



**COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OF ELGEYO MARAKWET**

COUNTY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



**VOLUNTARY
LOCAL REVIEW
(VLR) - 2024**



OPENING STATEMENT

Elgeyo Marakwet County, having been established as one of the forty-seven counties when the current Constitution of Kenya (COK) was promulgated in 2010 has realised considerable development progress. This progress was guided by three two County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs), CIDP I (2013-2017) and CIDP II (2018-2022) and CIDP III (2023-2027). These have served as development blueprints for our development agenda. For SDGs, EMC developed an indicator handbook which has been guiding in tracking of achievement of SDGS.

We have made remarkable progress in advancing human development and collaboration, lifting millions out of poverty, ensuring food security and improving access to water, education, healthcare, and basic amenities. However, we continue to confront profound and interconnected challenges that threaten the well-being of our people. These challenges do not belong to EMC alone. My government recognises the interconnectedness of our global challenges and the need for holistic and integrated solutions.

Recent economic outlook shows economic slowdown, heightened inflation, and the challenges posed by national debt repayments and international economic developments such as the Ukraine-Russia conflicts and their impacts on global economy. In response, the Elgeyo Marakwet County Government has over time devised strategies to optimize resources. The reorganization of budget priorities in the medium-term reflects our dedication to achieving County strategic focus areas, BETA objectives and achievement of SDGs.

From eradicating poverty and hunger to promoting gender equality, ensuring access to clean water and sanitation, and combating climate change, the SDGs encompass a comprehensive agenda that leaves no one behind. As we embark on this journey, we reaffirm our collective resolve and commitment to accelerating progress towards the SDGs. We continue to provide innovative solutions and continue to request for unwavering commitment/support from all stakeholders.



H.E WISLEY ROTICH
GOVERNOR, ELGEYO MARAKWET COUNTY

FOREWORD

This is the first voluntary local review developed by the County to be used for reporting SDG implementation. This VLR is useful in tracking implementation of programmes and sub-programs aimed at realizing the County’s development agenda, as stipulated in third generation County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP 2023-2027). The sub-programs are further broken down to projects contained in Annual Development Plans (ADPs).

The Review has put into consideration other national and international obligations. It has incorporated aspects of Fourth Medium Term Plan (MTP IV) (2023-2027) of Kenya Vision 2030, the “Bottom-Up Transformative” Agenda, The African Union Agenda 2063 among others. The Review also considers the centrality of the principle of inclusivity, outlined by the requirement of public participation in development affairs carried out by the County government.

The review is designed to increase accountability and transparency by providing easy and clear reference to the economic, social and political performance outcomes and annualized outputs. It provides an opportunity for the citizens to interrogate the impact of the developmental policies, programmes and projects on attainment of SDGs. The review has set baseline and yearly targets that will further be crucial in giving citizens an opportunity to interrogate the level of implementation of the policies, programmes and projects.

This local review serves as an opportunity to celebrate our achievements, learn from our experiences, and identify areas for improvement. It is a testament to our commitment to transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement in our efforts to create a more sustainable and inclusive community. The County Government will continue to collaborate with stakeholders to foster a broader use of the Handbook in ensuring transparency and accountability in service delivery and lead to socioeconomic development of our County.



H.E PROF. GRACE CHESEREK

DEPUTY GOVERNOR, ELGEYO MARAKWET COUNTY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special gratitude to individuals and entities for their vehemence and passion in the work that culminated in the realization of this document. The County would like to thank these individuals for the various roles they played during the preparation of this Review. As has always been the case during the preparation of County documents, this work was done as a collaborative effort.

We acknowledge the roles played by County Inter-Agency Technical Committee, a team specially appointed to steer the exercise of developing the voluntary local review, VLR. The members comprised SDG focal point persons across the departments and CSO representatives, guided by the Directorate of Economic Planning and Budgeting. Their efforts of collecting, collating and analyzing reports which formed the primary data for the preparation of this document, is appreciated.

