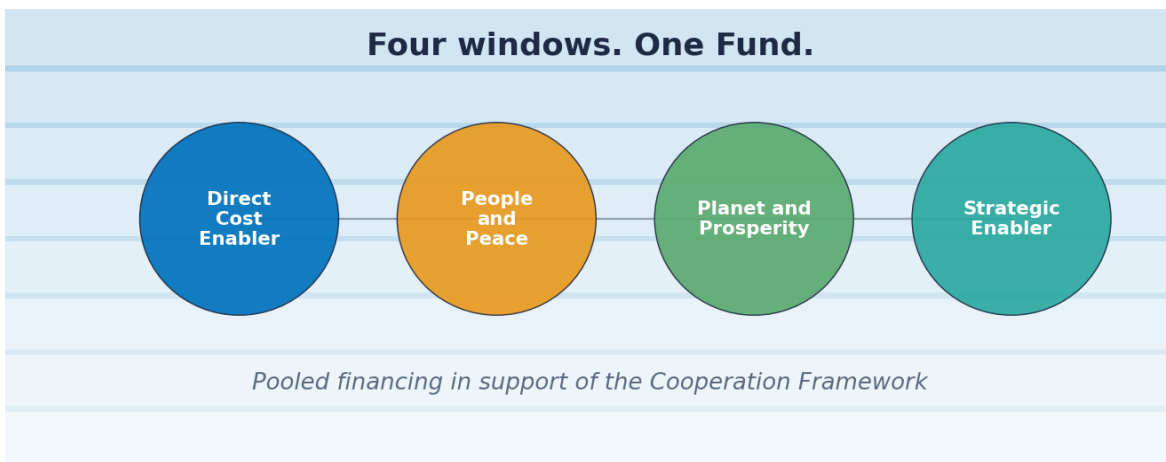


SDG Multi-Partner Trust Fund Kenya 2025 Annual Report



UN Participating Organisations



UNON

With the support of



Government of the Netherlands



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Acronyms

The following acronyms appear in this report. After first mention in the body, the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) is referred to throughout as the “Cooperation Framework”.

Acronym	Definition
ASG	Assistant Secretary-General
AHDP	Africa Health Diagnostic Platform
AA	Anticipatory Action
ASNET	Agriculture Sector Network
ASRH DIB	Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Development Impact Bond
ASAL	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
AYTWG	Adolescent and Youth Technical Working Group
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
COG	Council of Elders
DPF	Development Partnership Forum
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EOF	Education Outcomes Fund
FECOMO	National Coalition on Freedom of Expression and Content Moderation in Kenya
FCDC	Frontier Counties Development Council
FSNWG	Food Security and Nutrition Working Group

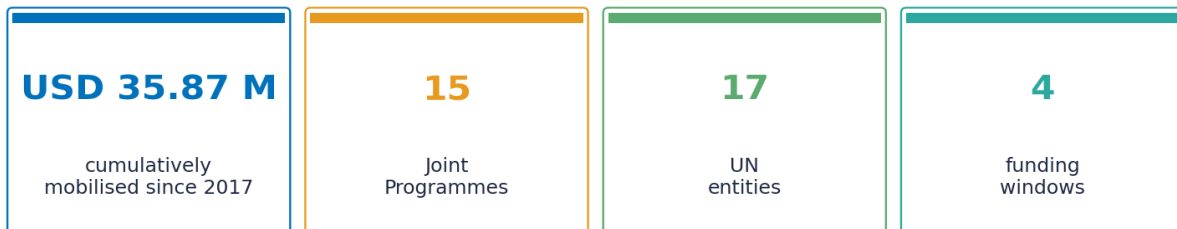
Acronym	Definition
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
GoK	Government of Kenya
GSG	Global Steering Group for Impact Investing
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
HSIGF	Health Sector Intergovernmental Forums for Health
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IGAD	Inter-Governmental Authority on Development
IRCK	Inter-Religious Council of Kenya
IGRTC	Inter-Governmental Relations Technical Committee
KEPSA	Kenya Private Sector Alliance
KEYOPA	Kenya Young People's Agenda
KHPT	Kenya Humanitarian Partnership Team
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
KSEIP	Kenya Social and Economic Inclusion Project
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
MoH	Ministry of Health
NAM	Electoral Needs Assessment Mission
NCPD	National Council for Population and Development
NCIC	National Cohesion and Integration Commission
NDMA	National Drought Management Authority
NEDI	North and Northeastern Development Initiative

Acronym	Definition
NYC	National Youth Council
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PUNO	Participating United Nations Organisation
PPP	Public Private Partnership
RC	Resident Coordinator
RCO	Resident Coordinator's Office
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SDG PP	Sustainable Development Goals Partnership Platform
SDG MPTF	Sustainable Development Goals Multi-Partner Trust Fund
SHA	Social Health Authority
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
TVETA	Technical and Vocational Education and Training Authority
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNYO	United Nations Youth Office

Executive summary

An overview of 2025 results and the Fund's catalytic positioning

Fund at a glance



The SDG Multi-Partner Trust Fund Kenya (SDG MPTF Kenya) builds on the SDG Partnership Platform established in 2017. It is a country-level pooled funding mechanism, formally established in June 2022 to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by fostering joint UN action and enabling pooled financing across two cycles of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). The first Cooperation Framework Kenya was initially set to run from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2026; it was extended in 2025 to 30 June 2027. The second cycle is expected to cover the period 2027 to 2030. Since its inception in 2017, the Fund has cumulatively mobilised USD 35,872,687 to support joint UN programmes and joint action.

The Fund exclusively supports joint UN initiatives that are assessed as having genuine potential for scale and impact. So far, 15 joint programmes have benefitted (17 UN entities) under Strategic Priorities 1, 2 and the Strategic Enabler of the Cooperation Framework. Through pooled funding, the UN entities together design, implement (through shared workplans) and report on their joint interventions. The pooled funding has so far fostered much closer collaboration among diverse UN agencies, leveraging their respective technical expertise and comparative advantages.

In 2025, the Fund continued to demonstrate the catalytic potential of pooled funding in enabling coordinated, system-wide UN support across governance, resilience, climate action, economic inclusion and social protection.

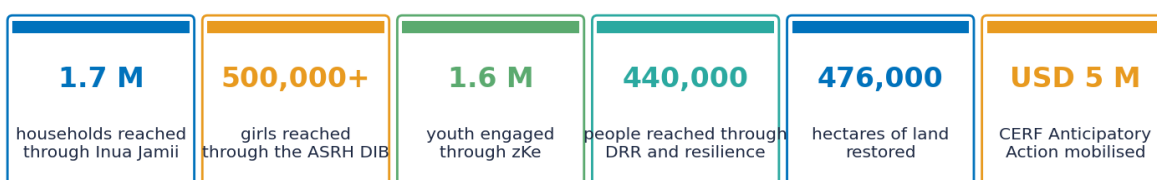
Key achievements in 2025

- Contribution to the expansion of the Inua Jamii social protection programme, reaching over 1.7 million households.

- Use of USD 1.2 million in an unearmarked grant to mobilise USD 20 million in climate finance for water resilience in ASAL counties.
- Advancement of the Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Development Impact Bond, which has reached more than 700,000 vulnerable girls.
- Youth engagement initiatives, particularly the zKe platform, that strengthened civic participation and reached over one million young people through digital and community-based channels.

Catalytic results at a glance, 2025

Headline figures from the source draft



Under the People and Peace Window, the Fund strengthened inclusive governance, peacebuilding and social protection systems through policy reforms, improved service delivery and stronger community resilience. The Planet and Prosperity Window advanced climate-resilient development and green economic transformation through integrated value chain approaches, nature-based solutions and innovative financing models. The Strategic Enabler of Partnerships Window deepened collaboration between government, private sector and development partners, mobilising investment and advancing SDG target 17.17.

The Fund Secretariat, supported through the Direct Cost Enabler Window, has played a critical role in ensuring joint UN action since 2022. Through the advisors funded under the Enabler window, the Secretariat has had the capacity to provide expert-based coordination and facilitation across agencies, fostering identification and development of catalytic joint interventions where UN Kenya has clear added value and can unlock results for other actors. This has strengthened the UN's capacity to deliver as One. The expert facilitation provided by the Secretariat has been valued by the UN Country Team and stakeholders and has been instrumental in positioning UN Kenya as a platform for integrated, investment-ready solutions. Although not perfect, the collaboration between UN entities has moved beyond parallel contributions toward shared design, pooled instruments and joint accountability, enabling the UN Country Team to operate as a more coherent system under the Cooperation Framework.

Despite these achievements, challenges persist. UN entities each have their own organisational culture and modus operandi developed over several decades. The behavioural change observed during these first four years will take persistence over time to become embedded in the UN at all levels. These first four years of systematic work to deliver jointly have shaped UN Kenya in the right direction and the UN Country Team at senior management level is committed to continue strengthening joint UN action and pooled funding in the next iteration of the Cooperation Framework. Such a trajectory will require continued facilitation and coordination capacity by the Fund Secretariat under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator and Fund Board Chair, alongside improved Standard Operating Procedures for how agencies manage joint initiatives, with clearer roles and accountability lines.

The landscape UN Kenya is operating in is one of decreasing ODA funding and the administrative and financial regulations of UN entities place additional hurdles on UN collaboration, even if the Common Back Office shows promising initial results. The Global Funding Compact will continue to be an important vehicle to drive change through funding patterns. Creating a beneficial environment for joint UN action and pooled funding, with quantitative targets for joint action within UN at 80, is critical to scaling impact and sustaining progress for the UN we want for the future we want. UN Kenya, under the enhanced mandate of the Resident Coordinator and Fund Board Chair, is committed to continuing in the same trajectory as these first four years of stronger joint programme delivery. The SDG MPTF Kenya continues to play a catalytic role in that trajectory by using ODA to drive joint action and unlock additional resources, including private sector investments, by strengthening partnerships and scaling proven models.

Over its first four years, the Fund has positioned itself as a key instrument for accelerating the 2030 Agenda in Kenya and advancing the UN reform agenda at country level. It has demonstrated coordinated UN action anchored in national ownership and innovative financing and has delivered results at scale.

Annual progress report

Detailed results across the four windows in 2025

1. Introduction

The SDG Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Kenya 2025 Annual Report presents an account of results achieved through pooled funding in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2022 to 2027. Covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2025, the report sets out how coordinated UN action enabled through the Fund delivered integrated, scalable and catalytic solutions to Kenya's development priorities.

The Fund continues to serve as a strategic financing instrument that strengthens coherence across the UN system. It enables joint programming across the thematic areas of People and Peace, Planet and Prosperity and the Strategic Enabler of Partnerships, while underpinning delivery through a Secretariat supported under the Direct Cost Enabler Window. By funding joint UN action, the Fund has advanced the Delivering as One approach, ensuring alignment with national priorities and enhancing the UN's ability to respond to emerging challenges and opportunities in a timely and coordinated manner.

Since its inception in 2017, the Fund has mobilised over USD 35.8 million (including USD 2.1 million raised under the SDGPP MPTF), supporting 15 joint programmes implemented by 17 UN entities, with contributions from bilateral donors and foundations. In 2025, the Fund further demonstrated its catalytic value by unlocking additional financing, strengthening government systems, advancing innovative financing models and deepening partnerships across public, private and civil society actors. This report reflects the results achieved and the strategic positioning of the Fund as a key enabler of SDG acceleration in Kenya.

2. Fund Board

The Fund Board, chaired by the United Nations Resident Coordinator, provides strategic direction and oversight of the SDG MPTF Kenya. The Board comprises four heads of agencies representing participating UN organisations (currently UN Women, UNFPA, UNIDO and UNICEF), alongside donor observers from Sweden, Norway and Canada. This composition reflects both programmatic leadership and partner engagement.

During the reporting period, the Fund Board convened four quarterly meetings in March, May, August and November 2025. These meetings guided strategic decision-making, strengthened the Fund's

responsiveness to emerging national priorities and supported the UN system's ability to deliver integrated solutions under the Cooperation Framework.

2.1 Fund Board composition, 2025

Role	Member or observer
Chair	United Nations Resident Coordinator
Member	UN Women
Member	UNFPA
Member	UNIDO
Member	UNICEF
Donor observer	Government of Sweden
Donor observer	Government of Norway
Donor observer	Government of Canada

2.2 Donor contributions by window

Funding window	Donor or partner
Direct Cost Enabler	Government of Sweden
People and Peace	Government of Sweden, Government of Norway, Government of Canada
Planet and Prosperity	Government of Norway, Government of Sweden, Government of Canada
Strategic Enabler of Partnerships	Government of Norway, Government of Switzerland, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

2.3 Key outcomes from 2025 Fund Board deliberations

- Appointment of UN Women to the Fund Board, strengthening gender-responsive leadership and replacing the UNDP Resident Representative.
- Allocation of Sweden's unearmarked contribution of SEK 40 million to selected joint programmes, the first unearmarked contribution to the Fund.
- Strategic reprioritisation of Norway's contributions to support UNDSS, the zKe initiative and the recruitment of an International Peace and Development Advisor.
- Agreement in principle among Board members to develop a joint cost-sharing model to sustainably finance the Fund Secretariat in the next cycle.

3. Detailed Fund results in 2025

The Fund applies a structured, multi-window results framework to strengthen coherence, transparency and accountability in reporting. Results achieved during the reporting period are organised under the following four windows.

The four funding windows of the SDG MPTF Kenya

Joint programmes funded under each window in 2025

<p>Direct Cost Enabler <i>Donors: Sweden</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund Secretariat • Youth Advisory Capacity • Environment & Climate Advisory • DRR & Resilience Advisory 	<p>People and Peace <i>Donors: Sweden, Norway, Canada</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Devolution Programme • Peacebuilding & Refugee Management • Youth Skills & Civic Engagement • Child and Social Protection • Peacebuilding for 2027 Elections • UNDSS Liaison Office Mandera
<p>Planet and Prosperity <i>Donors: Norway, Sweden, Canada</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circularity in Green & Blue Economies • Sustainable Integrated Water Management • Climate-Friendly Home-Grown School Meals • Inclusive & Sustainable Coffee Value Chain 	<p>Strategic Enabler of Partnerships <i>Donors: Norway, Switzerland, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG Partnership Platform • SDG3 Primary Healthcare Accelerator • UN Kenya Deepened Presence in ASALs • Gender-Responsive Cooperation Framework

- Direct Cost Enabler Window. Covers all cross-cutting functions that underpin the effective delivery of the Fund, including fund management, coordination and operational support provided by the Secretariat.
- People and Peace Thematic Window. Captures results related to inclusive governance, human rights, gender equality, youth empowerment, child and social protection and peacebuilding and resilience.
- Planet and Prosperity Thematic Window. Encompasses interventions focused on climate action, environmental sustainability, the blue and circular economies and inclusive sustainable economic development.

