



Improved Local and National Government Capacities for Localizing SDGs Through Voluntary Local Reviews in Ghana

14-16 November, Lancaster Kumasi City Hotel, Kumasi,
Ghana

Presentation on the Kenyan experience in Voluntary local
reviews and stakeholder engagement

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Presentation Outline

**Introduction to VLRs for
SDGs and AU 2063**

1



2

VLR Awareness Creation, Multi stakeholder approaches and review of plans and adapting SDGs



3

**The Kenya VLR process and
SDG Acceleration strategies**

4



**Recommendations and way
forward**

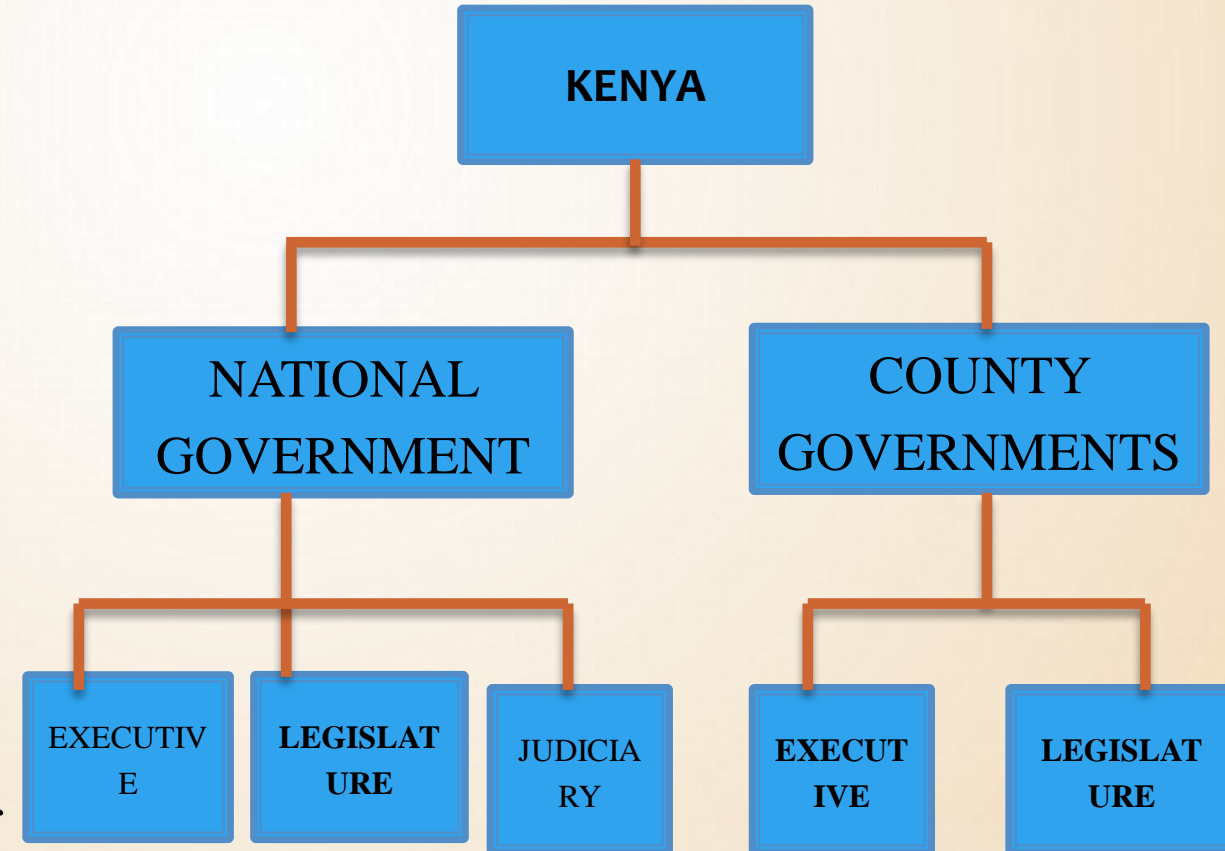




Introduction

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

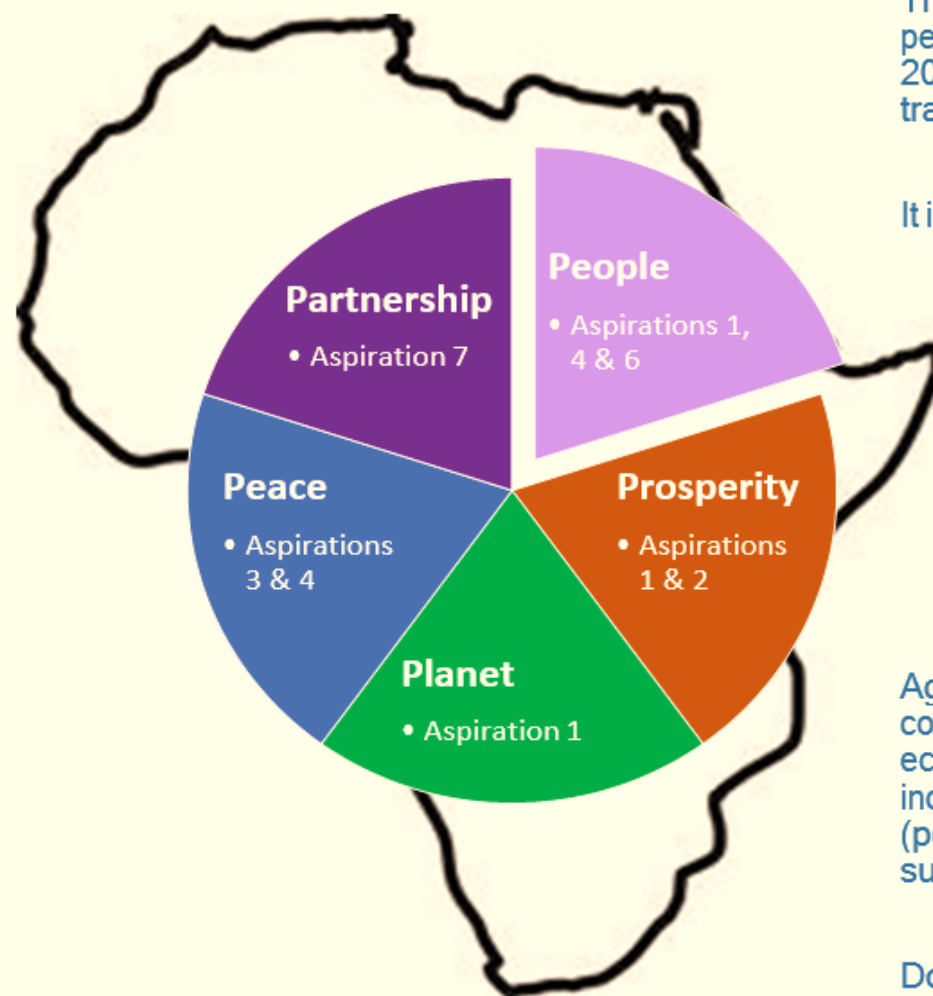
- The two levels of governments: the National Government; and the 47 County Governments.
- The Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya specifies the functions to be performed by each level of government.





ALIGNMENT OF AGENDA 2030 & AGENDA 2063

The African Union's Agenda 2063, aims for a peaceful, integrated and prosperous continent by 2063 and is "an endogenous plan for transformation"



It includes:

- ✓ 7 Aspirations
- ✓ 20 Goals
- ✓ 39 Priority Areas
- ✓ 200 National targets
- ✓ 129 Regional targets (for the RECs)

Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda broadly converge on social development (people), inclusive economic development (prosperity), peaceful and inclusive societies and responsive institutions (peace), and on a number of environmental sustainability issues (planet)

Domesticating only the areas of convergence would exclude a large part of the environmental sustainability agenda, equality and sustainable consumption and production