In a distinct way, the County wishes to greatly thank our development partners for their roles in helping us realize this document. Specifically, we would like to send our gratitude to UN Agencies for collaborating with us during the preparation of this report.

The completion of this document was as a result of collective effort by various stakeholders who provided valuable information under the guidance of H.E. the Governor. We are grateful to the above-mentioned entities for their tireless efforts and dedication.



ALPHAEUS TANUI

CEC, FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs) adopted in 2015 at the United Nations outlines the development blueprint for the world. Strides made in implementation of SDGs have been reported through VLRs. This is the first VLR for Elgeyo Marakwet County. It provides an update on the comprehensive progress made on SDGs achievements in ensuring that the County's future economic growth remains steady. It reflects the universal objective to create an environment that advocates for: "Leaving No One Behind," end poverty globally, ensure protection of the Planet and create policies that advance prosperity for all.

The Voluntary Local Reviews is crucial since at the devolved level the five prioritized SDGs are implemented in the County. SDG 1 focuses on poverty alleviation through raising the incomes of the poor, ensuring access to basic services, and protecting everyone from human-led and natural disasters. SDG 2 focuses on reduced hunger and ensuring food security through technical and financial support towards agricultural production. SDG 13 addresses climate change and its impacts. SDG 16 focuses on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. The last goal, SDG 17 underscores the critical role of partnerships, cooperation, and collective action in achieving SDGs.

These initiatives have been captured in 2024 VLR, which is structured in seven chapters. The first chapter outlines the contextual background of the County in terms of position and size, physiographic, demographic and socio-economic information. This is followed by chapter two which presents the articulation process or methodology used in the preparation of the VLR. Chapter three presents the policy and enabling environment.

Chapters that follow give in-depth reports of SDG initiatives and achievements. Chapter four presents progress in the implementation of the SDGs in the County. Chapter five outlines the financing mechanisms for the SDGs, investments opportunities and Science Technology and Innovations in accelerating implementation of SDGs in Elgeyo Marakwet County. Chapter six outlines the Monitoring and Evaluation framework that will be deployed in tracking and reporting on the SDGs while chapter seven provides conclusion, providing an overview of the challenges in the implementations of the SGDs.

Chapter One: Introduction

Elgeyo Marakwet, located in northwest Kenya and situated along the Kerio Valley Escarpment, is a County with a population of 454,480 and an area of 3030 km². It is among the 47 counties established in Kenya under the two-tier governance system promulgated in the 2010 Constitution of Kenya (COK). Agriculture, health, education, trade, infrastructure, and County planning among others are some of the responsibilities that the Constitution mandates County Governments to deliver under the governance framework.

Elgeyo Marakwet County, which is bordered by West Pokot to the North, Baringo to the East, Trans Nzoia to the Northwest, and Uasin Gishu to the West, encompasses three distinct topographic zones: The Highlands, Kerio Valley, and The Escarpment. These zones are separated by the conspicuous Elgeyo Escarpment. The Highlands constitute 49% of the County's area and is densely populated due to its endowment with fertile soils and reliable rainfall. The Escarpment and Kerio Valley make up 11% and 40% of the County, respectively.

Elgeyo Marakwet, known as the “County of Champions” for its world-class, award-winning athletes was founded in March 2013 following the country’s General Elections held to operationalize the new political system provided for by the Constitution. The County is composed of four administrative sub-counties and twenty administrative and elective Wards.

Concerning human development, the County is one of the 27 counties in Kenya with Human Development Index (HDI) lower than the national average of 0.60, indicating a disparity in human development amongst counties, with those located in Arid and Semi-Arid lands, such as Elgeyo Marakwet, exhibiting low HDI values. The County’s HDI is 0.53 which is attributed to the high poverty level of residents living on the Escarpment and Kerio Valley, whose economic opportunities have been hampered by the harsh ecological characteristics of these two zones. The Life Expectancy of County residents is 58 years for men and 63 years for women which are lower than the national average of 61 and 67 years for men and women, respectively.

