



# KENYA NATIONAL PROGRESS REPORT ON **THE NEW URBAN AGENDA (NUA)**

## 2025



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# TABLE OF CONTENTS



Acronyms .....	vi
----------------	----

Executive Summary .....	viii
-------------------------	------

<b>CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
--------------------------------------	----------

<b>CHAPTER 2: REPORTING FRAMEWORK.....</b>	<b>2</b>
--	----------

2.1.1 Reporting Modality .....	2
--------------------------------	---

2.1.2 Preparation of the Report .....	2
---------------------------------------	---

2.1.3 Leveraging other reporting processes .....	2
--	---

<b>CHAPTER 3: SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION AND ENDING POVERTY .....</b>	<b>3</b>
---	----------

3.1.1 Social Inclusion and Ending Poverty .....	3
---	---

3.1.2 Address inequality in urban areas by promoting equally shared opportunities and..... benefits .....	4
--	---

3.1.3 Enhance social inclusion of vulnerable groups (women, youth, older persons with ..... disabilities, and migrants).....	5
---	---

3.1.4 Ensure equal access to public spaces including streets, sidewalks and cycling lane	6
--	---

3.1.5 Access to Adequate Housing .....	7
--	---

3.1.6 Ensure access to sustainable housing finance options .....	8
--	---

3.1.7 Establish Security of Tenure.....	9
---	---

3.1.8 Establish Slum Upgrading Programmes.....	9
--	---

3.1.9 Access to basic services .....	10
--------------------------------------	----

3.1.10 Ensure access to safe and efficient public transport system .....	11
--	----

3.1.11 Provide Access to Modern Renewable Energy .....	12
--	----

<b>CHAPTER 4: SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE URBAN PROSPERITY AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL .....</b>	<b>14</b>
--	-----------

4.1.1 Inclusive Urban Economy .....	14
-------------------------------------	----

4.1.2 Strengthen Informal Economy .....	15
---	----

4.1.3 Support Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises .....	15
--	----

4.1.4 Promote an enabling fair and responsible environment for business and innovation	16
--	----

4.1.5 Sustainable Prosperity for all .....	17
--	----

4.1.6 Develop technical and entrepreneurial skills to thrive in a modern urban economy .	17
--	----



4.1.7	Develop rural-urban linkages to maximize productivity.....	18
-------	--	----

## CHAPTER 5: ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT URBAN

DEVELOPMENT.....	19
------------------	----

5.1.1	Resilience, Mitigation and Adaptation of Cities and Human Settlements .....	19
5.1.2	Implement Climate Change mitigation and adaptation action .....	19
5.1.3	Develop systems to reduce the impact of natural and human made disasters .....	20
5.1.4	Build urban resilience through quality infrastructure and quality planning.....	21
5.1.5	Sustainable Management and Use of Natural Resources .....	22
5.1.6	Drive Resource Conservation and waste reduction, reuse and recycling .....	23
5.1.7	Implement environmentally sound management of water resources and urban coastal areas.....	23
5.1.8	Adopt a smart city approach that leverages digitization, clean energy and technologies .....	24

## CHAPTER 6: EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION ..... 25

6.1.1	Building the Urban Governance Structure: Establishing a Supportive Framework...	25
6.1.2	Link urban policies to finance mechanisms and budgets .....	25
6.1.3	Develop legal and policy frameworks to enhance the ability of Governments to ..... implement urban policies .....	26
6.1.4	Build capacity of local and sub-national Governments to implement local and metropolitan multilevel governance.....	26
6.1.5	Implement participatory age and gender-responsive approaches to urban policy and plan .....	27
6.1.6	Achieve women's full participation in all fields and all levels of decision making.....	28
6.1.7	Planning and Managing Urban Spatial Development.....	29
6.1.8	Integrate housing into urban development plans .....	29
6.1.9	Include culture as a priority component of urban planning .....	30
6.1.10	Implement planned urban extensions and infill, urban renewal and regeneration of urban areas.....	31
6.1.11	Improve capacity for urban planning and design, and training for urban planners at all levels of Government .....	32
6.1.12	Strengthen the role of small and intermediate cities and towns.....	32
6.1.13	Implement sustainable multimodal public transport systems including non-motorized options.....	33

## CHAPTER 7: MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION ..... 34

7.1.1	Mobilization of Financial Resources .....	34
-------	---	----



7.1.2 Mobilize endogenous (internal) sources of finance and expand the revenue base of Sub-national and local Governments .....	35
7.1.3 Mobilize and establish financial intermediaries (multilateral institutions, regional development banks, Sub-national and local development funds; pooled financing mechanisms) for urban financing .....	35
7.1.4 Capacity Development .....	35
7.1.5 Implement capacity development as an effective, multifaceted approach to formulate, implement, manage, monitor and evaluate urban development policies.	36
7.1.6 Build capacity at all levels of Government to use data for evidence- based policy formulation including collecting and using data for minority groups .....	36
7.1.7 Build the capacity of all levels of Government to work with vulnerable groups to participate effectively in decision-making about urban and territorial development.	37
7.1.8 Implement capacity development programmes on the use of legal land-based revenue, financing, and other tools .....	37
7.1.9 Implement capacity development programmes of Sub-national and local Governments in financial planning and management .....	38
7.1.10 Increase cooperation and knowledge exchange on science, technology and innovation to benefit sustainable urban development.....	38
7.1.11 Information Technology and Innovation.....	38
7.1.12 Expand deployment of frontier technologies and innovations to enhance shared prosperity of cities and regions .....	39
7.1.13 Implement digital tools, including geospatial information systems to improve urban and territorial planning, land administration and access to urban services .....	40
7.1.14 Build capacities at all levels of Government to effectively monitor implementation of urban development policies .....	40

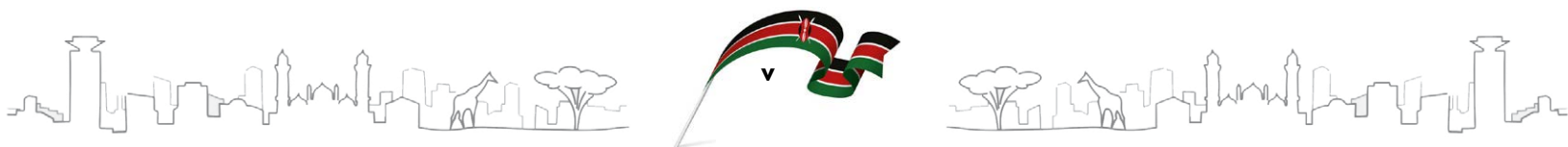
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## **CHAPTER 8: STRATEGIC WAY FORWARD..... 43**

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## **BIBLIOGRAPHY ..... 54**

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# ACRONYMS

ABMTs:	Appropriate Building Materials and Technologies	GIS:	Geographic Information System
ACCP:	African Clean Cities Platform	GPSP:	Global Public Space Programme
ADPs:	Annual Development Plans	GVRC:	Gender Violence Recovery Centre
AFD:	Agence Francaise de Development	GWh:	Gigawatt hour
AI:	Artificial Intelligence	HAK:	Healthcare Assistance Kenya
AWS:	Automatic Weather Stations	ICT:	Information Communication Technology
BCRUP:	Building Climate Resilience with the Urban Poor	IDePs:	Integrated Development Plans
BETA:	Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda	IGA:	Income Generating Activities
BRT:	Bus Rapid Transit	IGAD:	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
CBD:	Central Business District	KCSAP:	Kenya Climate-Smart Agriculture Project
CIHs:	Constituency Innovation Hubs	KENIA:	Kenya National Innovation Agency
CSOs:	Civil Society Organizations	KENSUP:	Kenya Slum Upgrading Programme
CSUDP:	Civil Society Urban Development Platform	KHPT:	Kenya Humanitarian Partners Team
CT-OVC:	Cash Transfer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children Project	KIEP:	Kenya Industry and Entrepreneurship Project
DFID:	UK Department for International Development	KIRA:	Kenya Inter-Agency Rapid Assessment Mechanism
DRM:	Disaster Risk Management	KISEDPA:	Kalobeyei Integrated Social and Economic Development Programme
ECDE:	Early Childhood Development and Education	KISIP:	Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Project
EIP:	Economic Inclusion Programme	KNBS:	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
EPR:	Extended Producer Responsibility	KOSAP:	Kenya Off-grid Solar Access
EPS:	Expanded Polystyrene	KSDS:	Kenya Strategy for Development of Statistics
EU:	European Union		
FGM:	Female Genital Mutilation		
GBV:	Gender-Based Violence		





KSH:	Kenya Shillings	PPPs:	Private Public Partnerships
KUSP:	Kenya Urban Support Programme	PSOP:	Public Service Internships Programme
LAPSSET:	Lamu Port South Sudan Ethiopia Transport Corridor Project	PWDs:	Persons living with Disabilities
LED:	Local Economic Development	PwSD-CT:	Persons Living with Severe Disability Cash Transfer Programme
LPG:	Liquefied Petroleum Gas	SACCOs:	Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies
LPO:	Local Purchase Order	SDGs:	Sustainable Development Goals
LSO:	Local Service Orders	SIDA:	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
LUFs:	Local Urban Forums	SMEs:	Small Micro Enterprises
M&E:	Monitoring and Evaluation	STI:	Science, Technology, and Innovation
MDAs:	Ministries, Departments and Agencies	SUED:	Sustainable Urban Economic Development
MIS:	Market Information System	TOD:	Transit-Oriented Development
MSF:	Medicins Sans Frontieres	TVET:	Technical and Vocational Educational and Training
MSMEs:	Micro Small and Medium Enterprises	TWC:	Technical Working Committees
NACHU:	National Cooperative Housing Union	UBNA:	Urban Board Non-State Agencies Model
NDFPWD:	National Development Fund for Persons with Disabilities	UN:	United Nations
NHC:	National Habitat Committee	UNESCO:	United Nations, Educational and Cultural Organization
NIUPLAN:	Nairobi Integrated Urban Development Master Plan	UN-HABITAT:	United Nations Human Settlements programme
NLIMS:	National Land Information Management System	VDIs:	Virtual Desktop Infrastructure
NMT:	Non-Motorized Transport	WEF:	Women Enterprise Fund
NRC:	Nairobi Rivers Commission	YECs:	Youth Empowerment Centres
NRF:	National Research Fund		
NSDI:	National Spatial Data Infrastructure		
NTSA:	National Transport and Safety Authority		
NUA:	New Urban Agenda		
NYS:	National Youth Service		
OPTC:	Older Persons Cash Transfer Programme		



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is structured into eight chapters that include: Introduction; Reporting framework; Sustainable urban development for social inclusion and ending poverty; Sustainable and inclusive urban prosperity and opportunities for all; Environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development; Effective implementation; Means of Implementation; and, Strategic way forward. The chapters also contain achievements, challenges and lessons learnt outlined.

The reporting process is expected to be continuous and is also aimed at creating and reinforcing partnerships among all relevant stakeholders and fostering exchanges of urban solutions and mutual learning. It is also for effective coordination and coherence in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA).

Some of the successes during this reporting cycle include: completed 1,080 social housing units in Mukuru and 60 institutional housing at Eldas Police station. However, 162,131 housing units are ongoing at various completion levels; Ksh 32,309,327.35 was disbursed to each of the 45 participating counties as Urban Institutional Grant to support strengthening of urban institutions; completed Homabay fish market, Kahawa, Esise and Giaki Markets and others modern Markets ongoing at various completion levels; and Socio-economic inclusion plans were prepared for Kisumu, Kakamega, Nairobi, Nakuru, Kilifi, Mombasa, Kiambu and Uasin Gishu counties.

Some of the challenges faced during the implementation of the NUA include: rapid urbanization, weak entrepreneurial skills to start and sustain income generating activities, inadequate funding and lack of adequate land for slum upgrading. However, the Government is working on solutions to address these challenges.

It is noted that the preparation of this Report is critical as an effective way of keeping track of the country's direction in terms of achieving sustainable development. In this regard, different actors can identify areas of underachievement and focus on their improvement.



# Chapter 1: INTRODUCTION

**T**he New Urban Agenda is the world's roadmap for sustainable urbanism. It was adopted in 2016 during the Habitat III conference in Quito, Ecuador, and endorsed by the UN General Assembly two months later during its 71st session (Resolution RES/71/256). The agenda serves as the implementation framework for the urban components of the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities.

This report is prepared to align with the section of the agenda on follow-up and review of the New Urban Agenda, to ensure coherence at the national level in order to track progress, assess impact, and ensure the Agenda is effectively and timely implemented in line with (paragraph 161). In line with this request, Kenya has since 2016, produced one quadrennial report on the progress in implementing the agenda in 2022. This report serves as the second for the period 2026 and serves as a special mid-term review of the agenda.



