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SDG MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND KENYA 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

May 2025

UN PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS



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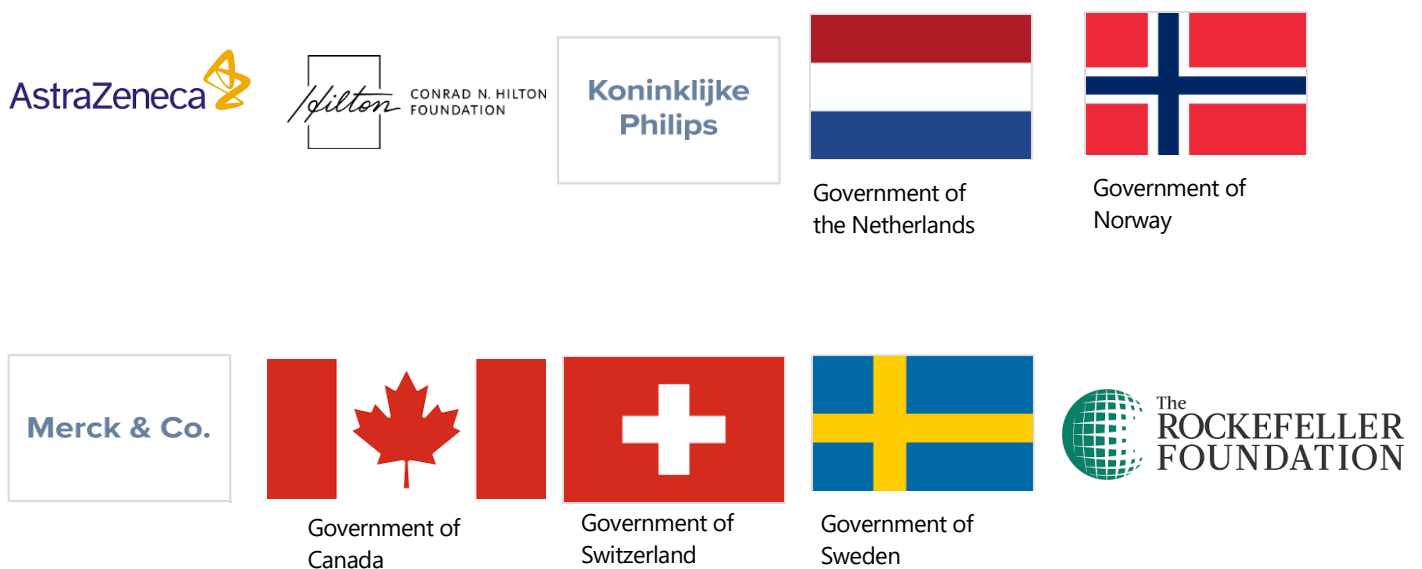


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ACRONYMS

AHDP	Africa Health Diagnostic Platform
ASRH DIB	Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health Development Impact Bond
TWG	Adolescents and Youth Technical Working Group
ASALS	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CSO	Civil Society Organization
COG	Council of Elders
FCDC	Frontier Counties Development Council
FSNWG	Food Security and Nutrition Working Group
FSS	Food Systems Summit
GEN U	Generation Unlimited
GOK	Government of Kenya
GSG	Global Steering Group for Impact Investing
HSIGF	Health Sector Intergovernmental Forums for Health
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HOA	Horn of Africa
IGAD	Inter-Government Authority on Development
IGRTC	Inter-Governmental Relations Technical Committee
KEPSA	Kenya Private Sector Alliance
KEYOPA	Kenya Young People's Agenda
KHPT	Kenya Humanitarian Partnership Team
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
MOH	Ministry of Health
NCPD	National Council for Population and Development
NDMA	National Drought Management Authority
NYC	National Youth Council
PPM	Public and private Mix
PPP	Public Private Partnership
RC	Resident Coordinator
RCO	Resident Coordinator's Office
SDGS	Sustainable Development Goals
SDG AIMS	SDG Africa Investment Mobilization Summit
SDG PP	Sustainable Development Goals Partnership Platform
SDG MPTF	Sustainable Development Goals Multi-Partner Trust Fund
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UHC	Universal Health Coverage

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The SDG Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Kenya, commonly referred to as *the Fund*, continues to serve as a strategic enabler for joint UN action aligned with Kenya's national development priorities. Its operational framework is deliberately structured to respond to the Government of Kenya's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) and the Fourth Medium-Term Plan (MTP IV), with the overarching objective of accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In 2024, the Fund made notable progress in operationalising its mandate, advancing programmatic coherence and integration under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). This was made possible through the sustained commitment of development partners, including Sweden, Norway, Canada, Switzerland and the Conrad Hilton Foundation, whose combined contributions in 2024 alone totaled **USD 12.3 million**. Since its inception in 2022, the Fund has mobilized over **USD 32.4 million** (approximately KES 41 billion), demonstrating strong confidence from both public and private partners, including the Netherlands and global philanthropies such as Philips, AstraZeneca, Merck, Hilton and Rockefeller Foundations.

The Fund's ability to deliver on its strategic objectives was made possible through robust donor support. To date, **USD 24.4 million** has been received to support the implementation of **15 Joint UN Kenya interventions**. These include integrated programmes addressing circular food systems transformation, climate-smart livelihoods, drought resilience, inclusive and sustainable urbanization, child and social protection, gender equality, youth empowerment, peacebuilding, refugee management and primary healthcare acceleration, delivering measurable impact at both national and community levels.

The **government of Sweden** remains the **Fund largest and most consistent contributor**, providing a generous allocation of **USD 7.9 million in 2024**. This strategic investment has been instrumental in enabling catalytic joint programming, while also strengthening the Fund's operational oversight, governance capacity and overall programme delivery. Sweden's contribution supports the financing of three key technical positions, covering environment, youth and disaster risk reduction (DRR), as well as a dedicated fund management position, all embedded within the Fund Secretariat under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator. The Secretariat plays a central role in the day-to-day management of Fund operations, including the oversight of budgetary allocations to UN Kenya Joint Programmes, provision of technical advisory services and coordination of programme results monitoring. These functions ensure that investments are strategically aligned with both the UNSDCF and Kenya's national development priorities. Complementing these efforts, the **government of France** has seconded a Senior Expert on Climate Financing, who also serves as the Lead of the Fund Secretariat, contributing 40% of her time. This management structure promotes a robust coordination mechanism across UN Kenya entities, ensuring that pooled investments are responsive to emerging national needs, aligned with SDG priorities and effectively implemented to deliver measurable development results.

With support from the **Conrad Hilton Foundation**, the SDG Partnership Platform (SDGPP) continues to operate under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, leveraging its position as the lead of the UN Kenya **Strategic Enabler of Partnerships (SE)** group. The Platform has played a central role in facilitating and coordinating multi-stakeholder engagements, demonstrating how Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) can effectively translate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into actionable solutions at the grassroots level, thereby accelerating development impact. Under the strategic guidance of the **SDGPP Advisor**, the Platform has led successful joint advocacy and policy dialogue initiatives, creating an enabling environment within UN Kenya that fosters collaboration between the public and private sectors. These efforts have strengthened the capacity of private sector partners to contribute meaningfully to SDG-related outcomes, enhancing the effectiveness of their investments and innovations in alignment with national priorities. As a result, the Platform has played a focal role in establishing key private partnerships that are now driving systemic change across sectors, promoting sustainable development and scaling impact in Kenya.

As a strategic vehicle for accelerating transformative and catalytic change, the Fund continued to demonstrate strong alignment with national priorities through joint UN actions. In 2024, the Fund partnered with the **government of Canada** to launch a **"Gender Transformation Competition,"** designed to incentivise UN

Kenya Joint Programmes to co-create and scale integrated solutions that advance gender equality and women's empowerment. A significant portion of this contribution was allocated to youth empowerment initiatives, ensuring meaningful participation of young people, particularly in the aftermath of the Gen Z demonstrations, in shaping policy reforms and national development priorities. In alignment with H.E. President William Ruto's vision to unlock the full potential of Kenya's blue economy as a driver of inclusive, sustainable growth, the UN Kenya is also leveraging part of the Canadian contribution to establish an **innovative financing mechanism** and guarantee scheme. This aims to position Kenya as an early and successful adopter of the Blue Transition through gender-responsive and environmentally sustainable investments. Programmatic interventions will promote circular practices, protect ecosystems and foster equitable economic development while accelerating progress toward gender equality and environmental resilience.

The June 2024 youth-led protests in Kenya marked a crucial moment in the country's democratic evolution, exposing the deep-seated structural exclusion of young people and amplifying their demand for greater inclusion, transparency and accountability. These demonstrations brought to the forefront urgent socioeconomic issues, including high youth unemployment, poverty and limited participation in governance structures. In response, the Fund, in close collaboration with the **governments of Canada and Norway**, launched the **zKe** initiative as a catalytic intervention to institutionalise youth engagement in democratic governance. Anchored in the Fund's commitment to inclusive development, zKe is a flagship initiative designed to empower youth and create structured pathways for their sustained participation in national policy and decision-making processes. The initiative blends digital innovation with grassroots civic action, leveraging platforms such as WhatsApp Bot, Polis, Talk to the City and social media channels (X, Facebook, TikTok, Instagram), to facilitate real-time dialogue and crowdsource citizen-generated policy input. To date, zKe has engaged over **6,700 young people** across the country, amplifying youth voices in national discourse, promoting civic awareness and co-creating solutions with local and national institutions. The platform has not only enhanced accountability and transparency but also laid the groundwork for youth-driven policy reforms in alignment with the Fund's broader objective to strengthen democratic resilience and social cohesion in Kenya.

In the lead-up to the 2024 **Summit of the Future** in New York, Kenya was selected as the host of the first-ever UN Civil Society Conference in the Global South, held in May 2024, affirming the country's leadership in inclusive multilateralism and civic engagement. As part of this historic convening, the Fund, with support from the **government of Sweden**, facilitated a high-level side event featuring the Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs, Mr. Felipe Paullier and close to 20 representatives from youth-led and youth-serving organisations. The dialogue provided a platform to explore pressing challenges faced by young people in Kenya and the broader region, while generating concrete proposals to enhance youth participation in policymaking and rebuild trust in multilateralism. Discussions highlighted the critical role of the UN and the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth (UNYO) in catalysing inclusive governance processes. Further strengthening this momentum, UN Kenya, partnered with the UN Futures Lab between May and December 2024 to facilitate countrywide consultations with young people as part of Kenya's contribution to the global conversation on the future of multilateralism. The consultations gathered voices from **2,500 young Kenyans**, capturing their aspirations, hopes and proposals for a more just, equitable and sustainable future. These insights are feeding into both national and global processes, including the post-Summit of the Future dialogues and the implementation of the UNSDCF. The Fund remains committed to institutionalising meaningful youth engagement and advancing a coordinated, whole-of-society approach to youth empowerment. Going forward, it will continue to facilitate partnerships between the Government of Kenya, UN entities and youth networks to ensure young people are recognised as central agents of change in governance, policy and development processes.

With the generous support of the **governments of Norway and Switzerland**, the Fund successfully rolled out and enhanced the operational capacity of UN Kenya agencies at the devolved level, focusing on the ASAL (Arid and Semi-Arid Lands) counties of Garissa, Marsabit and Turkana. This initiative involved the establishment of **UN Kenya County Coordination Structures**, designed to facilitate internal coordination of UN Kenya interventions at the county level. This effort directly contributed to advancing the "**UN Kenya Delivering as One**" approach, ensuring more coherent and integrated service delivery at the local level. The initiative's objective was to strengthen UN Kenya's capacity to implement the UNSDCF by enhancing local governance structures, improving coordination across agencies and fostering effective partnerships with county governments

and local stakeholders. As a result, UN Kenya has been able to deliver more impactful, context-specific interventions, addressing local needs while contributing to the broader national development agenda. This successful approach has laid the groundwork for scaling UN Kenya operations in other devolved regions, ensuring greater inclusivity and responsiveness in SDGs delivery.

This report covers the period from **January to December 2024** and highlights **key programmatic results and achievements** made possible through contributions received and investments allocated within the reporting period.

SECTION I: ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

BACKGROUND

In 2018, all 193 UN Member States endorsed bold reforms to the UN Development System to enhance its effectiveness, coherence and efficiency in supporting countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). UN Kenya has emerged as a frontrunner in translating these reforms into action, placing joint delivery and collective impact at the core of its programming. Through the SDG Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF), the UN is implementing 20 next-generation joint programmes, co-created with government, civil society and development partners, that tackle Kenya's most pressing development priorities. The Fund serves as a catalytic platform for pooling resources, aligning efforts and delivering results at scale, with vital support from pioneering contributors including Sweden, Canada, Norway, the Netherlands, Switzerland and innovative partners such as the Rockefeller Foundation, Hilton Foundation, Merck, AstraZeneca and Philips. By enabling agencies to leverage their sectoral strengths through joint programming and shared services, the Fund reduces duplication and supports broader efforts to diversify development financing, including through blended and innovative finance models.

Under the People and Peace Window, by working with Kenya to reinforce existing laws, increase national and county budgetary allocations and ensure prioritisation of direct benefits for children within social safety nets, UN Kenya's joint child and social protection joint programme supported by the Fund helped Kenya build a safer and more equitable future for all children. Further, UN Kenya supported the Government to achieve its pledge to ensure that 2.5 million vulnerable households have access to social protection by 2026. Much of the support in 2024 was provided through cash-based transfer programmes, which give purchasing power to individual Kenyans to take control over key decisions in their lives. The "Inua Jamii Cash Transfer Programme" particularly supports children and orphans, but also the elderly and persons with disabilities. With joined-up support from UN Kenya, this programme extended to 1.703 million households in 2024, a considerable increase of 70 per cent since 2023. Cash-based transfers to persons with severe disabilities grew by 34 per cent from 2023. This helped ensure greater financial security for some of those at most risk.

During this reporting period, UN through the Fund support continued to help county governance structures be more effective, accountable and inclusive, including by promoting the use of digital technologies and innovation, particularly in Arid and Semi-Arid Land (ASAL) regions. This has mainly been through the UN joint devolution programme where eight counties have mainstreamed the SDGs in their County Integrated Development Plans and Annual Development Plans with the UN support. Targeted trainings in public financial management processes and regulations contributed to increased transparency and development-effectiveness in budget-making and resource allocation at county level. As one example, Garissa's health sector budget increased from KES 2.89 billion in the 2023/24 financial year to KES 3.27 billion in the 2024/25 financial year following this targeted support. Another example on the UN support is the case of Tana-River County, devolution is reshaping governance, bringing healthcare, agriculture and infrastructure development closer to the people. With resources now allocated at the ward level, citizens are actively participating in decision making, ensuring that investments align with local needs. In healthcare, the transformation is evident, Hola Hospital now a high dependency unit (HDU), an expanded maternity wing and dialysis services, reducing the need for long-distance travel for critical care. This shift has improved healthcare access and outcomes, giving communities greater control over their wellbeing. This transformation is part of a broader effort. UN Kenya works with counties to strengthen governance, enhance service delivery and empower communities at local level. UN Kenya remains committed to supporting Kenya's devolution to drive inclusive growth and sustainable progress.

The Planet and Prosperity Window has enabled the UN in Kenya to deliver a distinct and catalytic contribution to the country's green and blue transition. Unlike fragmented or project-based interventions by many NGOs or CBOs, the UN has leveraged its strategic position to align climate action, livelihood transformation and social inclusion within institutional systems at both national and county levels.