Rationale of VLR

By engaging in voluntary reviews, the County Government of Elgeyo Marakwet can foster a more comprehensive and integrated approach to sustainable development, ensuring that the benefits of the SDGs reach communities at all levels. VLR is a mechanism that promotes transparency, accountability, and collaboration in the pursuit of sustainable development at the local level.

VLRs provide a mechanism whereby our local government voluntarily assesses and reports on progress in implementing SDGs, recognizing the importance of local engagement and action in achieving the global goals. Further, they ensure that local governments holistically assess performance across various dimensions of sustainable development, such as social, economic, and environmental factors. Also, VLRs help align global aspirations with local realities. It has helped Elgeyo Marakwet to tailor strategies and initiatives based on our unique challenges, resources, and priorities, ensuring that the global goals are relevant and achievable at our level.

Chapter Two: Methodology

The preparation of this document adhered to the contemporary process. This started with the nomination of Inter-Agency Technical Committee members. The members consisted of departmental focal point persons, CSO representatives, non-State actors and County Assembly representatives. This Committee met and adopted guidelines issued by State Department for Economic Planning. Secondly, the County issued the VLR preparation guidelines giving instructions and datelines to the relevant officers in the County. A VLR preparation technical team was established and tasked to sensitize other County technical staff on the preparation guidelines and their respective responsibilities. Sensitization meetings were then held for various groups of staff; County Executive Committee Members (CECMs), Chief Officers, Directors, Sub- County and Ward staff.

The process of developing this VLR also adhered to public participation requirement. The legal framework underscores the importance of seeking and considering the views of various stakeholders in County process that relate to public. These stakeholders include the public, special interest groups, and any other forum established by legislation. This participatory approach enhances transparency and inclusivity. During these sessions, it was agreed that the County concentrates on five SDG goals i.e., SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 13, SDG 16 & SDG 17. Data on these goals would be collected by VLR preparation technical team.

Finally, synthesis of inputs received from all stakeholders were done under the technical guidance of various government departments and agencies and non-state actors. From the synthesis, the technical team identified and prioritized County milestones relating to SDG implementations, as well as desired outcomes and development programs, projects, policies, and projects geared towards realization of SDGs.

Chapter Three: Policy and Enabling Environment

The County's development is guided by budgeting process undertaken through the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and our development priorities conform to the national planning framework. To achieve the desired programs, strategies, and projects the development priorities have been aligned with Kenya Vision 2030 and its MTP IV (2023-2027), Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), along with other national policies and international commitments.

Every financial year, the County Treasury issues circulars and guidelines directing County Departments and Sectors (through Sector Working Groups, SWGs) to prioritize public investments in the Annual Budget Estimates. SWGs are accordingly advised to ensure that the SDGs have been mainstreamed in the Annual Development Plans and the Programme Based Budgets (PBB). Further, there are policies and regulations which ensure mainstreaming and integration of SDGs in County development agenda, providing a framework for implementation of SDGs.

The policies and regulations include;

- a) Elgeyo Marakwet County [Equitable Development Act 2015](#) ; Ensures equitable allocation of resources and development across all wards within the County.
- b) [Elgeyo Marakwet County Public Participation Act](#); Ensures citizen engagement in County government development initiatives and decision-making processes.
- c) [ElgeyoMarakwetCountyRevolvingFundAct2014](#) . It guides in implementation of revolving fund that targets the marginalized and vulnerable members of the society especially the youth.
- d) [ELGEYO MARAKWET COUNTY CLIMATE CHANGE FUND ACTS 2021](#); Provides a framework to resource mobilize for funding climate action plans & institutions and oversee implementation of climate action funds.
- e) [Elgeyo Marakwet County Alcoholic Drinks Control Act 2014](#); Controls the use and abuse of alcohol and provides for rehabilitation of illicit liquor brewers providing them on training for alternative sources of livelihoods
- f) [ElgeyoMarakwetCountyEducationFundAct2017](#); Guides in implementation of capitation grants to early childhood education participants. Part of the provision of

capitation is school-feeding program to children. Also, the Act gives guidelines on awarding and implementing scholarship/bursary programme targeting Technical and Vocational Education and Training students, who are youth.