## Chapter 2: REPORTING FRAMEWORK

The reporting framework includes the reporting modality, preparation of the report and leveraging other reporting processes.

### 2.1.1 Reporting Modality

This report has been updated from the previous National Progress Report during the previous reporting cycle.

### 2.1.2 Preparation of the Report

This report has been reviewed in adherence with the four pillars of good reporting i.e. realistic and evidence based, analytical of the trends observed in the evidence base, connected to local best practices, and prepared in an open, inclusive, multilevel, participatory, and transparent manner.

This report was prepared by the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban.

Development, which is the National Focal point on Housing and human settlements matters. The Ministry constituted a broad-based National Habitat Committee (NHC) after the Habitat II Conference held in 1996 as was required by the Habitat Agenda. The NHC ensures Kenya has a coordinated, harmonized, all-inclusive and effective participation while at the same time reaping maximum benefits and returns from such processes. The NHC draws membership from Government Agencies, Civil Society Organizations, Academia, Private Sectors, Professional Bodies and Neighborhood Association among others.

During this reporting period whose baseline is the year 2022, Kenya participated at the Regional Webinar on New Urban Agenda Reporting and shared experiences and lessons learnt in submitting the National Progress Report for the 2022 cycle.

### 2.1.3 Leveraging other reporting processes

The preparation of this report has leveraged on the alignment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the New Urban Agenda, Kenya Vision 2030, the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, the Medium-Term Plan IV, and the Voluntary National Reviews report among other documents.



## 3.1.1 Social Inclusion and Ending Poverty

### ***The achievements include:***

Establishment of Affirmative Action Funds which include Women Enterprise Fund providing financial and business support services to women-owned Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to promote their economic empowerment; UWEZO Fund that expand access to finances for youth, women, and persons with disabilities at the constituency level to promote businesses and enterprises; the National Government Affirmative Action Fund which focuses on empowering vulnerable groups, including women, youth, persons with disabilities, children, and the elderly, by providing financial and social support to improve their livelihoods and promote social equity; and, Youth Enterprise Development Fund, which increases economic opportunities for Kenyan youth by providing them with accessible and affordable financing, enterprise development support, and strategic partnerships.

The Access to Government Procurement Opportunities and Public Finance Management Act 2012 (Amendment, 2015) reserves at least 30 percent of all public procurement to women, youths and persons with disability.

The Local Purchase Order (LPO) Financing Programme supports businesses of persons with disabilities that are registered with the National Treasury under Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) to finance LPOs, Local Service Orders (LSOs) and Contracts awarded by Government procuring entities. The Council over the last two years (2022-2023 and 2023/2024) supported about 119 businesses owned by Persons with Disabilities that were awarded tenders up to a tune of Ksh. 500,000 each.

Establishment of 152 Youth Empowerment Centres (YECs) across all 47 counties. YECs provide “One-Stop Shops” for youth-friendly services in order to meet the diverse needs of young people. Twenty-five centres are currently being renovated, branded, and operationalized to provide strategic and youth-focused services to this dynamic and vibrant group, such as access to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) services, entrepreneurship training, drug and substance abuse, guidance and counselling, HIV/AIDS prevention, nurturing youth talent, and positive leisure. The refurbishment and operationalization of the centres will contribute in lowering crime rates and increasing educational achievement.

The Government runs a social protection programme that disburses funds to vulnerable persons to improve their livelihoods dubbed the INUA JAMII programmes which comprises three main categories as follows: Cash Transfer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children




Project (CT - OVC); Older Persons Cash Transfer Programme (OPTC); and, Persons Living with Severe Disability Cash Transfer Programme (PwSD-CT). During the Financial year 2024/25 a total amount of KSH 17,433,204,000 was disbursed, to the beneficiaries under the programme. The total number of beneficiaries as at January 2025 was 1,760,074; with 1,253,290 for OP-CT, 444,115 for CT-OVC and 62,669 for PwSD-CT programmes. These households receive a monthly stipend of Kshs. 2,000 (USD 15.46). Further, the Government digitized the transfer of funds to the older persons to reach a wider network through the mobile platform for ease of access.

The Government has undertaken two (2) phases of the Kenya Social Economic Inclusion Programme (EIP) which has so far targeted 15,000 extremely poor households' beneficiaries, who are not beneficiaries of the INUA JAMII programme to start Income Generating Activities (IGA). This is being implemented in five (5) counties; Taita Taveta, Murang'a, Marsabit, Makueni and Kisumu. Participants receive a consumption support of KSH 2,000 per month for one year and an addition KSH 30,000 for asset transfer/seed capital to start businesses to improve their livelihoods.

The Government increased loan disbursements to women (KSh 459 million), youth (KSh 324 million), and PWDs (KSh 17 million) in the 2024/25 fiscal year.



 Figure 1: Issuance of Uwezo Fund cheques by Principal Secretary, for the State Department of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises, Hon. Susan Mang'eni

***The challenges include:***

- (i) Inadequate funding.
- (ii) High levels of youth unemployment.
- (iii) Weak entrepreneurial skills to initiate and sustain income generating activities.
- (iv) Low uptake of the 30% budget reserved for PWDs due to unawareness and inadequate capital to initiate business.

### **3.1.2 Address inequality in urban areas by promoting equally shared opportunities and benefits**

***The achievements include:***

Operationalization of Huduma Kenya Programme that is providing citizens access to various public services and information from one-stop-shop. This programme has brought services closer to the people that include; application of Identification Card, access to Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF) member statements and accredited institution, Certificate of good conduct, status of pension claims etc. There are 58 Huduma Centres distributed all over 47 counties and with over 30,000 people served daily, 9.5 Million citizens have been served since the programme inception.

Establishment of Local Urban Forums (LUFs) constituted by over 3,500 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working with vulnerable urban communities in 21 Counties of Kenya. Through well-coordinated efforts, local policies and governance transformations have been realized.

With the establishment of the new Municipal Boards, Civil Society Urban Development Platform (CSUDP) under the Urban Board Non-State Agencies Model (UBNA), has been adopted by at least 4 Boards in constituting the legally provided for Citizens Fora. This Model has been useful in ensuring appropriate representation and operationalization of the Boards. It

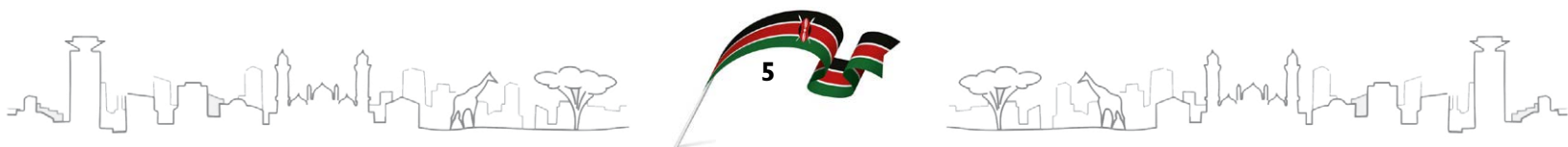
has also been instrumental in training the Counties on how to set up the Citizen's Forums.

79 Municipalities have already set up municipal boards under the Urban Areas and Cities Act

2011 (Amendment, 2019) and their operations are running. The Kenya Urban Support Programme (KUSP), provided funding for the establishment of these boards. These boards are aimed at bringing services and opportunities closer to the people.

***The challenges include:***

Inadequate funding to implement projects aimed at promoting sustainable urbanization.





***The lesson learnt include:***

- There is a need to establish more Huduma Centres in each of the 290 constituencies across the country to bring services closer to its citizens.

### **3.1.3 Enhance social inclusion of vulnerable groups (women, youth, older persons with disabilities, and migrants)**

***The achievements include:***

The Government introduced a Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics Mentorship programme aiming at increasing female enrolment into engineering and applied science courses and taking up science-based professions.

The Government established a Task Force on Femicide, which was commissioned in January, 2025 to address vulnerabilities specific to women and children and enhance protection measures

Establishment of Gender-Based Violence Recovery Centres and Safe Spaces Country-wide and campaigns against gender-based violence have been conducted. In collaboration with the NSA, the Government has promoted the establishment and use of the following GBVRs Medicins Sans Frontieres (MSF) Lavender House Clinic in Mathare, Nairobi which provides medical and psycho-social support to GBV survivors; Rescue Dada Centre in Ngara, Nairobi, and Healthcare Assistance Kenya (HAK); The “Safe Homes Safe Spaces” Initiative is a government-led effort to create safer environments for GBV survivors, with plans to replicate it in all 47 counties. The Gender Violence Recovery Centre (GVRC) has become a center of excellence in GBV management, with its headquarters in Nairobi and the Nairobi City County is also working on establishing a safe house for GBV survivors and conducting community sensitization on GBV.

Improvement in reporting by victims of gender-based violence through these provided hotlines; LVCT one2one youth 1190, Kimbilio GBV 1193, Child line Kenya 116, and Police 999 and 112.

The amendments of the Matrimonial Property Act, 2013 and Law of Succession Act (amendment), 2021 recognize the non-monetary contributions ensuring equal property such as childcare and domestic work as a valid form of contribution. The Acts through the court ensure that no spouse is evicted from their matrimonial home by or at the instance of the other spouse except by order of the court. The Law of Succession Act, 2021 ensures there is equal distribution of inheritance and property rights for children and women. The Act protects widows of their husband’s personal and household effects and the right to a life interest.

The Government of Kenya is committed to achieving gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, with a focus on innovation and technology. Four key areas of focus for





ICT development in Kenya are; Mobile, Market, Skills and Innovation, and Public Service Delivery.

Implementation of a National Policy on Gender and Development, 2019 which aims at achieving equality of opportunity and outcomes with respect to access to and control of National and County resources and services and equality of treatment that meets the specific and distinct needs of different categories of men and women.

Implementation of the National Policy for Eradication of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) developed in 2019. Since its adoption, there has been heightened advocacy against FGM and rescuing as well as rehabilitation of those affected.

Provision and enforcement of re-entry policy for girls who may have dropped out of school is currently being enforced aggressively.

The Government is implementing the three cash transfer programmes (Orphans and Vulnerable Children-Cash Transfer, Older Persons Cash Transfer Program and Persons with Severe Disabilities Cash Transfer) to cushion the most vulnerable in society against adverse effects of poverty and hunger. The programme is present in all 47 counties in Kenya.

The Government's commitment to safeguarding the rights of older persons, in February 2022, Kenya ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa.

In 2023, the Cabinet approved two policies that have key interventions that support older persons, i.e. the Kenya Social Protection Policy and the National Family Promotion and Protection Policy.

Enactment of the Kenya Persons with Disabilities Act, 2025, which is aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities. It strengthens the legal framework for disability inclusion in Kenya, aligning with the Constitution and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Act focuses on key areas like employment, accessibility, and legal protection, with the goal of fostering a more inclusive society.

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Inadequate gender statistics, disaggregation, dissemination and limited utilization of gender research.
- (ii) Insufficient Gender-Based Violence (GBV) response and prevention mechanism, and harmful socio-cultural practices such as FGM, child marriage and widow inheritance.
- (iii) Limited Sex Education and Reproductive Health Awareness.

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- Enhanced partnership approach model is key to the effective implementation of gender



programmes. This enhances the efficiency in implementation of programmes and resources for gender programmes.

- There is a need for more sensitization programs on the rights and obligations of the vulnerable and the negative effects of some cultural practices.

### 3.1.4 Ensure equal access to public spaces including streets, sidewalks and cycling lane

#### ***The achievements include:***

The National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) has been implementing road safety action plans that include improving road infrastructure, promoting safer road user behavior, and enhancing post-crash response.

The Global Public Space Programme (GPSP) has been working to improve public spaces, including streets and sidewalks, to enhance community inclusion and well-being.

#### ***The challenges include:***

- Encroachment on the public spaces by private developers.
- Some public spaces are poorly designed while others are degraded or undeveloped hence not suitable for use.
- High cost of restoration and maintenance of the public spaces.
- Insecurity and safety issues.

Competing interest from other users such as hawkers.

#### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- There is a need for stakeholder engagement and participation in project planning and designing.

### 3.1.5 Access to Adequate Housing

#### ***The achievements include:***

Enactment of the Affordable Housing Act 2024 which establishes the Affordable Housing Fund. Its purpose is to provide funds and a legal framework for the design, development, and maintenance of affordable housing, institutional housing, and associated social and physical infrastructure.