Across arid and semi-arid counties, the UN's coordinated drought resilience programme has secured sustainable

water access not just by delivering infrastructure, but by embedding water governance, renewable energy systems and local institutional accountability into the service delivery ecosystem. Access to water in schools and health facilities has improved educational attendance, public health outcomes and significantly reduced the time burden on women and girls, demonstrating how climate-adapted services can also deliver gender and human capital dividends.

In Nyamira and Laikipia, the UN's integrated programme on sustainable production and consumption has delivered a step change in how counties and producers approach agriculture. Smallholder farmers are not only adopting regenerative and circular practices but are now organised into functional producer groups with increased access to markets, financial literacy and value addition opportunities. What sets this apart is not just the empowerment of individuals, but the systemic embedding of circular economy thinking into county development strategies, policy frameworks and national discourse. The programme has also strengthened institutional linkages with actors like the Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute, ensuring that inclusive production models are supported by long-term technical, policy and market infrastructure.

Meanwhile, in Kenya's coastal region, a bold new programme on gender-responsive and sustainable blue economies has begun to reframe how development in the marine and aquatic sectors is approached. Anchored in human rights and constitutional equity principles, the programme is catalysing a structural shift, moving from extractive, male-dominated models to inclusive, environmentally responsible systems where women are central economic actors and stewards of marine ecosystems. By embedding gender, sustainability and circularity from the outset, the programme lays the foundation for a transformative reorientation of Kenya's blue economy, with strong institutional buy-in at national and county levels.

Additionally, UN Kenya has successfully engendered 80% of the UNSDCF indicators in UN INFO, promoting greater integration of gender across all UN programmes. This effort has enabled more gender-responsive planning and improved resource allocation for gender-related activities across all Joint Programmes. Furthermore, funding from Canada requires a minimum of 50% allocation to gender-focused initiatives, which has further strengthened the gender mainstreaming efforts within the Joint Programmes. Through these concerted actions, UN Kenya is making a meaningful contribution to the socio-economic development of women and girls, who are often at risk of being left behind

To reinforce the Fund role as a strategic instrument for integrated delivery, the Secretariat is establishing a unified monitoring and reporting architecture that engages joint programmes and contributors, enabling system-wide visibility of results while strengthening transparency and accountability. By advancing joint leadership and fostering a culture of collaboration across UN entities, the Fund is positioned to drive transformative, cross-sectoral outcomes at scale. These efforts are essential to sustaining the Fund catalytic impact and ensuring coherent, high-value support is aligned with Kenya's development priorities and SDG acceleration.

INTRODUCTION

The SDG Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Kenya, which began operations in 2022, was established as a dedicated pooled financing mechanism to facilitate coherent, catalytic and country-led responses to Kenya's sustainable development agenda.

The Fund enables government, development partners, the private sector, philanthropy and civil society to co-create and co-finance transformative, multi-stakeholder interventions that address complex development challenges. Its design ensures that resources are strategically pooled and aligned to support bespoke, context-specific solutions that deliver sustainable and inclusive results. As a key enabler of the UNSDCF and the Government of Kenya's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), the Fund serves as a **platform for harmonised action and investment**. To support this, the Fund has established thematic and enabler windows that reflect the UNSDCF strategic priorities and outcomes. These windows provide an entry point for partners to invest in targeted areas such as people and peace, planet and prosperity and strategic partnerships.

The Fund is instrumental in driving the **shift from traditional funding to sustainable, innovative development financing**. Each thematic window is underpinned by a co-created strategic plan and a clear theory of change, which outlines how its interventions contribute to the Fund's overarching development outcomes. This ensures every investment is results-oriented, measurable and aligned with national and UN Kenya priorities.

Specifically, the Fund supports:

- **Joint programmes and catalytic projects** under the thematic and enabler windows.
- **Cross-cutting operational functions**, including the staffing and operations of the Fund Secretariat, which operates under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator and is responsible for fund management, budget oversight, technical support and results monitoring.

Through this integrated and collaborative model, the Fund continues to position itself as a strategic instrument for delivering high-impact, country-owned development outcomes and accelerating progress toward the 2030 Agenda.

In 2024, the Fund received annual contributions totaling USD 12,284,420 from a strong coalition of partners, including the governments of Sweden, Norway, Canada and Switzerland, as well as the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. These contributions enabled the Fund to support 15 strategic, catalytic, joint and results-oriented UN Kenya interventions.

As of December 2024, a total of 17 Participating UN Agencies (PUNOs) had signed up as members of the Fund.

The People and Peace and the Planet and Prosperity as well as the Strategic Enabler Windows, serves as the operational engine for delivering of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2022–2026 in Kenya, focused on accelerating climate-resilient, inclusive and sustainable economic transformation. It embodies the UN reform agenda by demonstrating how pooled financing, interagency collaboration and government-aligned programming can deliver systemic, scalable and nationally owned results.

At the heart of this shift is the UN Resident Coordinator (RC) Office, which acts as the interlocutor between the UN system and the Government of Kenya. Through the RC's leadership, the UN Country Team operates as a unified, trusted partner, transitioning from fragmented project delivery to coordinated, policy-linked and institutionally grounded joint action. This has strengthened national ownership, coherence across sectors and the strategic value of the UN's presence in the country. Overall, the strategic value added of the UN Resident Coordinator has been highlighted in the following key aspects.

1. Foster genuine interagency collaboration

The operationalisation of the fund is led by the RC, who ensures strategic oversight, coherence and alignment

with Kenya's development priorities. Pooled, flexible funding allows the RC system to prioritise impact over mandates, strengthen joint planning and ensure that UN interventions are embedded in government systems, whether through MTP IV, BETA, county plans, or Kenya's NDCs. UN agencies co-deliver the strategic joint programmes, each contributing its expertise under a unified results framework. This avoids duplication and supports well-rounded solutions that benefit institutions, businesses, and communities.

The RC structure ensures that the Fund supported interventions and their design are co-owned by national and county governments, aligning directly with Kenya's policy frameworks on climate resilience, green and blue economies, gender equality and inclusive growth. This approach moves the UN in Kenya from being a parallel actor to a strategic partner embedded in Kenya's development architecture.

2. Strengthen joint accountability and results-based reporting

Through harmonised M&E and shared indicators under the UN INFO system, the RC structure enhances the UN's collective accountability to both government and donors through a coordinated UN Kenya reporting that allows for clear and transparent attribution of results, supports evidence-based scale-up and reduces transaction costs for partners.

3. Catalyse financing aligned with the SDGs

The RC structure supports not only the delivery of results but also the unlocking of public and private capital. The technical teams under the RC structure work with UN Kenya joint programmes to demonstrate proof-of-concept models that catalyse County co-financing, impact investment and climate finance, expanding the reach and sustainability of joint programmes.

FUND BOARD

The Fund Board serves as the **highest governance body of the Fund**, with full decision-making authority and overall responsibility for strategic oversight and accountability. Chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator, the Board comprises four Heads of Agencies selected from Participating UN Organisations - **UNDP, UNFPA, UNAIDS and UNICEF**.

In 2024, the Fund's Terms of Reference (ToR) were revised to enhance governance effectiveness and ensure broader participation. Key updates included the introduction of a bi-annual rotation mechanism for Fund Board membership and the nomination of **three donor contributors as observers** to strengthen transparency and stakeholder engagement.

Following these revisions, the Fund Board adopted a staggered rotation approach that led to UNIDO replacing UNAIDS on the Board, coinciding with the departure of the UNAIDS representative from the country. Additionally, **Sweden, Norway and Canada** were formally nominated by the Fund Board to serve as donor observer members for a period of two years beginning in May 2024. These governance reforms are expected to reinforce inclusivity, ensure continuity and bolster the Fund's commitment to responsive and accountable decision-making.

During this reporting period, the Fund Board convened thrice, in May, September and November 2024.

PURPOSE

The Fund is a central instrument for operationalising the **UN commitment to Delivering as One**, enabling the UN System in Kenya to jointly plan, implement and report on high-impact, transformative development results. Aligned with the Government of Kenya's development priorities and the UNSDCF, the Fund's overarching goal is to contribute meaningfully to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

The Fund prioritises strategic allocations to joint UN programmes and projects that embody the spirit of

collaboration, coherence and integration and are designed to **catalyse systemic change, drive innovation and deliver results** at scale. These investments are deliberately structured to break silos, reduce fragmentation and foster cross-agency collaboration at both national and sub-national levels. By financing joint action under a unified results framework, the Fund reinforces collective accountability, optimises resource use and enhances the visibility and coherence of UN support to Kenya's development agenda, demonstrating the full value of the UN in Kenya working as one.

DETAILED FUND RESULTS IN 2024

The Fund adopts a three-window results framework structure to enhance coherence in reporting and accountability. All results achieved within the reporting period will be presented under the following windows:

1. **Direct Cost Enabler Window** - Encompasses all cross-cutting functions, including Fund\ management, coordination and operational support provided by the Secretariat.
2. **People and Peace Thematic Window** - Captures results related to inclusive governance, human rights, gender equality, youth empowerment, child and social protection, peacebuilding and resilience.
3. **Planet and Prosperity Thematic Window** - Covers interventions aimed at climate action, environmental sustainability, blue economy, circular economy and inclusive, sustainable economic development.
4. **Strategic Enabler of Partnerships Window** - Supports joint efforts by UN Kenya and the Government of Kenya to advance SDG target 17.17, which emphasises the promotion of effective public-private and civil society partnerships as a key driver for sustainable development.

THE DIRECT COST ENABLER WINDOW

The Government of Sweden is the sole contributor to the Direct Cost Enabler Window of the Fund, which finances essential cross-cutting functions that underpin the Fund's effectiveness. This includes full support for the staffing and operational costs of the Fund Secretariat, which operates under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator and is embedded within the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO).

With Sweden's support, the Secretariat is fully staffed and operational, comprising key technical experts who are currently in place, including a Youth Advisor, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) & Resilience Advisor, Environment and Climate Specialist and a Management Specialist. Additionally, the Government of France has seconded a Senior Expert on Climate Financing, who also serves as the lead of the Fund.

The core mandate of the Secretariat is to coordinate and manage the operations of the Fund. This includes ensuring alignment of joint programmes with national priorities and UNSDCF outcomes, supporting strategic coherence across UN entities, facilitating Fund governance processes and providing technical guidance and quality assurance to Participating UN Organisations. The Secretariat also leads on results tracking, reporting and oversight of Fund allocations, playing a vital role in advancing the Fund's commitment to the UN in Kenya Delivering as One.

Key coordination achievements of the Secretariat in 2024 include:

Youth Empowerment Capacity: The Secretariat continued to play a central role in coordinating youth empowerment efforts through strengthened national approaches, technical assistance to key programmes and enhanced partnerships with both the Government of Kenya (GoK) and UN Agencies. During the reporting period, the Secretariat provided targeted technical support to the State Department for Labour and Skills Development in developing institutional frameworks and policy guidance for employment and skills. A key outcome of this collaboration was the **draft National Strategy on Green Skills and Jobs**, developed through a stakeholder-driven process involving active contributions from UN Kenya. The strategy aims to advance a green economy that enhances human well-being and social equity while reducing environmental risks. The Secretariat will continue to work closely with UN agencies to support the GoK in the strategy's implementation, ensuring integration across joint UN programming.

In addition, the Secretariat provided coordination support to the Adolescent and Youth Technical Working Group (AYTWG), which brings together various UN entities focused on youth empowerment in Kenya. Under the leadership of UN Kenya, the AYTGW conducted a **comprehensive mapping of the UN Kenya youth footprint**, facilitating improved alignment, coordination and visibility of joint youth-focused interventions. The working group also played a strategic role in the rollout of the UN Joint Programme on Youth, aligned with the

UNSDCF, with a strategic focus on **youth civic engagement, skills development and employability**.

Strategic engagement with the newly appointed Cabinet Secretaries, particularly the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports, was also facilitated by the Secretariat. These high-level consultations enabled the UN to share its collective youth portfolio and highlight ongoing and emerging initiatives, including **digital participatory platforms** such as **zKe: Youth Voices**, developed in response to the Gen Z-led demonstrations. This engagement culminated in a mutual commitment to jointly fast-track critical youth priorities, including the **National Youth Council Elections**, the **Youth Bill 2024** and the launch of the UN Joint Programme on Youth.

Ahead of International Youth Day (IYD) 2024, guided by the theme “*Future Forward: Youth Leading the Change on Digitalization for Sustainable Development*,” the Secretariat provided technical coordination support to Participating UN Agencies during the event, which was held at UNON and showcased **youth-led innovation** and dialogue on digital transformation and sustainable development, with active participation from youth organizations across Kenya.

Moving forward, the Secretariat will continue to prioritise meaningful youth engagement, including:

- The application of a youth lens in joint UN programme implementation.
- Provide support for the operationalisation of the Green Skills and Jobs Strategy.
- Engagement in the Youth Bill 2024 legislative process.
- Scaling up innovative digital engagement platforms to ensure youth voices are reflected in national policy and governance processes.

Environmental and Climate Capacity: The Secretariat continued to provide strategic coordination and technical support towards the operationalisation of key joint programmes under the Planet and Prosperity Window, reinforcing the UN Kenya’s commitment to Delivering as One and advancing Kenya’s transition to a **green and blue economy**. In 2024, the Secretariat supported the finalisation of Project Documents (ProDocs) for the joint programmes on Circularity in the Green and Blue Economies, Water, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management and Nature Finance. These ProDocs establish a common strategic framework and institutional arrangements, setting the foundation for formal launches in partnership with relevant Government Ministries and the activation of joint programme Steering Committees to oversee coordinated implementation. Among these, the Circularity joint programme has progressed into the implementation phase, demonstrating early momentum.

As the circularity programme transitions from pilot interventions to scaled production, the focus has shifted toward building **viable and inclusive value chains** that yield measurable economic and environmental returns. Initial financing has been instrumental in laying the groundwork, supporting the development of tools, capacity building and awareness raising, with a strong emphasis on gender responsiveness and sustainability. To scale and sustain these efforts, the Secretariat is actively engaging **impact investors** to mobilise resources for appropriate technologies, such as fiber extraction and processing equipment and to secure the technical expertise needed to improve production quality. In tandem, the Secretariat is working closely with county governments to explore co-financing opportunities through fiscal allocations in upcoming budget cycles. This deliberate alignment with **public and private sector partners** is laying the groundwork for accessing larger multilateral financing pools to support national-scale implementation. The transition to circularity is already delivering results, particularly for **Leave No One Behind (LNOB) groups**. Women, youth and marginalised producers are leading enterprise models that turn waste into income, transforming materials like banana fiber and leather offcuts into marketable products. This emerging green economy is generating new livelihoods, enhancing community resilience and building local ownership in Kenya’s sustainable development agenda.

In parallel, the Secretariat continued to provide technical advisory and coordination support to the Joint Sector Working Group on Climate, Environment & Forestry (JSWG), a high-level platform that facilitates dialogue between development partners and the Government of Kenya. Following recent changes in cabinet leadership,

the JSWG aligned on updated national priorities including the **development of carbon markets**, follow-up actions from the Africa Climate Summit and the review of Kenya's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 3.0). These priorities have been embedded within joint programmes and UN Kenya programme portfolios, with the Secretariat offering targeted technical support, particularly through the Joint Programme on Nature Finance and Biodiversity, to advance Kenya's position in global carbon markets and sustainable finance.