- Strategic Enabler of Partnerships Window. Supports joint efforts by UN Kenya and the Government of Kenya to advance SDG target 17.17, with a focus on promoting effective, inclusive and results-driven partnerships across public, private and civil society actors.

3.1 Direct Cost Enabler Window

Sole donor: Government of Sweden

The Government of Sweden is the sole contributor to the Direct Cost Enabler Window, which finances the cross-cutting functions that underpin the effectiveness of the Fund. 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. It comprises key technical experts (Youth Advisor; Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Advisor; Environment and Climate Specialist) together with a Fund Management Specialist. The Government of France has seconded a Senior Expert on Climate Financing who works closely with the Fund team and leads the SDG Partnership Platform.

The Secretariat's core mandate is to coordinate and manage Fund operations and drive joint action through pooled funding. This includes identifying and facilitating the design and implementation of joint initiatives, ensuring alignment of joint programmes with national priorities and Cooperation Framework outcomes, promoting strategic coherence across UN entities, facilitating governance processes and providing technical guidance and quality assurance to Participating UN Organisations (PUNOs) in the joint initiatives, particularly the joint programmes. The Secretariat also leads results tracking, reporting and oversight of Fund allocations. It plays a central role in advancing UN Kenya to Deliver as One.

Key achievements of the Secretariat

3.1.1 Youth empowerment advisory capacity

In 2025, the Secretariat played a pivotal role in strengthening coordination, partnerships and systems for youth empowerment in Kenya. It enhanced programmatic coherence by providing technical advisory support to key platforms, including the Development Partners Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Working Group and the UN Kenya Adolescent and Youth Technical Working Group (AYTWG). The Secretariat also supported the update of the UN Kenya youth footprint mapping, improving alignment, coordination and visibility of youth-focused interventions across the UN Country Team.

Targeted technical support was provided to the Joint Programme on Youth Civic Engagement, Skills and Employability, including a rapid revision of the workplan to align with the new MPTF contribution focusing on gender-transformative interventions. A notable achievement for the joint programme is that more than 1.6 million youth were reached through digital deliberative platforms, with close to 48 per

cent being young women. The skilling and jobs component curated a programme to place 1,200 youth (60 per cent women) in digital jobs, while this pillar advanced decent, gender-responsive conditions for at least 5,000 gig workers who form part of the target group. As the flagship UN joint initiative on youth under the Cooperation Framework, the joint programme contributed to the annual UN youth scorecard with a 42 to 63 per cent improvement on the green KPIs.

1.6 M

youth reached through digital deliberative platforms, close to 48 per cent of whom are young women

The Secretariat advanced innovative financing and partnerships for youth empowerment. It supported the design of the Education and Skills Development Outcome Fund, in collaboration with the Education Outcomes Fund (EOF), KfW, the Embassy of Finland, TVETA and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. This initiative represents a shift toward outcome-based financing for skills development and employment. In parallel, the Secretariat coordinated a strategic partnership between UN Kenya, the Government of Kenya and the Equity Group, supporting the co-creation of a programme focused on establishing a blended finance mechanism for urban resilience.

At the global level, the Secretariat, in collaboration with the UN Youth Office (UNYO), supported Kenya's participation in the 2025 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), with the key outcome highlighting the importance of rebuilding trust between governance institutions and young people in the context of the Gen Z movement. It also facilitated a learning exchange between Kenyan youth-led civil society organisations and the UN Nepal Country Team on Gen-Z movement experiences and convened a Gen Z-focused dialogue during the UNCT Kenya Retreat 2025 to inform the implementation of Youth2030 Phase II (2025 to 2030). Through the Youth Advisor, youth empowerment was placed as a priority agenda for the Kenya Development Partnership Forum (DPF).

The Secretariat contributed to follow-up actions from the 2024 National SDGs Multi-Stakeholder Conference, including technical support to the inaugural Youth Localising the Pact for the Future webinar, delivered in collaboration with the SDGs Kenya Forum, National Youth Council (NYC) and the State Department for Economic Planning. This platform showcased practical pathways for meaningful youth participation, including through UN-supported initiatives such as zKe: Youth Voices.

In celebration of International Youth Day 2025, themed Local Youth Actions for the SDGs and Beyond, the Secretariat supported coordination between UN Kenya and the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports for the national youth week activities. During the 2025 youth week, the UN Resident Coordinator represented the UN at a Digital Rights Forum attended by over 1,000 young people. Through coordination support to the AYTWG, over 400 youth, the majority of whom were young women, participated in a World Café dialogue at the UN Complex in Nairobi, engaging UN leadership on key issues including governance, peace and security, employment, climate action, urbanisation and

health. These engagements strengthened platforms for meaningful youth participation and amplified locally driven solutions, key components of Youth 2030 phase 2.

Looking ahead

Provide technical support and coordination toward Development Partnership Forum (DPF) commitments on youth empowerment.

Continue ensuring a youth lens across all UN joint programme design and implementation.

Support the operationalisation of key youth-focused policies in Kenya including the Kenya Green Skills and Jobs Strategy, bringing together all UN entities working on youth.

Scale digitally enabled platforms for youth engagement and participation in the political sphere and civic engagement.

Strengthen strategic partnerships, including the UN Kenya and Equity Group collaboration.

Coordinate the UN Kenya annual youth scorecard.

Provide expert support on youth for the design of the next Cooperation Framework.

3.1.2 Environmental and climate advisory capacity

In 2025, the Secretariat, through its Environment and Climate Advisor, played a pivotal role in repositioning climate action and environmental sustainability as core drivers of joint UN programming in Kenya. This was achieved through strategic advisory support to the Resident Coordinator, the development of integrated frameworks and stronger coordination across UN agencies and partners working to address previously fragmented UN environment and climate efforts.

As a result, climate interventions are now more structured, finance-linked and aligned with county planning and budgeting frameworks. A key shift has been the use of joint programmes as integrated climate platforms that connect policy, financing and implementation. This has included aligning programmes with county priorities and embedding them within government systems to strengthen ownership and sustainability.

This approach was operationalised through strategic county missions, notably in Makueni and Embu, which convened government, development partners, UN agencies, private sector actors and off-takers around priority climate investments. The missions identified opportunities in water security (for example sand dams), circular economy value chains and climate-resilient food systems and unlocked clearly defined implementation and financing pathways, shifting engagement from dialogue to structured partnership development and investment facilitation.

To address a key constraint, access to finance, the Advisor led the development of blended finance and risk-sharing models tailored to county-level investments. This included partnerships with financial institutions, engagement with the African Guarantee Fund on *pari passu* guarantee mechanisms and collaboration with partners such as Rabobank Foundation to strengthen value chain financing. Early

integration of off-takers most at risk of being left behind further improved demand certainty, reduced market risks and enhanced private sector participation. Under the Joint Programme for Circularity, UN Kenya develops pillars iteratively. The joint programme started with Circularity in the Green Economy. In 2025, Circularity in the Blue Economy was added. The Joint Programme on Coffee Value Chains is closely interlinked. UN Kenya, through the strategic and expert leadership provided by the Advisor, works to design models for access to financing and credits for women farmers and aquaculture farmers furthest away from the financial market.

At the system level, the Secretariat strengthened accountability and coherence through the design and rollout of the UN Kenya Environment and Climate Change Scorecard. UN Kenya is the global trailblazer in this area, as this is the first time that an Environment and Climate Scorecard is used by the UN at country level. The scorecard aims to establish the first system-wide baseline for environmental integration in UN Kenya. The scorecard 2025 is an internal test and in the annual reporting for 2026 it will go live. The scorecard serves as a practical tool to give visibility to UN Kenya investments in environment and climate interventions and, at the same time, to shed light on where the gaps are. The scorecard will identify gaps, guide partnerships and prioritise investments. A UN internal Technical Working Group for Environment and Climate has also been launched within UN Kenya thanks to the work done by the Advisor.

The Advisor has acted as a strategic integrator both across all UN entities and with external stakeholders to drive joint interventions for environment and climate, linking policy, finance and implementation and positioning the UN system as a platform for delivering climate solutions that are coordinated, investment-ready and capable of being scaled. Without this role, efforts by UN Kenya would likely remain fragmented in smaller UN entity projects and therefore less sustainable.

Work in progress

An emerging area is the development of an area-based blended finance and risk-sharing model to unlock investment in blue economy value chains. This includes partnerships with Rabobank Foundation and the African Guarantee Fund to ground financing in practical value chain solutions and to introduce risk-sharing mechanisms.

The model brings together national and county governments, implementing partners, financial institutions and private sector actors, including off-takers, within defined geographies, linking production, aggregation, financing and markets into a single system. For example, for seaweed farmers, this enables access to affordable finance, reliable buyers and structured markets, supporting a transition from smaller and fragmented production to stable and predictable incomes.

While still being operationalised, the model is already shaping a catalytic, system-level framework that enables co-investment, unlocks private capital and promotes inclusive participation, particularly for women and youth.

3.1.3 Disaster reduction and resilience advisory capacity

The Secretariat's Advisor 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 Advisor supported the UN entities and the Resident Coordinator to strengthen joint action on DRM legislation, harmonised humanitarian response mechanisms and improved integrated planning across agencies, including in response to two major flooding events during the year.

Significant contributions were made to improve the coherence, quality and resource mobilisation of joint programmes under Strategic Priority 2, working with all involved UN entities and external stakeholders. This included leading technical reviews and alignment processes that streamlined programming, notably consolidating the DRR joint programme and the Urban Resilience joint programme into a single joint programme as recommended in the mid-term review of the joint programmes under the Cooperation Framework, conducted in 2025. The revised DRR joint programme is now aligned with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) and Kenya's updated national DRR strategy. Engagement with key partners, including Denmark, Norway and ECHO, contributed to enhanced donor understanding and supported ongoing resource mobilisation.

At the policy level, the Advisor contributed to major advancements in Kenya's DRM architecture. The DRM Bill progressed through both legislative houses and is currently under mediation, while the National DRM Strategy (2025 to 2030) was launched with strong UN technical support coordinated and facilitated by the Advisor. The strategy focuses on reducing risk and vulnerability, strengthening institutional and community resilience, improving data systems and mainstreaming DRM across national and county planning and budgeting processes through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. In parallel, the Anticipatory Action (AA) roadmap was developed with joint support by UN Kenya through the Advisor and integrated into both the national strategy and joint programming frameworks, marking a shift toward more proactive risk management.

Through engagement in the North and Northeastern Development Initiative (NEDI), the Advisor strengthened collaboration with local leadership and supported high-level policy dialogue on the Government's North-East Partnership Transition Paper. A joint high-level mission to Garissa by the Government and international partners, including the EU, US, UK and UN, reinforced coordinated commitment to the region's development and stabilisation under the North-East Kenya Advisory Group.

Humanitarian coordination was further strengthened through active engagement in key platforms, including the Humanitarian Coordination Team Plus, KHPT, ISWG and the National DRR Platform. The Advisor coordinated the UN support for the successful mobilisation of USD 5 million in CERF Anticipatory Action funding, establishing pre-arranged financing for drought response. The CERF-AA framework has been finalised and is ready for activation once thresholds are met. The Advisor provided coordination support to all involved UN entities, together with UNHCR, on the advancement of the Government-

approved Shirika Plan. The Advisor provides coordination of the future joint UN programme encompassing all UN Kenya entities involved in the rollout of the Shirika Plan, ensuring coherent and consolidated UN Kenya support during implementation and making interaction with UN Kenya easier for all stakeholders.

Enhanced DRR and resilience capacities for UN Kenya, housed in the Fund Secretariat, delivered tangible results in 2025, including lifesaving and resilience interventions reaching over 440,000 people, support to the development of over 100 policies including the National Care Policy and restoration of 476,000 hectares of land. These investments are largely catalytic, laying the foundation for scaled impact in 2026. Collectively, these efforts have strengthened UN Kenya's strategic positioning, coordination effectiveness and capacity to support Kenya's resilience and humanitarian priorities.

USD 5 M	in CERF Anticipatory Action funding mobilised, establishing pre-arranged financing for drought response
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476,000	hectares of land restored through DRR and resilience interventions in 2025
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Looking ahead, the Secretariat will continue to provide technical and coordination support to the DRM Bill, currently under mediation by a parliamentary select committee. The major milestone ahead is a joined-up response and support by UN Kenya to the Shirika Plan implementation, which can unlock further investments by the private sector in what is effectively the construction of two cities (Dadaab and Kakuma) and possibly also from global vertical climate funds.

Further thematic details are provided in the respective sections below.

3.2 People and Peace Thematic Window

Donors: Government of Sweden, Government of Norway, Government of Canada

The People and Peace Thematic Window provides strategic financing that enables the UN in Kenya to deliver integrated, high-impact programmes aligned with national development and peacebuilding priorities. Through pooled funding, six joint programmes are being implemented across the country by eight UN agencies, leveraging their complementary strengths to deliver coordinated, system-level results. The programmes currently under implementation are listed below.

- Joint Devolution Programme for Improved Service Delivery.
- Integrating Peacebuilding and Social Cohesion in Refugee Management in Kenya.
- Advancing Inclusive Governance: Empowering Youth Voices and Strengthening Democratic Processes (UN Joint Programme on Youth Skills, Employability and Civic Engagement).
- Child Protection and Social Protection Joint Programme.
- Strengthening Kenya's Peacebuilding Architecture for Conflict Prevention in the Lead up to the 2027 General Elections.
- Support to UNDSS Liaison Office in Mandera.

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

3.2.1 Joint Devolution Programme for Improved Service Delivery

During the reporting period, the Joint Devolution Programme for Improved Public Service Delivery, implemented by UNDP, UN Women and UNICEF, focused on establishing the institutional and governance foundations necessary for implementation. This was marked by the formal approval of the Programme Document by the National Treasury in December 2025, providing official government authorisation. The programme also strengthened collaboration with key national and county stakeholders, including the National Treasury, the State Department for Devolution, the Council of Governors, IGRTC, the Bajeti Hub and county governments across the eight target counties. These engagements reinforced national ownership, ensured alignment with Kenya's devolution priorities and created pathways to secure the Government's 10 per cent counterpart contribution in future budget cycles. The joint co-creation process further enhanced operational readiness and coordination among implementing partners, positioning the programme for coherent and evidence-informed delivery in the next phase.

Implementation delays were experienced, as programme activities could only commence after all mandatory institutional approvals were secured. The requirement for National Treasury approval of the Programme Document postponed the start of implementation. The absence of government counterpart funding in the FY 2025/26 budget limited early co-financing opportunities and increased reliance on programme resources, although prospects remain to secure allocations in FY 2026/27.