To ensure achievement of SDGs and sustainability of VLR, a well-balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development which are; economic, social and environment factors are vital. A well-balanced integration allows for a holistic approach. In as much as Elgeyo Marakwet County Government has developed a holistic framework through integration of the dimensions of sustainable development, there are communities like the Sengwer and Kiptani who have been left behind. Concerted efforts have been made to encourage their inclusion and participation in governance.

Across the County, like any society, there are groups of people who are always left behind too. This could be due to income, poverty status, gender, age, disability, area of residence, and intersecting inequalities in contexts. The inequalities result from persistent wealth inequalities stemming from narrow economic growth and the stagnation of agriculture which is a source of livelihood for a large proportion of the population. Also, inequalities arise from high capability deprivation with gender differentials increasing with age, historic ethno-political marginalization and social exclusion, and a state characterized by vulnerability to climate change and continued violent conflicts.

To address the needs of the vulnerable and those left behind, the County Government has stepped up social protection initiatives. The initiatives consist of policies and programs which are designed to reduce poverty and vulnerabilities by provision of funds to youth, PWDs and women groups. Also, the County government provides for enterprise support and Income Generation Activities (IGAs) investments. IGA investments include provision of assets that serve as capital for business start-ups. The assets are in the form of construction of lockable shop stalls and supply of bee-hives, livestock for farming, tailors machines etc. Further, the County government has targeted illicit liquor brewers and alcoholics by offering them rehabilitation and training on alternative sources of income. This way, they may engage in meaningful economic activities and improve their socio-economic wellbeing.

Chapter Four: Progress in implementation of the Goals

GOAL	TARGET	CORRESPONDING AU TARGET	INDICATOR	BASELINE	CURRENT STATUS	INTERVENTIONS/ BEST PRACTICE	CHALLENGES	RECOMMENDATIONS
Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere	1.2	Target 7	1.2.1	Overall poverty, individuals; 43.5%, Overall Poverty Estimates, Households; 38.5%	Overall poverty; 47.3%, 0-17 yrs; 48.1%, 18-35 yrs; 48.3%, 36-59 yrs.; 42.3%; 60-69; 23.0, 70+ yrs; 58.2%, Overall Poverty Estimates, Households; 46.0% Child overall poverty; 43.4% Child food poverty; 44.8%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting smallholder farmers with access to inputs such as fertilizers, improved seeds and grafted seedlings Minimising farm produce losses and post-harvest management of produce through construction of cooling plants for potatoes and processing plants for milk, mangoes and tomatoes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low uptake of technology in farming Difficulty in enforcing fair pricing, standards, measures and weights for produce such as potatoes Illiteracy leading to retrogressive cultural practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive sensitization of farmers on adoption of technology e.g. uptake of livestock improved breeding system Strengthening and scaling up of agricultural extension services Awareness creation against retrogressive cultural practices.
	1.3	Target 12	1.3.1	Total health insurance coverage; 20.8%	Total health insurance coverage; 27%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of Universal Health Care (UHC) cover for the elderly. Provision of assorted items/equipment to persons living with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low uptake of UHC by wards leading to low allocation towards UHC during budgeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map and establish a database of the needy for targeted support Develop social protection policy to guide in providing protection for indigents

