRAINING COLLEGE
146. KENYA MORTGAGE REFINANCE COMPANY

147. KENYA MORTGAGE REFINANCE COMPANY
148. KENYA NATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
149. KENYA NATIONAL COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
150. KENYA NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY
151. KENYA NATIONAL POLICE DT SACCO
152. KENYA NATIONAL SHIPPING LINE LTD
153. KENYA NATIONAL TRADING CORPORATION
154. KENYA NUCLEAR REGULATORY AUTHORITY
155. KENYA NUTRITIONISTS AND DIETICIANS INSTITUTE
156. KENYA PRIVATE SECTOR ALLIANCE
157. KENYA REVENUE AUTHORITY
158. KENYA SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT
159. KENYA SEED COMPANY LIMITED
160. KENYA TOURISM BOARD
161. KENYA TOURISM BOARD
162. KENYA URBAN ROADS AUTHORITY
163. KENYA YEARBOOK EDITORIAL BOARD
164. KENYATTA UNIVERSITY TEACHING, REFERRAL AND RESEARCH HOSPITAL
165. KERICHO COUNTY
166. KEVEVEAPI
167. KIDOGO EARLY YEARS
168. KIPCHIMCHIM GROUP OF COMPANIES
169. KIRINYAGA COUNTY
170. KISEB
171. KISUMU CITY
172. KISUMU MEDICAL AND EDUCATION TRUST(KMET)
173. KISUMU MEDICAL AND EDUCATION TRUST(KMET)
174. KONZA TECHNOLIS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
175. KUPA KENYA
176. LAKE BASIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
177. LAKE VICTORIA SOUTH WATER WORKS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
178. LAPFUND
179. LARIOX HEALTHCARE LIMITED
180. LCT AFRICA
181. LIFENET INTERNATIONAL
182. LIGHT FOR THE WORLD
183. LIGHT FT WORLD
184. LVCT GROUP
185. MAKUENI COUNTY GOVERNMENT
186. MALARIA NO MORE UNITED KINGDOM
187. MALTESER INTERNATIONAL
188. MANDERA COUNTY
189. MANTRAC KENYA LIMITED
190. MHASIBU HOUSING COMPANY LIMITED
191. MICRO AND SMALL ENTERPRISES AUTHORITY
192. MILES FASHION HOUSE
193. MODERN KITCHEN
194. MODERN KITCHEN
195. MODERN KITCHEN
196. MODERN KITCHEN
197. MOH-MINISTRY OF HEALTH

198. MOH-MINISTRY OF HEALTH
199. MOH-MINISTRY OF HEALTH
200. MOH-MINISTRY OF HEALTH
201. MOH-MINISTRY OF HEALTH
202. MOH-MINISTRY OF HEALTH
203. MOLBIO DIAGNOSTICS LIMITED
204. MOMBASA COUNTY GOVERNMENT
205. MOMBASA COUNTY GOVERNMENT
206. MSI REPRODUCTIVE CHOICES KENYA
207. MURANG'A COUNTY GOVERNMENT
208. MURANG'A COUNTY GOVERNMENT
209. NACADA
210. NACOSTI
211. NAIROBI CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION
212. NAIROBI CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT
213. NAIROBI GTC INDUSTRY LIMITED
214. NAIROBI METROPOLITAN REGION
215. NAIROBI REGION- AHP AND MARKETS
216. NAKURU COUNTY GOVERNMENT
217. NALINA LTD T/A ADELPHI
218. NANDI DAIRY CO-OPERATIVE UNION LIMITED
219. NANDI TEXTILES LIMITED
220. NAROK COUNTY GOVERNMENT
221. NAS INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS LIMITED
222. NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY
223. NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR LAW REPORTING (KENYA LAW)
224. NATIONAL DROUGHT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
225. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT TRUST FUND
226. NATIONAL GENDER AND EQUALITY COMMISSION
227. NATIONAL HEROES COUNCIL
228. NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION
229. NATIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL
230. NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM
231. NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL TRAINING AUTHORITY
232. NATIONAL IRRIGATION AUTHORITY
233. NATIONAL SYNDOMIC DISEASES CONTROL COUNCIL (NSDCC)
234. NATIONAL TRANSPORT AND SAFETY AUTHORITY
235. NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL
236. NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL
237. NEMA KENYA
238. NEPAD/APRM KENYA SECRETARIAT
239. NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES ALLIANCE KENYA (NCD ALLIANCE KENYA)
240. NORTH RIFT VALLEY SDHUD
241. NURSING COUNCIL OF KENYA
242. NUTRITION INTERNATIONAL
243. NWH COLLEGE LTD
244. NYAMIRA COUNTY
245. OAKAR SERVICES LIMITED
246. OFFICE OF DATA PROTECTION COMMISSIONER
247. OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

248. OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF POLITICAL PARTIES
249. OPEN UNIVERSITY OF KENYA
250. OPULENT STORES
251. ORGANIZATION OF AFRICA YOUTH
252. PAMOJA TRUST
253. PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD
254. PHYSICIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
255. POPULATION SERVICES KENYA
256. POWER UP
257. PRACTICAL ACTION
258. PRIDEINN HOTELS, RESORTS & CAMPS
259. PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REFORMS SECRETARIAT
260. PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REFORMS SECRETARIAT
261. PUBLIC PROCUREMENT REGULATORY AUTHORITY
262. PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
263. READY TO WEAR BY AFD
264. REGIONAL CENTRE ON GROUNDWATER RESOURCES (RCGW)
265. ROAM ELECTRIC
266. RONGO UNIVERSITY
267. RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY CORPORATION
268. SAFARICOM
269. SALARIES AND REMUNERATION COMMISSION
270. SALARIES AND REMUNERATION COMMISSION
271. SALARIES AND REMUNERATION COMMISSION
272. SDHUD - WESTERN REGION
273. SENATE
274. SENTIMENTAL ENERGY COMPANY
275. SIASA PLACE
276. SILVER AFRICA TOURS & SAFARIS LIMITED
277. SMILYSPOT COLLECTIONS
278. SOCATT-KENYA
279. SOLARKING LTD
280. SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES AUTHORITY
281. SPORTS KENYA
282. STATE DEPARTMENT FOR DEVOLUTION
283. STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING
284. STATE DEPARTMENT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
285. STATE DEPARTMENT FOR HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT - CENTRAL REGION
286. STATE DEPARTMENT FOR HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
287. STATE DEPARTMENT FOR HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT- COAST & NORTH-EASTERN REGION
288. STATE DEPARTMENT FOR HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT-EASTERN REGION
289. STATE DEPARTMENT FOR INTERIOR AND NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION
290. STATE DEPARTMENT FOR LANDS AND PHYSICAL PLANNING
291. STATE DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
292. STEPLABS TECHNICAL SERVICES LIMITED
293. STERLING COMMUNICATIONS LTD
294. STIMA (DT) SACCO
295. STRATHMORE BUSINESS SCHOOL
296. SUNVIEW
297. TANA RIVER COUNTY