Key lessons from the programme establishment phase underscore that effective joint implementation requires substantial coordination among participating UN agencies and government partners and adequate time for consultations and alignment. The joint development of the Annual Work Plan strengthened programme coherence by clarifying roles and ensuring complementary contributions across agencies. Regular engagement of senior leadership enhanced ownership and facilitated harmonised decision-making, while close collaboration with national and county institutions strengthened alignment and created opportunities to leverage government support in future budget cycles.

3.2.2 Integrating Peacebuilding and Social Cohesion in Refugee Management in Kenya

The programme made significant progress in strengthening peacebuilding and social cohesion in Dadaab through an integrated, multi-agency approach across PUNOs. A key achievement was the rollout of a comprehensive political economy analysis, conflict assessments and regular human rights monitoring, which informed policy influence at both national and county levels. The programme is implemented by UNDP, UNHCR, WFP and OHCHR. This work contributed to the inclusion of refugee peacebuilding, participation and representation in the Garissa County Peace Policy and Bill (2025), as well as integration into the Shirika Plan (2025).

Substantial gains were achieved in capacity-building, with over 360 state and non-state actors trained in mediation, conflict sensitivity and human rights and demonstrating knowledge improvements of over 40 per cent. Digital peacebuilding emerged as a key innovation, with 30 digital influencers trained and 7,944 people reached through campaigns countering misinformation. Community dialogues, including Under-a-Tree forums, women's caucuses, youth dialogues and community-police forums, engaged over 1,000 participants and contributed to improved trust and an 84.8 per cent reduction in conflict incidents between June and December 2025.

The programme advanced durable solutions and youth economic inclusion. Through WFP's Human-Centred Design initiative, 41 prototypes were co-created across 14 thematic areas, with 12 enterprises incubated and funded, benefitting over 2,200 people indirectly. Human rights protection systems were strengthened through training of 1,261 individuals, 19 dialogue forums and improved referral pathways. The programme institutionalised inclusive peacebuilding mechanisms, shifted community norms toward dialogue and strengthened systems for sustainable refugee and host coexistence.

Implementation highlighted the importance of strong coordination, contextual planning and meaningful localisation. Delays in procurement, limited early access to Dadaab and inconsistent joint implementation reduced synergy. Engagement with local CSOs, elders, women's groups and youth structures proved critical, demonstrating that community ownership enhances trust, participation and sustainability.

Key challenges included insecurity linked to Al-Shabaab activity, political resistance to refugee integration, misinformation around the Shirika Plan, operational delays and cultural constraints such as Ramadan affecting engagement. These underscore the need for flexible operational approaches, strengthened risk mitigation, sustained government engagement and a stronger focus on results over expenditure to ensure long-term impact.

84.8%

reduction in conflict incidents in Dadaab between June and December 2025, following community dialogue and peacebuilding interventions

3.2.3 UN Joint Programme on Youth Skills, Employability and Civic Engagement

During the reporting period, the youth joint programme, implemented by UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, UNESCO, UN Women, FAO, WFP and ILO, strengthened youth movements and civic capacities by equipping over 1,000 young people (48 per cent female) with civic knowledge and leadership skills to influence local decision-making. Youth advanced priorities such as voter and ID registration, access to health and education services and advocacy on skilling, job creation and non-formal education. A strong focus on gender responsiveness ensured that young women, often excluded from decision-making, built confidence, developed leadership skills and engaged directly with local authorities to shape joint advocacy agendas. This shifted youth participation from symbolic engagement to meaningful influence, with young women increasingly visible as community advocates.

Digital engagement was significantly expanded through zKe Voices and Yunitok, reaching over 1.6 million youth nationwide. Online platforms amplified young women's voices, with strong reach across channels (521,863 on Facebook; 465,038 on TikTok; 442,996 on Yunitok at 48 per cent female; 238,903 on X; and 22,500 on Instagram). Insights generated through these platforms informed national and county policy dialogue, contributing to government buy-in, shaping programme design and budget allocations and advancing advocacy on non-formal education pathways for marginalised youth.

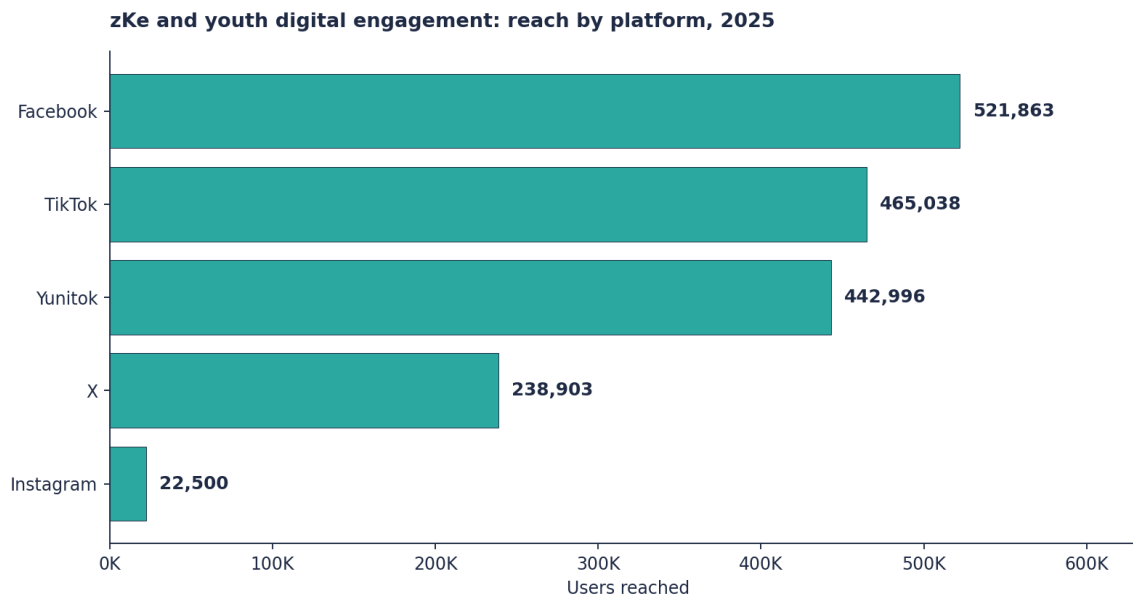


Figure: zKe and youth digital engagement reach by platform, 2025

The programme strengthened youth leadership in digital safety and peacebuilding. It trained 30 youth leaders (17 women) across 18 counties to lead digital peace initiatives and equipped 112 digital rights actors (59 women, 53 men) from FeCoMo and KenSafeSpace networks to address disinformation, hate speech and technology-facilitated GBV. At the legislative level, engagement with four nominated young women legislators supported advocacy on the PWD Act and KSL Bill, advancing access to justice, services and economic opportunities for women and girls with disabilities, including Deaf women.

To expand economic opportunities, the programme mapped high-potential young women-led enterprises across green, digital, blue, care and creative sectors in five counties. Selected enterprises, including leatherwork, neem soap production, fashion, crafts, reusable sanitary products and circular economy initiatives, received business development, market access and investment support. Strategic partnerships further boosted employability, including collaboration with PowerLearn Project to place 1,200 youth (60 per cent women) in digital jobs and with the Women Enterprise Fund to train 1,500 young women entrepreneurs and link them to loans ranging from KES 50,000 to 750,000. Engagement with 20 innovation hubs and business development service providers strengthened enterprise ecosystems, while collaboration with the Kenya Union of Gig Workers is advancing decent, gender-responsive conditions for at least 5,000 gig workers.

Skills development was strengthened through piloting two CPD programmes for TVET trainers and establishing structured skills pathways for young women. Partnerships with Vera Beauty College and Lintons Foundation enhanced industry-aligned training, while 313 TVET Career Services Officers (151 women, 162 men) were equipped to deliver gender-responsive career guidance.

The project demonstrated that extended deliberation windows, a hybrid online and offline engagement model and intentional inclusion strategies significantly strengthened youth participation and the quality of insights. This was the case despite delays caused by language barriers in Turkana County and limited digital capacity and organisational structures in counties such as Isiolo and Turkana. Other persistent challenges included low conversion of social media reach into structured deliberative participation and difficulty mobilising women-focused and well-structured youth groups, resulting in early under-representation. Iterative digital design, linked-topic deliberations and strong offline engagement, particularly community forums and the direct involvement of county officials, delivered concrete outcomes, including street-lighting repairs in Kisumu, county staffing of the Tupendane Dispensary and the inclusion of Akadeli Dispensary in the supplementary budget in Isiolo County.

A key lesson was the critical importance of coordinated, multi-agency delivery, demonstrated through joint UN planning and implementation mechanisms such as the unified UN Youth Advisory Board, coordinated skilling and civic participation initiatives, aligned digital engagement efforts and joint county missions. Strengthened collaboration with Canada-supported partners helped integrate gender-transformative youth priorities into parliamentary processes and advance employability and entrepreneurship opportunities in Kenya.

3.2.4 Joint Programme on Social Protection and Child Protection

In 2025, the joint programme, implemented by FAO, ILO, UNICEF and WFP, made major gains in strengthening Kenya's child protection and social protection systems. A key milestone was the approval of the Kenya Social Protection Act 2025, which established a rights-based framework for expanded and better-coordinated social assistance. The joint programme also supported the design and approval of the USD 127 million Kenya Social and Economic Inclusion Project (KSEIP II), shaping core components on nutrition (NICHE), adolescent support and climate-resilient economic inclusion. Delivery systems, including the Enhanced Single Registry, CCTP-MIS and CD-MIS, were upgraded to improve targeting, data integration and payment efficiency.

The joint programme advanced inclusion of informal and rural workers by supporting county action plans in Kisumu, Mombasa and Busia and by organising Social Protection Fairs that reached 5,000 workers and enabled 531 new registrations with SHA and NSSF. A national fiscal space workshop strengthened dialogue on sustainable financing. Over 168,000 children affected by violence accessed health, justice and social services, including nearly 50,000 through case management. Parenting programmes reached 5,185 caregivers and community sensitisation engaged 82,000 people. National progress included finalising six regulations under the Children Act 2022 and securing a 400 per cent budget increase for emergency and refugee services. The joint programme supported the ELRASE Symposium, reinforcing national commitments to end child labour. At county level, the joint programme strengthened social protection, child protection and disability policy frameworks across multiple

counties, while improving frontline delivery capacities. The joint programme drove major system-level reforms and expanded equitable access to child and social protection services nationwide.

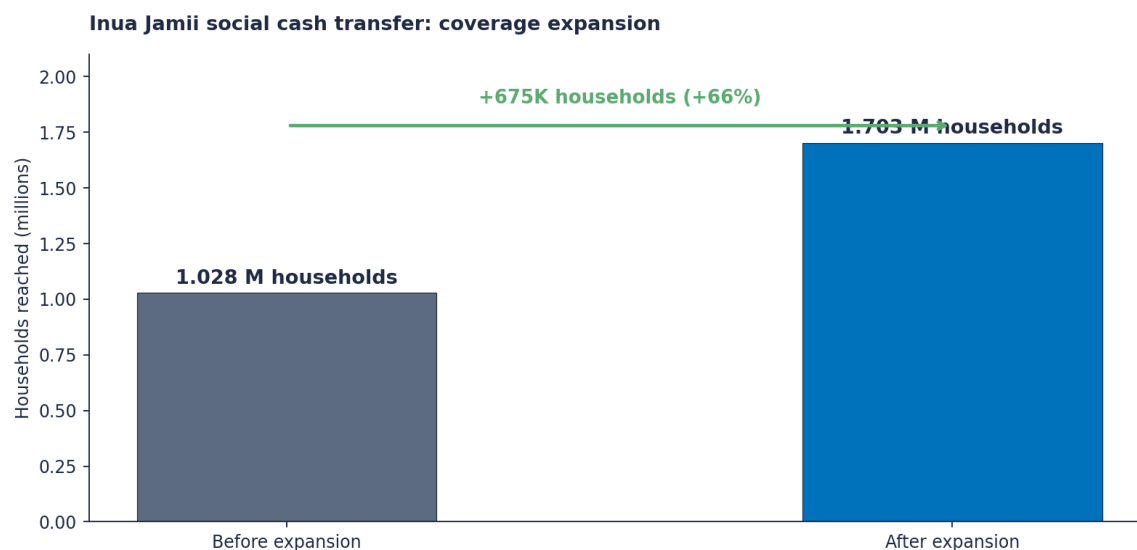


Figure: Inua Jamii social cash transfer coverage expansion (households reached)

Implementation was affected by global ODA shifts, including USAID's exit and reduced bilateral funding, which increased pressure on PUNO capacities amid wider fiscal constraints. Limited national fiscal space, driven by high debt servicing and public tax concerns, also restricted expansion of child and social protection services, prompting the joint programme to adopt more feasible approaches. A key response was a national-county workshop on expanding fiscal space for social protection, which generated strong momentum for follow-up. Despite these constraints, the joint programme made solid progress in strengthening Kenya's child and social protection systems, advancing major policy, legal and systems reforms and improving coordination across national and county levels. Cross-cutting priorities such as gender equality, disability inclusion, climate resilience and support for informal workers were integrated throughout, while strong collaboration among the four UN agencies and government partners ensured coherent, rights-based progress and positioned systems for future scale-up.

Another key lesson is the need for an integrated approach to develop effective social protection policies and action plans. For instance, Busia County's inclusion of multiple departments ensured a complete response to poverty and strengthened coordination, making the Policy and Action Plan valuable tools for implementation and resource mobilisation. Similarly, Makueni's re-established MCEF illustrated how locally led systems can generate tangible economic benefits while aligning with national reforms such as KSEIP II. A key lesson is that community-centred delivery models and strong county-driven legislation are mutually reinforcing. Bringing services closer to communities builds trust and uptake, while county frameworks ensure sustainability and long-term system resilience.

3.2.5 Strengthening Kenya's Peacebuilding Architecture for Conflict Prevention in the Lead up to the 2027 General Elections

During the reporting period, the project, implemented by UNDP, focused on deploying essential staff including a Peace Development Advisor (PDA) and durable solutions expertise, strengthening analytical capacities and putting in place the institutional and partnership frameworks needed to operationalise the peacebuilding architecture in preparation for the 2027 elections. Key achievements included support to the completion of the Electoral Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) and the release of its report and production of monthly political updates to inform UN decision-making. Engagement with donors and civil society intensified through meetings of the Peace and Security Donor Group and the quarterly CSO forum, while national partnerships were strengthened through agreements with IRCK to revive the National Peace and Mediation Team, consultations with NCIC on national conflict analysis and hotspot mapping and collaboration with the National Steering Committee to revitalise the UWIANO Platform for Peace. The Peacebuilding Architecture Review Report was disseminated nationally, an Inter-Agency Elections Task Force was established and preliminary 2027 election scenarios were developed, laying strong foundations for the next phase of implementation.