GOAL	TARGET	CORRESPONDING AU TARGET	INDICATOR	BASELINE	CURRENT STATUS	INTERVENTIONS/ BEST PRACTICE	CHALLENGES	RECOMMENDATIONS
	1.a		1.a.1	28%	33%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> disabilities Empowering Ward Development Committees (WDC) to ensure high priority areas are allocated large budgetary funds during budget's Public Participation (PP). WDC members usually influence the public during such PP fora 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citizen's priorities cannot be changed. Their project selections are usually captured, forming ADP and budget ceilings for development allocations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empowering of WDC and opinion leaders to ensure that they secure allocation of funds to essential services
Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	2.1	Target 10:	2.1.2	Food insecurity; 39.70 (% of households, 2016)	Food insecurity; 50.02 (% of households, 2021) 51.40 (% of individuals, 2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase area under agricultural production through irrigation Increase uptake of micronutrients among children aged 6-59 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited access to land, water, and technology is crucial for agricultural productivity. Poor network coverage in most of remote areas is a hindrance on communication and development Negative climate change impacts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased allocation to school feeding programs Reducing food loss and waste by intensifying post-harvest management through increased construction of storage and processing facilities
	2.2		2.2.1	29.9 %	21.8 %	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of dairy heifers and dairy goats to farmers. Promoting the cultivation of high nutritional value crops through supply of seeds such as iron-rich beans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some of the wards do not allocate funds for school feeding program during budget making. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote nutrition education and awareness programs Enhancing growth monitoring and promotion (GMP) and Vitamin A supplementation Campaigns
			2.2.2	12.6 %	4.8 %			

GOAL	TARGET	CORRESPONDING AU TARGET	INDICATOR	BASELINE	CURRENT STATUS	INTERVENTIONS/ BEST PRACTICE	CHALLENGES	RECOMMENDATIONS
						and improved sweet potato		
	2.4		2.4.1*	2%	3%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of irrigation schemes for agricultural purposes Disease control interventions such as vaccination of livestock and establishment of disease-free zones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased drought prevalence Land degradation and declining soil fertility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring smallholder farmers have access to certified seeds, fertilizers, irrigation systems, and other inputs is crucial for increasing agricultural productivity and food security.
Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts ^a	<i>Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries</i>		13.1.1*	1,968 displaced due to disasters Deaths were 3 males, 4 females and 3 children	525 persons displaced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementing climate-smart agricultural practices to cope with changing weather patterns and reduce vulnerability to crop failures. Adoption of green energy solar powered lighting and water pumping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submerging of water intakes due to excessive rainfalls Destruction of pipelines and intakes Lands slides leads to destruction natural resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy and Campaigns on Climate Resilient Practices and environmental conservation Development of early warning systems for extreme weather events like droughts, through public notices and announcements.
Goal 16.	16.1		16.1.2*	Male; 47 Female; 9 Children; 7 Total 63 deaths due to conflicts in 2020	27 deaths in 2022 and 19 deaths in 2023 due to conflicts at Marakwet - Pokot border	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of peace building unit to address perennial tribal conflicts Holding community dialogues on peace-building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High illiteracy levels amongst warring communities Persistence of retrogressive culture Under-developed infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopting information and communication technology (ICT) in crime detection and prevention Supporting humanitarian assistance and recovery efforts (especially of stolen livestock)
	16.6		16.6.1	Agriculture and Irrigation; 11%	Agriculture and Irrigation;	Public participation on budget making and	Limited resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased civic education and

GOAL	TARGET	CORRESPONDING AU TARGET	INDICATOR	BASELINE	CURRENT STATUS	INTERVENTIONS/ BEST PRACTICE	CHALLENGES	RECOMMENDATIONS
				Education and Technical Training; 5% Health and Sanitation; 7% Water, Lands, Environment and Climate Change; 8% Youth Affairs, Sports, ICT and Social Services; 2% (2019/2020 FY Budget)	9% Education and Technical Training; 3% Health and Sanitation; 6% Water, Lands, Environment and Climate Change; 10% Youth Affairs, Sports, ICT and Social Services; 1% (2023/24 FY Budget)	project priority identifications.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> awareness creation Conducting social audits on government projects
Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	17.1		17.1.2*	2.9%	4.6%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopting technology and innovation in resource collections e 	Difficulty in enforcing cess collection especially at County borders due to presence of escape routes in neighboring counties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased collaboration with neighboring counties to ensure escape routes are sealed and all revenue loopholes are sealed.
	17.6		<i>Proportion of individuals using the Internet</i>	5.6%	24.3%	Community engagement and public participation to encourage adoption of electricity	Heavy rainfalls disrupt electricity supply causing outages	Enhancing rural electrification programs