Establishment of Boma Yangu Platform (<https://bomayangu.go.ke>) which is the online

marketplace where stakeholders in the Affordable Housing Program interact. It creates an ecosystem that links industry players and stakeholders in the housing sector – including property developers, financial institutions such as banks and SACCOs, as well as the various government agencies supporting the program, interface with the e-citizen portal for verification of applicants, potential homeowners register and begin contributing towards the purchase of an affordable home. Currently, over 800,000 citizens have registered on the platform.

The Government has disbursed over Kenya shillings 28.27 billion to the County Governments to provide infrastructure for the Affordable Housing Programme under the Kenya Urban Support Programme (KUSP). In addition, the KUSP has facilitated the preparation of 57

Urban Integrated Development Plans (IDePs) and 51 Spatial Plans in 59 municipalities across

Kenya, setting the foundation for organized urban growth and housing development. Further, Municipal Solid Waste Management Plans have been developed in 54 municipalities, contributing to cleaner, more habitable environments, indirectly improving housing conditions.

Implementation of the Affordable Housing Programme by the National and County Governments which aims at delivering 200,000 housing units annually. The affordable housing units launched and under construction increased from 8,872 in 2022 to 124,000 in 2024, an increase of 115,128 units.

Through the National Housing Corporation (NHC) the Government has implemented several projects in various Counties during the period under review. The Corporation completed 574 housing units during the period 2022 and 2025 whereby 410 were Affordable and 164 units were market rate houses. During the same period 858 housing units were ongoing and were at 49% average completion level various counties across the country.

The National Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) project in Homa Bay made history as the first public housing development in Africa to receive Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies (EDGE) certification by International Finance Corporation (IFC) that focuses on making buildings for resource-efficient in terms of energy, water and materials compared to conventional buildings. This milestone signaled a significant shift in Kenya's public housing sector, demonstrating that sustainability and affordability can go hand in hand. The project incorporates passive cooling designs, energy-saving lighting, water-efficient plumbing fixtures, and locally sourced materials—all of which contribute to reduced utility bills for residents and a lower carbon footprint.





Figure 2: H.E. President, Dr. William Ruto, CGH, laying the Foundation Stone of Boma Yangu Awendo Affordable Housing Project in Migori County, August 2025

The National Housing Corporation set up Expanded Polystyrene Building Panels (EPS) factory to promote Appropriate Building Technologies. Between 2022 and 2025, the factory produced over 200,000M2 of EPS panels used in the construction industry. The panels are cost effective, saves construction time by 30% and are environmentally friendly. During the same time, the Corporation build capacity on the use of ABTs (EPS) to over 4,000 Artisans and Masons.



Figure 3: Homa Bay AHP is EDGE Certified

Figure 4: Homa Bay Gov. Hon. Gladys Wanga and NHC CEO QS. David Mathu receiving EDGE Certificate.



Figure 5: Mukuru Affordable Housing Project in Nairobi

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) High demand for housing against a limited supply.
- (ii) Rapid urbanization.
- (iii) High cost of land.
- (iv) Weak monitoring, evaluation and feedback frameworks.
- (v) Increased poverty level.
- (vi) High cost of housing finance.

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- Legislative framework is key for the sector's vibrancy.
- There is a need to strengthen monitoring and evaluation frameworks.
- There is a need to embrace new and emerging technologies.

## **3.1.6 Ensure access to sustainable housing finance options**

### ***The achievements include:***

40% increase in mortgage refinancing from 2,522 mortgages refinanced in 2022 to 3,527 in 2024.



The Government through the Civil Servants Housing Scheme Fund has been issuing loans to civil servants to facilitate home ownership by providing cheaper mortgages at 5% which is way below the market rates.

The National Cooperative Housing Union (NACHU) which is the umbrella body for housing cooperatives in Kenya issues loans to its members at a rate of 14% per annum on a reducing balance.

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) High cost of financing housing and supportive infrastructure development.
- (ii) Inadequate incentives to spur private sector investments in low-cost housing.

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- The demand for housing is high in Kenya and there should be increased financing for the sector.
- The Government needs to invest heavily in massive social housing and low-income housing.
- There is a need for investment in infrastructure development to open up areas designated for housing development.
- There is a need for the Government to invest in rental housing for the citizens.

## **3.1.7 Establish Security of Tenure**

### ***The achievements include:***

Development of Ardhisa online platform that allows Citizens, stakeholders and interested parties to interact with land information held and processes undertaken by Government.

The Kenya Informal Settlements Improvement Project (KISIP) that undertakes infrastructure improvement and tenure regularization in the informal settlements has impacted 14 Counties through planning and surveying of 80 informal settlements and issuance of 25,440 title deeds. A total of 1,380,900 people has benefited from infrastructure provision and tenure regularization.

Provision on the Gazettement of Special Planning Areas (Informal settlement areas, special economic zones) to allow these areas to be planned under minimum planning standards and especially within slums and informal settlements.

Ongoing regularization of informal settlements, strengthened land administration systems, and streamlined land registration processes.





Figure 6: H.E. President, Dr. William Ruto, CGH, issues 10,807 Title Deeds in New Kiare, Tigania West, Meru County, April 2025

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Politicization of the resettlement and slum upgrading process.
- (ii) Delay in processing of land allocation/ownership documents.
- (iii) Prolonged litigation on land matters.
- (iv) Lengthy and bureaucratic redress mechanism.

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- There is a need to minimize lengthy bureaucratic processes to speed up processing of land ownership documents.
- Digitization of land records shortens the land administration and ease access to services.

## **3.1.8 Establish Slum Upgrading Programmes**

### ***The achievements include:***

Formulation of the National Slum Upgrading and Prevention Strategy (2024-2034) which aims to improve living conditions in informal settlements and prevent the formation of new slums. It focuses on providing secure land tenure, in-situ upgrading, enhancing access to basic services, and promoting community participation.

Expansion of labour-intensive public works programs, including initiatives like Climate Worxs which contributes to increased employment opportunities.

The Kenya Slum Upgrading Programme (KENSUP) continues to focus on improving living conditions in informal settlements through various initiatives. Key achievements include the construction of housing units and market stalls, particularly in Kibera (Soweto), and the construction of social amenities like schools and dispensaries in different locations. The program also facilitated the formation of housing cooperatives and community groups, and provided capacity building to enhance community participation.

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Insufficient land for slum upgrading
- (ii) Lack of goodwill and mistrust from the beneficiaries
- (iii) Gentrification.
- (iv) Illegal sale of land in the settlement schemes
- (v) Conflicting interest from stakeholders.

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- There is a need to establish a database of the beneficiaries of Slum upgrading programmes and projects to address gentrification.
- There is a need to strengthen partnerships with stakeholders with a view to increase financing for slum upgrading and informal settlement programmes.
- There is need to build consensus with stakeholders for successful implementation of projects.
- Political goodwill is essential in the implementation of slum upgrading projects.

## **3.1.9 Access to basic services**

### ***The achievements include:***

Enactment of the Sustainable Waste Management Act 2022 to establish the legal and institutional framework for the sustainable management of waste and to ensure the realization of the constitutional provision on the right to a clean and healthy environment.

Taita Taveta County launched the County Solid Waste Management Strategy and the Chakaleri Material Recovery Facility (MRF) at Chakaleri, Mwatate in March 2023. the Civil Society Urban Development Platform (CSUDP) partnered with UN-Habitat to implement the project on material recovery and waste enterprise development in Voi and Mwatate.

The proportion of the population using at least basic drinking water increased from 52.4 per cent in 2016 to 67.9 per cent in 2022 and 74.7 per cent in 2024. A higher percentage of the urban population (92.4%) reported to use at least basic drinking water services in 2024 compared to the rural population (64.4%).

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Rapid population growth strains water resources, leading to escalating water and food scarcity.
- (ii) Pollution and degradation of water catchment areas.
- (iii) Climate change and associated extreme weather events threaten the sustainable development of water resources.
- (iv) The low sewerage coverage poses a major threat to water quality and public health, largely due to inadequate effluent treatment.
- (v) Water-related conflicts particularly in water-scarce regions of Kenya.
- (vi) High energy cost of water production impeding affordability of water.
- (vii) Inadequate water storage infrastructure.

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- Collaborative framework between the National and County Governments is essential for ensuring sustainable water resource and sanitation management.
- Adoption of a circular economy helps to recover valuable resources which could otherwise have been wasted. This helps to create wealth and employment.

## **3.1.10 Ensure access to safe and efficient public transport system**

### ***The achievements include:***

Construction of the Nairobi Expressway Project Class A dual-carriageway road, toll road connecting Jomo Kenyatta International Airport to Nairobi's Westlands area, that has been constructed under a public-private partnership between the government of Kenya and China Road and Bridge Corporation. It is 27.1 km and the project consists of a total of 11 interchanges, 5 mainline bridges and 20 ramp bridges.

Ethiopia has been actively involved in the Lamu Port South Sudan Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor Project (LAPSSET), utilizing the Port of Lamu for shipping cargo and emphasizing the project's potential to support its growing economy. The arrival of Ethiopia's MV Abby II at the Port of Lamu, carrying 60,000 tonnes of fertilizer, highlighted the port's growing importance for regional trade.



Continuous efforts to improve road networks, including the construction of new roads, maintenance of existing ones, and enhancements to rural and urban roads across the country for better connectivity and accessibility.



Figure 7: Mombasa-Mtwapa road



Figure 8: Nairobi express way

### **The challenges include:**

- (i) Vandalism of public infrastructure facilities.
- (ii) High capital investments and costs of infrastructure.
- (iii) Encroachment of land earmarked for public infrastructure (road and railway) reserves.
- (iv) Costly climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.
- (v) Inadequate funding for maintenance, rehabilitation, and construction of new infrastructure.
- (vi) Delayed disbursement of funds to undertake the planning process and insufficient funds to complete the projects on time.

### **The lessons learnt include:**

- Integration of disaster risk reduction and management in the transport sub-sector is key to ensure that transport systems remain safe, effective and operational during and after disasters to provide life-saving and essential services in cities and human settlements.

## **3.1.11 Provide Access to Modern Renewable Energy**

### **The achievements include:**

The Last Mile Connectivity Project aims to increase the number of people connected to electricity. There were 435,045 new customers in 2023.

The Government of Kenya is implementing a gradual phase-out of expensive diesel power generators to provide cheaper and cleaner energy by providing access to modern renewable energy such as Lake Turkana Wind Power and Olkaria Geothermal.

The proportion of households with access to electricity through the grid increased from 49.5 per cent in 2020 to 54 per cent in 2021. Similarly, the proportion of individuals with access to grid electricity increased from 42 per cent in 2020 to 47.1 per cent in 2021 and further to 49.6 per cent in 2022. Furthermore, the proportion of households with access to electricity, both on-grid and off-grid, increased from 69.8 per cent in 2019 to 72.5 per cent in 2020 and 75 per cent in 2022 and 2023. This progress was realized due to the last mile connectivity, Kenya Off-grid Solar Access (KOSAP) and rural electrification projects.

In 2024, renewable sources of energy contributed (91.1%) of domestic electricity generation, with geothermal leading at (44.2%), followed by hydro (28.9%), wind by (14.3%) and solar (3.7%)

The Government developed a proposal for renewable energy auctions policy to take advantage of private sector participation through competitive bidding for solar and wind projects. The Government has also put in place electricity access strategies and programs such as Kenya Off- grid Solar Access Project (KOSAP) and Last Mile Connectivity. Through KOSAP, the private sector has been facilitated to deliver electrification through mini grids, solar home systems and clean cooking systems.


Rolling out of the ‘Mwananchi Gas Project” (dabbed Gas Yetu), aimed at increasing affordability of liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders to poor households.

The introduction of the M-Kopa Solar products enabled off-grid communities to shift from using non-renewable energy to affordable and sustainable practices, while cutting down on pollution. It combines embedded GSM + mobile payments to revolutionize asset financing in emerging markets. Use of digital money platforms e.g. MPESA to pay power bills

In implementing the Energy Act 2019, the Government established a renewable energy feed- in-tariff system with the objective of catalysing the generation of electricity through renewable energy sources and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by lessening reliance on non-renewable energy resources. Equipment for generating energy from renewable energy sources i.e. Solar, wind etc. have been zero-rated in tax during importation. Most of these power-generating projects are in rural areas.

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) High cost of extending energy infrastructure to remote areas
- (ii) Inadequate financial resources, hence the need for funding partnerships to enhance investment in energy.
- (iii) Long lead time of developing energy infrastructure projects.