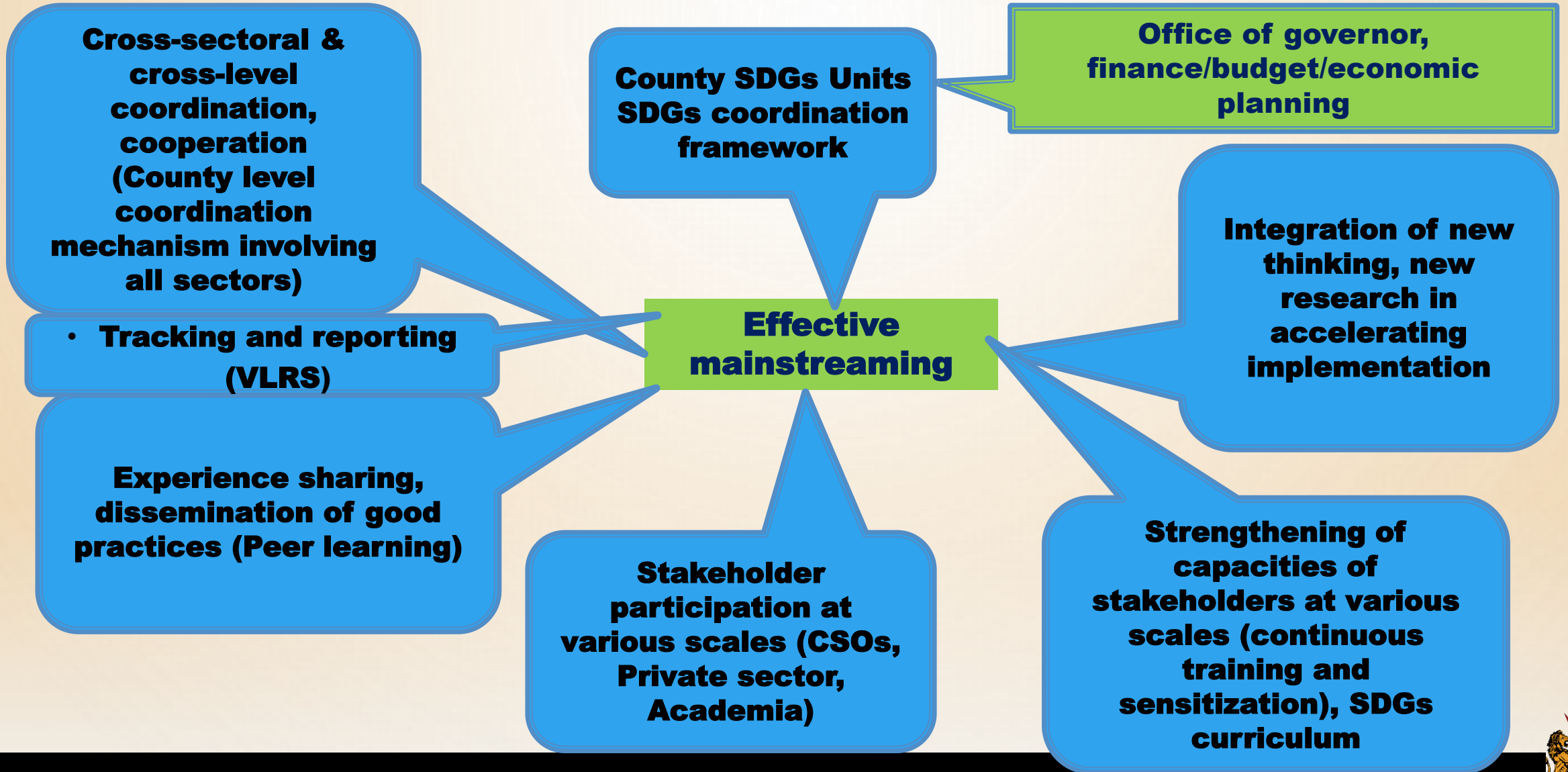


County performance management framework



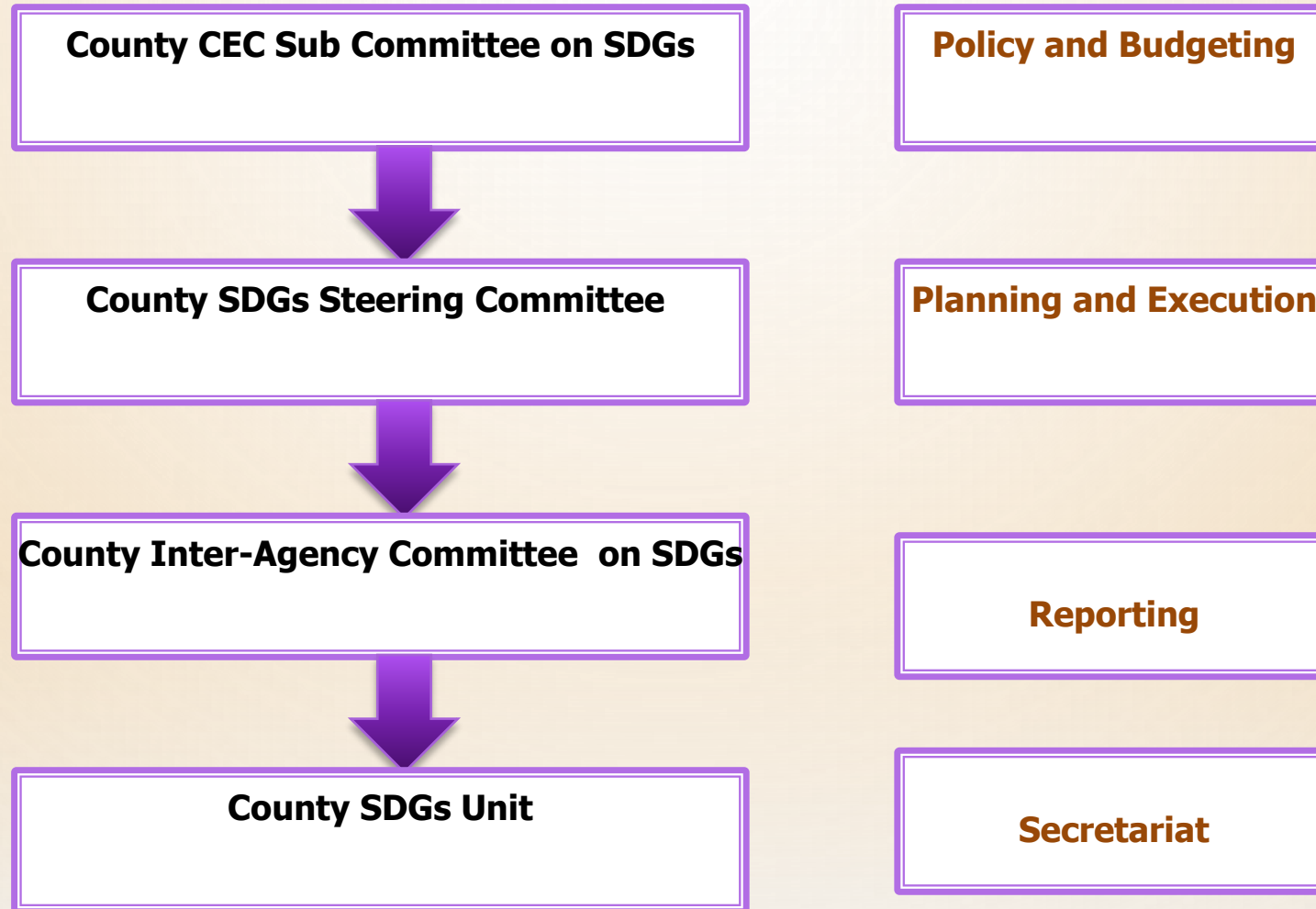


Framework for effective SDGs mainstreaming in County Governments



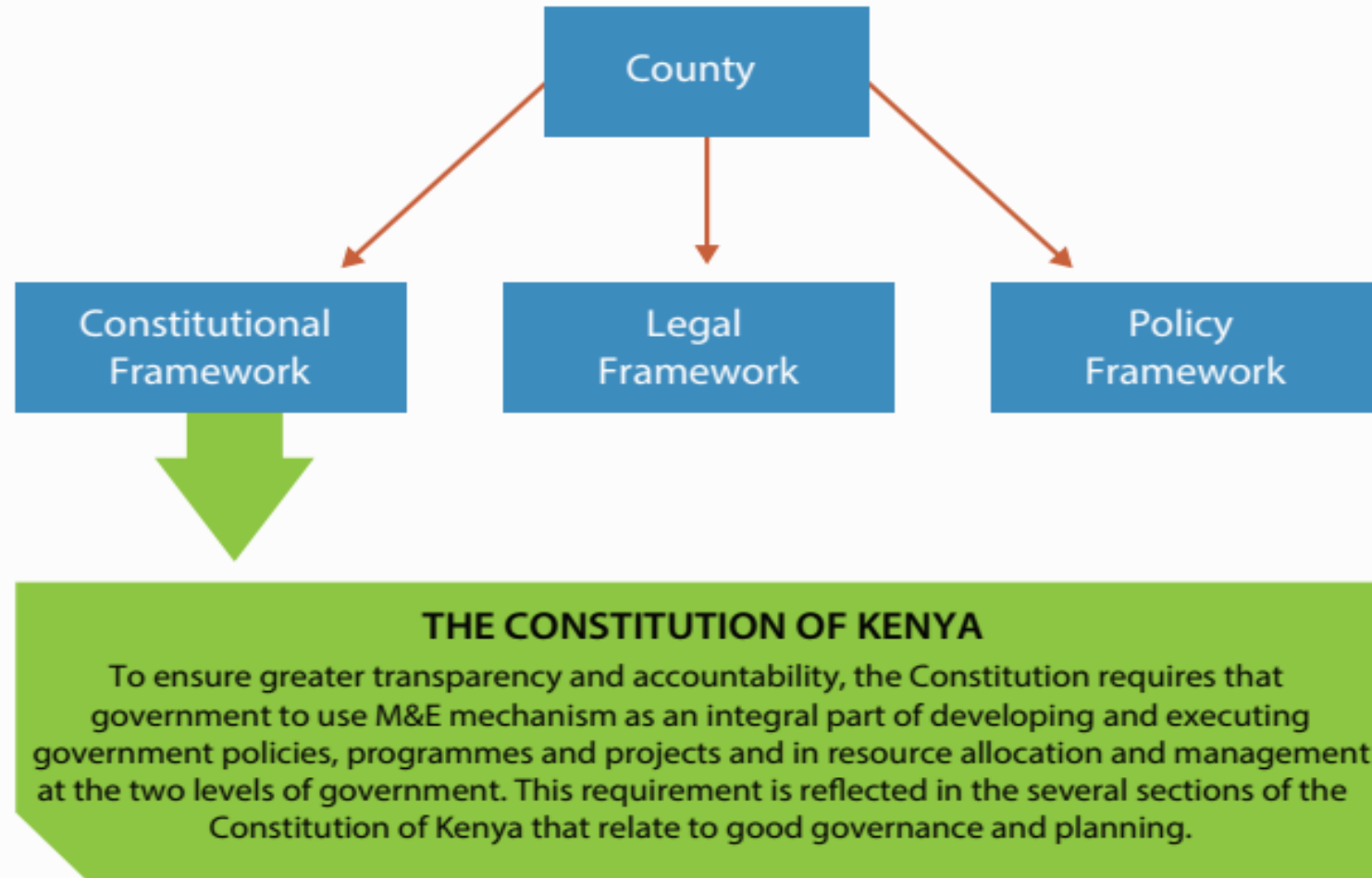


SDGs delivery Mechanism in the county



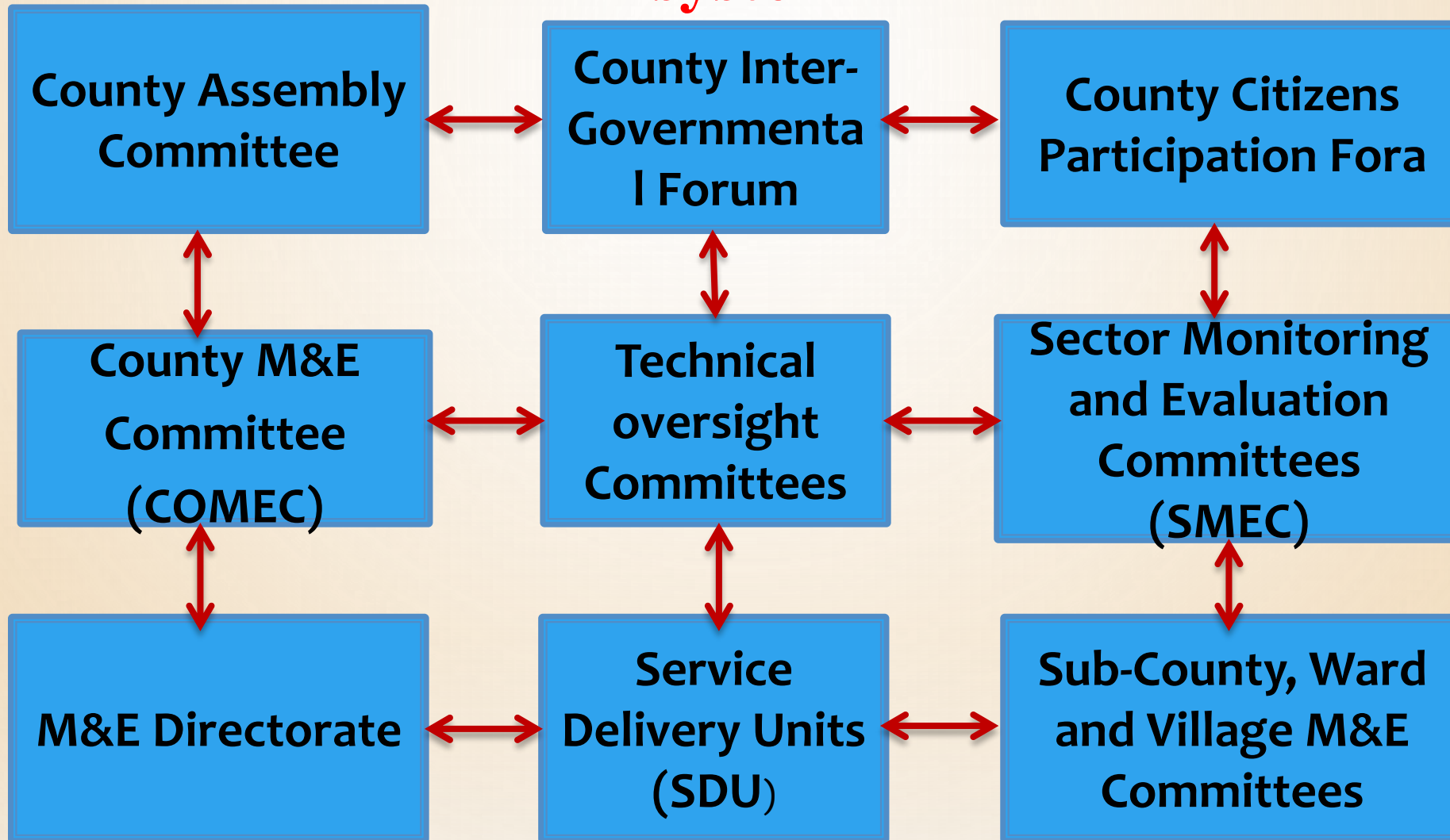


Frameworks for M&E implementation





County integrated monitoring and evaluation system





Performance contracting matrix -core mandate

D	CORE MANDATE	UNIT OF MEASURE	WEIGHT	ACTUAL 2022/23	TARGET 2023/24