Chapter Five: Means of Implementation

Financing SDGs

Implementing SDGs will continue to require the support of National Government, County Government and Development partners. The County Government increased own source revenue from 105 million in 2017-2018 to 213 million in 2022-2023 and increased resource mobilization to support implementations of SDGs whereby the County Received County share of kshs. 3.6 billion in 2017-2018 which increased to Ksh 4.6 billion in FY 2022-2023. Sustainable resource mobilization is necessary for effective implementation of the SDGs. The resource mobilization strategy for Elgeyo Marakwet County will focus on three main priorities, namely: strategies for securing capital funding, strategies for securing operational funding, and strategies aimed at increasing cost-effectiveness.

The strategies include;

- Public-private partnerships
- Grants and subsidies
- Cost cutting measures: Reducing redundancies in the system to increase efficiency.
- Revenue enhancement
- Outsourcing: Outsourcing certain services or functions to private sector entities to save on labor and other costs.
- Performance-based budgeting: Elgeyo Marakwet County develops budgets that are tied to specific performance metrics, so that funding is allocated based on how well programs and services are achieving their intended outcomes.
- Resource optimization:
- Collaboration and partnerships: The County government collaborates with other governments, organizations, and the private sector to share resources, reduce costs, and achieve common goals.
- Continuous improvement and innovation: Elgeyo Marakwet County government implements continuous improvement and innovation programs to identify and adopt best practices and learn new technologies that can improve efficiency and reduce costs.

Investment opportunities

Elgeyo Marakwet County has a huge potential for growth. According to Kenya Economic Report, 2021 that was done by Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA), EMC experienced a robust economic growth with real Gross County Product (GCP) of 10 % during the period under review. It was the highest average growth rate in Kenya during that period and it was attributable to County's robust agricultural sector. The government strives to ensure socio-economic development of Elgeyo Marakwet County. It has organised development priorities into nine pillars. Using a well-planned and structured road map i.e., CIDP and ADP, these pillars will lead to job creation; increased uptake of skill and technology; improved wellbeing of citizens and sustainable economic development.

The nine pillars, which form the investment opportunities in EMC include;

i) An efficient and high-quality healthcare system

This will be realised through specific interventions including the upgrading of one Level 4 health facility to Level 5 status, upgrading 7 current Level 3 hospitals to Level 4, upscaling of Community health programs, enrolling 40,000 Indigents on the NHIF Program, intensifying medical screening programs for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), and enhancing medical drugs volumes two-fold.

ii) A modern roads and transport infrastructure

The County has set its sights on modernising its roads and transportation infrastructure to enhance accessibility and facilitate the movement of people and goods. This will be accomplished through tarmacking of 625km of rural roads and 15km of urban roads, opening of 1,140km of new roads, grading and gravelling of 1,628km of roads, and construction of 10 bridges and 70 footbridges.

iii) A water secure community in habitable environment

The County aims to improve access to clean and adequate water in a conserved and protected natural environment, ensuring our communities are water-secure and are living in a habitable environment. To achieve this, the County intends to construct 337 water intake structures, lay 1855 Km water pipeline extensions, drill and equip 223 boreholes, construct 347 masonry

water tanks, construction of 11 treatment plants, growing of 50,000,000 trees and construction of 2 multi-purpose water dams through funding by the national government.

