Over 120 persons with disabilities, older persons, youth as well as rural marginalized women and men from Isiolo, Meru, Tharaka Nithi and Samburu counties met at the Methodist Church of Kenya Bio-Intensive Agricultural Training Centre in Meru for a community dialogue on leave no one behind. This community dialogue held on 24th November 2016 was organised by the SDG Forum Kenya and hosted by the Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network (EDAN).

Leave no one behind is the underlying principle driving the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), pillars of the new international development framework Agenda 2030. This framework seeks to build on the work started by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In order to ensure that vulnerable groups largely made of older persons, persons with disabilities, youth, rural marginalised men and women are not left behind as was the case with MDGs, the SDG Forum Kenya, has this time sought to ensure they start engaging early with the SDGs. It is in light of this that the forum has undertaken to raise their awareness on SDGs by holding a series of community dialogues around leave no one behind in various counties in Kenya. The Meru dialogue was the third in the series.

The results of the dialogues will feed into the other processes initiated by the SDG Forum Kenya geared towards forming a strong base for advocacy on ensuring these vulnerable groups are mainstreamed in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs by the Kenya Government.

The participants of this dialogue were reminded of the MDGs and introduced to the contents of Agenda 2030, why the framework and what it means to them. They were informed of what the Government has done so far since the framework came into place and the next steps. They were engaged on discussions around leave no one behind which helped them understand that they have a role to play and need to engage with the implementation of the SDG. From the discussions, the participants identified their main role as holding both the national and county government accountable in the process of implementing the SDGs. Participants felt that they have a duty to know their rights and demand them from the government. They agreed that there is need to raise awareness to the others in the community on SDGs.

Having understood the contents of SDGs, the participants in group discussions, answered the following questions:

1. Who is left behind in community development;
2. What progress has been made by the government;
3. What challenges they face in participating in development;
4. What they think is the solution to development.
Summary of Group Discussions
Who is left behind and contributing factors

1. Women
   • Not economically empowered
   • Face gender discrimination
   • Culturally disadvantaged
   • Low levels of education
   • Sexual and domestic violence
   • Not given space in leadership and politics

2. Person with disabilities
   • Low awareness of their rights
   • No opportunities to nurture their talents
   • No level playing ground in politics- A lot of political violence which they cannot keep up with
   • Stigmatization
   • Low self esteem
   • Poverty

3. Youth
   • Drug abuse
   • Unemployment
   • Lack capital
   • Poverty

4. Refugees
   • Stateless hence no identification documents therefore no rights
   • Poverty
   • Sexual abuse

5. Children
   • Child abuse
   • poverty

6. Boy child
   • Neglect
   • Traditional beliefs
   • Focus is more on the girl child

7. Indigenous people
   • Neglect
   • Poverty
   • Low levels of education

8. Older persons
   • Their opinions not regarded/considered
   • Rural- Urban migration of the young people
   • Burden of taking care of orphans
   • Inaccessibility to services limited
2. Development/Interventions/Progress made so far

**Infrastructure**
- More Roads
- Water infrastructure laid down in some areas

**Security**
- Police posts in some areas
- Local administration facilitated to carry out their work through issuance of motorbikes to ease mobility

**Education**
- More schools especially ECD classes and teachers employed
- Free Primary Education

**Health**
- More dispensaries to offer health services
- Availability of Mobile clinics
- Dialysis free- Medical cover especially on dialysis

**Women and Youth, Older persons and Persons with disabilities Empowerment**
- Empowerment funds and programmes-Uwezo Funds, women fund, youth funds, disability fund, NYS
- Social protection

**Leadership and Governance**
- Devolution
- Representation of various vulnerable groups in parliament- women, youth and persons with disabilities

**Information and communication**
- media freedom, media access, local channels

3. Challenges to development

- Poverty
- Poor infrastructure-roads
- Insecurity- cattle rustling
- Poor health services
- Illiteracy and lack of education
- Droughts
- Homelessness leading to street children and families
- Inaccessibility to information and communication
- Stigma
- High dependency syndrome
- Corruption
- Retrogressive cultures and beliefs
- Domestic and sexual violence
- Discrimination
- tribalism and ethnicity
- poor leadership and governance
4. Solutions/What needs to be done

- Improved service delivery by government
- Improved Infrastructure
- Public participation in national and county government processes like budgeting
- Awareness raising on the rights and existing programmes for different vulnerable groups
- Policies to protect the rights of the vulnerable to be developed and implemented. Their input to be sought
- Civic education on government policies
- Friendly and barrier free environment for all
- Improved access to justice
- Special programmes for economic empowerment for different groups
- Discourage bad cultural practices
- Equitable distribution of resources
- Diversification of economic activities
- Gate crushing of government development activities
- Public accountability
- Good governance and leadership
- Food security
- Employment opportunities
- Maintenance of peace in conflict areas

Next Steps

The participants agreed to:

1. Raise awareness on SDGs to rest of community members
2. Familiarise themselves with county planning process and participate
3. Participate in development initiatives at county levels
4. Demand for their rights and hold government accountable through monitoring of development
Leave No One Behind Community Dialogues

**Date:** Friday 2\(^{nd}\) December, 2016

**Location:** Nakuru County - Kivumbuni ward

**Venue:** St. Ambrose Catholic church

**Theme:** Implementing SDGs with Local Communities at the Centre

**REPORT - Leave No One Behind Community Dialogue with CARITAS Kenya in Nakuru County**

In Nakuru county, Caritas Kenya (in partnership with Caritas Nakuru) was the lead organization with coordination and mobilization of community members.