To advance the agenda, the Secretariat will focus on deepening coordination, scaling catalytic results and strengthening strategic alignment across Joint Programmes to enhance system-wide impact and national ownership. Key priorities include:

- Scaling successful pilots like circularity and climate tech innovations through joint scale-up strategies.
- Strengthening county-level coordination to localise SDG delivery.
- Mobilising additional financing from impact investors and climate funds.
- Aligning UN Kenya initiatives with GoK climate priorities, including carbon markets and NDC 3.0.

Disaster Reduction and Resilience Capacity: The Secretariat's advisory capacity on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) played a catalytic role in advancing a coordinated, system-wide approach to **Disaster Risk Management (DRM)** at both national and sub-national levels. Through technical support, policy guidance and multi-stakeholder facilitation, the Secretariat ensured joint action on DRM legislation, harmonised humanitarian response mechanisms and integrated planning across agencies. This was particularly instrumental in response to two major flooding episodes during the year.

In the aftermath of the floods, the Secretariat swiftly convened UN Kenya agencies and development partners to highlight the scale of the emergency and mobilise coordinated technical and financial support. **Immediate humanitarian assistance** was provided in key sectors including cash-based food assistance, health, shelter, non-food items (NFIs), water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH) and logistics, especially in hard-to-reach areas. A unified response reached **190,000 individuals** across 10 counties during the March to May season and **281,835 people** during the October to December season. This life-saving support was delivered through close coordination with UN Kenya agencies, the Ministry of Interior, the Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary and the Office of the Deputy President.

To enable evidence-based recovery planning, the Secretariat supported the Government of Kenya, in collaboration with UN Kenya, to conduct a **comprehensive Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA)**, led by the Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary. This inclusive, multi-stakeholder process laid the foundation for a nationally owned recovery strategy, facilitated the mobilisation of domestic and external resources and ensured harmonised cross-sectoral interventions, avoiding duplication and enhancing alignment across partners.

Building on this momentum, the Secretariat coordinated UN Kenya agencies to provide consolidated technical inputs into the **draft National Disaster Risk Management (NDRM) Bill**. These were submitted to the National Assembly's Select Committee on Defence, National Security and Foreign Relations and the Senate's Select Committee. The recommendations emphasised multi-hazard approaches, governance architecture, financing, preparedness and resilience-building strategies. As a result, key inputs from the UN Country Team (UNCT), Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM), Ministry of Interior and the Office of the Deputy President were integrated into the bill, including provisions for the establishment of a **National Disaster Risk Management Authority (NDRMA)** to coordinate response efforts at both national and county levels.

The Secretariat further supported the development of **complementary policy frameworks** such as the Anticipatory Action Strategy, the National DRM Strategy Review and the Platform for Disaster Displacement Roadmap. At the county level, technical assistance was provided for the development of DRM legislation in Busia and Kisumu Counties, contributing to a stronger enabling environment for locally grounded risk management and reduced vulnerability among at-risk populations.

In response to a formal request from the Select Committee, the Secretariat supported the National Steering Committee on Disaster Response in drafting a position paper detailing a unitary institutional structure for the NDRMA. The proposal, aimed at enhancing coordination, transparency and accountability, was presented to the Senate and is currently under review. Once adopted, the structure will institutionalise a coherent disaster management framework across Kenya's governance system.

In parallel, the Secretariat strengthened joint humanitarian action through support to the Humanitarian Coordination Team Plus (HCT+), fostering synergies between development partners, the UN system and humanitarian actors. This coordination yielded key planning tools, including the Kenya Crisis Response Plan 2024 and the Floods Response Plan 2024. Additionally, in collaboration with UNOCHA, the Secretariat contributed to **emergency preparedness and planning** efforts that enabled the country to access **US\$3 million** in Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) allocations.

The Secretariat's work has significantly enhanced Kenya's capacity to respond to and recover from natural disasters. By facilitating coordinated action, mobilising resources and shaping legislative and policy frameworks, the Secretariat has laid the groundwork for a resilient and responsive disaster management ecosystem. The advancement of the NDRM Bill and the operationalisation of the NDRMA represent critical milestones in embedding disaster management into national development priorities.

In the next implementation phase, the Secretariat will continue to provide technical and coordination support to the legislative progress of the NDRM Bill and the establishment of the NDRMA.

Climate Finance Advisory Capacity: The Secretariat continued to provide strategic guidance and technical support to joint programmes under the Strategic Priority *Prosperity & Planet*, with a particular emphasis on advancing climate finance integration and accelerating resource mobilisation efforts. Through expert climate finance advisory services, the Secretariat supported these programmes to strengthen their technical design, identify fit-for-purpose financing instruments and develop joint resource mobilisation work plans. These efforts ensured that programmes were not only technically robust but also strategically positioned within emerging climate finance and partnership ecosystems.

This approach facilitated tangible progress across key joint programmes, including:

1. The **water joint programme**, which initiated engagement with the Government of Kenya on a potential application to the Adaptation Fund, aiming to mobilise resources for climate-resilient water systems; and
2. The **blue economy joint programme**, which began designing an innovative financing mechanism, either a guarantee or revolving fund, to unlock access to finance for women fisherfolk, was catalysed by funding secured through Canada's Gender Call for Proposals.

These initiatives underscore the value of a coordinated, systems-level advisory function at the Secretariat, enabling joint programmes to transition from co-creation to integrated financing and scalable delivery. Building on the resource mobilisation work plan developed in 2023, the Water joint programme began executing a tailored strategy aligned with Kenya's ambition to lead on climate finance within the water sector. Key actions included the development of de-risking instruments to attract investment, exemplified by a proposal submitted to the **World Economic Forum** by UN Kenya and an application to the **Adaptation Fund** in partnership with the **National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)**. In parallel, the Water JP collaborated with the Ministry of Water to establish a national agenda on climate finance for the sector. This agenda will culminate in a high-level convening of development partners and government stakeholders to review existing instruments, strengthen synergies and identify key financing gaps, laying the groundwork for a coordinated and sustainable climate finance architecture for Kenya's water sector.

The joint programme on unlocking finance for nature made substantial progress in 2024, catalysed by an expert workshop held in April and a subsequent finance and donor roundtable convened in the second half of the year. These engagements brought together practitioners and key development partners, including Sweden, the United

States and the United Kingdom, to co-design solutions and reinforce the programme's financing architecture. As a result, the programme strengthened its strategic positioning and technical depth, notably through the onboarding of the **UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)** in a technical advisory capacity. UNCDF's support was instrumental in shaping a suite of innovative financing instruments, including **guarantee mechanisms, payments for ecosystem services** and **non-sovereign green and orange bonds**, aimed at unlocking private and blended capital for nature-based solutions.

As joint programmes under the Strategic Priority on Prosperity & Planet continue to mature, the Secretariat's climate finance advisory services will remain central in enhancing the capacity of UN Kenya agencies to design and operationalise innovative financing instruments tailored to each programme's objectives. This next phase of work will focus on:

- Deploying **guarantee mechanisms** to accelerate investments in circular, green and blue economies;
- Structuring **biodiversity credits and bonds** under the unlocking finance for nature joint programme to attract blended capital for ecosystem restoration; and
- Developing a dedicated **water bond** under the water joint programme to channel long-term financing toward climate-resilient water systems.

These forward-looking initiatives underscore a deliberate shift toward integrated, systems-level financing solutions that are aligned with Kenya's sustainable development agenda and its broader ambitions in climate finance and environmental stewardship.

Emerging Opportunities: As Chair of the Fund Board, the Resident Coordinator manages a strategically flexible fund designed to enable timely, targeted responses to high-impact opportunities. This dedicated facility, reserved for emerging priorities, allows the UN system to seize critical moments, pilot innovative initiatives and respond to urgent needs that align with the broader UN Kenya mandate. Disbursements are guided by pre-agreed criteria to ensure strategic alignment, catalytic value and measurable impact.

During the reporting period, funds from this mechanism supported the following initiatives:

1. The Futures Summit, in collaboration with the UN Futures Lab and Shujaaz Inc.
2. The Food Systems Summit (FSS);
3. The Peacebuilding Architecture Review;
4. The National Tree Planting Programme; and
5. The zKe Initiative, aimed at empowering youth and enhancing their sustained engagement in Kenya's democratic and governance processes.

Further thematic details are provided in the respective sections below.

THE PEOPLE AND PEACE THEMATIC WINDOW

The People and Peace thematic window is strategically financed by the Governments of Sweden, Norway and Canada, enabling the UN system in Kenya to deliver integrated, high-impact programming aligned with national development and peacebuilding priorities. The window currently supports six joint programmes implemented across various regions of the country, with ten participating UN agencies collaborating to deliver results at scale. Each joint programme is designed to leverage comparative advantages across agencies, strengthen partnerships and create systemic impact.

The joint programmes currently under implementation include:

1. Integrated Social Protection and Child Protection Bridging Programme
2. Integrating Peacebuilding and Social Cohesion in Refugee Management in Kenya
3. Advancing Inclusive Governance: Empowering Youth Voices & Strengthening Democratic Processes
4. UN Joint Programme on Youth Skills, Employability and Civic Engagement
5. Child Protection and Social Protection Joint Programme

Detailed results for each programme are outlined in the sections below.

JOINT PROGRAMME ON INTEGRATED SOCIAL PROTECTION AND CHILD PROTECTION (BRIDGING PROGRAMME): The Joint Programme (JP) delivered transformative results by supporting the Government of Kenya to significantly scale up the **Inua Jamii social cash transfer programme**, increasing coverage from **1.028 million to 1.703 million households**, the first major expansion in over a decade. This was achieved through targeted support to registration processes and delivery systems, including enhancement of the Management Information System (MIS) and development of data collection tools and training for enumerators. Notably, eligibility criteria for the Cash Transfer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (CT-OVC) were revised to better capture child protection vulnerabilities, contributing to more inclusive programming. The programme also facilitated the integration of the Enhanced Single Registry with the National Health Insurance Fund, enabling social protection beneficiaries to access universal health services in multiple counties, laying the groundwork for long-term systems strengthening and service integration. Despite the landmark expansion of Inua Jamii, poor children still remain substantially under-covered. The Cash Transfer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children reaches just 11% of the number of children in multidimensional poverty. This indicates a need for further work to close coverage gaps for children specifically.

To sustain and inform this momentum, the joint programme supported key analytical work and technical assistance, including mapping social protection and child needs, identifying gaps and proposing reforms such as **expanding coverage to 1.3 million additional households** and enhancing coordination with the Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF). Evidence from the Universal Child Benefit (UCB) pilot demonstrated improved child nutrition and household resilience, while also highlighting barriers like limited access to identification documents and inflation-driven erosion of purchasing power. Through its support to the development of **KSEIP II**, the JP helped leverage **over USD 50 million in donor commitments** and shape an integrated programme targeting 520,000 households. Strategic investments in child protection budgeting and the initiation of a national Child Welfare Fund signal strong progress toward a more sustainable, inclusive and nationally owned social protection system.

The programme was instrumental in advancing Kenya's legal and policy environment for social protection and child welfare. With JP support, **six regulations and four Rules of Court** were finalised under the Children Act 2022 through inclusive public engagement, laying a strong legal foundation for improved care and protection of vulnerable children. The Rules, now in use and gazetted by the Chief Justice, govern foster care, guardianship, adoption and children in conflict with the law. While the enactment of some regulations is pending a government-mandated socio-economic impact assessment, these developments mark a key milestone in operationalising child rights at scale. JP partners also supported finalisation and Cabinet approval of the **Kenya Social Protection Policy 2023**, which adopts a lifecycle approach and strategically aligns with national efforts

to progressively realise economic and social rights. The accompanying **Social Protection Bill**, now with Parliament, proposes the establishment of a **Social Assistance Fund** and legal adoption of the **Enhanced Single Registry**, key instruments for sustainable and inclusive delivery of social protection services.

At the county level, the JP catalysed decentralised legislative progress to ensure no one is left behind. UN Kenya supported the development of Makueni's Social Protection Policy and the Empowerment Fund, now approved by the County Cabinet to provide **interest-free credit** to vulnerable groups. In Mandera, Garissa and Turkana, the programme assistance informed county-specific legislation and evidence-based planning to address shocks, chronic poverty and limited access to services. In Wajir, UN Kenya's technical support enabled the development of **disability-inclusive regulations** that promote employment, access to services and business-friendly provisions. Nationally, the finalisation and Cabinet submission of the **National Policy for Persons with Disabilities**, with the programme's support, strengthens Kenya's policy coherence and commitment to inclusion. Collectively, these efforts reflect the JP's strategic contribution to **systems strengthening, legal accountability and long-term sustainability** of inclusive social protection across national and sub-national levels.

The Joint Programme also made significant strides in integrating gender, disability and child protection into Kenya's broader social protection architecture. A **landmark gender analysis** commissioned by UN Kenya is now guiding national reforms, while UN Kenya also supported the development of a National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities and Caregivers to inform inclusive programme design. The Wajir County Disability Fund expanded its reach to **830 beneficiaries**, providing monthly stipends, assistive devices and income-generating support. This disability-inclusive initiative was showcased at the 17th UN Conference of States Parties to the CRPD. UN Kenya also co-designed a **gender-responsive care system** with the government, rooted in participatory consultations, to address the burden of unpaid care, especially on women, offering a scalable model for care reform.

Further, the programme supported the scale-up of **Kenya's Care Reform Programme**, now active in **16 counties**. In Nairobi's Kasarani sub-county alone, **234 children** were reunified with families, 18 placed in foster care and 33 supported through independent living. Training materials for disability-inclusive care were developed with UN Kenya. The National Parenting Programme was rolled out through a training-of-trainers approach, with 60 community facilitators trained across Turkana, Garissa and Wajir, aiming to reach over **5,000 caregivers** by March 2025. These results underscore the JP's contribution to inclusive systems strengthening and enhanced protection for Kenya's most vulnerable populations.

UN Kenya supported the Directorate of Children Services and National Council of Children's Service to engage with the Parliamentary Committee on Labor and Social Welfare to protect the proposed increased ceiling for 'Social Development and Children Services' of 3.7 per cent per year (**11 per cent for the full Mid-Term Expenditure Framework**) up to 2026/27. At County level, seven County Governments created a budget line dedicated for child protection for the first time, which will expand services for children. For Garissa, Isiolo, Marsabit and Wajir counties, a budget line was included for the provision of GBV clinical services in the health sector budget.

The Joint Programme also supported the **review of Kenya's social protection training curriculum**, integrating resilience and climate change strategies to enhance the capacity of practitioners and policymakers. Additionally, an investment case was developed to advocate for an increased child protection workforce within the Directorate of Children Services, addressing staffing gaps and ensuring effective service delivery. This strategic advocacy will engage key stakeholders to drive sustainable workforce expansion and improve child protection services.

These results reflect a deliberate shift from isolated programme delivery to **systems-level transformation**, strengthening institutional frameworks, financing mechanisms and multi-sectoral coordination. The foundations laid offer a scalable model for future joint action, reinforce national leadership and position Kenya as a regional frontrunner in inclusive, shock-responsive protection systems. Crucially, the programme's emphasis on sustainability ensures that today's gains continue to drive impact for years to come.