Across outputs, the project advanced awareness and uptake of the Peacebuilding Architecture Review recommendations, initiated the development of strategies for peaceful elections and improved coordination among peacebuilding actors. High-quality political updates supported shared understanding of emerging risks, including governance trust deficits, youth apathy and regional security dynamics. Work to strengthen mediation structures is underway, with reconstitution of the National Peace and Mediation Team, revival of the Women Mediators Network and expanded focus on digital peacebuilding to reflect shifting conflict dynamics.

The programme deepened analysis of the political implications of the Shirika Plan and initiated discussions on studies linking refugees and elections, recognising the sensitivity of identity documentation and border management debates. Implementation is expected to accelerate further once conflict analysis and hotspot mapping are finalised, the Elections Programme is approved and mediation structures are fully re-established, with sustained engagement from national institutions, CSOs and development partners throughout the electoral cycle.

While no major operational challenges emerged, public awareness of the peace architecture review remains low, requiring stronger political advocacy to align its recommendations with evolving electoral priorities. Key lessons include the value of partnering with capable CSOs such as IRCK, the need for broad multi-stakeholder engagement to sustain national mediation structures without external funding and the importance of catalytic interventions like hotspot mapping that lay the groundwork for more substantive programming. The project plays a unique role in providing continuous political analysis and conflict-sensitive advice in a rapidly shifting environment, supporting scenario planning, early warning and coordination across UN and national actors. Its catalytic, nationally owned approach enables high-

impact interventions at national and community levels while elevating cross-cutting issues such as youth inclusion and the participation of marginalised groups, in efforts to reduce the risk of violence ahead of the 2027 elections.

3.2.6 Support to UNDSS Liaison Office in Mandera

During the reporting period, the Fund supported a new joint programme implemented by UNON and UNDSS in Mandera County, to strengthen safe, secure and sustained humanitarian and development operations in this fragile border region. Leveraging MPTF funding, the programme introduces an integrated, field-based operational model that unites security, coordination and programme delivery under one structure, enabling real-time community engagement, adaptive programming and joint operational planning. By embedding local civil society organisations and county government structures into programme design and implementation, the initiative advances the localisation agenda, fosters community ownership and promotes durable, community-driven solutions. Preliminary project set-up was completed, with activity rollout scheduled for the upcoming reporting period.

3.3 Planet and Prosperity Thematic Window

Donors: Government of Norway, Government of Sweden, Government of Canada

The Planet and Prosperity Thematic Window supports joint UN action in Kenya. Through this window, four joint programmes, implemented collaboratively by seven UN agencies, are driving catalytic impact at the intersection of climate action, livelihoods and inclusion. These programmes are listed below.

- Joint Programme on Circularity in the Green and Blue Economies, with a lens on enabling gender-responsive circular and sustainable blue economies for Kenya's coastal communities.
- Joint Programme on Sustainable Integrated Water Management.
- Joint Programme on Climate-Friendly Home-Grown School Meals.
- Joint Programme on the Inclusive and Sustainable Coffee Value Chain.

Together, these initiatives advance the Sustainable Development Goals while prioritising environmental sustainability, gender equality and inclusive economic development. Detailed results for each programme are presented in the sections below.

3.3.1 The Joint Programme on Circularity in the Green and Blue Economies

The joint programme has transitioned into the implementation phase, marking a clear shift from design and alignment to delivery. This reflects finalised workplans, strengthened governance and strong political buy-in at national and county levels, positioning the joint programme to operationalise green and blue economy value chains. Gender equality is embedded throughout, ensuring inclusive outcomes for women and youth.

Implementation is led by UNIDO, FAO, UNEP, IOM and UN Women, in partnership with national ministries, county governments (Kwale, Lamu, Nyamira), development partners, financial institutions and private sector actors. Early results include strengthened coordination systems, integration into national policy processes and the development of a gender-responsive blended, risk-sharing financing model to unlock investment and expand access for women-led and youth-led enterprises.

While initial delays arose from workplan revisions following donor consultations, this period was strategically used to strengthen programme design, governance and financing structures, reducing implementation risk and improving readiness for scale. A key lesson is that early investment in systems, financing and gender integration is critical for sustainable impact at scale.

The programme adopts a systems-based, investment-oriented approach, positioning value chains as platforms that bring together counties, financiers, private sector actors and off-takers. This ensures

interventions are anchored in real market demand, reduces risk and strengthens pathways to scale, while enabling women and youth to participate as economic actors.

A key innovation is the early integration of private sector off-takers alongside a blended finance model combining catalytic funding, county co-investment and private capital. This approach strengthens demand alignment, reduces risk and unlocks investment in sectors that have traditionally struggled to attract financing. County governments are positioned as co-investors and anchors of sustainability through integration into plans and budgets, while alignment with national policy and regulatory processes strengthens the enabling environment for inclusive green and blue economy growth.

Looking ahead, the programme will scale implementation by supporting enterprises in priority value chains, including seaweed and circular bio-based industries such as banana fibre, by operationalising the financing model and by onboarding off-takers and investors. At the county level, efforts will focus on strengthening aggregation systems, supporting SMEs, particularly women-led and youth-led and linking them to markets and finance as counties begin to co-invest. Continued support will be critical to translate design into investment, enterprise growth and job creation, demonstrating a model for green and blue economy transformation in Kenya and beyond.

3.3.2 The Joint Programme on Sustainable Integrated Water Management

The programme has transitioned into active implementation, marking a critical step toward delivering climate-resilient water solutions across Kenya's ASAL counties of Garissa, Wajir, Marsabit and Mandera. This progress reflects successful climate finance mobilisation, strengthened institutional coordination and readiness for delivery at scale. Led by UNICEF and IOM, the programme is implemented in close collaboration with national and county governments and communities, ensuring alignment with public systems and long-term sustainability. Thanks to an unearmarked grant of USD 1.2 million provided by Sweden under the pooled SDG Multi-Partner Trust Fund Kenya, UN Kenya was able to unlock an additional USD 20 million from the Climate Adaptation Fund for the benefit of water access for more than a million additional Kenyans. The joint programme used the MPTF support to unlock a much larger funding envelope at global level, critical for long-term climate adaptation and SDG progress. The programme prioritises sand dams as a core solution, providing reliable, year-round water access by recharging aquifers and reducing evaporation losses, benefitting households, livestock and smallholder production.

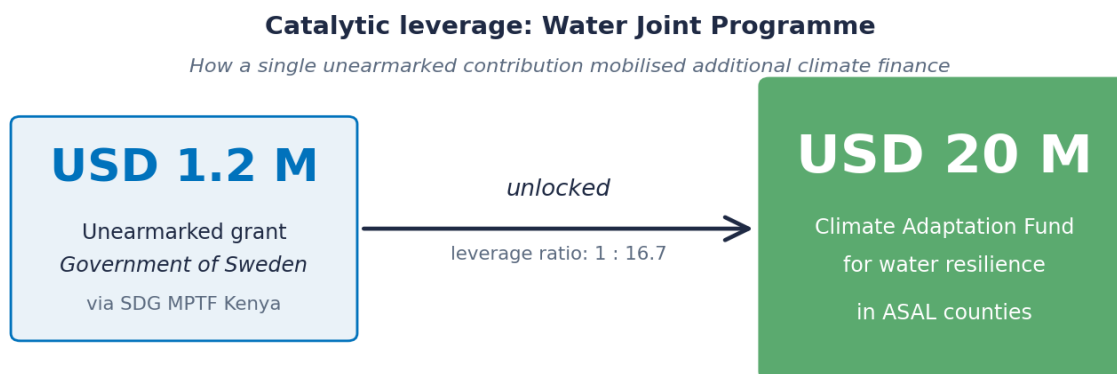


Figure: Catalytic leverage of the Water Joint Programme

All sites are selected through joint technical and hydrological assessments with government counterparts, ensuring viability and reducing implementation risk. A defining feature is the ownership model: communities lead construction and management of sand dams through local committees, while counties integrate the infrastructure into planning and budgets, ensuring sustainability and maintenance of investments beyond project cycles.

The programme is also unlocking private sector participation through an Adopt-a-Sand Dam model, enabling companies to co-invest in scaling infrastructure while maintaining community and government ownership. Implementation is underway in Garissa and Marsabit, with expansion planned for Wajir and Mandera. Youth-led service models for operation and maintenance are being established, creating local employment opportunities. Beyond the Climate Adaptation Fund, the programme has engaged with the Ministry of Irrigation on a potential application to the Loss and Damage Fund, further strengthening resource mobilisation efforts in line with national priorities.

A key lesson is that combining nature-based solutions with strong local ownership, government integration and private sector participation provides a more durable pathway to water security. Going forward, the focus will be on completing infrastructure, scaling site development and expanding the adoption model to attract additional partners. With financing secured and systems in place, the programme is well positioned to deliver measurable improvements in water access and resilience, offering a model for drought-prone regions globally.

3.3.3 The Joint Programme on Climate-Friendly Home-Grown School Meals

The joint programme has transitioned into active implementation, marking a critical shift from design to delivery and positioning it as a model for integrating social protection, food systems transformation and

climate resilience in Kenya. Led by WFP, FAO and IFAD, in partnership with national and county governments, the programme supports the scale-up of the climate-friendly Home-Grown School Meals Programme (HGSMP) as both a social safety net and a driver of local economic development. Implementation is embedded within government systems, ensuring sustainability and alignment with national and county structures.

Early progress has been made in operationalising the aggregator model, linking smallholder farmers to schools as reliable markets. Implementation in Embu and Tharaka Nithi demonstrates its viability, with cooperatives supplying locally produced food to schools, reaching thousands of learners while generating income for farmers. This confirms school feeding as a demand-driven mechanism that supports livelihoods, strengthens local value chains and delivers social protection outcomes.

The programme adopts a systems-based, market-oriented approach, positioning school feeding within a broader food systems transformation agenda. It strengthens enabling systems, including local procurement, food safety, nutrition integration and multi-sector coordination, while reinforcing government leadership through platforms such as the National School Meals Coalition. By using public procurement as a strategic tool, the programme stimulates local production, reduces market risk and crowds in private sector investment across aggregation, storage and supply chains.

A core feature is the transition toward government-led and financially sustainable systems, with a clear pathway for integration into national and county budgets. Embedding delivery systems within government institutions reduces reliance on external funding and ensures continuity. The programme is also improving quality and resilience through investments in post-harvest management, nutrition-sensitive menus and climate-resilient crops.

The programme is advancing blended financing approaches, combining government resources with private sector and partner investments to support scale. Looking ahead, the focus will be on expanding the aggregator model to additional counties, strengthening cooperatives and working capital and formalising procurement systems for local sourcing at scale. Further investments will support school gardens, climate-resilient production and improved nutrition outcomes.

With strong government leadership and coordination, the programme is well positioned to deliver measurable impact at scale. Continued support will be critical to translate early gains into a nationally sustainable model capable of reaching millions of children while strengthening local economies. The programme offers a replicable model for middle-income countries, demonstrating how strategic public procurement can integrate social protection with market development and drive long-term, climate-resilient food systems transformation.

3.3.4 The Joint Programme on the Inclusive and Sustainable Coffee Value Chain

Led by UNIDO and FAO, the joint programme is strengthening the foundation for a more coordinated, investment-oriented coffee sector in Kenya. In its first year, it focused on establishing the conditions for transformation in a sector long constrained by fragmentation, low value addition and limited investment. A key achievement was strengthening sector coordination through the establishment of a Joint Programme Secretariat and support to national processes that led to the enactment of the Coffee Bill. This has aligned the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development with the Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry, creating, for the first time, a more coherent link between production, aggregation, markets and industrialisation.

The programme is shifting the sector from fragmented interventions to an integrated value chain approach. Early partnerships with institutions such as KIRDI and Kenya Climate Ventures are advancing enterprise development, innovation and access to finance, particularly for women and youth. The programme has positioned the sector for structured investment through the development of priority investment pathways and engagement with global platforms such as the Hand-in-Hand Investment Forum at the World Food Forum.

It is also redefining Kenya's competitive positioning in coffee. Initial work on climate suitability mapping and flavour profiling is enabling a transition from bulk exports to higher-value, origin-driven markets. This reduces uncertainty for private sector actors by identifying where quality, productivity and market potential align, strengthening the case for investment in processing, branding and sourcing.

Key challenges remain. While national-level coordination has improved, consistent implementation across institutions and counties is still evolving. Unlocking accessible and viable financing requires further structuring and risk-sharing mechanisms.

The programme has proactively addressed these constraints by investing early in coordination, policy alignment and financing design, creating a stronger platform for delivery. Going forward, the focus will shift to implementation, operationalising the Secretariat, advancing financing solutions with financial institutions and supporting enterprises and cooperatives. Climate and market tools, including suitability mapping and flavour profiling, will guide investment and strengthen market positioning.

The programme is well positioned to translate early groundwork into results, driving increased value addition, improved market access and higher incomes for farmers. For development partners, this represents a shift from fragmented support to enabling a coherent, investment-ready sector capable of sustaining impact beyond the programme lifecycle.

3.4 Strategic Enabler of Partnerships Window

Donors: Government of Norway, Government of Switzerland, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

Anchored in the spirit of SDG target 17.17, the Strategic Enabler of Partnerships Window reflects the shared ambition of UN Kenya and the Government of Kenya to foster catalytic partnerships for sustainable development. This cross-cutting window builds on the momentum of the SDG Partnership Platform to unlock the full potential of collaboration among the public sector, private sector and civil society.

The window serves as a strategic platform to mobilise and coordinate financial, technical and institutional resources across sectors, accelerating impact and enabling scale in joint programme delivery. The four flagship joint interventions under the window are listed below.

- Establishing and operationalising the SDG Partnership Platform in Kenya, catalysing public-private investment and innovations to demonstrate the power of partnerships.
- SDG3 Primary Healthcare Accelerator Window, catalysing public-private investment and innovation to advance universal access to quality primary healthcare.
- 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.
- 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 target 17.17, while reinforcing Government and UN collaboration at both national and county levels.

3.4.1 Establishing and operationalising the SDG Partnership Platform in Kenya

The SDG Partnership Platform (SDGPP) is driving impact in Kenya's development landscape through strategic partnerships and innovative financing, aligned with SDG target 17.17. The Platform advanced key workstreams that deepened engagement with government and stakeholders. Following the launch of Kenya's Energy Compact, under the Mission 300 initiative led by the World Bank and African Development Bank, the Platform supported the Government in mobilising private sector participation. The Compact targets USD 19 billion in investments, with a significant share expected from private and philanthropic sources. The Platform facilitated this through high-level roadshows, including investor engagement at the Building Bridges Summit in Geneva, convening 40 financial institutions (commercial

banks, insurers, pension funds, family offices and endowments), followed by philanthropy-focused events in Nairobi.