	County Departments, Corporations and Boards Priority Programmes /Projects (Governor’s Manifesto, CIDP, “BETA” Agenda, County Socio-Economic Re-engineering and Recovery Strategy for COVID-19, Vision 2030 Flagship Projects, and Other Programmes/projects) aligned to SDGs, Agenda 2063 and Sector Performance Standards		45		
	Revenue Collection	Kshs.	2		
	Ease of Doing Business	%	2		100
	Disaster Management	%	1		100
	Productivity Measurement	%	2		100
	Customer Satisfaction	Report	2		1
	Compliance With Statutory Obligations	%	2		100
	Youth Empowerment Initiatives	%	2		100
	Project Completion Rate	%	2		100
	Weight Sub Total		60		





SDG goals and targets relevant for County governments

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

All targets

16 PEACE AND JUSTICE

- 16.1 16.4 16.7
- 16.2 16.5 16.9
- 16.3 16.6 16.10

1 NO POVERTY

- 1.1
- 1.2
- 1.3
- 1.4
- 1.5
- 1.b

2 ZERO HUNGER

- 2.1
- 2.2
- 2.3
- 2.4
- 2.5
- 2.c

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- 3.1 3.7
- 3.2 3.8
- 3.3 3.9
- 3.4 3.c
- 3.5
- 3.6