JOINT PROGRAMME ON INTEGRATING PEACEBUILDING AND SOCIAL COHESION IN REFUGEE MANAGEMENT IN KENYA: During the reporting period, the Joint Programme achieved

significant milestones in **strengthening inclusive systems and fostering trust** between refugees and host communities in Garissa County. With strong endorsement from both the National and County Governments, the programme laid a solid foundation for institutional ownership, evidence-based planning and collaborative engagement across all levels of governance. This integrated and multidimensional approach ensured that key issues affecting both refugees and host populations were jointly identified, understood and addressed through coordinated action.

National-level political buy-in was secured through high-level consultations led by the UN Resident Coordinator alongside UN Kenya agencies. The Principal Secretary of the State Department for Immigration and Citizen Services formally appointed a project focal point and the Department of Refugee Services designated a counterpart to support implementation. This **demonstrated strong government ownership** and enabled the programme to progress with institutional support from its inception. To ensure context-specific and responsive programming, the programme conducted a **Political Economy Analysis (PEA) and social media monitoring**, producing four analytical reports that were shared with key stakeholders including the donor, UN agencies and Garissa County authorities. The analysis provided critical insights into community perceptions, including concerns over national identity, access to services and implications of the Shirika Plan on land and aid distribution, empowering stakeholders to make informed, adaptive decisions. The programme convened structured consultations with the Garissa County Government and County Assembly, including the Speaker and MCAs from the four refugee-hosting wards. A formal **framework for regular engagement and joint decision-making** was established, marking a key innovation in local governance and helping to build sustained trust between communities and institutions.

Further engagement with the County Secretary, County Executive Committee Members and Chief Officers from relevant departments, peacebuilding, refugee affairs, education, ICT, trade and investment, cemented a whole-of-government approach to inclusion and systems strengthening. These efforts have aligned the programme with county development priorities, ensuring multi-sectoral coordination for long-term impact.

Collectively, these results reflect a deliberate shift from short-term humanitarian interventions to **inclusive, sustainable and locally driven solutions**. By embedding participation, data-driven planning and government leadership at every level, the programme is advancing a scalable and rights-based model for refugee and host community inclusion, positioning Kenya as a leader in durable, shock-responsive development approaches. Building on the momentum and trust established during this reporting period, the Joint Programme will deepen its focus on systems-level transformation, inclusive governance and evidence-based decision-making. In the next phase, the programme will support the operationalisation of the structured county engagement framework, scale up joint government-UN initiatives and expand cross-sectoral collaboration to ensure that refugee and host community needs are addressed holistically. Strategic investments will be made in capacity building, data systems and local institutional strengthening to drive long-term resilience and integration. By continuing to prioritise **local ownership, multi-stakeholder engagement and adaptive programming**, the programme is well-positioned to deliver sustainable results that protect dignity, enhance inclusion and reinforce Kenya's leadership in durable solutions for displacement-affected populations.

JOINT PROGRAMME ON ADVANCING INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE: EMPOWERING YOUTH VOICES & STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES: This programme aimed to tackle the persistent disengagement of Kenyan youth from political and governance processes by establishing sustainable, inclusive platforms for civic engagement and accountability. At its core, UN Kenya sought to **amplify youth voices**, ensuring that young people are not only heard but also actively **shape policy and governance outcomes**. Guided by a transformative "**Talk, Track, Act**" model, the programme empowers young people to:

- **Talk** – Express their views and concerns through open civic dialogue;
- **Track** – Monitor government responsiveness and implementation of policies; and
- **Act** – Mobilise for collective, youth-led advocacy and action to drive meaningful policy change.

Leveraging both digital and offline tools, UN Kenya designed the programme to bridge civic education gaps, build youth agency and strengthen their capacity to engage meaningfully with democratic processes. Particular

focus is placed on marginalised and underrepresented youth, ensuring no one is left behind. By institutionalising youth participation in governance and national development, UN Kenya seeks to contribute to building a more accountable, inclusive and responsive democratic system while fostering a generation of empowered, informed and engaged young citizens.

To kickstart the programme, UN Kenya, through the **zKe platform**, launched a dynamic series of **online and offline engagement activities** designed to capture the voices of young Kenyans. **Over 700 young people responded**, offering valuable insights into their encounters with bribery and broader governance challenges. By framing the dialogue around youth-defined issues, **zKe catalysed active participation**, transforming passive observers into informed contributors to Kenya's democratic processes. This bottom-up, inclusive approach laid a powerful foundation for sustained engagement of marginalised youth in shaping national policy. The responses revealed deep concerns about corruption, unemployment, education and healthcare, painting a vivid picture of the systemic issues affecting young Kenyans. Crucially, this process **disrupted traditional top-down policy-making models**, which often exclude youth voices. By enabling young people to define the policy agenda, zKe shifted the power dynamic and fostered a sense of ownership and agency among youth participants. This was not just about gathering opinions, it was about positioning young people as key drivers of national dialogue.

This initial phase demonstrated strong youth interest in governance, signalling a growing appetite for engagement beyond elections. By tapping into their concerns and creating safe, accessible spaces for discourse, zKe laid the groundwork for deeper and broader participation. These insights directly informed the next phase of the initiative, the "Talk" pillar where youth continue to participate in national-level policy discussions. This approach is a tangible example of how **innovative, tech-enabled platforms** can strengthen democratic systems, enhance inclusivity and ensure that youth are not just consulted but are central actors in shaping Kenya's future.

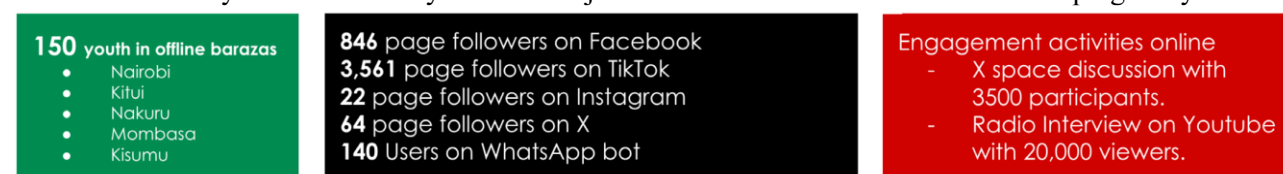
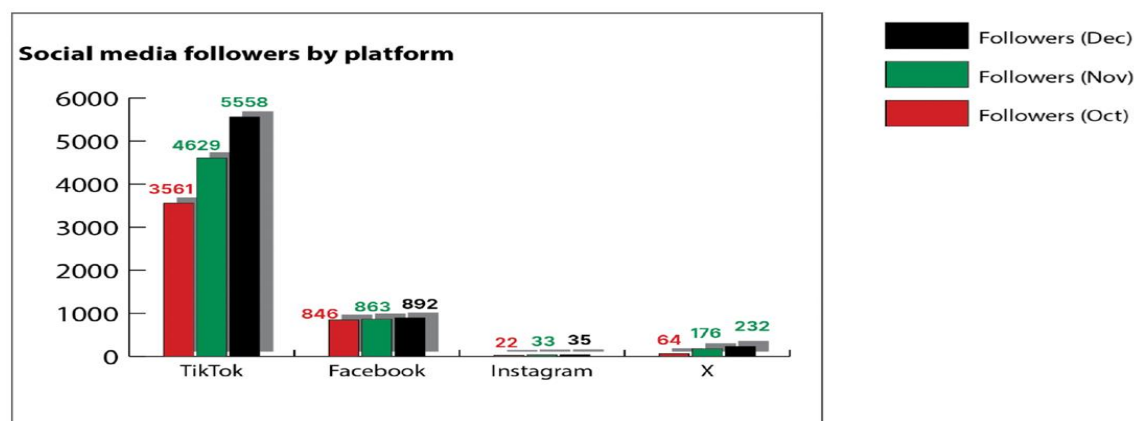


Figure 1: SOURCE Partner Report - Statistics showing engagement on the questions raised in various offline and online platforms

Under the **Talk pillar**, the UN Kenya strategically deepened youth engagement by translating identified concerns into structured dialogues on pressing national issues. Designed to **empower young people with agency**, the Talk platform facilitated inclusive and adaptive conversations that responded not only to youth-raised topics but also to evolving government-led public participation processes. Key policy discussions included the Education Crisis, Public Participation Bill, Tax Law Reforms and the Youth Bill 2024. Through this model, **over 1,400 youth** across Kenya were actively engaged, casting a total of **7,366 votes**, with the Education Crisis conversation alone drawing **over 2,380 votes**. Youth emphasised the urgent need for affordable and accessible education, clearly expressing a demand for reform. This model of engagement reflects a systemic shift from passive consultation to participatory governance, with the Talk pillar acting as a responsive, inclusive feedback mechanism to ongoing policy reform processes.

The Talk pillar also significantly influenced national legislative processes. A standout success was its contribution to the **Public Participation Bill**, where youth engagement generated **15,408 votes**, the highest of all dialogues, reflecting a robust desire for institutionalised civic participation. zKe provided civic education and gathered youth recommendations, which culminated in a comprehensive memorandum submitted to the Attorney General's office, acknowledged by the government as part of the official consultation process. This is a notable example of young people's input directly influencing governance reform. The Talk pillar's integration of civic tech tools, coupled with its dynamic social media outreach, greatly enhanced visibility and reach. Social media became not only a vehicle for information dissemination but also a rich space for real-time insights and dialogue, reinforcing zKe's role in systematically strengthening democratic participation and inclusion. Through this, UN Kenya demonstrated how tech-enabled, youth-centred models can deliver transformative impact in governance by making participation accessible, meaningful and results-oriented.



To deepen transparency and strengthen trust, the team also launched a dedicated website, www.zkevoices.org, as a central hub for civic engagement, offering access to archived dialogues, real-time participation and insights into programme outcomes. These efforts reflect UN Kenya’s deliberate investment in digital systems that enhance political inclusion, foster accountability and institutionalise youth participation in national discourse.

UN JOINT PROGRAMME ON YOUTH SKILLS, EMPLOYABILITY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT:

This joint programme aims to expand employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for marginalised youth in Kenya, including young women, youth with disabilities and those in ASAL counties and informal settlements. The urgency is clear: **19% of youth aged 15-24 are not in education, employment, or training (NEET)**, with young women particularly affected, 17.2% are unemployed compared to 8.2% of young men (ILO, 2024). The **overall youth unemployment rate (18-34)** stands at **12.1%**, with much higher levels in regions like Turkana (30.9%) and Mombasa (21%). Youth also face exclusion from civic life: in the 2022 elections, only **1 million of the targeted 4.5 million youth registered to vote** and 25% report that their feedback to the government is never considered. These realities, combined with frustrations around governance, corruption and economic inequality, have contributed to growing youth-led protests across the country.

The UN joint programme on Youth is currently in its **inception phase**, which includes a **strategic re-orientation of its components** to better respond to the emerging needs and priorities of youth in Kenya, particularly following the **2024 Generation Z protests**. These nationwide demonstrations surfaced long-standing concerns around unemployment, governance, civic participation and economic exclusion, issues that disproportionately impact young people. In response, UN Kenya agencies are undertaking a comprehensive planning and co-design process in close collaboration with youth representatives, civil society actors and other key stakeholders. This process includes conducting consultations to capture the evolving priorities of youth post-protests; refining the programme’s theory of change to reflect the current political and socio-economic realities; realigning planned interventions to focus on youth empowerment, civic engagement, job creation and accountability mechanisms; and mapping strategic entry points for integrated programming and joint delivery across UN agencies to enhance coherence and collective impact. This inception phase is critical in laying a strong foundation for youth-centred, inclusive and transformative programming that is responsive, locally owned and capable of delivering meaningful and measurable results for Kenya’s young population.

JOINT PROGRAMME ON CHILD PROTECTION AND SOCIAL PROTECTION: The Joint UN Programme on Child Protection and Social Protection, established under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), was launched following its formal endorsement by the Government of Kenya and participating UN agencies in June 2024. The programme brings together four UN Kenya agencies, each playing a strategic leadership role at both the technical and steering committee levels. Its primary objective is to support the Government in strengthening inclusive, shock-responsive and well-coordinated child and social protection systems, addressing multiple dimensions of poverty and vulnerability across the life cycle. By focusing on system-wide investments, the programme aims to reduce deprivation, build sustainable and resilient families and communities and deliver cumulative benefits across generations.

No report is available for this programme during the current reporting period, as the participating UN agencies received funds in December 2024. As such, implementation activities commenced in January 2025. A comprehensive update on progress, results and early outcomes will be provided in the next reporting cycle.

PROSPERITY AND PLANET THEMATIC WINDOW

The Prosperity and Planet thematic window, strategically financed by the Governments of Norway, Sweden and Canada, supports transformative joint action by the UN in Kenya. Through this window, three joint programmes, delivered collaboratively by seven UN agencies, are currently under implementation, designed to generate catalytic impact at the nexus of climate, livelihoods and inclusion. These programmes include:

1. Joint Programme on Drought Response and Resilience Building in Kenya.
2. Joint Programme on Sustainable Investment, Production and Consumption in the Green and Blue Economies.
3. Joint Programme on Enabling Gender-Responsive Circular and Sustainable Blue Economies for Kenya's Coastal Communities.

Together, these initiatives exemplify the power of integrated, system-wide solutions to advance the Sustainable Development Goals, while prioritising environmental sustainability, gender equality and economic transformation.

Detailed results for each programme are outlined in the sections below.

JOINT PROGRAMME ON DROUGHT RESPONSE AND RESILIENCE BUILDING IN KENYA: With support from the Fund, UN Kenya targeted the arid and semi-arid counties of Garissa, Wajir, Mandera, Marsabit and Turkana to enhance **drought-resilient WASH services** in vulnerable communities and institutions, including schools and health care facilities. Through this intervention, the programme **rehabilitated and solarised 27 water supply systems** and boreholes, reaching 140,340 people with safe and climate-resilient water supply and securing access to water for approximately 268,500 livestock, a critical livelihood asset in pastoral communities. In addition, water systems were rehabilitated in 6 schools and 5 health care facilities, improving service delivery and safeguarding the health and dignity of children and patients. This ensured that 41,494 community members and 3,900 schoolchildren benefited from improved water access.

To reduce vulnerability to waterborne diseases, the project delivered **hygiene promotion interventions** reaching 128,306 people, equipping communities with critical knowledge and practices such as handwashing with soap and safe water storage, particularly important in areas experiencing cholera outbreaks. In parallel, water governance and sector coordination mechanisms were strengthened, supporting the sustainability of rehabilitated water systems through improved operation and maintenance capacity at local levels.

The programme significantly **strengthened the resilience** of drought-affected populations by delivering equitable, sustainable and climate-adapted access to water. Women and girls, in particular, benefited from reduced time spent fetching water, while children's school attendance improved due to better access to water for drinking, cooking and hygiene. At health facilities, improved water supply supported more reliable and dignified care. The solarisation of water systems reduced operational costs, replacing costly diesel with renewable energy and enhancing affordability for communities and institutions. These five counties are highly prone to climatic shocks, including droughts, floods and disease outbreaks, underscoring the need to scale up climate-resilient WASH services to protect more vulnerable populations and mitigate the compounding impacts of climate change.

The first phase of the programme concluded in June 2024. Building on its successes, participating UN agencies are currently engaging with partners to mobilise support for a second phase of implementation, with a focus on deepening impact, scaling innovation and strengthening systems for long-term resilience.