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- (iv) Reluctance among the population in switching from conventional to new and more environment-friendly energy sources.
  - (v) Land tenure system with dispersed settlement patterns in some areas.
  - (vi) Balancing competing objectives in the energy sector such as rapid capacity expansion against the need for lower tariffs and the need for greening our generation against the desire for cheaper reliable capacities.
  - (vii) Ever-increasing costs of compensation for way-leaves and sites for energy projects due to land speculations.
  - (viii) Inadequate recycling facilities for electric and electronic waste generated.

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

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- Wider stakeholder consultations and analysis is essential before adoption and implementation of projects, policies, global commitments and obligations.
- There is a need to provide security for power infrastructure installations as a key national concern to guard against terror threats and safeguard against projects delivery timelines.
- Improved access to energy is critical for economic growth.





## 4.1.1 Inclusive Urban Economy

### ***The achievements include:***

**E**stablishment of 247 Digital Hubs with the aims to enhance access to free Internet services for online employment opportunities and revenue generation.

390,968 youths have been trained on digital skills and the government also provided 12,087 Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDIs) to 112 TVETS and higher learning institutions

Annual Public Service Internships Programme (PSIP) which aims to provide internship opportunities to young graduates within the public service, allowing them to gain practical work experience, develop professional skills, and enhance their employability. It also aims at addressing high rates of youth unemployment by offering valuable training and exposure to the workings of government departments and agencies. The programme has provided internship placements to over 25,000 young graduates since its inception in the 2019/2020 financial year

Over 250,000 direct and indirect jobs since the year 2022 have been created through the Affordable Housing Programme

Youth Enterprise Development Fund has continued to empower young entrepreneurs by providing financial and non-financial support, offering loans, grants, and business development services, including training and mentorship. Additionally, the fund enables youth to establish and expand their enterprises, thereby promoting youth employment, economic empowerment, and poverty reduction.

The government has inducted 110,000 new youth workers into the Climate Worx Programme launched in 2024. This is a flagship sustainability and youth empowerment initiative implemented under the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development, in collaboration with county governments, the Nairobi Rivers Commission (NRC), NYS, civil society organizations, and other partners. The Program addresses pressing environmental challenges such as river pollution, solid waste build-up, and degraded public spaces as well as creating meaningful livelihoods for thousands of young Kenyans.

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Rapid technological advancements, including automation and artificial intelligence, have led to job displacement and skills mismatches.
- (ii) The adverse effects of climate change, such as extreme weather events and



environmental degradation, have posed significant challenges to sustainable economic growth and employment.

- (iii) High costs associated with adopting new/emerging technologies.
- (iv) Low levels of value addition affect manufacturing.
- (v) Cyber threats and attacks.
- (vi) Dumping of counterfeit and substandard goods in the country which impacts negatively on local businesses.
- (vii) High capital investments and costs of industrial production.
- (viii) Digital connectivity divide.

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- Targeted youth employment programmes require comprehensive support beyond financial assistance.
- New and emerging technologies provide future opportunities as well as threats to the existing ICT environment.
- Mobile money has led to near complete financial inclusions, increased credit availability to small traders through digital platforms, thereby reducing costs associated with mobility and processing of credit further eased business across distant physical locations.
- To improve agricultural livelihoods and economic development, the automated Market Information System (MIS) improves the collection, processing and dissemination of market information on a real-time basis.

## **4.1.2 Strengthen Informal Economy**

### ***The achievements include:***

The Government continued to install high mast flood lights across the country, constructed schools, social halls, and health facilities in the informal settlements which have contributed towards the strengthening of the informal economy.

The informal sector remains a major employer in Kenya, absorbing a significant portion of the workforce, with over 16.7 million individuals employed in 2023, representing 83.5% of total employment.

Digitalization continued to play an increasing role, particularly in the creatives and entertainment segment, creating new opportunities for young Kenyans within the gig economy.

Segments like food service provision (street vendors), creatives & entertainment, and Agri

livelihoods continued to gain attention as key areas of opportunity and growth within the informal economy.

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Limited access to finance
- (ii) Skills gap.
- (iii) Market dominance by big operators.
- (iv) Lack of clear policies hinder its full potential.

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- There is need for clear policies to realize the full potential of informal economy

## **4.1.3 Support Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises**

### ***The achievements include:***

The Government, through the Affordable Housing Programme, has ring-fenced over Kshs. 11 Billion since 2022 for Jua Kali artisans and MSMEs to supply doors, windows among other items.

The Government has embarked on efforts to develop 400 No. markets across the country to dignify traders' work environment while boosting economic recovery at the local level.

Launch of the Hustler Fund in 2022, targeting to provide accessible financial support to small businesses and entrepreneurs across the country. The Fund consists of four products, including personal finances, microloans, SME loans, and Start-ups. For the personal finance scheme, the amount one can take begins at Ksh500 and is capped at Ksh50,000, depending on one's score, while SMEs and Start-ups can access up to Ksh 250,000. Through the Hustler Fund, the government has already disbursed Ksh. 63.5 billion to 26.3 million individuals and Ksh. 196.8 million to 58,630 micro and small groups. Ksh. 3.4 billion was saved by individual subscribers and Ksh. 9.8 million was saved by micro and small groups by March 10, 2025. Ksh. 3.47 billion disbursed to MSMEs in key value chains through Kenya Development Corporation.

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Unreliable and high cost of energy for industrial enterprises
- (ii) Inadequate access to financial services for MSMEs.
- (iii) Inadequate or no collaterals for some MSMEs
- (iv) Poor planning, design, and location of the trade centres and markets that do not meet the needs of the users.

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- Formalization of the informal sector requires a conducive regulatory environment and support for entrepreneurship.
- Community/ beneficiary engagement is needed during planning, design, re-development and management of trade centres and markets.
- The MSME sector provides the highest employment opportunities in Kenya and maKsh key contributions towards improving the economic and social sectors of the country.
- Proper garbage collection and management services provide a good business environment for the MSMEs



Figure 9: Jua Kali Artisans at work

## **4.1.4 Promote an enabling fair and responsible environment for business and innovation**

### ***The achievements include:***

Through collaboration with partners, some Counties like Kajiado have managed to install an online system for collecting revenue. Others like Murang'a and Kilifi have designed their own internal online system of revenue collection.



The Government has established over 300 Constituency Innovation Hubs (CIHs) spread across the country and are open from Mondays to Saturdays for youths to access freely. The project provides safe working spaces for youths who need to innovate and do some work in the online space. The youths are provided with sitting space, laptops and internet in the centres.

The Government has incorporated the use of innovative technology in projects and initiatives to influence urbanization through expanding connectivity and digital infrastructure (Digital Superhighway Program), enhancing digital literacy and skills development and facilitating e-government and digital services (E- citizen and BomaYangu platform)

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) High cost of doing business.
- (ii) Introduction of numerous levies by subnational Government authorities.
- (iii) High interest rates offered by lending financial institutions.
- (iv) Limited awareness of the business initiatives and levies charged by both the National and County Governments.

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- There is need to harmonise and lower the fees charged by various institutions to enhance ease of doing business.
- There is need to establish a one-stop shop service centre for all sectors to ease the way of doing business.

## **4.1.5 Sustainable Prosperity for all**

### ***The achievements include:***

The National Development Fund for Persons with Disabilities (NDFPWD) which has a programme that supports socio-economic interventions geared towards the participation of PWDs in all spheres of life provided 8,432 scholarships, 10,091 assistive devices, 603 tools of trade and registered 120,929 PWDs

The Financial Inclusion Programme (Hustler Fund), was established in 2022, to provide access and affordable finance for individual and MSMEs and has disbursed KSh. 36,873,121,130 to individual borrowers

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Encroachment in the sites intended for the cultural centres.

- (ii) Delayed survey services for cultural centres.
- (iii) Inadequate funding for the development and preservation of the cultural centres.

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- There is need to match planning with budgetary allocations for implementation and development of cultural centres
- There is need to secure adequate funds for the development and preservation of the cultural centres

## **4.1.6 Develop technical and entrepreneurial skills to thrive in a modern urban economy**

### ***The achievements include:***

The Government of Kenya has been promoting the use of climate-smart technologies by undertaking enterprise development; technology transfer, capacity building training and dissemination of Appropriate Building Materials and Technologies (ABMTs) across the country.

Incorporation of green building technology in housing projects by different stakeholders which include: water saving, energy-saving features such as natural lighting and ventilation, energy saving fitting, water conservation feature, use of Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) construction technology, aligning the building to North-South Direction, solar lighting, LPG reticulation for housing estates and roof water harvesting.

Through the Kenya Industry and Entrepreneurship Project (KIEP) secured US\$50 million from the World Bank Group over the next six years between 2019-2024 to support innovation and productivity in select private sector firms in Kenya by strengthening the private sector (including start-ups, SMEs, incubators, accelerators, technology Boot camp providers, etc.) through financial grants and technical assistance.

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Inadequate funding for entrepreneurial skills development.
- (ii) Skills gap
- (iii) Limited opportunities to absorb TVET graduates.

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- There is a need to undertake intensive sensitization on the importance of TVETs in imparting entrepreneurial skills.



- There is a need to mobilize resources for entrepreneurial skills development.
- There is a need to create partnerships with other global institutions for knowledge sharing and best practices

#### 4.1.7 Develop rural-urban linkages to maximize productivity

##### ***The achievements include:***

Continuous preparation of Physical and Land Use Development Plans with land use allocations that support rural urban linkages and the promotion of rural development across the country. This includes proposals for industrial sites, markets, processing and value addition sites, transportation networks among others.

The implementation of the New Urban Agenda localizes the Sustainable Development Goals. The agenda calls for inclusive approaches and enhanced synergies between urban and rural communities and spaces. The ‘inclusion’ concept of “leave no one behind” is an essential tool for ensuring balanced development in both urban and rural areas.

##### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Inadequate professional competency e.g., renewable energy experts/technicians
- (ii) Inadequate research, development, and innovation on renewable energy technologies
- (iii) Uncoordinated planning and project implementation i.e., transmission lines are delayed or come earlier than the power generation plants.
- (iv) Inadequate funding for project implementation.
- (v) Vandalism of the infrastructure.
- (vi) Land issues such as compensation and relocation are hindering progress of projects.

##### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- The Last Mile Connectivity Project has accelerated connections in Kenya since its inception.
- Coordination among the different sectors involved in the promotion of rural-urban linkages is paramount in ensuring balanced development.

## Chapter 5:

**ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE AND  
RESILIENT URBAN DEVELOPMENT****5.1.1 Resilience, Mitigation and Adaptation of Cities and Human Settlements*****The achievements include:***

**S**tormwater Drainage and Flood Mitigation under the Kenya Urban Support Programme (KUSP). Kenya has improved stormwater drainage infrastructure in Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, Nakuru, and Eldoret, with 244 km of storm drains constructed to mitigate urban flooding.

The Government is committed to climate resilience through the Building Climate Resilience with the Urban Poor (BCRUP) Strategy. This strategy was launched by the President of the Republic of Kenya at the Africa Climate Summit held in Nairobi in 2023 and aims to protect vulnerable urban communities from climate impacts.

Mombasa Storm Water Drainage Project which is supported by the World Bank, has rehabilitated storm water channels and constructed new drainage infrastructure to reduce urban flooding and improve public health.

National Landscape and Ecosystem Restoration Strategy 2023-2032-aims to plant 15 billion trees and increase Kenya's forest cover to over 30 per cent by 2032. It is also aimed at reducing greenhouse emissions, stopping and reversing deforestation and restoring 5.1 million hectares of deforested and degraded landscapes. Since January 2024, Kenyans have planted 481 million trees.

Kenya has been actively working to minimize urban sprawl and biodiversity loss through various initiatives. These include integrating housing into urban development plans, promoting sustainable transport, and strengthening urban planning and design capacity. Furthermore, the country is focusing on conserving coastal urban and marine environments, improving solid waste management, and engaging communities in conservation efforts.

The Mombasa County Climate Action Plan 2023-2050 is a strategic document designed to guide the county in adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change. It emphasizes building a resilient and thriving environment and economy through a participatory approach, involving both the county government and local communities.

***The challenges include:***

- (i) Delayed disbursement of funds to undertake the planning process and insufficient funds to complete the projects on time.
- (ii) Politicization of the resettlement process.
- (iii) Encroachment of the riparian and ecologically fragile areas.

***The lessons learnt include:***

- It is necessary to get political support before commencing on planning processes;

## 5.1.2 Implement Climate Change mitigation and adaptation action

***The achievements include:***

Formulation and implementation of policies and strategies that includes; Green Growth and Employment Programme Strategy (2016-2030).