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

- 4.1 4.a
- 4.2 4.b
- 4.3 4.c
- 4.4
- 4.5
- 4.6

5 GENDER EQUALITY

- 5.1 5.a
- 5.2 5.b
- 5.3 5.c
- 5.4
- 5.5
- 5.6

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

- 6.1 6.b
- 6.2
- 6.3
- 6.4
- 6.5
- 6.6

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

- 7.1
- 7.2
- 7.3

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

- 8.1 8.8
- 8.2 8.9
- 8.3 8.10
- 8.5
- 8.6
- 8.7

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- 9.1
- 9.3
- 9.5
- 9.c

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

- 10.1
- 10.2
- 10.3

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

- 12.2
- 12.3
- 12.5
- 12.6
- 12.7
- 12.b

13 CLIMATE ACTION

- 13.1
- 13.2
- 13.3

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

- 14.1
- 14.2
- 14.4
- 14.5
- 14.b

15 LIFE ON LAND

- 15.1 15.9
- 15.2 15.a
- 15.3
- 15.4
- 15.5
- 15.7

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

- 17.1
- 17.14
- 17.17





County functions and SDGs

Function	Goal
Agriculture	Goals 1 and 2
County health services	Goal 3
Control of air pollution, noise pollution, other public nuisances	Goals 3, 6 and 14
Cultural activities, public entertainment and public amenities	Goals 4 and 11
County transport	Goals 9 and 11
Animal control and welfare	Goal 2
Trade development and regulation	Goals 2, 3, 8, 10 and 17
County planning and development	All
Pre-primary education, village polytechnics, homecraft centres and childcare facilities	Goal 4
Implementation of specific national government policies on natural resources and environmental conservation	Goals 1, 6, 8, 9, 11,12, 13 and 17
County public works and services	Goals 9 and 11
Firefighting services and disaster management	Goals 1, 2, 11 and 13
Control of drugs and pornography	Goal 3
Ensuring and coordinating the participation of communities and locations in governance at the local level and assisting communities and locations to develop the administrative capacity for the effective exercise of the functions and powers and participation in governance at the local level	All

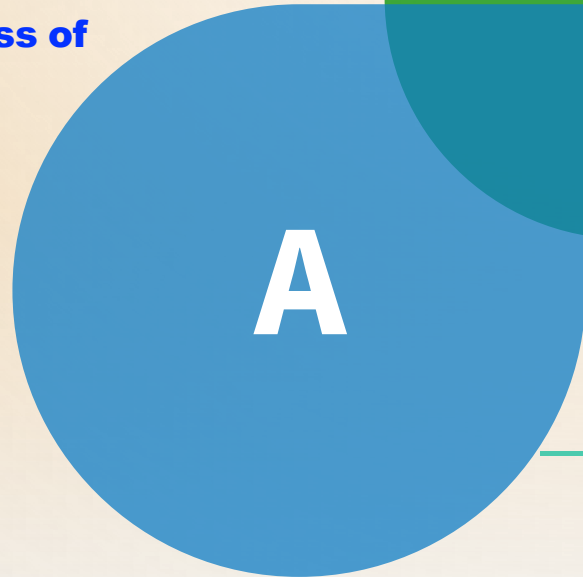




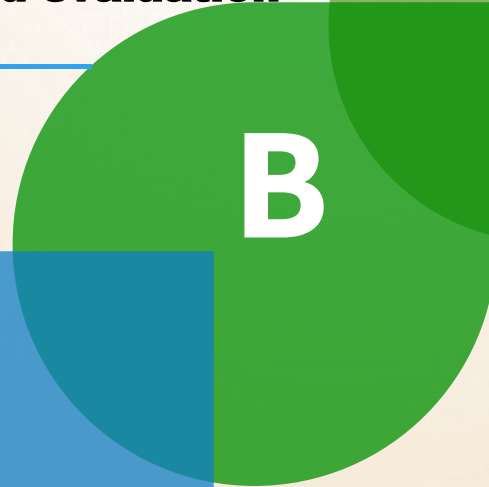
Role of local government in SDG implementation

Planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation

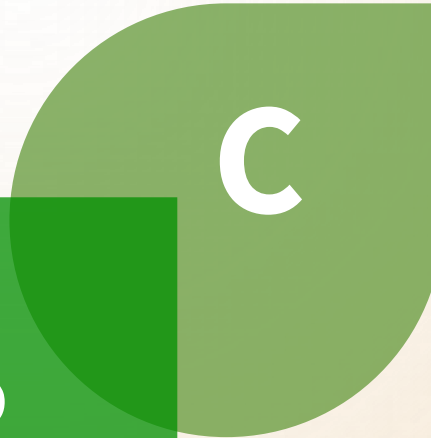
SDG mainstreaming and demystifying and alignment of goals to local development priorities, allocating resources and tracking progress of implementation



A



B



C

Implementor of Development

Accelerator of development. Closest to the people. SDGs are implemented at the local level

Development policy Shapers





Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and VLRs serve as the primary monitoring and review tool of the implementation of AU Agenda 2063 and agenda 2030 at the national and local levels.



Why Voluntary Local Reviews? Opportunities Provided by VLRs



A VLR allows the local government to listen to the needs of its people and reflect them into local policymaking



A VLR invites self-reflection, by diagnosing the state and pointing to pathways for a better localization of the SDGs



A VLR provides for a process that is data-driven and can be used to plan for action to achieve the future we want



A VLR gives a local take on the global conversation on sustainable development



Good practices for a awareness raising



Clear and Focused Message
Ensure your message is clear,
concise, and easy to understand



Engaging Content

Create compelling content, including
visuals



Target Audience Identification

Understand your target audience's
demographics, interests, and values.
Tailor your message and approach



Consistency

Maintain a consistent message and
visual identity across all
communication channels.



Emotional Appeal

Appeal to emotions and values that
connect with your audiences



Multi-Channel Approach

Use a variety of communication
channels such as social media,
websites, email, public events,
community meetings, traditional





Good practices for a wareness raising



Timing and Frequency

Release content or campaigns at times when your target audience is most likely to be engaged.