JOINT PROGRAMME ON SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT, PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION IN THE GREEN AND BLUE ECONOMIES: In 2024, the Joint Programme delivered catalytic outcomes by embedding circular economy and regenerative agriculture principles into local food systems, thereby strengthening inclusive green livelihoods and enabling sustainable production practices in Nyamira and Laikipia

Counties. Anchored in Kenya's low-carbon, inclusive growth agenda, the programme aligned closely with the Fourth Medium-Term Plan (MTP IV), the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) and respective county development priorities, positioning itself for both immediate impact and long-term scalability. Progress was delivered through three interconnected interventions, each reinforcing the other to deepen results and systemically shift practices;

Embedding circularity into agricultural systems and policy: Through the first intervention, the programme made notable strides in creating an enabling policy and practice environment for circular agriculture. It began with a **circularity maturity assessment** involving 20 enterprises in the banana and beef value chains, which generated critical insights that informed the development of a Circular Economy Sensitisation Manual. Tailored for policymakers, SMEs, entrepreneurs and LNOB groups, the manual provides practical, context-specific guidance grounded in global best practices. Building on this foundation, more than 40 stakeholders received training on eco-industrial park design and participated in exposure visits to operational circular enterprises, further enhancing technical know-how and spurring ideas for local replication. These capacity-building efforts fed into the formulation of a **draft circular economy policy framework**, developed through multi-ministerial consultations and supported by an ongoing scoping study. Collectively, these efforts demonstrate clear strategic alignment with national climate and development goals while laying a strong institutional foundation for mainstreaming circular economy principles across Kenya's agricultural policy landscape.

Expanding livelihood opportunities for vulnerable groups: In parallel, the second intervention focused on translating policy into practice by expanding inclusive livelihood and market opportunities. The programme identified 500 vulnerable farmers, including women, youth and persons with disabilities, from existing databases and prepared them to adopt regenerative, climate-smart and circular approaches. A market and training needs assessment, conducted in collaboration with 21 key stakeholders, revealed gaps in financing, value addition and market connectivity. These findings informed the design of a locally relevant training manual that introduced techniques such as converting banana waste into fertiliser and valorising beef by-products into saleable goods. As a result, farmers gained new skills to diversify income streams, strengthen engagement with markets and reduce production waste, all of which contribute to enhanced household resilience and the emergence of **community-level circular economy ecosystems**.

Strengthening Knowledge, group formation and institutional buy-in: The third intervention placed a strong emphasis on knowledge transfer, social cohesion and institutional ownership. High-level engagements with the Governors and technical teams of Nyamira and Laikipia Counties helped secure political and technical commitment, embedding the programme within local development priorities. These engagements catalysed community-level action, resulting in the sensitisation of 2,813 producers and the registration of 2,044 of them (74% women, 42% youth) into 92 structured producer groups. Each group underwent a training needs assessment, which informed the development of tailored training schedules focused on addressing specific production gaps. To support long-term knowledge dissemination, a customised **Circular Economy and Regenerative Agriculture (CERA) manual** was developed and used to train 17 Trainers of Trainers (TOTs) and two Business Development Officers. These TOTs now serve as multipliers of knowledge within their communities. In addition, 23 market-facing actors from both counties were identified and linked to the producer groups, helping to **strengthen local value chains** and stimulate circular business activity at scale.

Building a scalable, evidence-based framework: To underpin these interventions with rigorous learning and accountability, the programme deployed a robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework. Through the KOBO toolkit, tools were rolled out and more than 40 stakeholders were trained to ensure consistent and reliable data collection. These efforts enhanced programme transparency, informed adaptive management and facilitated real-time learning. Meanwhile, partnerships with national and county governments, as well as technical entities such as the Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI), ensured alignment with broader policy frameworks and bolstered institutional delivery capacities.

Taken together, the achievements in 2024 have established a solid platform for scale-up, policy anchoring and long-term sustainability. The programme's deliberate investment in local capacity, institutional partnerships and

producer-led innovation positions it for replication in other counties. Its integration into development plans at both national and county levels reinforces its strategic value, while the creation of bespoke manuals and training tools ensures continued implementation beyond the lifespan of the programme. As Kenya advances its commitments to climate resilience and green economic transformation, this Joint Programme stands as a model of how systems-level circular economy solutions can deliver inclusive and sustainable development outcomes at scale.

JOINT PROGRAMME ON ENABLING GENDER-RESPONSIVE CIRCULAR AND SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMIES FOR KENYA’S COASTAL COMMUNITIES. Launched in late 2024, the Joint Programme on Gender-Responsive Blue Transition aims to position Kenya as an early and successful adopter of sustainable and inclusive blue economy models. The programme seeks to unlock catalytic investment in gender-responsive, environmentally friendly and circular practices that protect marine and freshwater ecosystems, while driving sustainable and equitable economic growth and accelerating gender equality. Anchored in the principles of **Leaving No One Behind** and aligned with Article 27 of the Constitution of Kenya on equal rights and opportunities, the programme applies a **gender-responsive and human rights-based approach to development**. It is strategically aligned with the National Policy on Gender and Development, Kenya’s Women Economic Empowerment Strategy, the State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action Strategic Plan (2023–2027) and Kenya’s Fourth Medium-Term Plan (2023–2027).

By focusing on women’s access to and control over productive resources, the programme seeks to enhance their full participation as economic actors in blue value chains. At the same time, it works to reduce gender-based vulnerabilities, particularly in communities dependent on aquatic ecosystems, through resilience-building interventions that address economic marginalisation, social protection and gender-based violence. The programme’s design emphasises **catalytic impact** by prioritising systems-level change and laying the groundwork for **scalable models** of gender-responsive investment and environmental stewardship in blue sectors. It builds in sustainability from the outset by leveraging partnerships with county and national governments, women’s networks, private sector actors and community-based organisations to ensure long-term ownership, financing and continuity.

Detailed results on implementation progress, early outcomes and impact pathways will be documented in the **2025 Annual Report**, as the programme transitions from inception to operationalisation in its first full year of delivery.

STRATEGIC ENABLER OF PARTNERSHIPS WINDOW

Anchored in the spirit of SDG target 17.17, the Strategic Enabler of Partnerships (SE) Window embodies the collective ambition of UN Kenya and the Government of Kenya to collaboratively foster innovative, inclusive and catalytic partnerships that drive sustainable development. Funded by the Governments of Norway and Switzerland and the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, this cross-cutting window builds on the momentum of the successful SDG Partnership Platform to unlock the potential of **public-private and civil society collaboration**. It serves as a platform to mobilise and coordinate resources, financial, technical and institutional, across sectors to accelerate impact and scale joint delivery. The three flagship joint interventions under the SE Window include:

1. Establishing and operationalising the SDG Partnership Platform in Kenya; catalysing public-private investment and innovations to showcase the power of partnerships.
2. SDG3 Primary Healthcare Accelerator Window; catalysing public-private investment and innovation to advance universal access to quality primary healthcare.
3. UN Kenya Deepened Presence in ASALs to Deliver the SDGs and Enhanced Capacity of County Governments; strengthening decentralised UN Kenya engagement and building local institutional capacity in underserved regions.
4. UN Kenya Enhanced Capacity to Deliver a Gender-Responsive Cooperation Framework through Joint Actions and Pooled Funding; promoting gender equity through coordinated UN Kenya action and strategic resource allocation.

These efforts are designed to strengthen partnership ecosystems, enhance joint planning and accountability and advance a more harmonised and results-focused delivery of SDG 17.17, while reinforcing the Government-UN collaboration at both national and county levels.

Detailed results for each intervention are outlined in the sections below.

ESTABLISHING AND OPERATIONALISING THE SDG PARTNERSHIP PLATFORM IN KENYA: The SDG Partnership Platform (SDGPP) is driving transformational impact in Kenya's development landscape through strategic partnerships and innovative financing, firmly aligned with SDG target 17.17. At the forefront of this effort is its groundbreaking **collaboration with FINTRINET**, which has led to the signing of Memoranda of Understanding with multiple county governments, unlocking investments in healthcare, infrastructure and climate resilience. This partnership is not only channelling resources into high-priority sectors but also **strengthening local government capacity** to deliver sustainable, inclusive results. To institutionalise and sustain this momentum, the Platform seconded a Trade and Investments Officer to FINTRINET, ensuring ongoing alignment between national and county development priorities and enhanced partner coordination. Complementing this, the Platform has developed **county-level financing frameworks** that enable more strategic, needs-based investment planning and improve coordination among stakeholders, further anchoring its role as a catalyst for integrated, systems-level development solutions.

Through its **Primary Healthcare Accelerator Window**, the Platform is catalysing strategic, multi-stakeholder partnerships that are transforming Kenya's primary healthcare landscape. By enhancing collaboration between county governments and implementing partners, the Platform is driving **innovative resource mobilisation** and coordinated investments to expand access and improve healthcare outcomes across the country. At the national level, the SDGPP works in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MoH), providing technical assistance and seconding experts to the State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards. This has significantly strengthened the Ministry's Planning and Coordination Directorate, improved work plan and budget development and enhanced performance monitoring systems, laying the groundwork for more effective, evidence-based health policy implementation and delivery.

The SDGPP has firmly positioned Kenya as a **regional hub for sustainable finance**, emerging as a global convenor in shaping cross-regional investment ecosystems. In a landmark collaboration with Building Bridges financiers, the Nairobi International Financial Centre and the Swiss Embassy, the Platform played a central role

in launching the **Bridging Africa-Europe Financing Summit**. There, it led **high-level dialogues** to establish an “SDG Investment Bridge”, designed to unlock innovative capital flows between Europe and Africa. These global efforts were further amplified at the UN General Assembly and the African Venture Philanthropy Alliance (AVPA) Conference, where the SDGPP showcased the transformative potential of blended finance and strategic partnerships in accelerating progress toward the SDGs.

Shaping the Future of Sustainable Finance, the Platform has laid a strong foundation for the upcoming **Financing Technical Advisory Group (TAG)**, scheduled for launch in 2025. With a finalised concept note and Terms of Reference, the TAG will serve as a strategic convening mechanism, bringing together key stakeholders every quarter to co-create innovative financing solutions, align investments with national priorities and amplify resource mobilisation to accelerate the achievement of Kenya’s sustainable development goals.

SDG3 PRIMARY HEALTHCARE ACCELERATOR WINDOW: In 2024, the SDG Partnership Platform (SDGPP) played a key role in strengthening Kenya’s health policy and financing ecosystem, offering targeted technical assistance, strategic coordination and inclusive public-private engagement to advance national health priorities and accelerate progress toward Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and the SDGs. Through its **support to national technical working groups**, SDGPP directly contributed to the development and dissemination of key policies, including the Kenya Health Sector Strategic Plan, the National Immunisation Strategic Plan 2024/2025 and the Family Planning Political and Economic Analysis Report, while also shaping the Family Planning Programme Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF). As a coordinating force, SDGPP led the 2024 National Health Accounts (NHA) Survey, gathering critical multi-year expenditure data that informed the development of Kenya’s national health financing strategy and resource mobilisation agenda. The Platform also supported the **2024 Quality of Care-focused Health Facility Assessment**, offering data-driven insights on service delivery, infrastructure and workforce gaps, contributing to policy reforms at both national and county levels. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Council of Governors, SDGPP helped **structure the Social Contracting Framework for the health sector**, setting the stage for more accountable and sustainable service delivery. To add to this, SDGPP spearheaded the review and revision of the Health Public-Private Collaboration Strategy and Toolkit, ensuring alignment with the updated **Public Private Partnership (PPP) Act (2021)** and strengthening public-private engagement at the county level. Collectively, these achievements underscore SDGPP’s role as a catalyst for innovative financing, inclusive governance and systems transformation in Kenya’s health sector.

During this reporting period, the adolescent and youth health initiative made significant strides in strengthening Kenya’s healthcare delivery systems for young people through multi-sectoral collaboration, targeted capacity building and evidence-informed action. Led by a UNAIDS-coordinated UN Kenya-joint team and in partnership with NASCOP, MoH and county governments, the initiative trained **258 healthcare workers** on ART guidelines and the Adolescent and Youth Package (AYP), 56 on the new AYP and 138 on WHO-recommended HIV testing algorithms, enhancing the quality and accuracy of youth-friendly HIV services across 10 counties. UNFPA-led **mentorship sessions reached 636 healthcare providers**, equipping them to offer **adolescent-responsive, stigma-free services**, while addressing key vulnerabilities such as new HIV infections, teen pregnancies, GBV and mental health. Through quarterly review meetings and a joint field monitoring visit with national and county stakeholders, the programme reinforced government ownership and adaptive implementation, identifying and responding to key barriers such as cultural resistance, misinformation and privacy concerns in service delivery. Actionable outcomes included recommendations to expand TIKO card benefits, scale sexual and reproductive health education and engage cultural leaders for community buy-in. These integrated efforts are translating into **stronger health systems, improved adolescent health outcomes** and measurable progress toward SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

The Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) Development Impact Bond programme (DIB) is emerging as a model for **mobilising innovative financing** to close persistent funding gaps in adolescent health, an area often under-prioritised in traditional global health investment. By leveraging multi-sectoral partnerships, the initiative is catalysing progress across SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). During this reporting period, the programme team launched phase two

financing roundtables with prospective funders, marking a critical step toward scaling the initiative and expanding its impact to reach more adolescents across Kenya. Complementing this, the team hosted targeted stakeholder engagement events, forging inclusive public-private-civil society collaborations that strengthen systems, align resources and foster shared accountability for adolescent well-being. These strategic efforts are designed not only to deliver measurable improvements in youth health outcomes but also to drive long-term, systemic transformation in health financing, service delivery and policy environments. The programme is demonstrating the catalytic power of results-based financing to unlock sustainable, scalable impact in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

UN KENYA DEEPENED PRESENCE IN ASALS TO DELIVER THE SDGS AND ENHANCED THE CAPACITY OF COUNTY GOVERNMENTS (The UN at Devolved Level Programme): The UN at Devolved Level Programme, rolled out in April 2024 in Marsabit, Turkana and Garissa counties, has made significant strides in strengthening county governance, improving service delivery and catalysing coordinated development in Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs). By embedding UN coordination specialists within county governments and operationalising county-led coordination mechanisms, the programme is laying strong structural foundations for long-term, scalable impact and sustainability. The programme plays a catalytic role as a **strategic coordination platform**, facilitating resource-sharing, joint planning and policy alignment among local governments, development partners and civil society actors. It has directly contributed to improved governance outcomes by **strengthening 29 coordination structures** across the three counties (12 in Marsabit, 11 in Garissa and 6 in Turkana), leading to more regular and impactful coordination meetings, a measurable reduction in duplication of efforts and increased leveraging of resources for both development and humanitarian initiatives.

Through its embedded technical expertise, the programme revived non-functional structures and helped establish new coordination frameworks, boosting **county operational capacity** and enhancing decision-making processes. These efforts have enabled the alignment of local policies with national frameworks such as Vision 2030, the Fourth Medium-Term Plan (MTP IV) and County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs), strengthening vertical integration of governance.

The programme has also made significant contributions to **policy and legislative development**. In Garissa, it supported the development of a donor coordination policy; in Marsabit, the team contributed to the launch of two key policies and accompanying strategies; and in Turkana, it offered technical support for inclusive policies covering gender equality, social protection, disaster risk management and disability inclusion, all aligned with the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) principle.