iv) Accelerated growth through human settlement and urban development

In the medium-term the County aims to establish a secure land tenure system for residents. Regarding urban development and housing strategies, the County will strive to improve status of 10 urban areas by tarmacking over 8 km of urban roads, upgrading 7 Informal urban settlements, construction of bus stages, walkways, recreational urban courts, beautification structures and trees, and outdoor advertisements.

v) Food security and wealth creation

To increase production for food security and household incomes, the County targets to modernise agriculture through innovations and commercialization of agricultural investments and value additions. This will be accomplished by supporting farmers to access technology, innovations, post-harvest storage and value addition facilities, establishment of model food security farms, promotion of adoption of cash crops farming and processing and increasing land under irrigated agriculture.

vi) Commercial empowerment for investments and industrialization

Through cooperatives, trade, tourism and industrialization, the County aims to have a robust, diversified, modern and competitive business enterprising environment. For trade and industry this will be accomplished through the establishment of industrial parks, business enterprise development zones, revival of dormant mining industries, construction of modern wholesale and fresh produce markets, business incubation centers, and advancing business loans fund/revolving funds.

vii) Quality, equitable and accessible education and training

viii) Empowerment through sports, social welfare, and inclusion

ix) Transformative leadership through accountable governance

Science Technology and Innovation (ST & I)

EMC's County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP III) emphasizes the role that ST&I plays in transforming service delivery and economic growth and development in the County. The County has adopted technology in service delivery e.g. use of Health Information Management System (HIMS), Human Resource Information Management Systems (HRIMS), Elgeyo Marakwet County-Open County Data website, citizen complaints/feedback via hotline and automation of Own Source Revenue (OSR) collection to enhance cashless transactions and ensure transparency/accountability.

Statistics and Data for SDGs

SDGs Reporting in County is pegged on SDG indicator hand book which was developed in 2020. Data sources are budget implementation progress/status reports, surveys and national census. The County has a Data Desk, a Unit under the Department of Finance and Economic Planning, which compiles data and uploads it to County website. However, the Unit is still on pilot stage and will be fully operational once its efficiency is determined. It is this Unit that updates data on Elgeyo Marakwet – Open Data portal.

Partnerships

The successful implementation of the SDGs and 2030 Agenda will require a more inclusive, coordinated and harmonized approaches at the County level. EMC has strengthened collaborations with various stakeholders to implement, invest and support County interventions. Key collaborations have been in Agricultural sector where the County signed MOUs with pyrethrum and sorghum/barley processing firms in a bid to enhance market for produce. In Education sector, the County has signed MOUs with institutions of higher learning abroad which has seen EMC students getting scholarships and placements in universities of Canada, Australia, USA and Finland through a program called PEPEA. To ensure employment to TVET graduates, the County has entered into partnership with Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) through a program called 2-JIAJIRI WEZESHA whereby students get scholarships for training and once they graduate, they're given basic equipment as start-up capital in their areas of specialty.

On governance, EMC has been voluntarily participating in Open Government Partnership (OGP) of World Bank. This is in a bid to ensure accountability, transparency and better governance. To further enhance this, EMC partnered with GIZ under Good Governance program. Finally, towards end of 2023, EMC partnered with NEPAD amongst selected counties to pilot County Peer Review Mechanism (CPRM). Its main objective is to institutionalize good governance in devolved units.

Institutional and Coordination Mechanisms

EMC has a SDGs institutional and coordination mechanisms that engages with various stakeholders in implementing and monitoring SDGs. The mechanism incorporated the CSOs and Faith Based Organisations (FBOs) to ensure participatory implementation of the goals and targets. The Office of the Governor and that of the County Commissioner, on behalf of national government, provide the overall leadership on the County's economic, social and political governance and development. The offices are also responsible for promoting democracy, good governance, unity and cohesion, peace and security. The County Departments coordinate the implementation of the SDGs for effective implementation of projects and programmes. The Department of Finance and Economic Planning (FEP) is responsible for data collection and reporting on the SDGs in the County. The County established SDG Unit under FEP. It coordinates the linkage of SDGs to the County Planning and budgeting framework during the preparation of the CIDP, the ADPs, Sector Plans, County budget policy documents (CFSP, CBROP) and the Budget Estimates. The Unit works with the SDGs focal point persons, who are nominated officers from all Sectors of the County. This team coordinates the monitoring and reporting on the SDGs within.