Surveying and mapping of all the riparian reserves and ecologically sensitive areas, flood paths to protect them from encroachment.

Provision of advisories on flood-related hazards in hotspot urban areas across the Country for action by relevant authorities including County Governments of Nairobi, Kisumu, Nakuru, Narok, Mombasa, Machakos, Eldoret, and Nyeri.

Nairobi City County has partnered with C40, SEI and 100 Resilient Cities leading global initiatives addressing climate change-related issues with a view to enhancing its capacity to respond to emerging climate change issues including impact of natural and human-made disasters, the county has to date mounted 8 Air Quality monitoring devices across the city.

Stakeholders in the Built Environment have incorporated green building technology in housing projects which include: water saving, energy saving features such as natural lighting and ventilation, energy saving fitting, water conservation feature, use of EPS construction technology, aligning the building to North-South Direction, solar lighting, LPG reticulation for housing estates, roof water harvesting.

Kenya has increased climate adaptation funding, particularly under KUSP II, which has been expanded to 79 municipalities to support urban resilience projects. The National Treasury has introduced climate budget tagging to track climate-related expenditures and ensure more efficient allocation of funds.

The Kenyan government has significantly increased funding for climate adaptation initiatives. For instance, the Kenya Climate-Smart Agriculture Project (KCSAP), supported

by the World Bank, invested KSh 500 million to establish 154 Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) across 24 counties. These AWS enhance climate resilience by providing accurate weather data to support agricultural productivity and disaster preparedness.

Kalobeyei Integrated Social and Economic Development Programme (KISEDPP) which is a model of resilient urban development for refugee-hosting areas, integrating over 60,000 refugees and host community members into formal urban systems. The program has delivered climate-adaptive infrastructure including 1,200+ flood-resistant shelters, 45 km of all-weather roads, and expanded water access to 85% of residents. Economic resilience has been strengthened through the Kakuma-Kalobeyei Challenge Fund supporting 120+ businesses and vocational training for 3,500+ youth. Institutional capacity building has trained 800+ officials on inclusive urban governance, while fully incorporating refugee needs into Turkana's County Integrated Development Plan (2023-2027).

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Poverty among the population in arid and semi-arid areas hence little capability to adapt.
- (ii) Inadequacy of modern meteorological, climatological and hydrological infrastructure to facilitate the rapid exchange of data and products.
- (iii) Insufficient funds to complete projects on time.
- (iv) Politicization on the protection of the ecologically fragile ecosystems.

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- Collaborative framework between the National and County Governments is essential for sustainable environmental management.
- The impact of climate change has increased the frequency and magnitude of extreme weather patterns adaptive mechanisms and early warnings

## **5.1.3 Develop systems to reduce the impact of natural and human made disasters**

### ***The achievements include:***

Kenya has focused on strengthening its disaster risk management (DRM) systems through initiatives like the "Early Warnings for All" (EW4All) initiative and the Kenya Anticipatory Action Roadmap 2024-2029. These efforts aim to enhance early warning systems, improve coordination between stakeholders, and promote anticipatory action to mitigate the impact of both natural and human-made disasters.



Kenya has strengthened its coordination mechanisms, including the Kenya Humanitarian Partners Team (KHPT) and the Inter-Agency Rapid Assessment Mechanism (KIRA). These platforms facilitate information sharing, coordination of relief efforts, and harmonization of strategies among various stakeholders.

**Integration of DRM and Climate Change Adaptation:** The IGAD DRM programme has developed regional frameworks for integrating DRM and Climate Change Adaptation, emphasizing flood early warning systems.

**Integration of Community-Based Disaster Risk Management** initiatives like the Pillars of Resilience project that aim to build community resilience by empowering religious leaders and promoting community participation in disaster preparedness and response.

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Human encroachment on environmentally sensitive areas.
- (ii) Inadequate financial resources to cater for initiatives to mitigate and adapt to disasters
- (iii) Limited capacity to mitigate and adapt to unpredictable climate change effects.
- (iv) Over-exploitation of natural resources.

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- There is a need to strengthen enforcement mechanisms to protect surveyed and mapped disaster prone and riparian areas.
- Kenya needs to adopt nature-based solutions for climate change action and environmental protection and conservation.

## **5.1.4 Build urban resilience through quality infrastructure and quality planning**

### ***The achievements include:***

Conservation of environmentally fragile areas through planning and prohibiting incompatible land uses. This includes, hill tops, steep slopes, gazette forests, wildlife habitats, rivers, lakes and oceans. Buffer zones are also provided to safeguard the areas from encroachment.

Promoted the resilience of new and existing critical infrastructure, including water, transportation and telecommunications infrastructure, educational facilities, hospitals and other health facilities, to ensure that they remain safe, effective and operational during and after disasters in order to provide live-saving and essential services.

Kenya has focused on building urban resilience through quality infrastructure and planning, particularly within the Kenya Urban Support Program (KUSP) II. This program emphasizes

strengthening urban institutions, promoting integrated planning, improving infrastructure and services, and enhancing private sector engagement.

Dissemination and implementation of the National Spatial Plan (2015-2045) and the County Spatial Plans which aim to guide urban development, promote sustainable settlements, and improve land management.

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Inadequate financial and human resource to develop climate proof infrastructure.
- (ii) Human encroachment on infrastructural reserves.
- (iii) Delayed disbursement of funds to undertake the planning process and insufficient funds to complete the projects on time.
- (iv) Inadequate data management system.

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- The need to strengthen collaboration between public and private sector players in promoting resilient planning and infrastructure.
- The need to enhance involvement of local communities in urban planning.

## **5.1.5 Sustainable Management and Use of Natural Resources**

### ***The achievements include:***

The Nairobi Water and Sewerage Company implemented water ATMs in informal settlements, providing residents with affordable and accessible clean water using mobile technology.

Several dam and irrigation projects were initiated or completed, including the Siyoi Muruny Dam, the Mwache Dam, and the Lower Nzoia irrigation infrastructure Phase 1, to increase water availability and improve irrigation infrastructure.

Increased forest and tree cover: The country realized an increase in forest and tree cover by 8.83% and 12.13% respectively, according to The National Treasury of Kenya.

Forest rehabilitation and protection: Significant areas of degraded forests were rehabilitated, and efforts were made to protect water towers and establish new forest plantations.

Bamboo forest rehabilitation: Communal land with bamboo forests benefited from rehabilitation efforts.

Efforts were made to curb illegal logging and deforestation through selective harvesting, strict felling plans, replanting programs, and rigorous monitoring.



### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Management of trans-boundary water resources with catchment on one County but flowing across several counties.
- (ii) Pollution of conventional water sources.
- (iii) Encroachment of environmentally sensitive areas e.g wetlands, forests etc
- (iv) Most of mining activities are still informal hence complicating data collection and planning
- (v) Dilapidation of the mining sites
- (vi) Illegal logging
- (vii) Lack of waste management infrastructure to support transition from linear to circular economy in waste management.

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- There is a need to strengthen a collaborative approach in the management of Natural Resources among lead agencies.
- Implementation of the circular economy requires participatory planning and involvement of all relevant stakeholders as well as sensitization of the public on their own.
- Expanding circular economy opportunities at the local level can contribute to promoting sustainable urban development.

## **5.1.6 Drive Resource Conservation and waste reduction, reuse and recycling**

### ***The achievements include:***

Implementation and enforcement of the plastic bags ban initiative since 2017 and the Single Use Plastics ban in Protected Areas since 2020 to date.

The Government imposed a ban on logging and extraction of timber in public and community forests.

The implementation of the Sustainable Waste Management Act (2022), which provides a framework for waste management, including waste valorization (reusing, recycling, or composting).

Implementation of the National Sustainable Waste Management Policy of 2021, which aims to reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse, and it supports the development of county-level waste management plans.

The development of county-level waste management plans. Additionally, the country has



seen increased private sector and community-based organization involvement in waste management initiatives.

Increased focus on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR): KEPRO took the first step towards sustainability by implementing EPR fees for flexible plastics on a voluntary basis, with plans for mandatory EPR for all producers in 2024.

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Loopholes in enforcement mechanisms on the ban of the single use plastic bags.
- (ii) Illegal importation of plastic bags.
- (iii) Limited finance to support effective waste reduction, re-use and recycling.
- (iv) Inadequate data and capacity on waste traffic along the value chains
- (v) Minimal separation of waste at source.
- (vi) Poor disposal of e-waste at the household level.

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- There is a need to enhance cooperation between the National and County Governments in waste management.
- There is a need to enhance separation of waste at source.
- Households should be sensitized on e-waste disposal.

## **5.1.7 Implement environmentally sound management of water resources and urban coastal areas**

### ***The achievements include:***

Promoting local deep sea fishing companies through joint ventures, reflagging of foreign fishing vessels and chartered fishing vessels.

Implementation of The Kenya Marine Plastics Action Plan 2021. Implementation of the National Climate Change Action Plan 2018-2022 which prioritizes enhancement of resilience of the Blue Economy and water sector by ensuring access to and efficient use of water for agriculture, manufacturing, domestic, wildlife, and other uses.

Launch of the Nairobi River regeneration initiative in 2022, which is a multi-agency effort focused on revitalizing Nairobi's rivers and improving urban resilience. The project aims to transform the rivers into vibrant waterfronts, enhance biodiversity, and provide sustainable water resources, ultimately improving the quality of life for residents. It integrates affordable housing, modern markets, and enhanced infrastructure, contributing to a more livable and economically vibrant city



The Go Blue project supported by the European Union (EU) in the coastal region of Kenya, where six Counties are involved (Kilifi, Kwale, Lamu, Mombasa, Taita Taveta and Tana River), has addressed land and marine pollution through a series of targeted initiatives.

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Coastal pollution from land-based sources and from international waters
- (ii) Encroachment on riparian areas

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- Blue economy should be harnessed and promoted for wealth creation, job creation and greater development.

## **5.1.8 Adopt a smart city approach that leverages digitization, clean energy and technologies**

### ***The achievements include:***

Digital platforms have improved access to government services like licensing, bill payments, and healthcare, reducing bureaucracy and improving service delivery.

Kenya is prioritizing investments in cycling infrastructure and promoting electric vehicle adoption

Implementation of smart grids to optimize energy consumption and prevent outages, enhancing energy efficiency

Implementation of the National Digital Master Plan to leverage ICT for accelerated economic growth and development.

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Inadequate finance to implement the Last Mile Connectivity Program.
- (ii) Upscaling innovation.
- (iii) Inadequate funding to acquire land for the development of smart city and installation of the required infrastructure

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- High energy prices are a disincentive in the development of smart cities.
- To achieve universal access to electricity both grid and off-grid solutions are required.

## Chapter 6: EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION

### 6.1.1 Building the Urban Governance Structure: Establishing a Supportive Framework

#### ***The achievements include:***

County Governments continued to mainstream Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in their County Integrated Development Plans (2023-2027) and Annual Development Plans (ADPs).

The devolved system has encouraged greater public participation in decision-making processes at the local level.



Figure 10: H.E. President, Dr. William Ruto, CGH and other leaders at the launch of Council of Governors Devolution Training Institute (DTI) Training Manual on August 13, 2025 during the 9th Devolution Conference hosted by Homa Bay County.

Counties have increasingly taken on responsibilities for service delivery, including areas like early childhood development and education (ECDE).

There has been a focus on building the capacity of both national and county governments to effectively carry out their assigned functions.

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Inadequate financing to realize the building of effective urban governance structure.
- (ii) Inadequate information on the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda
- (iii) The lessons learnt include:
- (iv) Establishing a supportive framework at all levels is key in effective implementation of the SDGs and NUA

## **6.1.2 Link urban policies to finance mechanisms and budgets**

### ***The achievements include:***

In implementing Urban policies, programmes and projects are implemented through normal Government budgetary processes. However, resources from the budgetary process have been complemented by programs supported by multilateral agencies including the World Bank, Agence Francaise de Development (AFD), UK Department for International Development (DFID) and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

The Government's fiscal policies have been placing special emphasis on fiscal consolidation to reduce public debt vulnerabilities while providing fiscal space to deliver essential public goods and services.

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Inadequate financing for implementing urban development programmes.
- (ii) Conflict of interest by different stakeholders in resource allocation for urban development.
- (iii) Under prioritization of urban policies in allocation of resources.
- (iv) Limited awareness and participation by stakeholders on urban policies

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- Participation of stakeholders is key towards ownership and effective implementation of projects and programs.
- To achieve sustainable urban development, there is a need to prioritize and finance urban policies and programmes.
- There is a need for sensitization of stakeholders on urban policies.