In addition, the programme contributed to key **county planning initiatives** such as the Marsabit Forest Management Plan, Agricultural Sector Development Plans and Seasonal Rainfall Assessments. In Turkana, the programme played a critical role in aligning partner-supported development programmes with the CIDP, ensuring harmonisation of external support with county priorities. To enhance sustainability and scalability, the programme undertook **resource mapping** across the three counties, identifying over 220 development and humanitarian partners (35 in Marsabit, 67 in Turkana and 120 in Garissa). This mapping exercise is enabling the strategic deployment of resources, promoting synergy and identifying key entry points for UN Kenya agencies to add value in line with local needs.

Most notably, the programme has facilitated **joint planning, assessments and emergency responses**, fostering a shared approach to development and humanitarian action. County governments have assumed leadership roles in convening partners, demonstrating increased ownership and capacity to coordinate multi-stakeholder efforts effectively. This collaborative governance model has contributed to reduced transaction costs, enhanced the impact of development investments and positioned the counties for long-term resource mobilisation and donor engagement.

As the programme moves forward, its embedded model of coordination, strategic alignment with national and county plans and emphasis on inclusive governance provides a replicable blueprint for devolved governance

across other ASAL counties, ensuring that the benefits of this catalytic initiative extend well beyond its initial footprint.

UN KENYA ENHANCED CAPACITY TO DELIVER A GENDER-RESPONSIVE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK THROUGH JOINT ACTIONS AND POOLED FUNDING: The intervention, officially launched in November 2024, underscores the UN Country Team’s unwavering commitment to **mainstreaming gender equality across all pillars of the UNSDCF**. It marks a strategic step forward in strengthening UN Kenya’s institutional and human capacities to implement inclusive, gender-transformative and human rights-based policies and programmes and prioritises enhanced monitoring, accountability and reporting of gender results.

A cornerstone of this effort is the recruitment of a Gender Mainstreaming Specialist, a strategic role designed to bridge the gap between policy and implementation. The Specialist will provide dedicated technical leadership to ensure **gender-responsive approaches** are systematically embedded across the design, implementation and evaluation of all UN Kenya Joint Programmes, thereby enhancing the UN’s ability to deliver sustainable and transformative gender equality outcomes at scale.

Results from this initiative will be reported in the next cycle, following the onboarding and commencement of duties by the Gender Mainstreaming Specialist.

THE CATALYTIC NATURE OF PROGRAMMING UNDER THE FUND

The Joint Programmes supported by the Fund reflect a fundamental departure from business-as-usual development practice. Rather than operating as isolated, project-based interventions, these JPs are deliberately structured to deliver integrated, sustainable and rights-based outcomes that are co-owned by the government and communities. The catalytic features of these JPs mirror and reinforce the structural transformations targeted under Fund outcomes.

1. From fragmented projects to unified, multi-sectoral programming

People & Peace Window: The Integrated Social Protection and Child Protection JP doesn't just deliver cash transfers, it reforms eligibility criteria, enhances national management information systems, shapes legislation and connects social protection to child welfare. This multi-layered approach builds long-term resilience and government accountability. The Circular Economy programme under the Planet and Prosperity Window also takes a multi-sectoral approach. It combines regenerative agriculture, inclusive value chains, local policy alignment and market integration, demonstrating how systemic, joined-up programming creates viable and green rural economies.

Both windows showcase how joint programmes can unify economic, social and institutional levers for sustained, inclusive development. SP2 outcomes are best achieved when linked to human capital systems, just as SP1 results are reinforced by economic empowerment and environmental sustainability.

2. Catalytic use of resources for policy leverage and co-financing

The Child and Social Protection Bridging Programme helped secure over USD 50 million in donor commitments, influenced the design of KSEIP II and advocated for legal tools like the Social Assistance Fund. A small investment unlocked large-scale reform. In the Circularity programme, initial seed funding supported capacity-building, tool development and enterprise training, catalysing county budget commitments, private sector interest in waste valorisation and preparation for multilateral financing. Counties like Nyamira are now positioned to co-finance production hubs.

In both SP1 and SP2 contexts, joint programmes serve as investment platforms, using modest funding to unlock larger, more sustainable resource flows that align with national plans and strengthen fiscal architecture.

3. Embedded government ownership and legal anchoring

Joint programmes under people and peace window have directly influenced national frameworks, such as the finalisation of regulations under the Children Act 2022, Cabinet approval of the Social Protection Policy 2023 and submission of the Social Protection Bill. These are not just policy wins, they are systems anchors. The Planet and Prosperity joint programmes are also anchored in government processes. For example, the Drought Resilience programme is alignment with county WASH strategies and the incorporation of solarised infrastructure into public health systems ensures long-term service delivery without parallel structures.

Legal and policy anchoring across both windows ensures durability, scale and national ownership. Whether in care systems or green economies, institutionalisation is the pathway to impact beyond projects. UN Kenya is committed to advancing policy dialogue and advocacy at both the national and county levels. The passage of a bill enables the inclusion of funding in the Finance Bill, which is essential for sustained results and systemic impact.

4. Shifting power through participation and inclusion

Tools like zKe empower youth to define policy agendas and influence legislation (e.g., Public Participation Bill). In Garissa, refugees and host communities are co-developing local governance frameworks, changing how institutions respond to marginalised voices. The Blue Economy programme, on the other hand, explicitly embeds gender equity and women's leadership in value chains and environmental governance. It supports women not only as beneficiaries but as investors, producers and custodians of marine ecosystems.

Participation isn't an add-on, it's a structural shift. Whether in civic space (SP1) or economic production (SP2),

it has been proven that inclusive governance leads to more equitable, resilient and accountable systems.

5. Evidence-driven innovation and reform pathways

Pilots like the Universal Child Benefit, the gender-responsive care model and the Wajir Disability Fund are influencing national policy, reshaping budget allocations and creating scalable service delivery models. In the Circular Economy programme, pilots on banana waste valorisation and beef by-product innovation have not only generated new income for vulnerable farmers but also informed draft circular economy policies and market linkage strategies for scale. Both streams of programming use evidence to prototype systems change, build political buy-in and scale results through public policy and budget alignment.

6. Sub-national impact with national integration

County-level budget lines for child protection, GBV services and disability inclusion (e.g., in Garissa, Makueni and Wajir) show how joint programmes make devolution work for vulnerable populations. In Nyamira and Laikipia, counties have adopted circular economy principles into their development plans and invested in producer group structures, ensuring local buy-in and delivery.

Counties are not just implementers, they are policy and financing partners. JPs that localise national frameworks unlock the full potential of Kenya's devolved system, vital for both SP1 and SP2 outcomes.

CHALLENGES

One of the Fund most significant challenges is the limited availability of pooled resources to support the growing pipeline of high-impact joint programmes designed to advance integrated UN delivery at the country level. While the demand for catalytic, cross-sectoral financing continues to rise, current contributions fall short of meeting the scale and ambition of these initiatives. To bridge this gap, the Fund Secretariat is actively engaging a broader base of partners to mobilise unearmarked, pooled financing, critical to enabling coordinated, system-wide responses that deliver results at scale and leave no one behind. The implementation of joint programmes under the Fund has also faced several systemic and operational challenges that constrain scale, institutionalisation and sustainability.

1. Fragmented and short-term financing

While pooled financing through the Fund has enabled catalytic investments, the scale and continuity of funding remain insufficient. For example, climate-resilient WASH, circular economy enterprises and blue economy pilots need sustained multi-phase financing to move from demonstration to scale and systems change.

2. Gaps in county-level institutional capacity

Counties are essential actors in delivering joint programmes, yet many lack the institutional readiness, fiscal space and technical capacity to localise sectors like climate resilience, circular production, or green infrastructure. Without targeted investments in local systems, scale-up will remain uneven.

3. Limited private sector engagement

Majority of joint programmes, especially under the planet and prosperity window, depend on unlocking green and blue value chains, yet investor appetite remains limited by perceived risk, underdeveloped ecosystems and lack of tailored de-risking instruments. Sectors like waste valorisation and nature-based aquaculture require catalytic tools to crowd in private capital.

4. Insufficient data and metrics for green & blue economies

There is a lack of granular, disaggregated data on the economic, gender and environmental impacts of interventions. This hampers adaptive management and weakens investment cases, particularly in emerging areas like gender-responsive blue economy models or circular agriculture.

Notably, the World Bank's support to the Government of Kenya on Natural Capital Accounting (NCA), including ecosystem valuation and biodiversity resource tracking, is helping fill strategic data gaps on Kenya's

stocks of natural wealth. However, greater alignment is needed between UN programme-level metrics and national systems like the NCA to enable joined-up monitoring, national planning integration and cross-sectoral impact measurement.

CONCLUSION

In 2024, the SDG Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) in Kenya demonstrated the catalytic power of joint UN action, delivering impactful, scalable and inclusive results across multiple sectors. Through the strategic contribution of USD 24.4 million in donor funds, the Fund supported 15 integrated Joint Programmes and joint actions, directly benefiting vulnerable populations while strengthening national systems for long-term sustainability. Landmark results included the first major scale-up of the *Inua Jamii* cash transfer programme in over a decade, the rehabilitation and solarisation of 27 climate-resilient water systems in drought-affected counties, the co-creation of innovative circular economy livelihoods in Nyamira and Laikipia and the expansion of youth engagement in democratic governance through the zKe platform, reaching over 6,700 young people.

Despite these achievements, persistent challenges remain: the exclusion of youth from economic and civic life, deepening climate-related vulnerabilities in ASAL counties, financing gaps in child and adolescent health and systemic inequalities across gender and disability lines. However, the Fund coordinated approach, grounded in systems strengthening, inclusivity, innovation and government ownership, offers a solid foundation for progress. With a growing coalition of partners and an expanding portfolio of catalytic interventions, the Fund is well-positioned to deepen its impact, scale proven solutions and mobilise transformative financing toward the 2030 Agenda.

Building on these gains, the Fund will continue to prioritise bold, integrated and adaptive programming that responds to Kenya's evolving development landscape. By aligning investments with national priorities and leveraging its convening power, the Fund remains a strategic enabler of SDG acceleration in Kenya, proving that when the UN system works as one, it can deliver real change that leaves no one behind.

SECTION II: CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

of the Administrative Agent for the period 13 September 2017 to 31
December 2024

UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office
United Nations Development Programme
GATEWAY: <https://mptf.undp.org>

May 2025



DEFINITIONS

Allocation/Total Approved Budget

Amount approved by the Steering Committee for a project/programme. The total approved budget represents the cumulative amount of allocations approved by the .

Approved Project/Programme

A project/programme including budget, etc., that is approved by the Steering Committee for funds' allocation purposes.

Contributor Commitment

Amount(s) committed by a contributor to a Fund in a signed donor agreement with the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office), in its capacity as the Administrative Agent. A commitment may be paid or pending payment.

Contributor Deposit

Cash deposit received by the MPTF Office for the Fund from a contributor in accordance with a signed donor agreement.

Delivery Rate

The percentage of funds that have been utilized, calculated by comparing expenditures reported by a Participating Organization or Non-UN Organization against the 'net funded amount'. This does not include expense commitments by Participating Organizations.

Donor Agreement

Standard Administrative Arrangement and/or European Commission contribution agreement between contributor/donor and MPTF Office.

Net Funded Amount

Amount transferred to a Participating Organization less any refunds transferred back to the MPTF Office by a Participating Organization.

Participating Organization

A UN Organization or other inter-governmental Organization that is a partner in a Fund, as represented by signing the applicable legal agreement with the MPTF Office for a particular Fund.

Project Expenditure

The sum of expenses and/or expenditure reported by all Participating Organizations for a Fund irrespective of which basis of accounting each Participating Organization follows for donor reporting.

Project Financial Closure

A project or programme is considered financially closed when all financial obligations of an operationally completed project or programme have been settled, and no further financial charges may be incurred. MPTF Office will report a project financially closed once the financial report(s) has been received and any balance of funds refunded.

Project Operational Closure

A project or programme is deemed operationally closed once all activities funded for Participating Organization(s) have been concluded, and the Steering Committee has approved the final narrative report.

Project Start Date

Project/ Joint programme start date as per the programmatic document.

US Dollar Amount

The financial data in the report is recorded in US Dollars.

Transferred Funds

Funds transferred to Participating Organizations by the Administrative Agent in accordance with the Steering Committee's request.

INTRODUCTION

This Consolidated Annual Financial Report of the **SDG Multi-Partner Trust Fund Kenya** is prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) in fulfillment of its obligations as Administrative Agent, as per the Terms of Reference (TOR), the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the UNDP MPTF Office and the Participating Organizations, and the donor agreement signed with contributors/donors.

The MPTF Office, as Administrative Agent, is responsible for concluding an MOU with Participating Organizations and donor agreements with contributors/donors. It receives, administers and manages contributions,

and disburses these funds to the Participating Organizations. The Administrative Agent prepares and submits annual consolidated financial reports, as well as regular financial statements, for transmission to stakeholders.

This consolidated financial report covers the period 13 September 2017 to 31 December 2024 and provides financial data on progress made in the implementation of projects of the **SDG Multi-Partner Trust Fund Kenya**. It is posted on the MPTF Office GATEWAY (<https://mptf.undp.org/fund/ken00>).

2024 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

This chapter presents financial data and analysis of the **SDG Multi-Partner Trust Fund Kenya** using the pass-through funding modality as of 31 December **2024**. Financial information for this Fund is also available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY, at the following address:
<https://mptf.undp.org/fund/ken00>.

1. SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS

As of 31 December **2024**, **10** contributors deposited US\$ **24,406,552** and US\$ **252,275** was earned in interest.

The cumulative source of funds was US\$ **24,658,827**.

Of this amount, US\$ **16,377,302** has been net funded to **13** Participating Organizations, of which US\$ **8,919,133** has been reported as expenditure. The Administrative Agent fee has been charged at the approved rate of 1% on deposits and amounts to US\$ **244,066**. Table 1 provides an overview of the overall sources, uses, and balance of the **SDG Multi-Partner Trust Fund Kenya** as of 31 December 2024.

Table 1 Financial Overview, as of 31 December 2024 (in US Dollars)

	Prior Years up to 31 Dec 2023	Financial Year Jan-Dec 2024	Total
Sources of Funds			
Contributions from donors	12,122,132	12,284,420	24,406,552
Sub-total Contributions	12,122,132	12,284,420	24,406,552
Fund Interest and Investment Income Earned	80,220	169,274	249,495
Interest Income received from Participating Organizations	-	2,780	2,780
Total: Sources of Funds	12,202,352	12,456,475	24,658,827
Use of Funds			
Transfers to Participating Organizations	7,156,163	6,340,719	13,496,882
Transfers to Participating Organizations for Direct Cost - Fund Secretariat etc	1,895,858	985,853	2,881,712
Sub-Total Transfers	9,052,021	7,326,573	16,378,594
Refunds received from Participating Organizations	-	(1,292)	(1,292)
Sub-Total Refunds	-	(1,292)	(1,292)
Administrative Agent Fees	121,221	122,844	244,066
Bank Charges	101	152	253
Total: Uses of Funds	9,173,343	7,448,277	16,621,620
Change in Fund cash balance with Administrative Agent	3,029,009	5,008,198	8,037,207
Opening Fund balance (1 January)	3,303,565	3,029,009	-
Closing Fund balance (31 December)	3,029,009	8,037,207	8,037,207
Net Funded Amount (Includes Direct Cost)	9,052,021	7,325,281	16,377,302
Participating Organizations Expenditure (Includes Direct Cost)	4,126,058	4,793,075	8,919,133
Balance of Funds with Participating Organizations	4,925,963	2,532,206	7,458,169

2. PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS

Table 2 provides information on cumulative contributions received from all contributors to this fund as of 31 December **2024**.