The Platform supported the Ministry of Energy in advancing a country energy platform, as recommended by the G20, to enhance private sector resource mobilisation for the energy transition. A high-level roundtable brokered by the Platform and convened at the Africa Climate Summit, bringing together senior Kenya government officials and partners including the Rockefeller Foundation, African Development Bank, Sida, AFD, Green Climate Fund and Equity Bank, helped shape discussions on innovative financing and multi-stakeholder partnerships. This catalysed further national-level engagement and positioned the UN, through the Platform, as a trusted and neutral partner to convene and crowd in private sector investors.

Through its Primary Healthcare Accelerator Window, the Platform further strengthened its support to Kenya's health sector by providing integrated technical, coordination and catalytic financing support to the Ministry of Health. The Platform played a central role in revising and operationalising the Kenya Health Public-Private Collaboration Strategy (2025 to 2030), including the development of an implementation toolkit to facilitate structured engagement with private sector, faith-based and civil society actors. In parallel, the Platform strengthened family health policy and advocacy by supporting family planning commodity security and the Kenya Family Planning Smart Advocacy Strategy, while also contributing to the Ministry's FY 2026/27 and medium-term budgeting processes to better align policy priorities with results-based resource allocation. The Platform reinforced sector coordination through support to the mid-term review protocol for the Health Sector Partnership and Coordination Framework and through active participation in national health dialogue platforms.

The Platform has positioned itself as a trusted partner and neutral platform, using the Resident Coordinator's good offices to advance coordinated, evidence-based and partnership-driven solutions, mobilising diverse actors and resources to accelerate sustainable development outcomes in Kenya.

3.4.2 SDG3 Primary Healthcare Accelerator Window

In 2025, the SDG Partnership Platform significantly strengthened its contribution to Kenya's primary healthcare and broader health systems transformation by combining policy support, health financing alignment, multi-stakeholder coordination and innovative service delivery approaches. Through its support to the Ministry of Health, the Platform played a central role in revising and operationalising the Kenya Health Public-Private Collaboration Strategy (2025 to 2030), alongside the development of a comprehensive implementation toolkit and standardised tools. This shifted public-private engagement from ad hoc arrangements to a more coherent, governed and implementation-ready framework aligned with Universal Health Coverage (UHC) reforms, the Social Health Insurance Authority transition, the PPP Act 2021 and national priorities.

In parallel, the Platform strengthened family health policy and planning by supporting family planning commodity security, developing the Kenya Family Planning Smart Advocacy Strategy and contributing to the FY 2026/27 and medium-term budgeting processes. This enabled stronger alignment between policy priorities, budgeting and results-oriented resource allocation for primary healthcare and RMNCAH services. The Platform reinforced sector coordination through support to the mid-term review protocol for the Health Sector Partnership and Coordination Framework and through active engagement in national policy dialogue platforms on health financing, primary healthcare, digital health and partnership reform, strengthening the institutional architecture for integrated and evidence-based delivery.

Building on this system-level work, the Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Development Impact Bond (ASRH-DIB) advanced a complementary and catalytic model for adolescent-responsive primary healthcare. From a private-sector perspective, the DIB has demonstrated that adolescent health can be structured as a credible outcomes-based investment opportunity, rather than only a grant-funded social intervention. The 2025 report notes that the programme combined catalytic grant funding with private outcome investment and independent verification mechanisms. The Platform, in line with its mandate, engaged with potential outcome funders (philanthropies, private sector and traditional partners) on a third phase for the DIB to ensure its sustainability by anchoring it in Government and on a new kind of DIB around bringing mothers back to school. Although private sector stakeholders (philanthropies and CSR functions) and IFIs and DFIs see strong potential in the DIB as a model for mobilising additional co-investment and supporting public-sector integration in social sectors, it has proven to be more difficult than expected to mobilise additional resources for the DIB in 2025. The DIB helped create market confidence and a structured pipeline for future participation by private and philanthropic actors. The programme demonstrated the viability of outcomes-based financing for ASRH and HIV services across ten counties, introducing accountability mechanisms linking service delivery, real-time data, independent verification and performance-based payments. It also strengthened governance, institutional capacity and data systems to support future scale-up within Kenya's UHC framework.

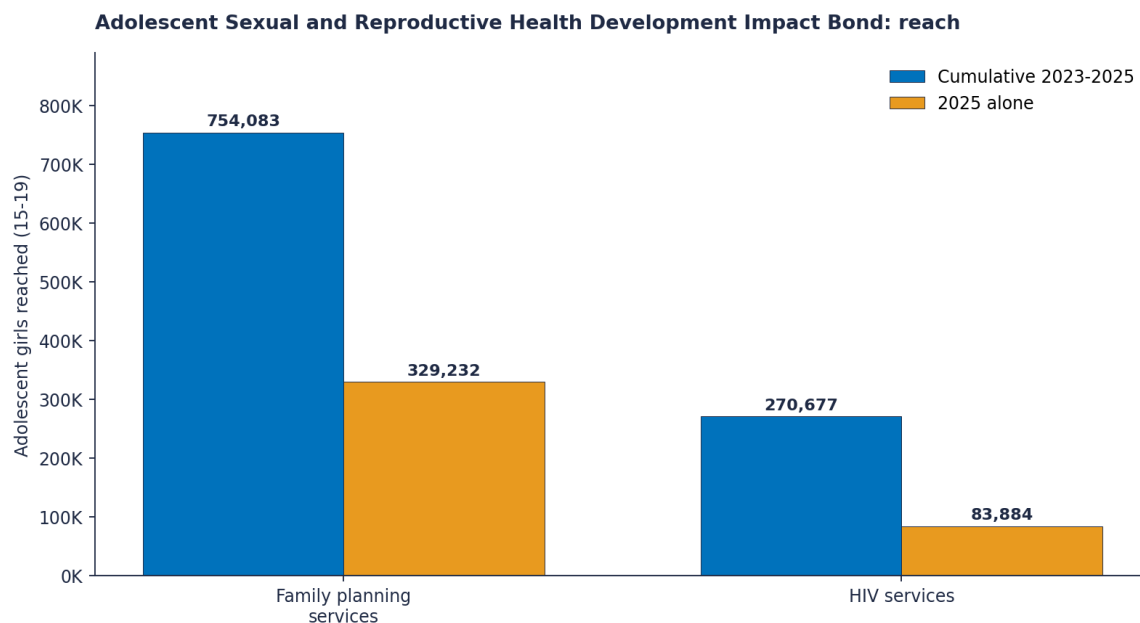


Figure: Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Development Impact Bond, reach

Implementation results include strengthened county ownership in programme oversight, over 350 public and private facilities delivering adolescent-friendly services and more than 600 healthcare workers trained in ART, HIV prevention and treatment and national testing protocols. Private health facilities played a substantial role in programme delivery, with more than 270 facilities contributing nearly 75 per cent of contraceptive services and over half of HIV services under the DIB. This demonstrated the model's ability to align public and private actors under a common framework for performance, independent verification and quality assurance, providing a strong basis for future scale and expanded partnership engagement. System strengthening was further supported through onboarding toolkits, training-of-trainers models, digitised learning modules and standard operating procedures for counselling, confidentiality and ethical claims processing.

The programme contributed to national policy and regulatory processes, including revision of the National Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy (2025), consultations on the inclusion of ASRH and HIV services within the SHA benefits package and updates to HIV Integrated Treatment Guidelines, including rollout planning for long-acting injectable PrEP.

These efforts translated into tangible outcomes for vulnerable adolescents. In 2025 alone, 329,232 girls aged 15 to 19 accessed family planning services and 83,884 accessed HIV services. Cumulatively, between 2023 and 2025, the programme reached 754,083 girls with family planning services and 270,677 with HIV services, surpassing initial targets and demonstrating the effectiveness of results-based financing, integrated service delivery and partnership-driven implementation. The Primary Healthcare Accelerator Window has positioned the SDG Partnership Platform as both a strategic policy

and coordination partner to the Government and as a catalyst for well-financed models that link primary healthcare reform, adolescent health, service quality and domestic systems strengthening, advancing progress on SDG 3 and SDG 17 in Kenya.

754,083

girls aged 15 to 19 reached with family planning services through the ASRH DIB, cumulatively from 2023 to 2025

3.4.3 UN Kenya Strengthened Coordination in ASALs to Deliver the SDGs and Enhanced Capacity of County Governments (the UN at Devolved Level Programme)

The UN at Devolved Level Programme continued to strengthen the UN's presence and operational effectiveness in Kenya's ASAL counties of Marsabit, Garissa and Turkana. The programme advanced governance systems, enhanced coordination platforms, improved policy coherence and promoted inclusive development for marginalised groups. Building on its 2024 foundations, the programme transitioned from initial establishment to full institutionalisation, embedding coordination mechanisms within county systems. Turkana County allocated a dedicated coordination budget in its FY 2025/2026 budget, while Marsabit and Garissa co-financed coordination functions, marking a critical shift toward sustainability, local ownership and county-led development coordination.

Strengthened county-level coordination, planning and oversight enabled evidence-based decision-making, functional inter-sectoral collaboration and effective food and nutrition security assessments across all three counties. Development partners were systematically integrated into county planning and budgeting processes, including, for the first time, alignment of externally funded interventions with Turkana's FY 2026/27 Annual Development Plan (ADP). These efforts enhanced fiscal transparency, accountability and alignment with CIDP priorities, while reducing duplication, lowering transaction costs and improving resource allocation through joint planning and coordinated responses.

The programme strengthened technical capacity for inclusive social protection and Leave No One Behind (LNOB) groups. In Marsabit, 45 officers were trained on the Social Protection Integrated Operational Manual and 25 officers on disability assessment standards, leading to the registration of 631 persons with disabilities and improved access to services. In Turkana, 52 community leaders and gender champions were trained on gender-transformative programming, ensuring the integration of gender and inclusion across governance and coordination systems.

Women's leadership and participation in governance were strengthened through the Turkana County Assembly Women's Caucus and the Bunge Mashinani initiative, enabling over 40 women leaders to advance gender and SGBV policies and laying the foundation for more inclusive and accountable governance.

The programme also drove significant policy and legislative progress. In Marsabit, four key policies and amendments, including Water, Natural Resource Management and Climate Change frameworks, were advanced. In Garissa, the Resource Mobilisation and Development Partners Coordination Policy was developed and launched, while in Turkana, technical support was provided across multiple sectors, including agriculture, gender, fisheries and partnerships coordination. These efforts strengthened policy coherence and alignment with national frameworks such as Vision 2030 and MTP IV.

Refugee inclusion was further institutionalised through legislative amendments in Turkana and structured host-refugee dialogue platforms in Turkana and Garissa, promoting inclusive and participatory governance. The programme advanced peacebuilding, social cohesion and resilience by strengthening community-led peace structures, youth and women leadership and early warning systems, particularly in Marsabit. Engagement in IGAD-led multi-hazard early warning platforms enhanced cross-border coordination along the Kenya-Ethiopia border.

Climate resilience and disaster risk governance were strengthened through technical support to DRM systems, cross-border early warning engagement and climate-resilient agroecology planning. Coordinated drought response and integration of climate risk into county policies supported a shift toward anticipatory and adaptive development planning.

The programme reinforced the UN Delivering as One approach through strengthened coordination, including joint planning, harmonised programming and joint monitoring missions, reducing duplication, strengthening accountability and promoting a unified UN presence. Improved coordination and communication between counties, UN agencies and partners enhanced information flow, resource alignment and responsiveness to emerging needs.

The 2025 results at devolved level by strengthened UN coordination demonstrate that strengthening systems at county level, rather than delivering stand-alone fragmented interventions, drives sustainable, scalable and inclusive impact. Counties are now better equipped to coordinate UN entities and development actors, allocate resources strategically and respond to complex challenges. These achievements contribute directly to county development plans, the Cooperation Framework, national priorities and the advancement of SDGs 5, 10, 13, 16 and 17.

3.4.4 UN Kenya Enhanced Capacity to Deliver a Gender-Responsive Cooperation Framework through Joint Actions and Pooled Funding (UN Women lead)

This initiative aims to strengthen the UN system's capacity to deliver a gender-responsive Cooperation Framework in Kenya by supporting all joint programmes through a dedicated Gender Mainstreaming Specialist. It has significantly enhanced gender integration across UN planning, evaluation and implementation, aligning Cooperation Framework evaluation Terms of Reference with UNCT-SWAP indicators, delivering 10 capacity-building sessions on GEWE and PSEA and strengthening gender

responsiveness across 16 joint programmes, all of which met Year One Gender Equality Marker requirements.

Gender coordination was further reinforced through sustained engagement with UN and national platforms, including the Gender Theme Group, Development Partners Gender Group (DPGG) and the African Women Leaders Network (AWLN). In parallel, the initiative strengthened capacity for gender-responsive monitoring, evaluation and reporting within the Cooperation Framework and supported the UN Human Resources Working Group in operationalising the UN Gender Parity Strategy, contributing to progress toward gender-balanced staffing across the UN Country Team.

Although the United States is not a direct donor to the SDG MPTF Kenya, the withdrawal of US funding has nonetheless affected programme implementation. This is due to its impact on parallel and complementary initiatives, resulting in constrained staffing capacities and reduced synergies across key programme areas with partners previously supported through US Government funding. Delays in onboarding the Gender Mainstreaming Specialist, coupled with the expansion of joint programmes, also posed coordination challenges. These were mitigated through expedited recruitment processes and strengthened joint capacity-building on gender mainstreaming.

Key lessons underscore the importance of sustained donor investment in gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE), early integration of gender considerations in programme design and proactive engagement with national and county governments to strengthen ownership and sustainability.

UN Women will focus on strengthening gender-informed UN system planning, deepening UN Country Team accountability, enhancing gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation, improving coordination and capacity across joint programmes and scaling advocacy and participation initiatives that advance gender equality and women's empowerment.

4. The catalytic nature of programming under the Fund

Systemic change, innovation, agile response and results at scale

The joint programmes have catalysed systemic changes, driven innovation, ensured agile response to emerging challenges and opportunities and delivered results at scale. The figure below sets out how the Fund converts pooled funding into system-level results.