### 6.1.3 Develop legal and policy frameworks to enhance the ability of Governments to implement urban policies

#### ***The achievements include:***

Adoption and implementation of the National Urban Development Policy 2016 which aims to guide urbanization by providing a framework for sustainable urban development in Kenya.

Implementation of Urban Areas and Cities (Amendment) Act, 2019 that defines urbanization and categorizes urban institutions into 4 categories (cities, municipalities, towns and market centres) based on population thresholds.

The Kenya Urban Support Program (KUSP) has played a role in establishing municipalities and urban boards, particularly in the 79 targeted municipalities

Implementation of the Physical and Land Use Planning Act Number 13 of 2019. It makes provision for the planning, use, regulation and development of land and for connected purposes. It also establishes the physical and land use planning institutions; guides the preparation process of different levels and types of plans; provides guidance on development control and enforcement; and establishes different levels of Physical and Land Use Planning Liaison Committees.

Implementation of the Kenya National Slum Upgrading Prevention Policy of 2016 to promote, secure and protect dignified livelihood for the poor living and working in slums by strategically integrating them into the social, political and economic framework in line with the constitution.

#### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Disharmony in the laws that govern urban areas.
- (ii) Low budgetary allocation.

#### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- Comprehensive legal and policy frameworks are key towards guiding the urban sector.
- There is a need to harmonize laws and regulations on urban development.



## 6.1.4 Build capacity of local and sub-national Governments to implement local and metropolitan multilevel governance

### ***The achievements include:***

Establishment and operationalization of Urban Boards and Committees in at least 10 counties, with inductions on the New Urban Agenda and Local Economic Development (LED)

Enhance synergy between national and county governments, and within county structures (Assemblies, Executive, and Public Service Boards).

Counties are incorporating various plans (5-year County Integrated Development Plans, 10-year Sectoral Plans, etc.) into their planning processes.

Integration of the Sustainable Development Goals into national and county development strategies.

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Inadequate resources for capacity building.
- (ii) Limited participation by stakeholders.

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- Capacity building is a continuous process that should be sustained.
- There is need to strengthen networks in working with county governments, private sector, development partners, and non-state actors to create synergy and leverage resources

## 6.1.5 Implement participatory age and gender-responsive approaches to urban policy and plan

### ***The achievements include:***

The Government of Kenya through the Affordable Housing Programme has supported supply of housing units by Private Investors and 64% of Affordable Housing Project units have been sold to women including individual or joint ownership agreements.

In February 2022, Kenya ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa.

Kenya has a National Policy on Older Persons and Ageing (2018) with a comprehensive framework that facilitates the provision of reasonable care and assistance to older persons to participate in society, enjoy their rights and live-in dignity.

In 2023, Cabinet approved two policies that have key interventions that support older persons, i.e. the Kenya Social Protection Policy and the National Family Promotion and Protection Policy.

The Government of Kenya has implemented social protection programs, such as the Inua Jamii Cash Transfer Programme and Economic Inclusion Programme (EIP) to provide financial support to older persons.

Implementation of Climate Workx Program. This enhanced program aims not only to provide short-term employment but also to instill a sense of national pride, impart critical life skills, and create long-term opportunities for economic self-reliance among the youth.

There is a growing emphasis on participatory approaches, involving communities in the design and implementation of urban development projects, ensuring that the needs of diverse groups are considered.

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Retrogressive cultural practices that do not promote equal access to property.
- (ii) Sexual harassment in unplanned settlement areas.

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- Enhanced partnership approach is key to the effective implementation of gender programmes.
- There is need to promote progressive cultural practices that are gender responsive.

## **6.1.6 Achieve women's full participation in all fields and all levels of decision making**

### ***The achievements include:***

Development of Women economic empowerment strategy 2020-2025 which aims at providing the framework to facilitate the implementation of Women economic empowerment interventions that impact on the well-being and enhance income for all women.

Since 2022, the Women Enterprise Fund (WEF) has disbursed Ksh 1.8 billion to over 60,000 individuals in the 2022/2023 financial year. This includes Ksh 1.7 billion under the Constituency Women Enterprise Scheme (CWES). However, lending was paused in the latter half of that year as the fund transitioned to offer loans through the Financial Inclusion Fund platform

Following the 2022 elections, women make up 23.5% of the National Assembly. This translates to 82 women out of a total of 350 members.

In the Kenyan Senate, the percentage of women senators has fluctuated slightly since 2022. In September 2022, the percentage was 31.8%, and by May 2023, it had decreased to 31.3%.

The total number of senators is 67, with 16 being women nominated by political parties, and an additional woman representing the youth and another representing people with disabilities.

In the 2022 Kenyan elections, seven women were elected as governors, representing a significant increase from previous elections. This marks a positive shift in women's representation in leadership.

Devolution has created opportunities for women and other marginalized groups to participate in county-level planning and budgeting, including urban development.

The Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA) is an association within the Kenyan Parliament that seeks to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women in the legislative process. The association plays a critical role in advancing the status of women in Kenya and ensuring that gender perspectives are integrated into all areas of governance.

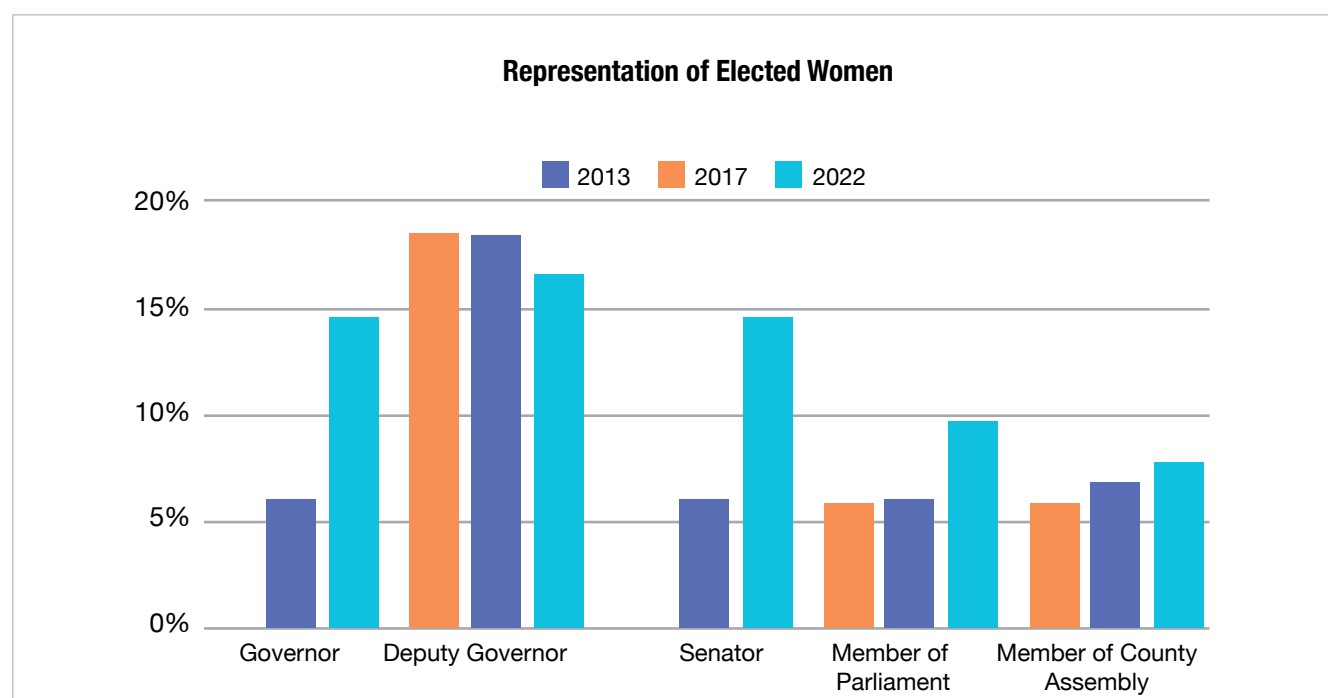


Figure 11: Representation of Elected Women

Source: Beijing +30 National Report

Following the 2022 General election in Kenya, there was a slight increase in women's representation to 23.3 percent up from 21 percent in 2017. At the local government level, out of the 47 County Governors, 7 (15percent) are women, while Deputy Governors were 8 (17percent). With regard to Senators, 21 out of 67 (31.3 percent) are women. Additionally, in the Members of County Assemblies (MCAs), 718 out of 2166 (33 percent) seats are held by women. Of the 16,100 candidates cleared for the 2022 polls, women represented 12.18 percent or 1,962 candidates. Of the four presidential candidates, three (3) women were nominated as running mates. There was a significance increase in the number of women candidates for the five other elective positions. Of the 266 gubernatorial candidates 23 were women and 62 out of 266 deputy gubernatorial candidates were women, representing a 156 percent and a 94 percent increase, compared to 2017. 45 out of 341 senatorial candidates and 216 out of the 2,132 candidates for National Assembly were women,

representing a 114% percent and 61% percent increase and one woman with disability over the last elections. 1,324 out of 12,997 candidates for MCA were women, a 66 percent increase since the last elections.

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Insufficient Gender Based Violence response and prevention mechanism and harmful socio- cultural practices such as FGM, child marriage and widow inheritance.
- (ii) Weak entrepreneurial skills among women to start and sustain income generating activities.
- (iii) Insufficient financial resources for gender mainstreaming and women empowerment programmes.
- (iv) Low uptake of financial resources for gender mainstreaming and women empowerment.
- (v) Social, cultural, and economic barriers.

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- Empowerment of women is a continuous practice.
- There is a need for further sensitization in communities that still practice retrogressive gender cultural practices.

## **6.1.7 Planning and Managing Urban Spatial Development**

### ***The achievements include:***

Preparation and implementation of the National Spatial Plan (2015-2045) that provides a framework for anchoring sub-national spatial plans thereby balancing national infrastructure development.

Preparation and implementation of Physical and Land Use Development Plans by the State Department for Physical Planning in partnership with County Governments for various towns in the country.

Implementation of the Physical and Land Use Planning Act, 2019. The Act governs matters relating to planning, use, regulation and development of land in Kenya.

Implementation of urban policies, programmes and projects through normal Government budgetary processes.

Complementary resources from multilateral agencies including the World Bank, Agence Francaise de Development (AFD), UK Department for International Development (DFID) and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).





Development of county revenue enhancement plans to support urban development funding.

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Delayed disbursement of funds to undertake planning processes.
- (ii) There is a gap in the National Spatial Plan as ocean economy and coastal region spatial plan is not captured in the County Integrated Development Plan, sectoral plans, spatial plans and City or municipal plans.

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- Integrated Spatial Planning is essential for attainment of sustainable development.
- The importance of including the ocean economy has been realized and the Government is in the process of preparing a spatial plan for the coastal blue economy.

## **6.1.8 Integrate housing into urban development plans**

### ***The achievements include:***

The Government of Kenya is undertaking the development of 200,000 affordable housing units per year. This program aims to provide decent homes for citizens and stimulate economic growth through job creation and market development.

The Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Project (KISIP) is being implemented to improve living conditions in slums and informal settlements.

Kenya is developing comprehensive urban development master plans, such as the Nairobi Integrated Urban Development Master Plan (NIUPLAN)

Implementation of the National Urban Development Policy that aims to strengthen urban governance, planning, investment, and infrastructure delivery.