The **SDG Multi-Partner Trust Fund Kenya** is currently being financed by **10** contributors, as listed in the table below.

The table includes financial commitments made by the contributors through signed Standard Administrative Agreements with an anticipated deposit date as per the schedule of payments by 31 December **2024** and deposits received by the same date. It does not include commitments that were made to the fund beyond **2024**.

Table 2. Contributions, as of 31 December 2024 (in US Dollars)

Contributors	Total Commitments	Total Deposits
AstraZeneca	500,000	500,000
Conrad Hilton Foundation	500,000	400,000
Government of Canada	2,916,656	2,916,656
Government of Netherlands	590,658	590,658
Government of Norway	5,526,005	5,023,392
Government of Switzerland	499,998	333,332
Koninklijke Philips	750,000	750,000
Merck & Co.	200,000	200,000
Rockefeller Foundation	200,000	200,000
Sida	13,492,515	13,492,515
Grand Total	25,175,831	24,406,552

3. INTEREST EARNED

Interest income is earned in two ways: 1) on the balance of funds held by the Administrative Agent (Fund earned interest), and 2) on the balance of funds held by the Participating Organizations (Agency earned interest) where their Financial Regulations and Rules allow return of interest to the AA.

As of 31 December **2024**, Fund earned interest amounts to US\$ **249,495**.

Interest received from Participating Organizations amounts to US\$ **2,780**, bringing the cumulative interest received to US\$ **252,275**. Details are provided in the table below.

Table 3. Sources of Interest and Investment Income, as of 31 December 2024 (in US Dollars)

Interest Earned	Prior Years up to 31-Dec-2023	Financial Year Jan-Dec-2024	Total
Administrative Agent			
Fund Interest and Investment Income Earned	80,220	169,274	249,495
Total: Fund Interest Earned	80,220	169,274	249,495
Participating Organization			
FAO	-	2,780	2,780
Total: Agency Interest Earned	-	2,780	2,780
Grand Total	80,220	172,055	252,275

4. TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Allocations to Participating Organizations are approved by the Steering Committee and disbursed by the Administrative Agent. As of 31 December **2024**, the AA has transferred US\$ **16,378,594** to **13** Participating Organizations (see list below).

Table 4 provides additional information on the refunds received by the MPTF Office, and the net funded amount for each of the Participating Organizations.

Table 4. Transfer, Refund, and Net Funded Amount to Participating Organization (in US Dollars)

Participating Organization	Prior Years up to 31-Dec-2023			Financial Year Jan-Dec-2024			Total		
	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded
FAO	139,000	-	139,000	1,105,363	(396)	1,104,967	1,244,363	(396)	1,243,967
ILO	-	-	-	362,364	-	362,364	362,364	-	362,364
IOM	-	-	-	127,188	-	127,188	127,188	-	127,188
OHCHR	-	-	-	268,002	-	268,002	268,002	-	268,002
UNAIDS	100,000	-	100,000	-	(896)	(896)	100,000	(896)	99,104
UNDP	4,958,595	-	4,958,595	2,110,816	-	2,110,816	7,069,411	-	7,069,411
UNESCO	-	-	-	181,900	-	181,900	181,900	-	181,900
UNFPA	974,149	-	974,149	251,450	-	251,450	1,225,599	-	1,225,599
UNHCR	-	-	-	257,845	-	257,845	257,845	-	257,845
UNICEF	2,290,581	-	2,290,581	900,891	-	900,891	3,191,472	-	3,191,472
UNIDO	-	-	-	328,228	-	328,228	328,228	-	328,228
UNWOMEN	-	-	-	503,233	-	503,233	503,233	-	503,233
WFP	589,696	-	589,696	929,293	-	929,293	1,518,989	-	1,518,989
Grand	9,052,021	-	9,052,021	7,326,573	(1,292)	7,325,281	16,378,594	(1,292)	16,377,302

5. EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL DELIVERY RATES

All expenditures reported are submitted as certified financial information by the Headquarters of the Participating Organizations. These were consolidated by the MPTF Office.

Joint Programme/ project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Participating Organization, and are reported to the Administrative Agent as per the agreed upon categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting. The expenditures are reported via the MPTF Office's online expenditure reporting tool. The **2024** expenditure data has been posted on the MPTF Office GATEWAY at <https://mptf.undp.org/fund/ken00>.

5.1 EXPENDITURE REPORTED BY PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION

In **2024**, US\$ **7,325,281** was net funded to Participating Organizations, and US\$ **4,793,075** was reported in expenditure.

As shown in the table below, the cumulative net funded amount is US\$ **16,377,302** and cumulative expenditures reported by the Participating Organizations amount to **US\$ 8,919,133**. This equates to an overall Fund expenditure delivery rate of **54.46** percent.

Table 5.1 Net Funded Amount and Reported Expenditures by Participating Organization, as of 31 December 2024 (in US Dollars)

Participating Organization	Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure			Delivery Rate %
			Prior Years up to 31-Dec-2023	Financial Year Jan-Dec-2024	Cumulative	
FAO	1,788,086	1,243,967	78,514	274,391	352,905	28.37
ILO	849,235	362,364	-	-	-	-
IOM	127,188	127,188	-	15,252	15,252	11.99
OHCHR	268,002	268,002	-	-	-	-
UNAIDS	100,000	99,104	99,104	-	99,104	100.00
UNDP	9,346,482	7,069,411	2,708,981	1,920,894	4,629,875	65.49
UNESCO	509,320	181,900	-	-	-	-
UNFPA	2,804,357	1,225,599	823,061	41,752	864,813	70.56
UNHCR	257,845	257,845	-	21,842	21,842	8.47
UNICEF	4,364,718	3,191,472	416,398	1,836,641	2,253,040	70.60
UNIDO	328,228	328,228	-	46,476	46,476	14.16
UNWOMEN	1,037,241	503,233	-	32,922	32,922	6.54
WFP	2,292,023	1,518,989	-	602,906	602,906	39.69
Grand Total	24,072,725	16,377,302	4,126,058	4,793,075	8,919,133	54.46

5.2. Expenditures Reported by Category

Project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Participating Organization and are reported as per the agreed categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting. In 2006 the UN Development Group (UNDG) established six categories against which UN entities must report inter-agency project expenditures. Effective 1 January 2012, the UN Chief Executives Board (CEB) modified these categories as a result of IPSAS adoption to comprise eight categories.

Table 5.2. Expenditure by UNSDG Budget Category, as of 31 December 2024 (in US Dollars)

Category	Expenditures			Percentage of Total Programme Cost
	Prior Years up to 31-Dec-2023	Financial Year Jan-Dec-2024	Total	
Staff & Personnel Cost	859,220	1,646,755	2,505,975	30.16
Supplies, commodities and materials	80,014	24,945	104,959	1.26
Equipment, vehicles, furniture and depreciation	385,087	117,957	503,044	6.05
Contractual Services Expenses	827,281	638,710	1,465,991	17.64
Travel	488,046	175,452	663,498	7.98
Transfers and Grants	372,907	1,216,726	1,589,632	19.13
General Operating	848,183	628,254	1,476,437	17.77
Programme Costs Total	3,860,737	4,448,800	8,309,537	100.00
¹ Indirect Support Costs Total	265,321	344,275	609,596	7.34
Grand Total	4,126,058	4,793,075	8,919,133	-

1 Indirect Support Costs charged by Participating Organization, based on their financial regulations, can be deducted upfront or at a later stage during implementation. The percentage may therefore appear to exceed the 7% agreed upon for on-going projects. Once projects is financially closed, this number is not to exceed 7%.

5.3. Expenditure by project grouped by Window.

Table 5.3 displays the net funded amounts, expenditures reported and the financial delivery rates by Window by project/ joint programme and Participating Organization

Table 5.3. Expenditure by Project within Window

Window / Project No. and Project Title	Participating Organization	Project Status	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %
TW1 SDG 3 Cluster PHC						
00108117 SDG3 Primary Healthcare Accele	UNDP	On Going	312,102	312,102	309,608	99.20
00115127 Implementation of the SDG Part	UNAIDS	On Going	100,000	99,104	99,104	100.00
00115127 Implementation of the SDG Part	UNFPA	On Going	883,320	974,149	864,813	88.78
TW1 SDG 3 Cluster PHC: Total			1,295,422	1,385,355	1,273,524	91.93

Window / Project No. and Project Title	Participating Organization	Project Status	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %
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Enabling Support to the SDG PP							
00108116	Establishing and operationaliz	UNDP	On Going	1,129,000	1,030,000	907,086	88.07
00115127	Implementation of the SDG Part	UNFPA	On Going	90,829	-	-	-
Enabling Support to the SDG PP: Total				1,219,829	1,030,000	907,086	88.07

Window / Project No. and Project Title		Participating Organization	Project Status	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %
TW2 SDG2 Cluster FSN							
00125404	Inception of the SDG Partnersh	FAO	On Going	139,000	138,604	138,604	100.00
00125404	Inception of the SDG Partnersh	UNDP	On Going	59,000	59,000	58,977	99.96
TW2 SDG2 Cluster FSN: Total				198,000	197,604	197,581	99.99

Window / Project No. and Project Title	Participating Organization	Project Status	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %	
People and Peace							
00140512	Integrated social protection	UNICEF	On Going	1,179,391	1,179,391	1,141,813	96.81
00140512	Integrated social protection	WFP	On Going	589,696	589,696	589,696	100.00
00140851	Integrating Peacebuilding and	OHCHR	On Going	268,002	268,002	-	-
00140851	Integrating Peacebuilding and	UNDP	On Going	799,913	799,913	-	-
00140851	Integrating Peacebuilding and	UNHCR	On Going	257,845	257,845	21,842	8.47
00140851	Integrating Peacebuilding and	WFP	On Going	272,819	272,819	-	-
00140909	UN Joint Program on Youth	FAO	On Going	305,249	-	-	-
00140909	UN Joint Program on Youth	ILO	On Going	376,797	128,400	-	-
00140909	UN Joint Program on Youth	UNDP	On Going	440,470	176,550	-	-
00140909	UN Joint Program on Youth	UNESCO	On Going	509,320	181,900	-	-
00140909	UN Joint Program on Youth	UNFPA	On Going	509,320	251,450	-	-
00140909	UN Joint Program on Youth	UNICEF	On Going	376,797	117,700	-	-
00140909	UN Joint Program on Youth	UNWOMEN	On Going	376,797	169,353	11,079	6.54
00140909	UN Joint Program on Youth	WFP	On Going	305,250	128,400	-	-
00140943	Child protection	FAO	On Going	472,438	233,964	-	-
00140943	Child protection	ILO	On Going	472,438	233,964	-	-
00140943	Child protection	UNICEF	On Going	1,697,340	783,191	-	-
00140943	Child protection	WFP	On Going	1,124,258	528,074	13,210	2.50
People and Peace: Total			10,334,139	6,300,611	1,777,640	28.21	

Window / Project No. and Project Title		Participating Organization	Project Status	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %
Prosperity and Planet							
00140116	Drought Response build resilie	UNDP	On Going	853,286	853,286	842,872	98.78
00140116	Drought Response build resilie	UNICEF	On Going	1,111,190	1,111,190	1,111,227	100.00
00140711	Joint Programme on Sustainable	FAO	On Going	871,399	871,399	214,301	24.59
00140711	Joint Programme on Sustainable	IOM	On Going	127,188	127,188	15,252	11.99
00140711	Joint Programme on Sustainable	UNIDO	On Going	328,228	328,228	46,476	14.16
Prosperity and Planet: Total				3,291,291	3,291,291	2,230,127	67.76

Window / Project No. and Project Title		Participating Organization	Project Status	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %
Strategic Enabler-Partnerships							
00140096	UN Kenya Deepened Presence in	UNDP	On Going	2,871,000	956,849	619,751	64.77
00140910	UN Kenya Enhanced	UNFPA	On Going	1,320,888	-	-	-
00140910	UN Kenya Enhanced	UNWOMEN	On Going	660,444	333,880	21,843	6.54
Strategic Enabler-Partnerships: Total				4,852,332	1,290,729	641,593	49.71

Window / Project No. and Project Title		Participating Organization	Project Status	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %
Direct Cost Enabler Window							
00132749	Strengthened Capacity SDG MPTF	UNDP	On Going	2,881,712	2,881,712	1,891,582	65.64
Direct Cost Enabler Window: Total				2,881,712	2,881,712	1,891,582	65.64

Grand Total			24,072,725	16,377,302	8,919,133	54.46
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6. COST RECOVERY

Cost recovery policies for the Fund are guided by the applicable provisions of the Terms of Reference, the MOU concluded between the Administrative Agent and Participating Organizations, and the SAAs concluded between the Administrative Agent and Contributors, based on rates approved by UNDG.

The policies in place, as of 31 December 2024, were as follows:

- **The Administrative Agent (AA) fee:** 1% is charged at the time of the contributor deposit and covers services provided on that contribution for the entire duration of the Fund. Cumulatively, as of 31 December 2024, US\$ **244,066** has been charged in AA fees.
- **Indirect Costs of Participating Organizations:** A general cost that cannot be directly related to any particular programme or activity of the Participating Organizations. Participating Organizations may charge 7% indirect costs based on UNSDG policy, establishing an indirect cost rate as a percentage of the programmable costs for interagency pass-through pool funds. In the current reporting period US\$ **344,275** was deducted in indirect costs by Participating Organizations. Cumulatively, indirect costs amount to US\$ **609,596** as of 31 December 2024.

7. ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

In order to effectively provide fund administration services and facilitate monitoring and reporting to the UN system and its partners, the MPTF Office has developed a public website, the MPTF Office Gateway (<https://mptf.undp.org>). Refreshed daily from an internal enterprise resource planning system, the MPTF Office Gateway has become a standard setter for providing transparent and accountable trust fund administration services.

The Gateway provides financial information including: contributor commitments and deposits, approved programme budgets, transfers to and expenditures reported by Participating Organizations, interest income and other expenses. In addition, the Gateway provides an overview of the MPTF Office portfolio and extensive information on individual Funds, including their purpose, governance structure and key documents. By providing easy access to the growing number of narrative and financial reports, as well as related project documents, the Gateway collects and preserves important institutional knowledge and facilitates knowledge sharing and management among UN Organizations and their development partners, thereby contributing to UN coherence and development effectiveness.