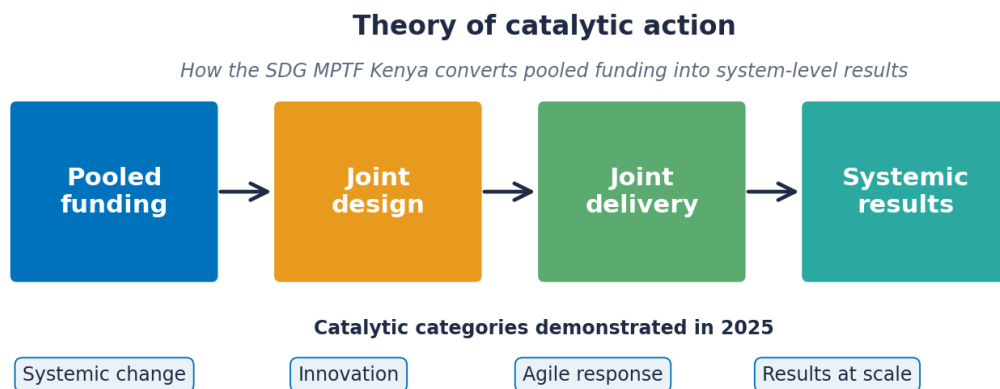


Figure: Theory of catalytic action under the SDG MPTF Kenya

4.1 Systemic change

Social and Child Protection Joint Programme. With the support of joint UN Kenya action and resources from the Fund provided by Sweden, the Inua Jamii social cash transfer programme increased 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. This still represents only about 15 per cent of the 11 million children in multidimensional poverty.

<h1>1.7 M</h1>	households reached through the Inua Jamii social cash transfer programme, the first major expansion in over a decade
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Innovation

The Fund has supported innovative approaches to development financing and programming. One example is the Development Impact Bond on Sexual and Reproductive Health for adolescent girls, which 41010 The DIB was developed as a joint UN initiative in Kenya, facilitated by the SDG MPTF Kenya Secretariat and helped unlock additional pooled financing from the global Joint SDG Fund.

A second example is the 2024 Gender Transformation Competition, supported by Canada through the Fund. This initiative incentivised all the 20-plus UN joint programmes to review their respective joint programmes to advance gender equality further. The two joint programmes that demonstrated the most potential impact for gender equality were rewarded. As a positive side effect, all other joint programmes that entered the competition also improved their gender focus. Part of the contribution was awarded to the Youth Joint Programme, while another portion enabled the establishment of an innovative financing mechanism and guarantee scheme for women farmers within the blue economy, under the Joint Programme on Circular Economy.

4.2 Agile response to emerging challenges and opportunities

During the Gen Z protests, support provided through the Fund by Norway and Canada enabled UN Kenya entities, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, to establish the zKe initiative to institutionalise youth engagement in democratic governance. The initiative empowers young people by creating structured pathways for crowdsourcing citizen-generated policy input into national policy and decision-making processes. The zKe initiative combines digital innovation with grassroots civic engagement, leveraging platforms such as WhatsApp bots, Polis, Talk to the City and social media channels (X, Facebook, TikTok and Instagram) to broaden youth participation and dialogue. This agile response illustrates the value of pooled funding in enabling the UN system to respond quickly to emerging national priorities, supporting inclusive governance and strengthening youth participation in public policy processes.

4.3 Results at scale

The Water Joint Programme involves more than ten UN entities joining forces with national and devolved government and the private sector. Over its five years it will substantially strengthen systemic water management in the ASALs and scale up nature-based solutions such as sand dams. Sweden provided an unearmarked grant to the Fund and, of that, USD 1.2 million was used to unlock a USD 20 million grant under the global Climate Adaptation Fund, critical resources for Kenya's future capacity to meet water management needs in the context of the climate crisis.

5. Issues and challenges

Constraints to the scale and sustainability of joint programming

Despite significant progress, the implementation of the SDG MPTF Kenya continues to face a number of structural and operational challenges that constrain the scale, sustainability and catalytic potential of joint programming.

5.1 Limited access to flexible funding

While the Fund has proven its catalytic value, the availability of pooled, flexible financing remains insufficient relative to the growing pipeline of high-impact joint programmes. Short-term and fragmented funding cycles limit the ability to move from pilot initiatives to sustained, system-level transformation, particularly in sectors such as climate resilience, water security and inclusive economic development that require multi-year investments. To mitigate this risk, some of the programmes such as the Water Joint Programme are using the Fund's resources to attract additional funding from the Green Climate Fund.

5.2 Constraints in county-level institutional capacity

Devolution remains central to Kenya's development architecture; however, disparities in institutional capacity, technical expertise and fiscal space across counties continue to affect programme implementation and scale-up. Limited capacity to integrate complex interventions, such as climate finance, circular economy models and resilience programming, into county systems risks slowing progress and creating uneven results. To mitigate this risk, the SDG MPTF Kenya is strengthening county-level institutional capacities through the UN at Devolved Level Programme by embedding technical expertise, supporting integrated planning and budgeting processes and enhancing coordination platforms such as County Steering Groups. The Fund is leveraging pooled financing to incentivise joint programming, facilitate access to climate and development finance and promote peer learning and knowledge exchange across counties, thereby enabling more coherent and sustainable implementation of integrated interventions.

5.3 Breaking new ground takes time, mobilisation of private sector investment

Many of the Fund's programmes, particularly under the Planet and Prosperity Window, are designed to unlock market-driven solutions. However, it takes time and the private sector needs further close support to unpack and mitigate perceived risks and weak enabling environments. Continued availability of tailored de-risking instruments is important. Bridging this gap requires close attention by UN Kenya,

facilitated by the experts in the Fund Secretariat, to create stronger financial structuring, blended finance mechanisms and clearer investment pipelines.

5.4 Data and evidence gaps for emerging sectors

The lack of access to robust, disaggregated national data, particularly in emerging areas such as the green and blue economies, limits effective monitoring, adaptive management and the development of strong investment cases. While initiatives such as Natural Capital Accounting are helping address national-level gaps, further alignment between programme-level metrics and national systems is needed to support evidence-based decision-making and scale. To address this, the SDG MPTF Kenya is strengthening alignment between programme and national data systems, investing in digital and real-time data tools, building institutional capacity and using innovative data partnerships to improve evidence-based planning and scale.

5.5 External financing and global funding shifts

Reductions in Official Development Assistance (ODA) and the withdrawal of key funding partners have increased pressure on programme delivery and UN agency capacities all over the world, including in Kenya. This risk is being mitigated by diversifying funding sources, strengthening partnerships with development finance institutions and the private sector, promoting innovative financing mechanisms and supporting domestic resource mobilisation. The pooled funding model helps sustain delivery by leveraging additional resources and improving efficiency.

5.6 Operational and coordination complexities of joint UN action

While joint programmes and UN joint action remain a key strength of the Fund, jointness requires significant coordination from a neutral platform, namely the Fund Secretariat, across multiple UN entities, government counterparts and partners. The Secretariat continues to support joint delivery of interventions despite the different agencies' operational pathways. Two strands of recommendations come out of this. The first is the urgent need for a consolidated governance system for all UN entities in the UN Development System (Secretariat agencies, funds, programmes, specialised agencies). This new joint system needs to include one set of rules and regulations; one shared platform for design, implementation and results reporting; one system for back-office functions. This learning fits well in the UN at 80 deliberations to look at the nuts and bolts of running a joint UN Development System, looking beyond merging mandates. The second learning is that the MPTF Kenya Secretariat going forward has to budget enough resources and attention not only to the design and co-creation of joint initiatives, but also to carry the burden of facilitating coordination for the joint programmes more under the leadership of the joint programme lead.

Addressing these challenges will require a Fund Secretariat with sustained resources to help the UN entities use pooled funding, strengthen government systems, enhance private sector engagement and continue innovation in financing and delivery models.

6. Conclusion

Looking ahead and an invitation to partners

In 2025, the SDG Multi-Partner Trust Fund Kenya demonstrated the value of pooled funding in enabling coordinated, system-wide UN support to national development priorities. By advancing integrated programming across governance, resilience, climate action, social protection and economic inclusion, the Fund has delivered tangible results while strengthening national and county systems and reinforcing the UN Delivering as One approach.

The Fund's catalytic model has driven impact at scale, expanding social protection coverage, mobilising climate finance, advancing innovative financing mechanisms such as the ASRH Development Impact Bond and strengthening youth engagement through digital and community platforms. It has fostered stronger government ownership and multi-stakeholder collaboration, including with the private sector, positioning the UN as a platform for delivering integrated, investment-ready solutions.

Challenges remain, including sometimes cumbersome coordination between UN entities under a joint programme, shrinking pooled funding allocations by key development partners, sub-national capacity constraints and the need to unlock greater private sector investment. Still, the SDG MPTF Kenya has, in its foundational years, laid a strong foundation for impact at scale and over time.

Joint funding is an effective vehicle to drive the UN to deliver as one. The Annual Reports for the Fund, as well as the Annual Results Reports of the Cooperation Framework, both include and highlight results achieved with pooled funding under the SDG MPTF Kenya. As a sidenote, the UN Kenya Annual Results Report 2024 won the internal DCO Oscars for best annual report in Africa. UN Kenya has systematically used the SDG MPTF Kenya to create joint UN action with pooled funding and has thereby catalysed systemic change, driven innovation, enabled agile response to emerging challenges and opportunities and delivered results at larger scale than was possible through individual UN entity programming.

Looking ahead, the SDG MPTF Kenya is well positioned to deepen its catalytic role further by mobilising additional resources, strengthening partnerships and scaling proven models. To sustain and accelerate this momentum, increased and predictable donor investment in pooled funding to joint UN programmes is essential. Such support will enable UN Kenya, through the Fund and the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, to support system-wide change in Kenya, unlock additional public and private financing and deliver measurable, large-scale impact across priority sectors.

“We invite partners to continue and expand their engagement with the SDG MPTF Kenya, leveraging it as a strategic vehicle for investments through the UN to drive innovation, scale solutions and accelerate Kenya's progress toward the 2030 Agenda.”

7. Consolidated annual financial report of the administrative agent

SDG Multi-Partner Trust Fund Kenya

for the period 13 September 2017 to 31
December 2025

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

May 2026



7.1 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 Steering Committee.

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.

Contribution Agreement

Standard Administrative Arrangement (SAA) 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 reported by all Participating Organizations for a Fund reported to the AA.

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.

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.

7.2 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 2025 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>).

7.3 2025 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 2025. 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 2025, 10 contributors deposited US\$ 32,300,381 and US\$ 563,136 was earned in interest.

The cumulative source of funds was US\$ 32,863,517.

Of this amount, US\$ 26,247,727 has been net funded to 16 Participating Organizations, of which US\$ 15,934,291 has been reported as expenditure. The Administrative Agent fee has been charged at the approved rate of 1% on deposits and amounts to US\$ 323,004. Table 1 provides an overview of the overall sources, uses, and balance of the SDG Multi-Partner Trust Fund Kenya as of 31 December 2025.

Table 7.3 Financial overview, as of 31 December 2025 (in US Dollars)

	Prior Years up to 31 Dec 2024	Financial Year Jan-Dec 2025	Total
Sources of Funds			
Contributions from donors	24,406,552	7,893,829	32,300,381
Sub-total Contributions	24,406,552	7,893,829	32,300,381
Fund Interest and Investment Income Earned	249,495	310,861	560,356
Interest Income received from Participating organizations	2,780	-	2,780
Total: Sources of Funds	24,658,827	8,204,690	32,863,517
Use of Funds			
Transfers to Participating Organizations	13,496,882	9,870,425	23,367,307
Transfers to Participating Organizations for Direct Cost - Fund Secretariat etc.	2,881,712	-	2,881,712
Sub-Total Transfers	16,378,594	9,870,425	26,249,019
Refunds received from Participating Organizations	(1,292)	-	(1,292)
Sub-Total Refunds	(1,292)	-	(1,292)
Administrative Agent Fees	244,066	78,938	323,004
Bank Charges	253	170	423
Total: Uses of Funds	16,621,620	9,949,533	26,571,153
Change in Fund cash balance with Administrative Agent	8,037,207	(1,744,843)	6,292,364
Opening Fund balance (1 January)	3,029,009	8,037,207	-
Closing Fund balance (31 December)	8,037,207	6,292,364	6,292,364
Net Funded Amount (Includes Direct Cost)	16,377,302	9,870,425	26,247,727
Participating Organizations Expenditure (Includes Direct Cost)	8,919,133	7,015,158	15,934,291
Balance of Funds with Participating Organizations	7,458,169	2,855,267	10,313,436

7.4 Partner contributions

Table 2 provides information on cumulative contributions received from all contributors to this fund as of 31 December 2025.

The **SDG Multi-Partner Trust Fund Kenya** is currently being funded 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 2025 and deposits received by the same date. It does not include commitments that were made to the fund beyond 2025.

Table 7.4.. Contributions, as of 31 December 2025 (in US Dollars)

Contributors	Total Commitments	Total Deposits
AstraZeneca	500,000	500,000
Conrad Hilton Foundation	500,000	500,000
Government of Canada	4,340,546	4,340,546
Government of Netherlands	590,658	590,658
Government of Norway	6,458,705	6,458,705
Government of Switzerland	666,666	499,998
Koninklijke Philips	750,000	750,000
Merck & Co.	200,000	200,000
Rockefeller Foundation	200,000	200,000
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)	18,260,473	18,260,473
Grand Total	32,467,049	32,300,381

7.5. 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 **2025**, Fund earned interest amounts to US\$ **560,356**.

Interest received from Participating Organizations amounts to US\$ **2,780**, bringing the cumulative interest received to US\$ **563,136**. Details are provided in the table below.

Table 7.5. Sources of interest and investment income, as of 31 December 2025 (in US Dollars)

Interest Earned	Prior Years up to 31-Dec-2024	Financial Year Jan-Dec-2025	Total
Administrative Agent			
Fund Interest and Investment Income Earned	249,495	310,861	560,356
Total: Fund Interest Earned	249,495	310,861	560,356
Participating Organization			
FAO	2,780	-	2,780
Total: Agency Interest Earned	2,780	-	2,780
Grand Total	252,275	310,861	563,136

7.6. Transfer of funds

Allocations to Participating Organizations are approved by the Steering Committee and disbursed by the Administrative Agent. As of 31 December **2025**, the AA has transferred US\$ **26,249,019** to **16** 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 7.6. Transfer, refund, and net funded amount to Participating Organization (in US Dollars)

Participating Organization	Prior Years up to 31-Dec-2024			Financial Year Jan-Dec-2025			Total		
	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded
FAO	1,244,363	(396)	1,243,967	1,521,244	-	1,521,244	2,765,607	(396)	2,765,211
ILO	362,364	-	362,364	238,474	-	238,474	600,838	-	600,838
IOM	127,188	-	127,188	500,000	-	500,000	627,188	-	627,188
OHCHR	268,002	-	268,002	-	-	-	268,002	-	268,002
UNAIDS	100,000	(896)	99,104	-	-	-	100,000	(896)	99,104
UNDP	7,069,411	-	7,069,411	2,479,168	-	2,479,168	9,548,579	-	9,548,579
UNEP	-	-	-	215,400	-	215,400	215,400	-	215,400
UNESCO	181,900	-	181,900	-	-	-	181,900	-	181,900
UNFPA	1,225,599	-	1,225,599	-	-	-	1,225,599	-	1,225,599
UNHCR	257,845	-	257,845	-	-	-	257,845	-	257,845
UNICEF	3,191,472	-	3,191,472	2,037,654	-	2,037,654	5,229,126	-	5,229,126
UNIDO	328,228	-	328,228	621,042	-	621,042	949,270	-	949,270
UNON	-	-	-	100,000	-	100,000	100,000	-	100,000
UNOPS	-	-	-	99,000	-	99,000	99,000	-	99,000
UNWOMEN	503,233	-	503,233	737,258	-	737,258	1,240,491	-	1,240,491
WFP	1,518,989	-	1,518,989	1,321,184	-	1,321,184	2,840,173	-	2,840,173
Grand	16,378,594	(1,292)	16,377,302	9,870,425	-	9,870,425	26,249,019	(1,292)	26,247,727

7.7. 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 **2025** expenditure data has been posted on the MPTF Office GATEWAY at <https://mptf.undp.org/fund/ken00>.