Preparation and implementation of the Nairobi Railway City Master Plan (2020-2035) which integrates housing



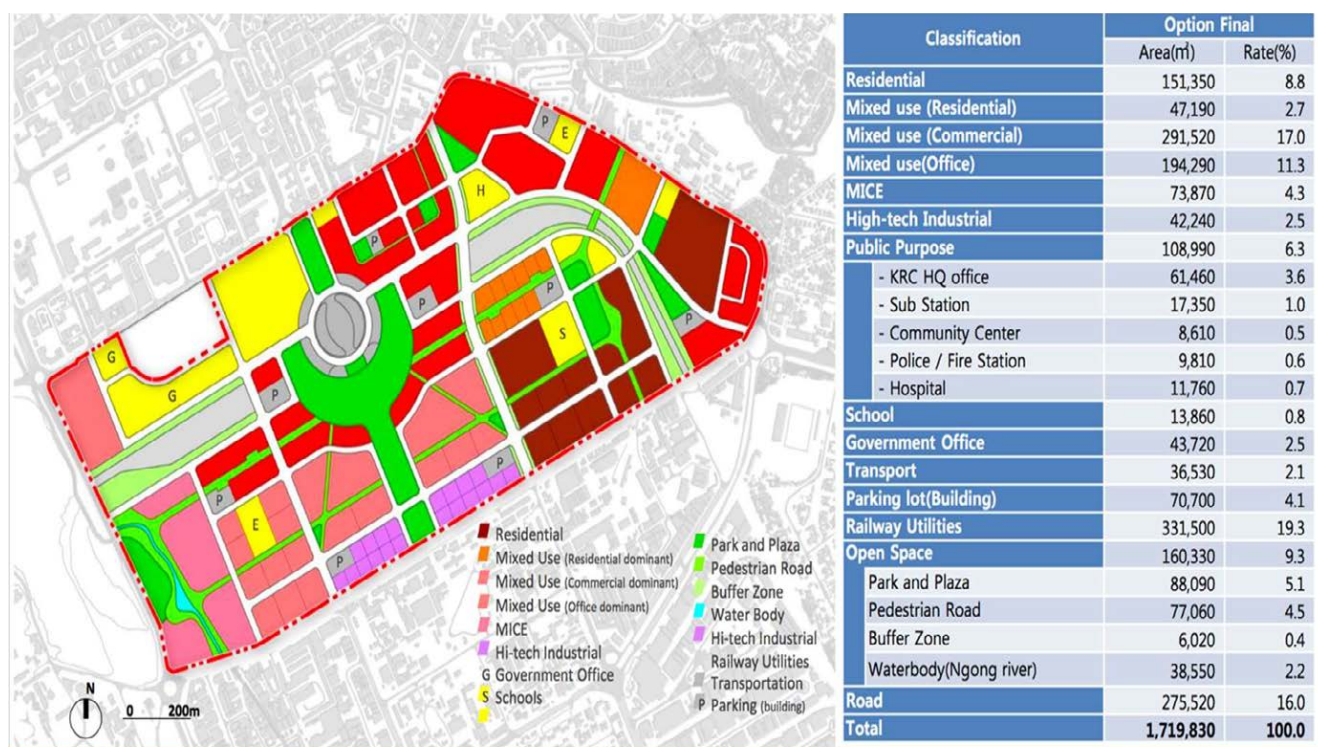


Figure 12: Land use Plan – Nairobi Railway City

### The challenges include:

- Delayed disbursement of funds to undertake the planning process.
- Insufficient funds to complete the projects on time.
- Dispute on land ownership.

### The lessons learnt include:

- Preparation of integrated urban development plans is key towards guiding sustainable housing development.

## 6.1.9 Include culture as a priority component of urban planning

### The achievements include:

Implementation of the physical planning regulations applying to cultural facilities including national heritage sites of cultural and historical significance under the Physical and Land Use Planning (Classification of Strategic National or Inter-County Projects) Regulations, 2019.

Continuous support to the planning and development of adequate multi-functional public open spaces and cultural facilities such as libraries, museums and theatres in urban areas;

The Government has been actively establishing cultural hubs, including community cultural centers and national art gallery cultural centers, to provide spaces for artistic expression and cultural exchange. These hubs aim to preserve and promote Kenyan culture, offering spaces for exhibitions, performances, and workshops. Examples include the establishment of art galleries at the county level and the development of art and craft markets like the Utamaduni craft market and the Maasai market.

The Gedi ruins in Kilifi were designated as Kenya's eighth heritage site by UNESCO in December 2024. This recognition highlights the importance of preserving and promoting cultural heritage within urban development.

Integration of Culture into Urban Planning Frameworks: Kenya's 2023-2027 Habitat Country Programme Document emphasizes the need to integrate culture as a priority component of urban planning. This includes incorporating cultural considerations into housing development, urban extensions, and overall urban renewal projects.

Kenya has adopted a "whole of government" and "whole of society" approach to urban planning, involving various stakeholders in the process. This includes engaging with the private sector, civil society organizations, and community members to ensure that cultural perspectives are considered.

Kenya has been working on strengthening the capacity of urban planners at all levels of government to effectively integrate cultural considerations into their work. This includes training programs and sensitization strategies to raise awareness about the importance of cultural heritage and its role in urban development.

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Inadequate cultural infrastructure and spaces for cultural expression.
- (ii) Limited awareness and non-appreciation on the role of culture in development.

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- There is a slow appreciation of culture in planning

## **6.1.10 Implement planned urban extensions and infill, urban renewal and regeneration of urban areas**

### ***The achievements include:***

The Nairobi Railway City Master Plan (2020-2035) has been prepared and is being implemented. The master plan intends to expand the Nairobi CBD, fill the missing gaps in development and incorporate mixed use commercial developments, housing and intermodal facilities.

**Nairobi Rivers Regeneration Project-** The Nairobi River Valley was designated a special Planning Area as part of government initiative launched in March 2025 to rehabilitate the river and its tributaries. It is a transformative project focused on restoring and beautifying the Nairobi rivers ecosystem through enhanced sewer systems, flood mitigation and environmental conservation. The initiative is aimed at improving the city's resilience and overall quality of life for its residents. The designated area covers a 60-meter buffer along the river from Naivasha Road to Ruai.

**Redevelopment:** The area is undergoing transformation, with light industry moving out and new commercial and recreational spaces being developed.

**Projects:** The Nairobi City County is actively implementing urban renewal projects like the Pangani and Kariobangi North Estate projects, focusing on housing, commercial spaces, and social facilities.

**Kisumu Urban Renewal:** Kisumu has seen improvements in urban form, with beautification of roundabouts, pedestrian-friendly streets, and new markets.

**Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development Programme (KISED):** UN-Habitat and UNHCR are collaborating with the Kenyan government and other partners on this program in Turkana County, focusing on integrated settlement planning.

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Relocation of project affected persons and current land uses to pave way for new development.
- (ii) Delays in resolution of disputes and costs of compensating relocated persons.
- (iii) Insufficient funding for the implementation of the plans.
- (iv) Inadequate land for new development.

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- There is a need for strong political will by the local leadership to ensure smooth transitioning of the community to pave the way for a proper and timely implementation of the plans.

## **6.1.11 Improve capacity for urban planning and design, and training for urban planners at all levels of Government**

### ***The achievements include:***

Increased number of planning schools in universities across the country.

Strengthening the capacity of county governments in spatial and integrated urban development planning, particularly in utilizing GIS-based tools.

Enhancement of the capacity of government officials in monitoring and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda.

***The challenges include:***

- (i) Inadequate technology to enhance planning at the counties i.e. (GIS equipment and personnel)
- (ii) Low absorption and retention of expertise/ staff

***The lessons learnt include:***

- Improved Intergovernmental relations is key in enhancing capacities at the Counties

## **6.1.12 Strengthen the role of small and intermediate cities and towns**

***The achievements include:***

Implementation of the National Spatial Plan (2015-2045) as a long-term framework to achieving sustainable urbanization and balanced territorial development. This is through proposals on policies for urban hierarchy with corresponding infrastructure facilities and services within the country.

Interventions in institutionalizing, planning and provision of infrastructure support in 79 municipalities across the country through the Kenya Urban Support Program.

Hosting of National Holidays Celebrations by His Excellency, The President, in different secondary cities and towns in bid to show the importance of these urban areas and enhance infrastructural development.

The National Government has been observing housing and human settlements fora in the Counties to promote sustainable urbanization. Some of these fora include World Habitat Day, the Kenya Urban Forum and World Cities Day among others.

***The challenges include:***

- (i) Inadequate funds to prepare and implement the plans for the secondary cities and towns.
- (ii) Poor implementation of planning proposals in the different categories of urban centres.
- (iii) Poor coordination among the different institutions implementing development projects

***The lessons learnt include:***

- There is a need for effective coordination on the roles of institutions at different levels.
- There is a need for urban institutions to be strengthened by the respective County Governments.





### 6.1.13 Implement sustainable multimodal public transport systems including non-motorized options

#### ***The achievements include:***

Kenya is actively implementing a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system in Nairobi to address traffic congestion and improve public transportation. Several BRT lines are in different phases of development, including Ndovu, Simba, Chui, Kifaru, and Nyati.

Construction of NMT in several municipalities and cities has promoted safe and efficient cyclist movement, while rehabilitation of several commuter railway networks under the mass rapid transit improvement programme has eased traffic congestion in Nairobi area and other intermediary towns. For instance, in Kisumu under sustainable mobility plan, the following has been undertaken: construction of 1.5 km of walkway along Oginga Odinga Street, Angawa Avenue and Jomo Kenyatta highway; storm water drainage improvement, installation of utility ducts, solar street lights and construction of public toilets. In Nairobi, pedestrian and cycling lanes have been rolled out in Kenyatta Avenue, Wabera, and MuinduMbingu Streets. They have all contributed to reducing carbon emission on our roads.



Figure 13: Pedestrian Walkways in Nairobi City

#### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) High costs involved in the implementation of the projects.
- (ii) Reclaiming the road reserve occupied by traders or informal settlements leads to conflicts.
- (iii) The commuter railway route is not strategically passing through some more densely populated residential estates within Nairobi Metropolitan.
- (iv) Sub-standard design of the NMT to accommodate users comfortably.
- (v) Inadequate stakeholders' consultation.



### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- There is need for enhanced participation in planning and designing.
- There is a need to plan and implement sustainable multi-modal public transport systems including NMT.



# Chapter 7:

## MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

### 7.1.1 Mobilization of Financial Resources

#### ***The achievements include:***

The progress made in the implementation of the NUA is funded through the Government budgetary process besides support from multilateral and bilateral partners.

County Governments have prioritized urban development in their annual budgets, resulting in increased allocations for urban infrastructure and services.

Several counties have initiated PPPs to leverage private sector investment for urban projects such as housing, markets, and transport systems.

Counties have successfully accessed grants and concessional loans from development partners, including the World Bank, AFD, and SIDA, to finance key urban initiatives.

Implementation of county-specific revenue enhancement plans has led to improved own source revenue collection, supporting urban projects.

Training programs have been conducted for county staff on financial planning, management, and resource mobilization.

#### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Poor coordination mechanisms among agencies on development financing.
- (ii) The low-income levels limit access to the mortgages.
- (iii) Many counties still struggle with low revenue collection due to weak systems, limited tax bases, and compliance issues.
- (iv) Lengthy procedures and stringent requirements from development partners often delay disbursement and implementation of projects.
- (v) Limited experience and technical know-how in structuring and managing PPPs hinder effective mobilization of private capital.
- (vi) Poor coordination among various funding streams can lead to duplication or gaps in financing urban project

#### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- Investing in robust revenue collection and management systems is essential for sustainable urban financing.

- There is a need to link up complementing infrastructural facilities and services during planning and budgeting phases.
- Continuous training in financial management and PPPs enhances counties' ability to mobilize and utilize resources effectively.
- Collaboration with private sector and development partners can unlock significant resources and expertise for urban development.
- Coordinating funding sources and aligning them with urban priorities ensures optimal use of resources and avoids duplication.

### **7.1.2 Mobilize endogenous (internal) sources of finance and expand the revenue base of Sub-national and local Governments**

#### ***The achievements include:***

Some county Governments have digitized their revenue collection system which has resulted in expansion of their revenue base.

Enactment of the National Rating Act, 2024, which provides a standardized framework for county governments in Kenya to levy rates on land and buildings, replacing the previous Rating Act and Valuation for Rating Act. It aims to streamline the process of property valuation and rating, promoting efficiency and equity in revenue collection for counties.

#### ***The challenges include:***

Introduction of multiple levies has resulted in over taxation that is not commensurate to the service provided.

#### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- There is a need to harmonize the revenue base with service delivery.

### **7.1.3 Mobilize and establish financial intermediaries (multilateral institutions, regional development banks, Sub-national and local development funds; pooled financing mechanisms etc.) for urban financing**

#### ***The achievements include:***

Collection of pooled financing for housing finance through the Boma Yangu portal, which is an online platform that enables all Kenyans to contribute to the National Housing

Development Fund, and to access projects under the Affordable Housing Programme.

Implementation of the KUSP II which is a Program-for-Results financing instrument, using performance grants to incentivize sub-national governments. It is being implemented in 79 municipalities across 45 counties. The program is supported by various development partners.

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Housing is capital intensive with low returns attracting low investment in the sector.
- (ii) The lessons learnt include:
- (iii) There is a need for the establishment of financial intermediaries to finance urban development

## **7.1.4 Capacity Development**

### ***The achievements include:***

Holding of the 9th Session of the Devolution Conference in 2025 convened by the Council of Governors in partnership with the National Government that provides a platform for peer-to-peer learning among counties.