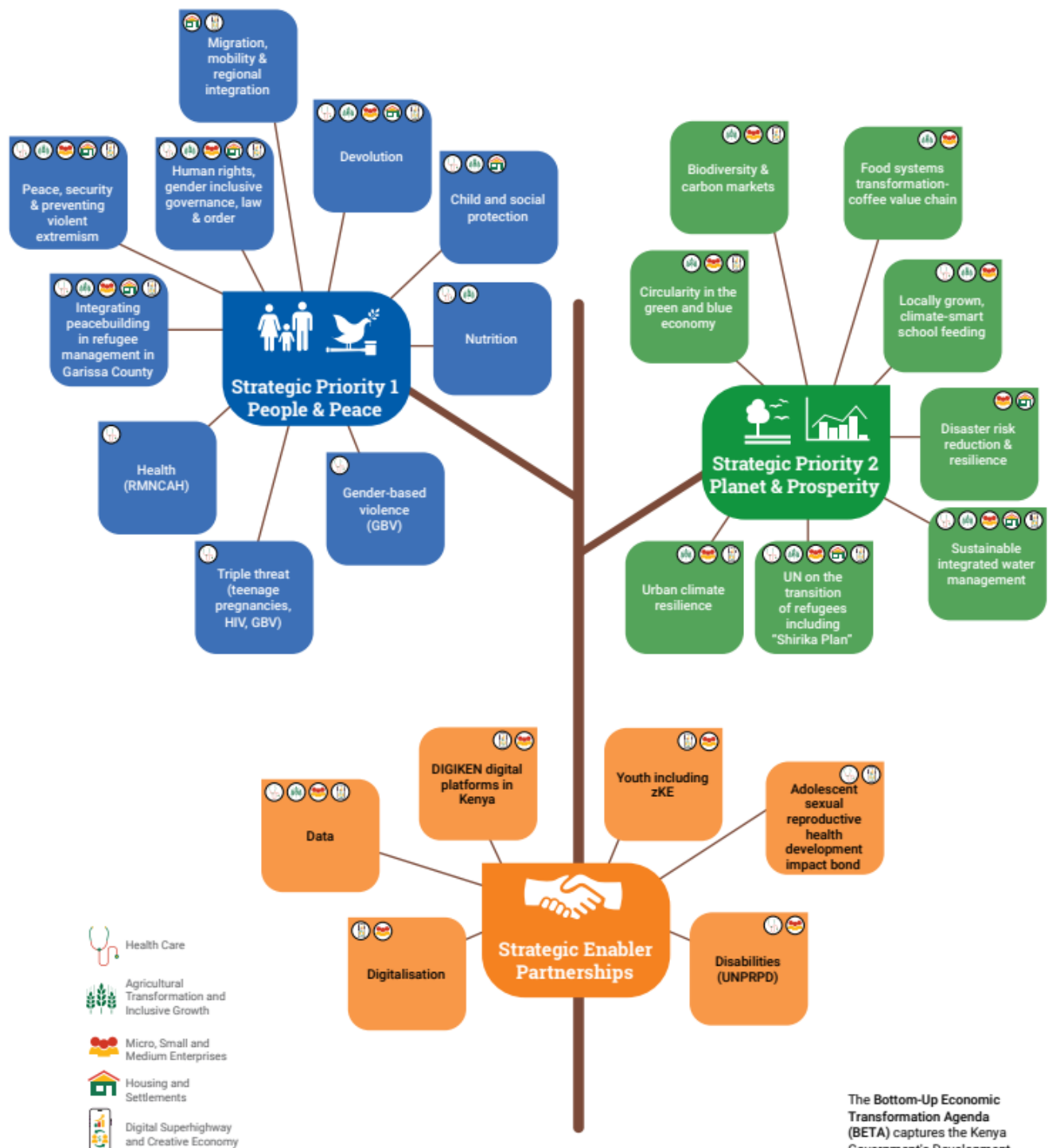
8. DIRECT COSTS

The Fund governance mechanism may approve an allocation to a Participating Organization to cover costs associated with Fund coordination covering overall coordination, and fund level reviews and evaluations. These allocations are referred to as 'direct costs'. Cumulatively, as of 31 December 2024, US\$ 2,881,712 has been charged as Direct Costs.

Participating Organization	Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure			Delivery Rate %
			Prior Years up to 31-Dec-2023	Financial Year Jan-Dec-2024	Cumulative	
UNDP	2,881,712	2,881,712	891,729	999,853	1,891,582	65.64
Grand Total	2,881,712	2,881,712	891,729	999,853	1,891,582	65.64

ANNEX 1: SUMMARY OF JOINT PROGRAMMES (JPS) UNDER UNSDCF

UNSDCF 2022-2026 Kenya new generation UN Joint Programmes*



Please note: The BETA icons used here are for illustrative purposes only and are not the official logos of the BETA priorities.

United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022 – 2027

The Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) captures the Kenya Government's Development Priorities. Aligned with Kenya Vision 2030, BETA focuses on five key pillars expected to have the highest impact. Wherever these icons appear, they represent our contribution to these priorities.

JOINT PROGRAMMES FUNDED BY SDG MPTF KENYA

JP Title	Budget	Status	Funded under MPTF
Peacebuilding in Refugee Management	1,598,578	Implementation	Yes
PVE/CVE	9,500,000	Implementation	No
Human Rights, Gender, Rule of Law	25,222,504	Implementation	No
Migration & Mobility	28,500,000	Implementation	No
RMNCAH	26,300,000	Implementation	No
Triple Threat	11,076,294	Implementation	No
GBV	12,949,500	Implementation	No
Child Protection & Social Protection	49,361,000	Implementation	Yes
DRR	28,326,000	Implementation	No
Water	559,980,000	Implementation	Yes
Nutrition	52,600,000	Implementation	No
Circular Economies	35,865,620	Implementation	Yes
Digitalisation	N/A	Shelved	No
DIB (ASRH)	7,000,000	Implementation	Yes
Disability	700,000	Implementation	No
Youth	48,720,000	Implementation	Yes
Data	6,316,000	Finalisation	No
DigiKen	4,261,000	Implementation	No
Building Urban Resilience	N/A	Merged with DRR	No
SDG Partnerships Fin + Inv	N/A	Finalisation	No
Devolution	17,000,000	Implementation	Yes
Peacebuilding in Borderlands	4,000,000	Implementation	No
Smart School Feeding	1,225,000	Implementation	Yes
Shirika Plan	N/A	Finalisation	No
Unlocking Nature Financing	56,000,000	Shelved (pending WB data)	No
Coffee Value Chain	1,225,000	Implementation (1-year)	Yes

ANNEX 2: STORIES OF PROGRESS

Leveraging technology to scale-up access to family planning and HIV services in a way that empowers girls and young women

In Kenya's informal settlements, a digital revolution is changing the lives of adolescent girls. The TIKO app, supported by Kenya's first adolescent sexual and reproductive health development impact bond, is providing hundreds of thousands of young women with free, confidential access to essential healthcare services, including family planning and HIV prevention.

With over 129,000 new enrolments in 2024, girls can now use their mobile phones to find nearby health facilities, receive appointment reminders. After the service, the users rate the quality of the service provided, placing control over their health in their own hands.

Since its launch in 2023, the initiative developed by UN Kenya has reached 424,911 girls across ten high-burden counties, equipping them with knowledge to make choices and care. This pioneering model is mobilising public-private partnerships to tackle teenage pregnancies and HIV infections. Backed by a catalytic \$7 million from the UN Joint SDG fund investment, which has since mobilised an additional \$5 million.

This is not just healthcare—it is a lifeline. Discover how this groundbreaking initiative is reshaping adolescent's rights and health in Kenya: [Read more](#)

Turning Banana Waste into Wealth: Circular Economy Boosts Farmers' Incomes in Kenya

In Nyamira and Laikipia, banana farmers are going green—and earning more. Supported by UN agencies, a new circular economy initiative is transforming agricultural waste into cash by training farmers to turn banana pseudostems into high-demand fibres sold to textile manufacturers.

With support from FAO, IOM and UNIDO under the Circular Economy in County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIP) project, over 40 participants are now building eco-industrial parks that reduce waste, generate income and promote climate resilience.

Manga Heart Banana Cooperative is already producing 150kg of fibre monthly, generating KSh97,500—aiming to scale to one tonne with better machines and market access. This model is redefining green growth by placing farmers at the heart of Kenya's transition to a circular economy.

This is not just innovation—it is empowerment. Discover how Kenya's farmers are pioneering sustainable value chains: [Read more](#)

Greening Kenya's Workforce: A National Strategy for Green Jobs and Skills

Kenya is gearing up for a low-carbon future with a bold new strategy to equip its workforce for green jobs. Backed by the ILO under the PROSPECTS programme and supported by the Government of the Netherlands, the National Strategy on Green Skills and Jobs was refined through a stakeholder-driven validation led by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.

From renewable energy and circular economy to sustainable agriculture and eco-tourism, this strategy lays out six pillars—from green governance to green finance—designed to accelerate inclusive, climate-resilient growth while addressing youth unemployment.

The plan prioritises practical skills development, cross-sectoral partnerships and access to emerging labour markets. With Kenya aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 32 per cent by 2030, this is not just a policy—it is a pathway for inclusive growth and innovation.

This is not just strategy—it is future-proofing. Discover how Kenya's green skills revolution is powering jobs, resilience and climate action: [Read more](#)

From Perseverance to Hope: Ntinene Journey with Inua Jamii

Ntinene is one of the beneficiaries across Kenya who have recently been enrolled in the government's Inua Jamii programme, a cash transfer initiative aimed at improving the lives of vulnerable citizens. For the first time, Ntinene received a monthly cash transfer of Ksh. 2,000 from the Government of Kenya, part of a national effort to ensure that older persons like her—often left behind in the scramble for resources—are supported in their old age.

When we visited her in Sajiloni, Kajiado County, Ntinene had just received the first of her monthly payments from the Inua Jamii programme. "This money is a gift from God," she says, her voice filled with gratitude. "For many days, I have prayed for a way to feed my children, to care for my son. Now, with this money, I will buy food for the next few days. I will even try to take my son to hospital. I'm thankful... but I wish it could be more. It is never enough, but I will make it work."

Ntinene's situation is not unique. The community around her faces the same hardships. The land, which once supported cattle and crops, is parched and barren, ravaged by years of drought. The nearby water pan, which is the only source of water for miles around, is shared by both the people and the animals. During the dry season, the pan becomes overcrowded and water is in short supply.

The old cowshed, once home to a proud herd of cattle, is now a ruin. It's a symbol of what's been lost. "We had many cows," she recalls with a sigh. "But the drought took them. There's nothing left now. The cowshed is empty. It reminds me of better days, but those days are gone." Yet, despite the loss, the pain and the constant struggle, Ntinene's faith remains unshaken. This money I have received is God's answer to my prayer."

The Inua Jamii transfer, though a small amount, has brought tangible relief. "We will eat something. My son will have a change of diet... even if for just three days," she says, her voice filled with quiet resolve. "I don't complain. I know it's not enough, but it's better than nothing. I will use it to make sure my children are fed."

Kenya's Youth Rise with Green Jobs: A National Push for Skills and Climate Action

Kenya is unlocking green opportunities for its youth. At the first-ever National Green Jobs and Skills Development Workshop, over 1,000 participants—from youth groups to government and private sector—came together to shape a greener, more inclusive economy.

The event, led by the Green Jobs for Youth Pact (ILO, UNEP, UNICEF, Jacob's Ladder Africa and the Government of Kenya), laid out bold commitments: from launching a Green Skills Hub and integrating sustainable practices in education, to forging industry partnerships and pushing policy reforms.

Backed by 12 consultations and high-level roundtables across six ministries, this initiative is setting the stage for a coordinated national framework that prepares youth for climate-smart jobs in renewable energy, sustainable transport and agriculture.

This is not just a workshop—it is a generational shift. Explore how Kenya is aligning climate ambition with youth employment: [Read more](#)

Successful Foster Care Placement Family Reintegration

Baby H.W. was abandoned at Pumwani Hospital shortly after birth. Initially placed in Mogra Children's Home, H.W. faced developmental challenges, including delayed motor skills. As part of JP supported care reform program in Kasarani sub-county of Nairobi County, the Directorate of Children Services while conducting assessment for all children in Charitable Children Institutions in Kasarani, identified Baby H.W. as needing urgent placement in a family set up to help with achievement of developmental milestones.

The Children Officer identified one of trained foster parents for placement and facilitated the process of placing Baby H.W. with this family ensuring legal compliance and prioritizing her best interests despite resistance from the institution to release the baby. Since her placement with foster parents H.W. has shown remarkable progress, developing essential motor skills and forming strong bonds with her new family. The Children Officer continues to monitor her wellbeing even as permanent solutions are being sought for Bay H.W. such as adoption.

This case highlights the importance entire case management process in care reform and training of officers. It further demonstrates the benefits of family-based care for the outcomes of the children, the importance of remaining firm in the face of resistance from residential child-care facilities and the importance of strengthening family-based care options. Foster care is one of these alternative care options and strengthening foster care systems and services in Kenya, allows opportunity for children to grow in family environment even when permanent solutions are being explored, such as reintegration with birth parents or option.

ANNEX 3: PROGRESS PHOTOS



*Kristina Svedberg from the Embassy of Norway presents a certificate to Askah Kerubo on behalf of the Wefhason Farmers Cooperative Society. Amos Nyaribo, Nyamira County Governor looks on. Faisal Sharif, Deputy Country Representative, IOM, representing UN Kenya. The Cooperative members successfully completed training on Alternative Livelihoods, Market and Trade Opportunities, facilitated by the UN Kenya Circular Green and Blue Economies Joint Programme with support from Norway.
© UN RCO/ Augustine Karani*



*UNICEF Social Policy Specialist Susan Momany meets families receiving cash transfers through the National Safety Net programme in Kajiado County, Kenya.
© UNICEF*



A mother pushes her child in a wheelchair to school in Mombasa County. UNICEF is supporting disability-inclusive social protection in the county, including school transport for children with disabilities. © UNICEF



Young people engaged in a community discussion forum as part of zKe project in Mombasa Kenya. © zKE/ Caleb



zKE facilitators conducting a consultative session with the Kenya Young

Parliamentarians Association at the Parliamentary Chambers in Nairobi.
© zKE/ Caleb



Barnoti Ntinene, a newly enrolled beneficiary in the older persons cash transfer programme, is pictured here receiving her monthly stipend at the Cooperative Bank in Kajiado Town. (Photo credit: ©WFP/Kabir Dhanji).



*A tiko mobilizer in Migori County sensitising an adolescent youth on the free Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health services offered under the ASRH DIB programme. She then proceeds to enrol them onto the Tiko platform- where the beneficiaries of the program can access HIV and FP services in public, private sector facilities and Tiko pharmacies.
© Tiko*



Multi-stakeholder participants at the inaugural Bridging Africa-Europe SDGs Investment Summit co-hosted by UN Kenya and Embassy of Switzerland in collaboration with Building Bridges Switzerland.
©RCO/ Augustine Karani.

The UN Kenya SDG Partnerships Platform helped co-organise a successful Building Bridges Africa-Europe Investment Summit, which brought together stakeholders from Switzerland, Europe, Kenya and across Africa to showcase private sector SDG investment opportunities in Kenya and the broader African continent, with a focus on innovative financing models such as the Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Development Impact Bond, renewable energy and green transitions and tech ecosystems.



(From left to right) Presentation of commitments on Green Skills and Green Jobs for Youth to Hon. Eng. Festus Ngeno- PS Environment & Climate Change, Caroline Njuki -International Labour Organisation (Skills, Enterprise Development Representative), Sellah Bogonko - Co-Founder & CEO Jacob's Ladder Africa, Dr. Stephen - United Nations Resident Coordinator, Dr. Beatrice Inyagala - PS State Department of Higher Education, Dr. ROSE MWEBAZA -UNEP Africa Office Regional Director, Hon. Wilber Ottichilo - Governor Vihiga County and Chairperson, Environment and Climate Change Committee, Council of Governors and Shadrack Mwangolo Mwadime - PS Labor and Skills from different workstreams.