7.7.1 Expenditure reported by Participating Organization

In 2025, US\$ 9,870,425 was net funded to Participating Organizations, and US\$ 7,015,158 was reported in expenditure.

As shown in the table below, the cumulative net funded amount is US\$ 26,247,727 and cumulative expenditures reported by the Participating Organizations amount to US\$ 15,934,291. This equates to an overall Fund expenditure delivery rate of 60.71 percent.

Table 7.1 Net funded amount and reported expenditures by Participating Organization, as of 31 December 2025 (in US Dollars)

Participating Organization	Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure			Delivery Rate %
			Prior Years up to 31-Dec-2024	Financial Year Jan-Dec-2025	Cumulative	
FAO	3,984,086	2,765,211	352,905	1,046,505	1,399,411	50.61
ILO	849,235	600,838	-	176,431	176,431	29.36
IOM	627,188	627,188	15,252	151,689	166,941	26.62
OHCHR	268,002	268,002	-	268,002	268,002	100.00
UNAIDS	100,000	99,104	99,104	-	99,104	100.00
UNDP	11,004,961	9,548,579	4,629,875	2,354,258	6,984,133	73.14
UNEP	550,000	215,400	-	18,823	18,823	8.74
UNESCO	509,320	181,900	-	47,861	47,861	26.31
UNFPA	2,804,357	1,225,599	864,813	98,644	963,457	78.61
UNHCR	257,845	257,845	21,842	236,003	257,845	100.00
UNICEF	5,488,223	5,229,126	2,253,040	843,635	3,096,675	59.22
UNIDO	1,677,228	949,270	46,476	320,042	366,518	38.61
UNON	100,000	100,000	-	-	-	-
UNOPS	4,000,000	99,000	-	-	-	-
UNWOMEN	2,265,746	1,240,491	32,922	335,812	368,733	29.72
WFP	3,017,023	2,840,173	602,906	1,117,453	1,720,359	60.57
Grand Total	37,503,215	26,247,727	8,919,133	7,015,158	15,934,291	60.71

7.7.2. 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.

Table 7.7.2. Expenditure by UNSDG budget category, as of 31 December 2025 (in US Dollars)

Category	Expenditures			Percentage of Total Programme Cost
	Prior Years up to 31-Dec-2024	Financial Year Jan-Dec-2025	Total	
Staff & Personnel Cost	2,505,975	2,501,263	5,007,238	33.73
Supplies, commodities and materials	104,959	303,383	408,342	2.75
Equipment, vehicles, furniture and depreciation	503,044	75,620	578,664	3.90
Contractual Services Expenses	1,465,991	1,306,883	2,772,874	18.68
Travel	663,498	679,615	1,343,113	9.05
Transfers and Grants	1,589,632	445,338	2,034,971	13.71
General Operating	1,476,437	1,224,862	2,701,299	18.19
Programme Costs Total	8,309,537	6,536,964	14,846,501	100.00
¹ Indirect Support Costs Total	609,596	478,193	1,087,790	7.33
Grand Total	8,919,133	7,015,158	15,934,291	-

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%.

7.8. 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 2025, 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 2025, US\$ **323,004** 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%¹ 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\$ **478,193** was deducted in indirect costs by Participating Organizations. Cumulatively, indirect costs amount to US\$ **1,087,790** as of 31 December **2025**.

7.9. 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.

¹ WFP and UNHCR's indirect support costs are 6.5% per their respective governance body decisions.

7.10. 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 2025, 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-2024	Financial Year Jan-Dec-2025	Cumulative	
UNDP	2,881,712	2,881,712	1,891,582	709,511	2,601,093	90.26
Grand Total	2,881,712	2,881,712	1,891,582	709,511	2,601,093	90.26

Annex 1. Expenditure by project grouped by window

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

Annex: Expenditure by Project within Window

Window / Project No. and Project Title	Participating Organization	Project Status ²	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %	
TW1 SDG 3 Cluster PHC							
00108117	SDG3 Primary Healthcare Accele	UNDP	Project Closed	312,102	312,102	309,608	99.20
00115127	Implementation of the SDG Part	UNAIDS	Project Closed	100,000	99,104	99,104	100.00
00115127	Implementation of the SDG Part	UNFPA	Project Closed	883,320	974,149	909,718	93.39
TW1 SDG 3 Cluster PHC: Total			1,295,422	1,385,355	1,318,429	95.17	

Window / Project No. and Project Title	Participating Organization	Project Status ²	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %	
Enabling Support to the SDG PP							
00108116	Establishing and operationaliz	UNDP	Project Closed	1,129,000	1,030,000	1,026,548	99.66
00115127	Implementation of the SDG Part	UNFPA	Project Closed	90,829	-	-	-
00141261	SDGPP Coordination and Private	UNOPS	On Going	4,000,000	99,000	-	-
Enabling Support to the SDG PP: Total			5,219,829	1,129,000	1,026,548	90.93	

Window / Project No. and Project Title	Participating Organization	Project Status ²	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %	
TW2 SDG2 Cluster FSN							
00125404	Inception of the SDG Partnersh	FAO	Project Closed	139,000	138,604	138,604	100.00
00125404	Inception of the SDG Partnersh	UNDP	Project Closed	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 ²	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %	
People and Peace							
00140512	Integrated social protection	UNICEF	Project Closed	1,179,391	1,179,391	1,173,567	99.51

² Project closed refers to a project whose end date has passed but has not yet completed the operational closure.

00140512	Integrated social protection	WFP	Project Closed	589,696	589,696	589,696	100.00
00140851	Integrating Peacebuilding and	OHCHR	Project Closed	268,002	268,002	268,002	100.00
00140851	Integrating Peacebuilding and	UNDP	Project Closed	799,913	799,913	634,724	79.35
00140851	Integrating Peacebuilding and	UNHCR	Project Closed	257,845	257,845	257,845	100.00
00140851	Integrating Peacebuilding and	WFP	Project Closed	272,819	272,819	272,819	100.00
00140909	UN Joint Program on Youth	FAO	On Going	305,249	123,050	65,669	53.37
00140909	UN Joint Program on Youth	ILO	On Going	376,797	128,400	25,155	19.59
00140909	UN Joint Program on Youth	UNDP	On Going	440,470	176,550	108,200	61.29
00140909	UN Joint Program on Youth	UNESCO	On Going	509,320	181,900	47,861	26.31
00140909	UN Joint Program on Youth	UNFPA	On Going	509,320	251,450	53,739	21.37
00140909	UN Joint Program on Youth	UNICEF	On Going	376,797	117,700	39,791	33.81
00140909	UN Joint Program on Youth	UNWOMEN	On Going	376,797	169,353	75,944	44.84
00140909	UN Joint Program on Youth	WFP	On Going	305,250	128,400	-	-
00140943	Child protection	FAO	On Going	472,438	472,438	189,232	40.05
00140943	Child protection	ILO	On Going	472,438	472,438	151,276	32.02
00140943	Child protection	UNICEF	On Going	1,697,340	1,697,340	633,564	37.33
00140943	Child protection	WFP	On Going	1,124,258	1,124,258	757,989	67.42
00140992	Advancing Inclusive Governance	UNDP	Project Closed	278,804	278,804	177,301	63.59
00141213	Joint Devolution Programme for	UNDP	On Going	427,989	427,989	10,868	2.54
00141213	Joint Devolution Programme for	UNICEF	On Going	398,505	398,505	45,425	11.40
00141213	Joint Devolution Programme for	UNWOMEN	On Going	398,505	398,505	59,275	14.87
00141317	Strengthening Kenya's Peacebuilding	UNDP	On Going	951,686	513,065	-	-
00141418	Funding for UNDSS Liaison Office	UNON	On Going	100,000	100,000	-	-
People and Peace: Total				12,889,629	10,527,811	5,637,942	53.55

Window / Project No. and Project Title	Participating Organization	Project Status ²	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %	
Prosperity and Planet							
00140116	Drought Response build resilience	UNDP	Project Closed	853,286	853,286	842,253	98.71
00140116	Drought Response build resilience	UNICEF	Project Closed	1,111,190	1,111,190	1,111,227	100.00
00140711	Joint Programme on Sustainable	FAO	Project Closed	871,399	871,399	870,521	99.90
00140711	Joint Programme on Sustainable	IOM	Project Closed	127,188	127,188	127,188	100.00

00140711	Joint Programme on Sustainable	UNIDO	Project Closed	328,228	328,228	327,372	99.74
00141047	Enabling Gender	FAO	On Going	1,196,000	424,320	110,649	26.08
00141047	Enabling Gender	UNEP	On Going	550,000	215,400	18,823	8.74
00141047	Enabling Gender	UNIDO	On Going	624,000	298,330	39,146	13.12
00141047	Enabling Gender	UNWOMEN	On Going	830,000	338,753	96,212	28.40
00141214	Sustainable Water in ASAL Keny	IOM	On Going	500,000	500,000	39,752	7.95
00141214	Sustainable Water in ASAL Keny	UNICEF	On Going	725,000	725,000	93,102	12.84
00141230	Protective and Productive Safe	FAO	On Going	500,000	500,000	24,686	4.94
00141230	Protective and Productive Safe	WFP	On Going	725,000	725,000	99,855	13.77
00141310	Inclusive and Sustainable Coff	FAO	On Going	500,000	235,400	49	0.02
00141310	Inclusive and Sustainable Coff	UNIDO	On Going	725,000	322,712	-	-
Prosperity and Planet: Total				10,166,291	7,576,206	3,800,835	50.17

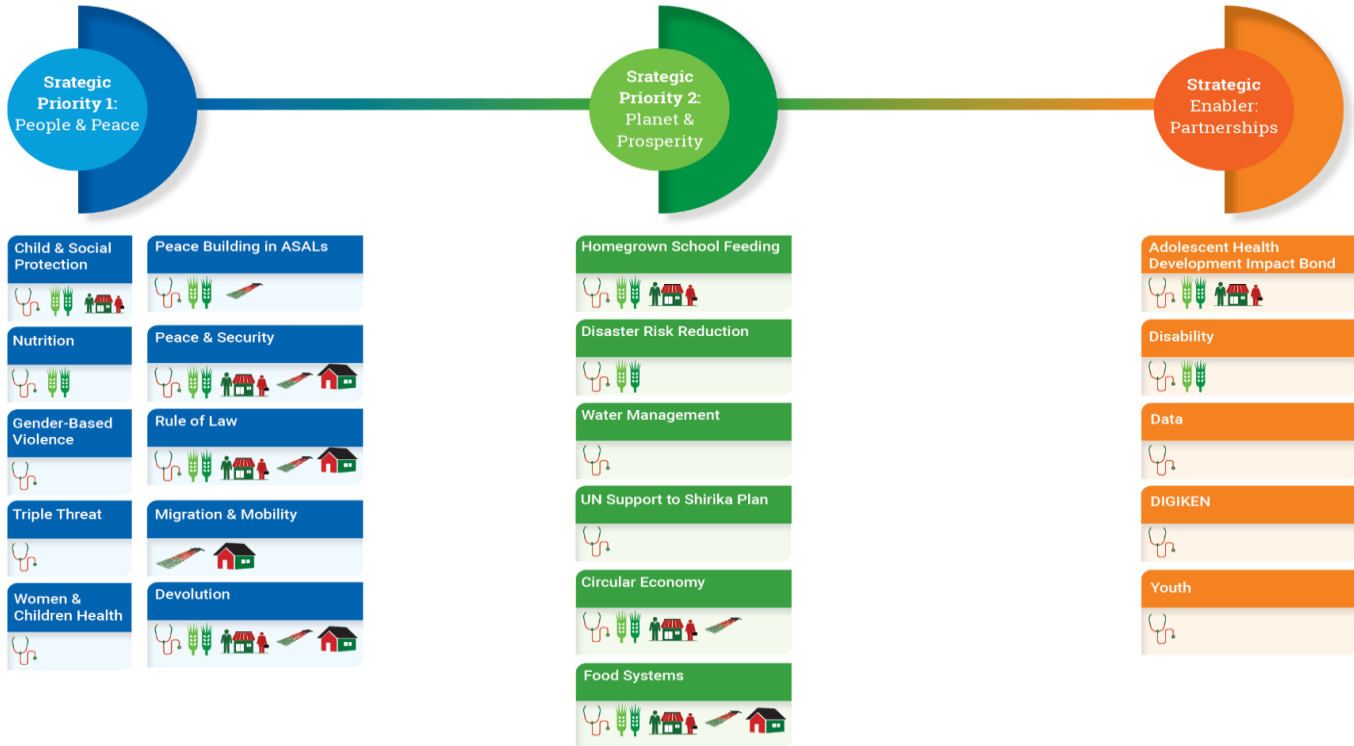
Window / Project No. and Project Title	Participating Organization	Project Status ²	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %	
Strategic Enabler-Partnerships							
00140096	UN Kenya Deepened Presence in	UNDP	On Going	2,871,000	2,216,159	1,214,560	54.80
00140910	UN Kenya Enhanced	UNFPA	On Going	1,320,888	-	-	-
00140910	UN Kenya Enhanced	UNWOMEN	On Going	660,444	333,880	137,302	41.12
Strategic Enabler-Partnerships: Total				4,852,332	2,550,039	1,351,862	53.01

Window / Project No. and Project Title	Participating Organization	Project Status ²	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	2,601,093	90.26
Direct Cost Enabler Window: Total				2,881,712	2,881,712	2,601,093	90.26

Grand Total				37,503,215	26,247,727	15,934,291	60.71
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Annex 2. UNSDCF Joint Programmes

UNSDCF 2022-2027 Kenya new generation UN joint programmes



Annex 3. Cooperation Framework programmes funded by the SDG MPTF Kenya

The table below sets out the joint programmes funded by the SDG MPTF Kenya during the reporting period, with the overall joint programme budget, available resources for 2025 (UNINFO reporting December 2025), the MPTF catalytic funding and current implementation status.