Capacity building

Capacity-building for SDG at EMC has been done, albeit small-scale, in the recent past. State Department of Economic Planning in collaboration with the CoG, UN-Agencies, the GIZ and other partners have continued to provide technical assistance and building the capacity of the County Departments. It was after conducting a needs-analysis that EMC in collaboration with GIZ developed SDGs indicator handbook, an initiative that has been of great help to the County in terms of tracking SDG achievements. More capacity building is needed though, to ensure majority of staff and citizens are equipped with SDG-related knowledge.

Chapter Six: Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting on SDGs

The County Monitoring and evaluation is guided by County SDG Indicator Handbook and the KNBS SDGs indicator framework. They identify targets and indicators that can be monitored with available data at the County level. Analyzed data and information on the targets and indicators are obtained from KNBS Survey reports and Publications, and administrative data from departments. EMC has gone a step forward in digitizing SDG data and adopting technology in Monitoring and Evaluation. The County is piloting a project on electronic County Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (e-CIMES) which will ensure real time tracking and reporting and easy access of information by all stakeholders. It covers data collection, indicator formulation, research and analysis, documentation and dissemination and project monitoring and evaluation. The platform further has a feedback platform which will ensure interaction between departments and stakeholders through comment/complaints reporting and response thus enhancing accountability and transparency and eventually improving on service delivery while promoting citizen engagement and public participation.

The institutional setup of the M&E function has various committees, starting from grassroots as project management committees for each project implemented by departments. This is followed by ward development committees which help in supervision of all projects in the entire ward. Coordination of M&E activities is carried out by departmental focal points and SDG champion. The next set of committees are contained in The County Monitoring and Evaluation Policy, which is awaiting approval at the Elgeyo Marakwet County Assembly. These are the County M&E Committee (CoMEC), the County Technical M&E Committee, the Sub-County M&E Committees (SCoMEC), the Sector Based M&E Committees and the Ward M&E Sub Committees.

Chapter Seven: Conclusion

The County Government is committed to implementing Sustainable Development Goals and aligning the County development agenda, policies and priorities to the SDGs, demonstrating readiness to implement SDGs goals and 2030 Agenda, adhering to the principle of “leaving no one behind”. Elgeyo Marakwet County has established an enabling environment for the implementation of SDGs.

County report still reveals some gaps and lessons learnt. The report shows that the County has made good progress in most of the SDGs such as poverty reduction, Zero Hunger, combating climate change, Promote Peace, Justice, Strong Institutions and strengthen partnerships. However, a number of targets are still lagging behind. These include poverty levels, prolonged drought, increased negative cases related climate change, repeatedly reported cases of insecurity along the County border. To ensure complete and integrated implementation of the SDGs, active involvement of the private sector and state-owned enterprises in all stages of SDGs is indispensable. Specifically, emphasis will be on increasing private sector financing for the SDGs and harnessing corporate social responsibility fundings.

There is need to fully operationalise e-CIMES, Elgeyo Marakwet – Open Data and strengthening of administrative data systems. This will enhance County information systems, particularly tracking the implementations/status of SDGs. The main aim will be on consistently improving the collection and analysis of sustainable development data.

Finally, there is need to build capacity of County government officers and special interest groups to ensure effective engagement, managing local communities and other stakeholders at the County. The focus will be on developing effective collaborations with all focusing on those who may be left behind in terms of development i.e., people living with disabilities, the youth, women and older persons.



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