298. TEA BOARD OF KENYA
299. TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING AUTHORITY (TVETA)
300. THALIA PSYCHOTHERAPY
301. THARAKA NITHI COUNTY GOVERNMENT
302. THE AFRICAN CENTRE FOR WOMEN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ACWICT)
303. THE ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING ENGINEERS OF KENYA
304. THE CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION NETWORK TRUST
305. THE CO-OPERATIVE UNIVERSITY OF KENYA
306. THE CRADLE GROUP OF HOTELS
307. THE FRED HOLLOWS FOUNDATION
308. THE ICT AUTHORITY
309. THE ICT AUTHORITY
310. THE MALKIA INITIATIVE
311. THE MAWEGO NATIONAL POLYTECHNIC
312. THE NAIROBI WEST HOSPITAL
313. THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD-KENYA
314. TRIGGERISE KENYA LIMITED
315. TSCONNECT LIMITED
316. TURKANA COUNTY GOVERNMENT
317. TWaweza Ni Sisi
318. UN-HABITAT
319. UNITED NATIONS ENTITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (UN WOMEN))
320. URAIA TRUST
321. URAIA TRUST
322. URBAN EXPANSION PROGRAM AT THE AFRICA URBAN LAB, AFRICAN SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS ZANZIBAR LTD
323. VICTORIA BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
324. VICTORY FARM LTD
325. VIHIGA COUNTY GOVERNMENT
326. VILCOM NETWORKS LTD
327. VILLAGE ENTERPRISE
328. WAJIR COUNTY GOVERNMENT
329. WAMUGOH AFRICAN COLLECTIONS
330. WAREHOUSE RECEIPT SYSTEM COUNCIL
331. WATER AND SANITATION PROVIDERS ASSOCIATION
332. WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY
333. WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY
334. WATER SECTOR TRUST FUND
335. WATER SERVICES REGULATORY BOARD
336. WATU CREDIT LIMITED
337. WE! HUB VICTORIA LIMITED (WETU)
338. WEIGHTS AND MEASURES DEPARTMENT, NATIONAL OFFICE
339. WOMEN ENTERPRISE FUND
340. WORLD BANK
341. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
342. YOUTH For a SUSTAINABLE WORLD KENYA

4.7 APPENDIX 8: SIDE EVENT CONVENERS

1. AFFORDABLE HOUSING BOARD
2. AFRICA URBAN LAB
3. AMREF
4. BAJETI HUB
5. CENTRE FOR FISCAL AFFAIRS
6. CENTRE FOR MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY KENYA
7. DIGITAL HEALTH AUTHORITY
8. ECD NETWORK
9. ENERGY AND PETROLEUM REGULATORY AUTHORITY (EPRA)
10. FLY ZIPLINE KENYA
11. FOOD FOR EDUCATION
12. GIZ
13. HENNET
14. INSPIRED-EDT
15. INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS OF KENYA
16. JACARANDA HEALTH
17. KENYA DEVOLUTION SECTOR WORKING GROUP
18. KENYA FOREST SERVICES
19. KENYA INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS
20. KENYA NATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
21. KENYA PRIVATE SECTOR ALLIANCE
22. LAKE REGION ECONOMIC BLOC (LREB)
23. LWALA COMMUNITY ALLIANCE (CHU4UHC)
24. MATERNAL AND PERINATAL DEATH SURVEILLANCE AND RESPONSE
25. MINISTRY OF HEALTH
26. NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY
27. NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
28. NATIONAL SYNDROMIC DISEASES CONTROL COUNCIL
29. OPEN PHENCES
30. PAN AFRICAN CLIMATE JUSTICE ALLIANCE (PACJA)
31. PELUM KENYA
32. PROXIMIE LIMITED
33. PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
34. REFUGEE CONSORTIUM OF KENYA (INTERGOVERNMENTAL)
35. SHINING HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES-SHOFKO
36. STATE DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH & PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS
37. STATE DEPARTMENT FOR TRADE
38. TECHNOLOGY SERVICE PROVIDERS ASSOCIATION OF KENYA
39. UN HABITAT
40. UNICEF
41. WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE
42. FLLOCA
43. UN HABITAT
44. CLINTON HEALTH ACCESS INITIATIVE

4.8 APPENDIX 9: LIST OF RAPORTEURS FOR DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE 2025

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IMAGE GALLERY





Ministry of Agriculture

THE VISION
To be the leading agency in price forecasts, agronomy, food and employment and wealth creation.

THE MISSION
To improve the livelihoods by providing as a knowledge-based organization, use of appropriate technology services and system management.

THE PURPOSE
To promote and facilitate greater Agri-based raw materials in an sustainable manner, for food self-reliance, employment and so on in Somalia Country.

















Investments of Africa

THE VISION
To be the leading agency in providing services that drive employment and wealth creation.

THE MISSION
To improve the livelihoods by providing services that drive employment and wealth creation, use of appropriate technology, and efficient and effective management.

THE PURPOSE
To promote and facilitate growth and development in the agricultural sector, for food security, employment and wealth creation in Kenya.



















48 Governments 1 Nation

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