Joint programme	Overall JP budget (USD)	Available resources 2025 (USD)	MPTF catalytic funding (USD)	Status
Peacebuilding in Refugee Management	1,598,578	—	1,598,578	Closed
Strengthening Kenya's Peacebuilding Architecture for Conflict Prevention in the Lead up to the 2027 General Elections	1,187,686	1,187,686	1,187,686	Implementation
Child Protection and Social Protection	49,361,000	2,909,285	1,769,087	Implementation
Sustainable Integrated Water Management	559,980,000	17,786,268	1,225,000	Implementation
Circular Economies	35,865,620	3,164,010	3,200,000	Implementation
Youth Civic Engagement, Skills Development and Employability	48,720,000	6,502,461	3,200,000	Implementation
Devolution	17,000,000	1,176,854	1,225,000	Implementation
Smart School Feeding	5,605,577	1,625,177	1,225,000	Implementation
Coffee Value Chain	1,225,000	1,225,000	1,225,000	Implementation
UNDSS Liaison Office Mandera	100,000	100,000	100,000	Implementation
Advancing Inclusive Governance: Empowering Youth Voices and Strengthening Democratic	278,804	278,804	278,804	Implementation

Joint programme	Overall JP budget (USD)	Available resources 2025 (USD)	MPTF catalytic funding (USD)	Status
Processes (Youth Joint Programme)				

MPTF catalytic funding by joint programme

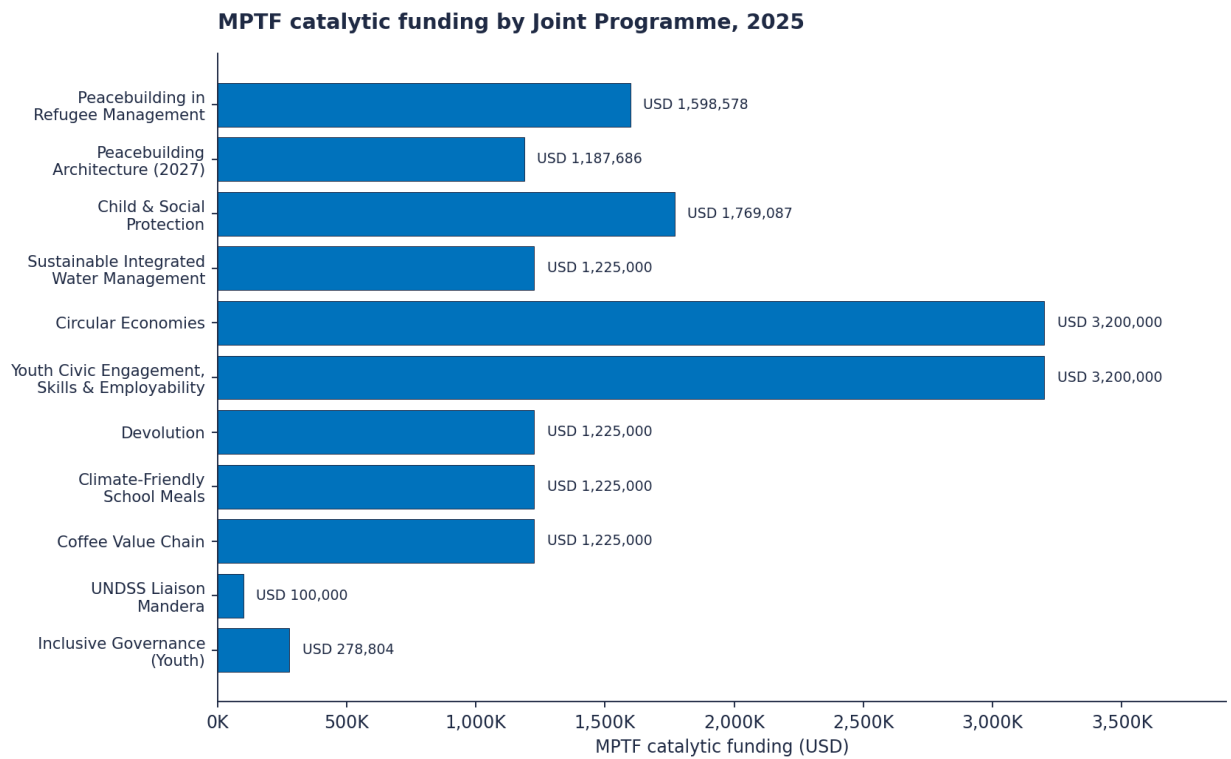


Figure: MPTF catalytic funding allocation by joint programme, 2025

Annex 4. Change stories from the field

The change stories below are reproduced from the source draft. They illustrate, in the words of those involved, what coordinated UN action through the SDG MPTF Kenya has meant on the ground.

Co-creating Skills and Jobs Outcome Fund for Kenya

Principal Secretary for Labour and Skills Development engages with UN and partners on Youth Skills and Job Outcome Fund. Nairobi, Kenya. The Principal Secretary for Labour and Skills Development, Eng. Shadrack Mwadime, convened a productive meeting with representatives from the UN Resident Coordinator's Office alongside delegates from UNFPA, the Education Outcomes Fund and the Healthy Brains Global Initiative. The focus of the discussion was the proposed Skills and Job Outcome Fund.

During the briefing, the Principal Secretary outlined a significant shift in the government's strategy, proposing direct engagement with young entrepreneurs as a primary approach, moving away from a sole reliance on non-governmental organisations. This initiative is designed to stimulate job creation, particularly within the context of the green energy transition, with a specific emphasis on supporting Kenya's expanding micro-industry sector.

A key theme of the discussion revolved around the concept of “retooling” rather than the traditional focus on “training.” This approach prioritises equipping young individuals with practical, market-ready skills that are immediately applicable. Principal Secretary Mwadime also highlighted access to finance as a persistent challenge for young entrepreneurs, urging the exploration of innovative solutions to support their ventures.

Now I walk with dignity: Mary Ataba's story of strength and new beginnings

In a small shop lined with neatly stacked utensils, Mary Ataba greets customers with a warm smile. From cooking pots to spoons, the items fill the shelves of the business she now proudly runs. The shop is modest, but for Mary it represents something far greater. Independence.

“My name is Mary Ataba. I am 57 years old,” she says. “I am a wife, a mother and a grandmother.”

At home, 14 people depend on her care. Four are her children, three are grandchildren and one is a child with a disability whom she adopted when the child's family could no longer care for him. Several relatives also live with them.

“As a mother, my responsibility is to ensure my children get their rights. Food, clothing and education,” Mary explains. “I want them to learn so they can become self-reliant when they grow up.”

For many years, providing for such a large family was a constant struggle. Mary woke before dawn each day to prepare mandazi, selling them twice daily to earn a small income. “There were times we went to bed hungry,” she recalls. “In 2021, life was especially hard. Two of my children were in high school and we could not raise the school fees.”

Mary also lives with a physical disability, which made moving around extremely difficult. “I could not walk easily because I did not have a crutch,” she says. “And I did not have a disability certificate. Without that certificate, I could not access support or apply for opportunities. I felt like I did not matter.”

In 2025, Mary was registered as a person with a disability through an initiative supported by the joint programme, implemented in partnership with the County Government and the National Council for Persons with Disabilities. Through the exercise, she received an official disability certificate and an assistive device that restored her mobility.

The initiative supported the registration of 400 persons with disabilities across Turkana, helping ensure they were visible within formal systems rather than relying on informal support. With official recognition, persons with disabilities can now be better targeted and integrated into county and national social protection programmes.

For many, including Mary, this recognition has begun translating into real opportunities. Groups formed by registered individuals have accessed government grants and livelihood support through county initiatives. Eleven individuals have received start-up capital for small businesses, while 23 have been enrolled in the Cash Transfer Programme for Persons with Severe Disabilities.

“With the certificate, I can now apply for bursaries for my children,” Mary explains. “I can access opportunities that were not possible before.”

Today, Mary's life looks very different. Her mandazi business gradually grew, eventually allowing her to open the small utensil shop she now runs. Income from the shop now helps her support her family and continue paying school fees for her children.

“My life has greatly changed,” she says. “Before, I felt like my life had no meaning. But now I can work, interact with people and speak up for my rights. The biggest change in my life was receiving the disability certificate. It opened many doors for me. And now I walk with dignity.”

Mary Ataba at her shop in Lodwar town.

“The biggest change in my life was receiving the disability certificate. It opened many doors for me. And now I walk with dignity.”

— Mary Ataba, Lodwar, Turkana

We finally feel seen: how a Social Protection Fair is transforming the lives of Changamwe's Jua Kali workers

On an ordinary morning in Changamwe, Mombasa, the hammering from worksites and the revving of boda bodas blend into a familiar rhythm. It is the sound of people working hard, people who build, fix, craft and keep the local economy alive. But behind this energy lies a quieter story: most of these workers have lived for years without access to social protection that others take for granted.

For Fredrick Otieno, the Chairman of the Changamwe Jua Kali Association, this has always been a painful reality. Every day, members approached him with worries such as hospital bills they could not manage, savings they could not access, workplace injuries they did not know how to report. Fredrick did his best to guide them, but the help they needed was often far away, locked behind confusing processes or long queues in distant offices.

When the Social Protection Fair came to Mombasa, supported by the UN Joint Programme through the ILO, something shifted. For the first time, the services that had always felt out of reach were right there in their neighbourhood.

The Changamwe social hall was alive with conversations, questions and relief. People who had been carrying silent frustrations for years suddenly had someone to talk to, someone who could help. “We are very happy to have these services brought closer to the people,” Fredrick said, watching his members flow from desk to desk. “So many of our Jua Kali people struggle to receive SHA and NSSF services. Today, that is changing.”

One moment stood out for Fredrick: learning about the NSSF Haba Haba savings product. It was designed for people just like him and his members, informal workers who earn little and whose income is not structured like that of salaried employees, but who still deserve dignity and security in their older years. “It was eye-opening,” he admitted. “Many of us never knew there was a way for informal workers to save a little at a time with NSSF. This will help our people plan for their futures.”

Throughout the two days, people walked in with worry and walked out lighter. A mother discovered why her children were missing from her health registration and finally had someone explain what to do. A young mechanic who had been turned away from a clinic got clarity on his SHA contributions. A carpenter with an old workplace injury learned where to report and how the Directorate of Occupational Safety and Health Services could help. These were not big, dramatic moments. They were small, life-changing ones.

By the end of the event, more than two hundred people had received answers, services and support. Many registered on the spot. Others received health screenings that caught issues they had ignored for years. The room buzzed not with complaints, but with relief, like a community exhaling together after holding its breath for too long.

Fredrick walked through the hall with quiet pride. He had always believed that the Jua Kali community deserved better. Now, he had seen what was possible when partners came together, listened and delivered.

Although partners were initially hesitant to join the fairs, believing their offices and digital platforms already offered adequate access, courtesy visits by the joint programme team and advocacy from the Federation of Kenya Employers (FKE) encouraged their participation. The fairs' success demonstrated the value of closer collaboration and synergies among social protection partners and the community, reinforcing a proven, sustainable approach: when services are taken directly to the people, rather than expecting people to seek them out, lives truly change.

For Fredrick, it reaffirmed his mission to keep advocating for his members. As he watched his community leave the hall smiling, others still clutching new forms of old age savings statements, he said softly: “We finally feel seen.”

Community members actively engage with service providers during the Social Protection Fair in Changamwe Social Hall, Mombasa, where social protection services such as NSSF and SHA were brought closer to workers in the informal economy. Other services included advisory on occupational safety and health, information on Micro Small and Medium Authority and provision of health and wellness checks in partnership with BOMU Hospital, making access easier, faster and more responsive to the needs of workers in the informal economy.

“We finally feel seen.”

— Fredrick Otieno, Chairman, Changamwe Jua Kali Association

Gender-transformative youth-led blended civic engagement

The Youth Joint Programme strengthened county-level youth advocacy by mentoring 10 local CBOs, enabling them to surface 30 governance issues and submit 20 formal correspondences that contributed to resolving key service-delivery challenges, including staffing of the Tupendane Dispensary, budgeting for the stalled Akadeli Dispensary, street-lighting repairs in three wards in Kisumu County and mobile ID and voter-registration drives in underserved neighbourhoods.

This grassroots work was complemented by national-level digital engagement led by Siasa Place, a CSO partner in the joint programme, which facilitated seven online conversations and three civic campaigns (#SiasaYaID, #MsomiMnyonge and #SiasaYaAfya) mobilising youth around identity documentation, education, health and governance concerns. Supported by 10 trained youth influencers and county-level social media administrators, these efforts expanded reach and enhanced local digital-advocacy capacity, particularly in low-connectivity settings such as Turkana and Isiolo. Collectively, the online platforms reached over 1.6 million people, engaged 36,967 participants in campaign discussions and reached an additional 31,025 through a partner-supported Sauti session, while dialogue hosting on partner pages strengthened the digital footprint and operational capacity of county-based youth groups.

The integrated offline and online approach created a full feedback loop, from community issue identification to public deliberation and duty-bearer action, resulting in tangible service-delivery improvements. It strengthened youth civic agency, equipped CBOs with practical advocacy skills and reinforced inclusive governance values. When youth have structured civic spaces, accessible digital platforms and responsive government counterparts, local accountability and meaningful participation, especially for young women and persons with disabilities, significantly improve.

Building on the grassroots momentum generated through Siasa Place's county assemblies and community-led advocacy, the zKe digital civic-tech platform connected grassroots advocacy with national-level participation by using a structured Ask, Talk, Propose process that translated community-identified issues into large-scale digital deliberations. Grounded in offline insights from five counties, zKe facilitated some of Kenya's largest youth-led policy conversations, drawing 1,236 votes on healthcare and 705 on national ID, while revealing systemic governance challenges related to accountability, corruption and service inefficiencies. The process demonstrated that extended deliberation windows and accessible digital tools significantly deepen youth engagement

and surface actionable priorities. Complementing this, a multi-platform digital outreach strategy on Instagram, TikTok, Facebook and X expanded reach and accessibility, generating over 1.6 million content views and nearly 1,000 interactions, ensuring broad youth participation, including those unable to attend in-person forums.

Scenes from county-level grassroots civic engagement forums (source: partner, Siasa Place).