Kenya has actively expanded city-to-city cooperation and mutual learning in urban solutions, particularly through initiatives like the African Clean Cities Platform (ACCP) and the Sustainable Urban Economic Development (SUED) programme. These efforts have focused on knowledge exchange, capacity building, and attracting investments for sustainable urban development

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Limited funding to promote exchange of knowledge among urban areas.
- (ii) Reluctance by entities to enter into engagements on cooperation due to mistrust.

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- There is a need to enhance funding to promote opportunities for city-to-city cooperation and fostering exchanges of urban solutions and mutual learning.
- There is a need for an engagement framework for mutual cooperation.



## 7.1.5 Implement capacity development as an effective, multifaceted approach to formulate, implement, manage, monitor and evaluate urban development policies

### ***The achievements include:***

There is a framework on the training and reporting on SDGS and NUA through the Ministry of Planning.

Engagement of County Governments in the preparation of policies and laws such as preparation of Physical and Land Use Planning Act, NSP and Physical and Land Use Planning Regulations.

Capacity development has fostered stronger relationships and improved communication between different stakeholders, including government agencies, project implementers, and community members.

Capacity development efforts are contributing to the implementation of the NUDP, which is crucial for harmonizing planning and implementation at both national and county levels.

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Delay of funds to engage the counties and urban institutions.
- (ii) Unhealthy competition and interests by different stakeholders.
- (iii) Inadequate information and data to facilitate reporting on the SDGs and NUA

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- There is need to build consensus among the stakeholders
- There is need to develop a framework to support monitoring and reporting.
- There is a need to enhance data collection to facilitate reporting on the SDGs and NUA.

## 7.1.6 Build capacity at all levels of Government to use data for evidence- based policy formulation including collecting and using data for minority groups

### ***The achievements include:***

The Technical Working Committees (TWC) under the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) promote capacity building in statistics frameworks for harmonized statistics; and plan for any surveys as may be required to address data gaps and improve the statistics.

The development of the SDGs Recovery and Acceleration Strategy (2022-2030) which is aimed at accelerating progress towards national priorities and the SDGs.

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) There is no Technical Working Committees (TWC) for Housing and urbanization but there are plans to form one
- (ii) Inadequate funding for data generation and management.
- (iii) Lagging behind on the implementation of some of the SDGs

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- There is a need to enhance funding for data generation and management.
- There is need for drastic intervention especially in the Decade of Action aimed at fast-tracking SDGs implementation.

## **7.1.7 Build the capacity of all levels of Government to work with vulnerable groups to participate effectively in decision-making about urban and territorial development**

### ***The achievements include:***

Since 2022, Kenya has been actively working to enhance the capacity of all government levels to involve vulnerable groups in urban and territorial development decision-making. This includes initiatives focused on strengthening institutional frameworks, promoting participatory planning processes, and providing training to government officials on inclusive development practices.

### ***The challenges include:***

Lack of understanding of the needs of the vulnerable groups.

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- There is a need to engage vulnerable groups in decision making.

## **7.1.8 Implement capacity development programmes on the use of legal land-based revenue, financing, and other tools**

### ***The achievements include:***

Implementation of the developed regulations on the process of approval of building plans

and sub-divisions through the Physical and Land Use Planning Regulations.

Implementation of the digitization of land information through the National Land Information Management System (NLIMS) as part of the digitization reforms. This expands Land Value Capture in urban areas, widening the tax base and increasing revenue collection.

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Limited capacity building for the revenue collectors on the land-based revenue
- (ii) Informal development or subdivision of land in urban areas make it difficult to capture inland taxation databases since some land developed is not captured in the land registry.
- (iii) High cost of digitization process.

### ***The challenges include:***

- There is a need for institutions to implement and enforce existing policies and legislations.
- There is a need to enhance digitization which leads to improvement of service delivery.

## **7.1.9 Implement capacity development programmes of Sub-national and local Governments in financial planning and management**

### ***The achievements include:***

Capacity building in 79 municipalities on financial planning and management through the Kenya Urban Support Program

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Inadequate funding to implement capacity development programmes.
- (ii) Lack of national framework to implement capacity development.

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- Capacity building is a continuous process and requires concerted efforts.
- There is a need to enhance digitization which leads to improvement of service delivery.

## 7.1.10 Increase cooperation and knowledge exchange on science, technology and innovation to benefit sustainable urban development

### ***The achievements include:***

Efforts to increase cooperation and knowledge exchange on science, technology, and innovation (STI) for sustainable urban development since 2022 have focused on strengthening partnerships, fostering innovation ecosystems, and integrating STI into national development strategies. This includes initiatives like the Kenya National Innovation Agency (KENIA)'s work in supporting innovative ideas and policies, as well as the National Research Fund (NRF) emphasizing collaboration and knowledge dissemination.

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Inadequate documentation on available technologies and innovation.
- (ii) High initial capital cost of adopting new technologies and innovations.

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- There is a need to invest in documentation of available technologies and innovations.

## 7.1.11 Information Technology and Innovation

### ***The achievements include:***

Implementation of the Data Protection and Privacy Act of 2019 to regulate data processing.

Implementation of the 2022-2032 National Digital Master Plan which outlines a comprehensive framework for digital transformation in Kenya. It focuses on enhancing digital infrastructure, promoting digital skills, and leveraging technology to improve service delivery and economic growth.

AI-Powered Budget Platform (Machakos County): Machakos County launched an AI powered budget platform, demonstrating an innovative approach to citizen participation in budget processes. This initiative aims to enhance transparency and accountability in public spending and promote more inclusive governance.

The implementation of the Huduma Kenya platform, which provides a one-stop shop for government services, and the Kenya Open Data Portal, which offers access to datasets across various sectors. Additionally, the government has focused on digitizing services, improving connectivity through fiber and Wi-Fi initiatives, and providing digital skills training.



### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Limited coverage on fiber connectivity.
- (ii) Poor network in some parts of the country.
- (iii) Limited awareness of the existing e-platforms.
- (iv) Power outages and access to power.
- (v) High cost of ICT gadgets.
- (vi) Cyber insecurity.
- (vii) Low ICT literacy rate.
- (viii) Managing the electronic wastes.

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- There is need for sensitization of the public on e-waste service providers
- Hosting international and national forums using online platforms has gained traction.

## **7.1.12 Expand deployment of frontier technologies and innovations to enhance shared prosperity of cities and regions**

### ***The achievements include:***

Kenya has been actively expanding the deployment of frontier technologies and innovations to enhance shared prosperity across its cities and regions. This is driven by national development plans, particularly the Kenya National Digital Master Plan 2022-2032 and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda. These initiatives focus on leveraging digital technologies, fostering innovation, and improving service delivery to promote economic growth and social development.

Implementation of the established Ajira Digital Programme of 2016 that has trained many youths and offers online job opportunities for the youths.

The development of the Kenya Innovation Outlook report, which tracks progress, highlights gaps, and identifies growth opportunities.

There has been a focus on supporting commercialization of innovative ideas and establishing coordination mechanisms for incubation and innovation hubs.

Kenya has also been recognized for its strong performance in the Global Innovation Index, ranking highly relative to its income level and within Sub-Saharan Africa.

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Kenya is yet to achieve optimal infrastructure coverage due to inadequate Govern-





ment funding and low investment by the private sector especially in low-income areas.

- (ii) Inadequate human resource and skills capacity.
- (iii) Inadequate equipment.

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- To improve access to quality education, the Digital literacy programme is key in making teaching and learning processes effective

## **7.1.13 Implement digital tools, including geospatial information systems to improve urban and territorial planning, land administration and access to urban services**

### ***The achievements include:***

The establishment of a National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), the implementation of the e-Citizen platform for various government services, and the use of GIS for improved service delivery in areas like healthcare and education.

Over 107 Civil Registration Centres and the High Court Registry have been digitized, streamlining record-keeping and access to vital information.

Launch of the Ardhi Sasa online platform designed to improve urban and territorial planning, land administration, and access to urban services. It digitizes land records and transactions, aiming to enhance efficiency, transparency, and accessibility. This platform allows citizens and stakeholders to interact with land information and services offered by the Ministry of Lands and Physical Planning and the National Land Commission.

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Shortage of financial and human resources to implement geospatial platforms.
- (ii) Limited updated spatial data.
- (iii) Limited awareness on the availability of digital platforms.
- (iv) Reluctance to engage with self-service platforms

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- There is need to build consensus when developing and implementing digital tools.
- There is a need to sensitize stakeholders on the available digital platforms.
- Continuous sensitization will improve adoption of self-service platforms.

## 7.1.14 Build capacities at all levels of Government to effectively monitor implementation of urban development policies.

### ***The achievements include:***

Capacity building to the counties on planning, monitoring and evaluation under the Kenya Devolution Support Program

Sensitization of the urban institutions on urban policies and implementation under the Kenya Urban Support Program.

### ***The challenges include:***

- (i) Insufficient funds for effective monitoring.
- (ii) Lack of appropriate tools to support the monitoring of implementation of urban policies.
- (iii) Overriding interests between county and national Government make implementation difficult.

### ***The lessons learnt include:***

- There is a need for political goodwill to propel the implementation and enforcement of urban development policies.
- There is need for engagement and collaboration with all levels of Government to ensure proper implementation of the urban development policies.
- The need to include the academic and research institutions (universities) to improve research on the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of urban development policies.

## 7.1.15 Strengthen all levels of Government and civil society in the collection, disaggregation and analysis of data

### ***The achievements include:***

Implementation of the Kenya Strategy for Development of Statistics (KSDS) 2019/20 which is a national framework for strengthening statistical capacity across the National Statistical System (NSS). The NSS include Ministries, Departments, and Agencies of the national and County Governments. The framework is designed to produce and disseminate official statistics for policy planning and evidence-based decision-making at national and county Government levels, and in the private sector and deal with statistical challenges across the NSS.

The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) has been building capacities within the National Statistical System to ensure the production and dissemination of statistical information.

KNBS collaborates with MDAs and the County Governments through the Technical Working Committees (TWCs) during surveys and censuses.

Kenya has developed an SDGs Recovery and Acceleration Strategy, emphasizing collaboration and participation from various stakeholders.

There's been a growing emphasis on collaboration between government, civil society, the private sector, and development partners to improve data collection, analysis, and utilization.

Enhanced capacity for data processing and publication, increased availability of open data, and the enactment of legislation to improve data interoperability.

Integration of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) frameworks into development plans.

Fostering collaboration between different stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society organizations.

### ***The challenges include:***

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- (i) Poor collaboration between Government institutions and the institutions of higher learning on data collection and analysis.
- (ii) Difficulty in validating data collected by other institutions.
- (iii) Some of the lessons include:
- (iv) The KNBS needs to enhance collaboration with research institutions.
- (v) There is need for KNBS to validate data generated by other institutions

## Chapter 8:

# STRATEGIC WAY FORWARD

Kenya is geared towards accelerating the implementation of the transformative commitments in the New Urban Agenda by undertaking the following actions:

- **Strengthening Governance and Institutional Frameworks:** we are enhancing the capacity of county governments to implement urban policies, given Kenya's devolved system. This includes better coordination between national and county levels. We are also moving from fragmented planning to metropolitan-scale planning, especially for fast-growing cities like Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu and Nakuru. In addition, we are aligning to the Urban Areas and Cities Act (2011) and County Spatial Planning Laws with NUA principles, emphasizing inclusivity and sustainability.
- **Sustainable Urban Planning and Smart Growth:** we are promoting mixed-use developments and Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) to curb urban sprawl. In addition, we are integrating green building codes, flood management, and renewable energy into urban projects. Further, we are leveraging smart city technologies for efficient service delivery.
- **Affordable Housing and Slum Upgrading:** we are accelerating the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) on Affordable Housing Program through PPPs and innovative financing. This is also coupled with the participatory Slum Upgrading models in informal settlements like Kibera and Mathare, ensuring community involvement.
- **Improved Urban Mobility:** we are investing in Public Transport y prioritizing Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) systems (e.g., Nairobi BRT) and Non-Motorized Transport (walkways, cycling lanes). we are also undertaking the regulation of motorized and non-motorized transport sector in the planning.
- **Enhanced Financing Mechanisms:** we are encouraging counties to issue municipal bonds and adopt land value capture tools to fund infrastructure. In addition, we have been engaging with UN-Habitat and development partners (World Bank, AfDB) for technical and financial support.
- **Inclusive and Participatory Urban Development:** We have been strengthening grassroots participation in planning through ward development committees and digital platforms. We are also ensuring that urban policies address safety, economic opportunities, and housing needs for women and marginalized groups.
- **Climate Action and Resilience:** we have been expanding green spaces and urban forests (e.g., Nairobi River regeneration). Besides, we have been promoting circular economy approaches in waste management.



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