**Background.**

The SDG Kenya Forum is CSO platform that has taken on the mandate to mobilize non-government stakeholders to support the implementation process of the SDGs in Kenya. The Platform provides space for a more structured and coordinated CSO engagement with government both at national and local levels in support of effective and efficient implementation 2030 Agenda for SDG: sharing concrete suggestions for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and strategies for involving the media and private sector. The forum aims at Strengthened CSO and government collaboration on implementation of the Kenya national vision2030, African Unions agenda 2063 and the Global 2030 sustainable development agenda; Increased knowledge sharing, awareness, coordination, and capacity of CSOs in Kenya to undertake effective evidence based policy advocacy.

The SDGs Kenya Forum has mobilized community members during different meetings and in different regions of Kenya to foster local ownership and domestication of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Dubbed “The Community Dialogues” these meetings have provided platforms for intense exchange of existing gaps that need to be addressed and helped strengthen partnerships to creating synergies for effective and efficient utilization of resources.

**Key Objectives of the community dialogues have been:**

- To inform how marginalized peoples and local communities have been involved in the process leading to the endorsement of the SDGs. What results did this engagement bring and what more can be done to ensure the most vulnerable and marginalized can be brought into the process?
- To engage development and religion through a true dialogical process.
- To better understand what localizing the SDGs looks like for indigenous peoples and local communities.
- To show what young people and local communities are already doing to advance the SDGs.
- To explore how efforts at the local level can be better linked up and integrated for improved impact.
• To identify how youth priorities can be mainstreamed effectively with lessons and best practices learnt from youth engagements in the MDG.

• To promote the SDGs and discuss the role of youth in achieving them by 2030

**Nakuru County Community Dialogue.**

Involving over 150 community members at the St. Ambrose Catholic church Kivumbuni ward, the dialogue commenced by sharing and analyzing critically the 17 Sustainable Development Goals for better local understanding. Noting that the goals are a global commitment by our leaders to help free the human race from hunger, poverty and oppression.

The group then went on to prioritize the following as key issues affecting the community:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority Issue</th>
<th>Relevant Sustainable Development goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>SDG1 – End poverty in all its forms everywhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment – youth and disabled</td>
<td>SDG8 – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corruption</td>
<td>SDG16 – Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective and accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affordable health care</td>
<td>SDG3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Nutrition</td>
<td>SDG2- End hunger achieve foo security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affordable and quality education</td>
<td>SDG4 – Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong teaching opportunities for all.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tribalism</td>
<td>SDG16 – Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective and accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forgotten boy child</td>
<td>SDG 3, 4 and 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following were proposed as solutions to address the issues;

**Community level,**

• The need to work together with a clear understanding and appreciation of each other’s unique qualities, roles and responsibilities
• Focus on peace and security at community level
• Change from talks to practice
• Youth – need unity to transform
• Actively Engage in public participation forums

Government/leaders,

• Create jobs
• Capacity building and economic empowerment of communities
• Popularize and implement the affirmative action initiatives
• Boy child support programmes

**How faith communities can contribute to achieving the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

On Care for Our Common Home (Laudato Si’) is the new appeal from Pope Francis addressed to “every person living on this planet” for an inclusive dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. Pope Francis calls the Church and the world to acknowledge the urgency of our environmental challenges and to join him in embarking on a new path. This encyclical is written with both hope and resolve, looking to our common future with candor and humility.

“Laudato si” engages development and religion on matters which affect the life of humankind in its common home, the earth, and invites every single person on the planet to engage in a global dialogue on how to build a new model of development so as ‘to leave no-one behind’, while caring for the future of the planet.

During the dialogue, Caritas explored how SDGs can be implemented to address local realities and needs of local communities and indigenous peoples through the faith based organizations; multiple perspectives on how to localize the SDGs; and discussed how efforts at the local level can be linked and integrated to global policies as called upon by Pope Francis in Laudato Si’. It is our believe as Catholic Church that local governments and stakeholders including the youth, indigenous peoples and local communities will play a critical role in defining, delivering and monitoring the 2030 development agenda.

**The role youth in the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda**

It is estimated that there are over 1.5 billion youths all over the world and youths make up over 62% of Africa’s population, young people are key partners in the new agenda. They are therefore eager to ensure its realization by playing an active role in the implementation.

Through OAY, the dialogue provided space for young people to discuss youth-led monitoring and accountability mechanisms for the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the measurement of their participation throughout the SDGs implementation. SDG Kenya Platform believes young people are agents, beneficiaries and victims of social changes. Creating opportunities for young people to engage in inter-generational and intercultural dialogue results to bringing forward young people’s stories of resilience, their role as change makers and their active contribution to development which is an important step for creating inclusive societies and a peaceful world.
In conclusion, the facilitators emphasized that “CHANGE begins with you and me”. Social ills such as corruption and tribalism can only end if we take personal/individual actions. Peace is a key ingredient for sustainable development. Responsible use of social media, love of our country, loving God with all our heart, strength, mind and soul and loving neighbor as self are at the heart of peaceful co-existence. We are the beginning of peace and all should strive to be instruments of peace taking the responsibility to confront those creating disharmony.

Forum Facilitated by:

Benson Kibiti – Caritas Kenya
Stephen Kenei – Development Initiatives
Pauline K. Thogo – Caritas Nakuru
Hillary Korir – Caritas Nakuru
Michael Asudi – Organization of African Youth
Kelvin Bidanya – Organization of African Youth
Rose Aduol – Action for Change and Progress