Education and Information

Provide factual information and education about the issue. Use data, research, and expert opinions to support your claims.



Involvement of Stakeholders

Engage relevant stakeholders, including affected communities, experts, and organizations.



Feedback Mechanisms

Establish feedback loops to receive input from your audience.



Interactive and Participatory Events

Appeal to emotions and values that connect with your audiences



Partnerships and Alliances

Collaborate with other organizations, influencers, or community leaders who share your goals





Good practices for a wareness raising



Measurement and Reporting
Regularly assess the effectiveness of your awareness campaign and share the results



Legal and Ethical Consideration

Ensure that your campaign complies with legal and ethical standards



Involvement of Stakeholders

Engage relevant stakeholders, including affected communities, experts, and organizations.



Cultural Sensitivity

Be mindful of cultural norms and sensitivities when crafting your message and choosing communication channels.



Adaptability

Adapt your approach based on feedback and changing circumstances



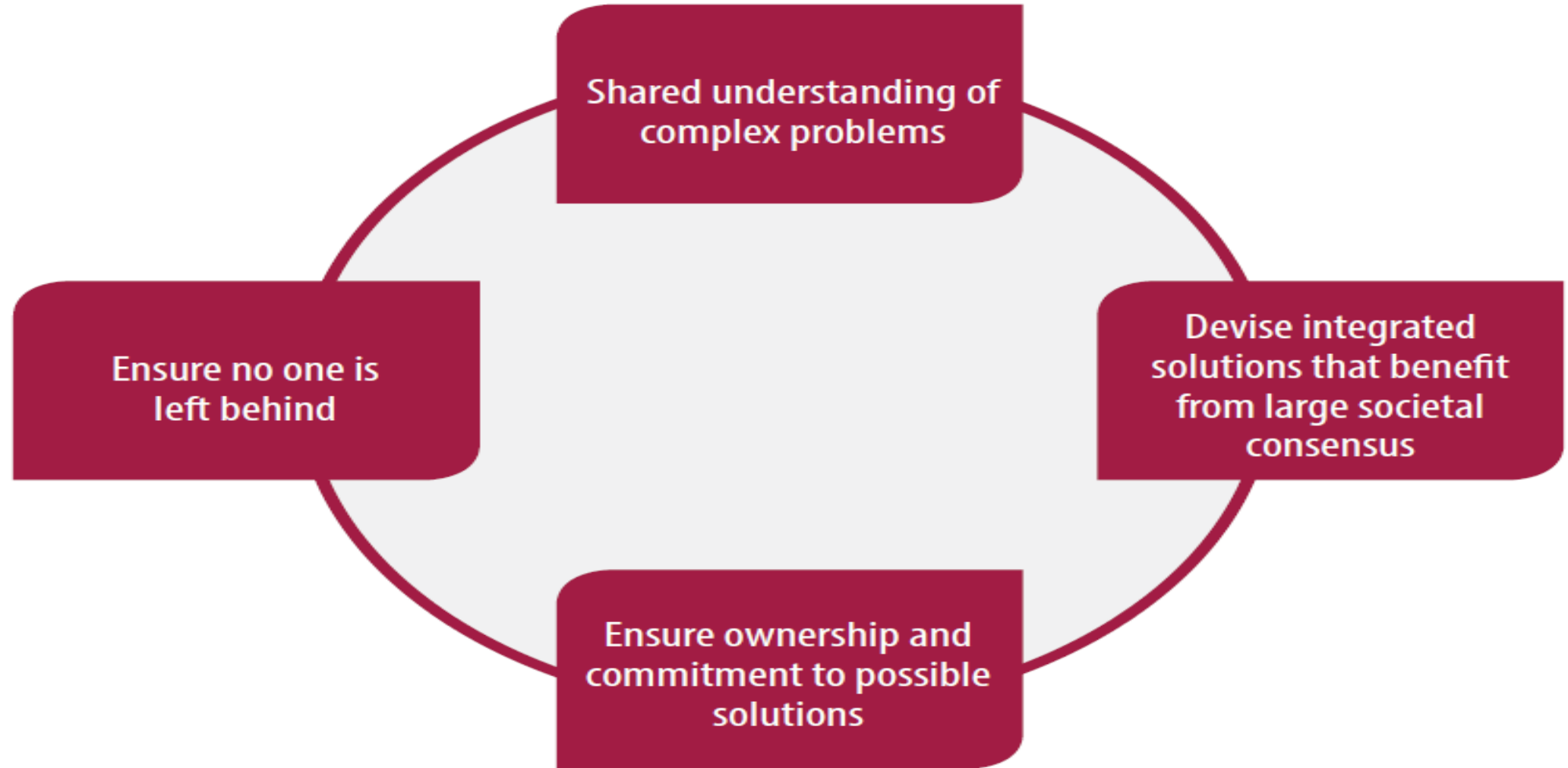
Sustainability

Consider how you will maintain momentum and relevance over time



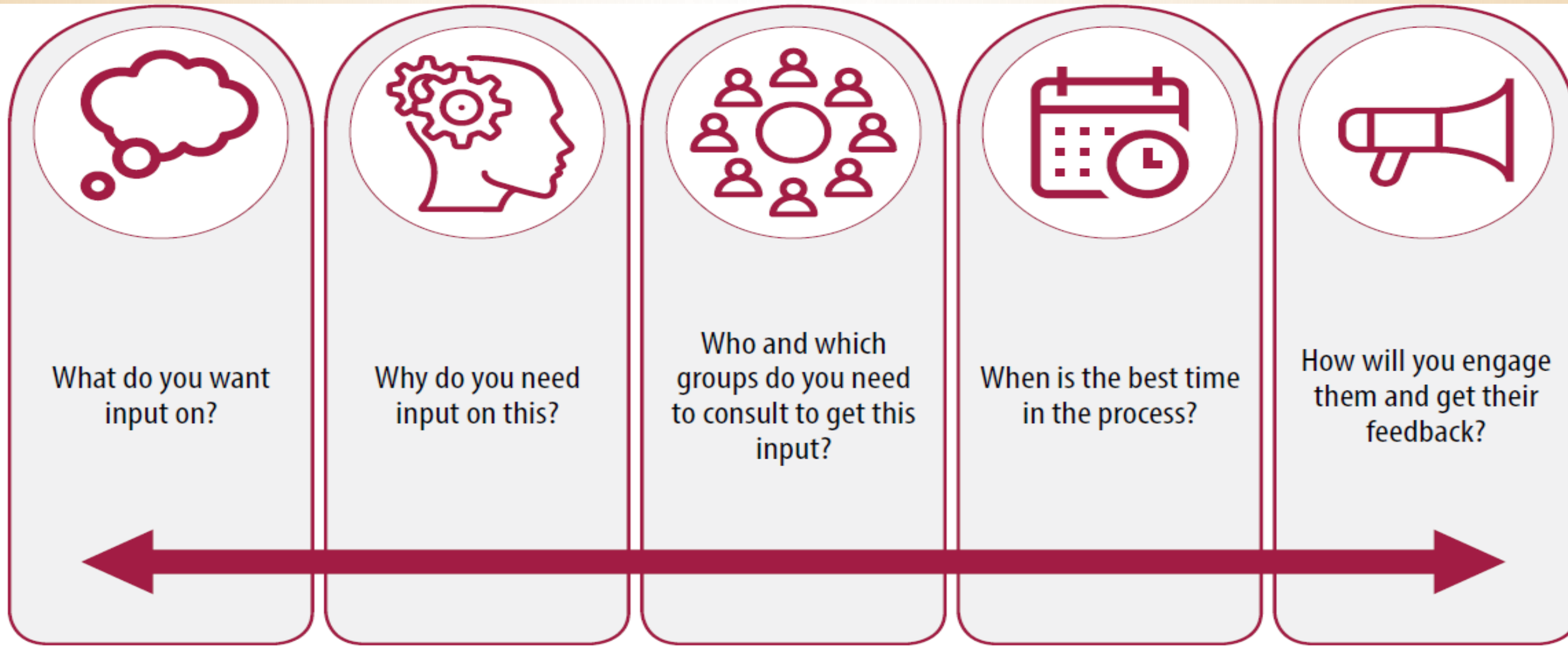


Importance of stakeholder engagement



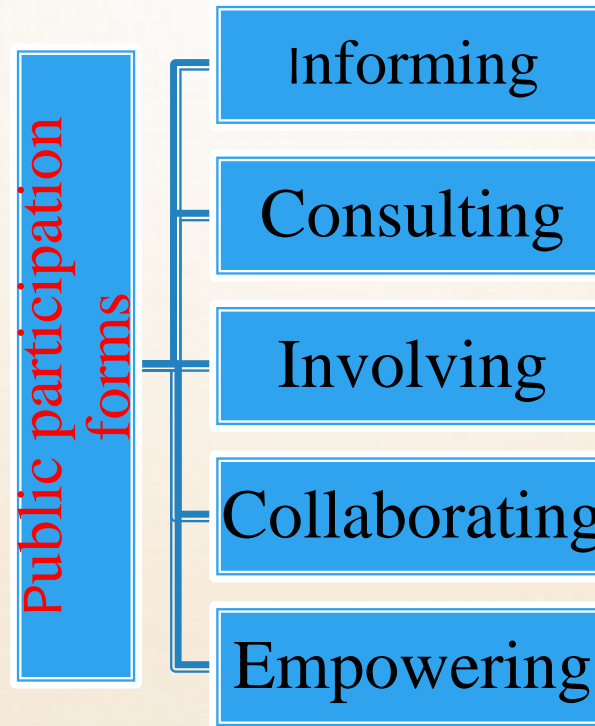


Objective of stakeholders engagement and consultation





Forms of stakeholder engagement





Guiding questions used in identifying stakeholders in busia are;

- ❖ Who is the policy/law/development plan intended to benefit?
- ❖ What are some likely negative impacts of the policy /law / development plan and who will be affected by them?
- ❖ Who will be responsible for implementing the changes introduced by the policy/law/development plan?
- ❖ Whose cooperation or influence is necessary for the policy/law/development plan to be implemented?
- ❖ Who has special knowledge or experience concerning the policy/law/development plan?
- ❖ Who will support or oppose the changes the policy/law/development plan will bring?





How engaging stakeholders contributed to VLR

Diverse perspectives	Different stakeholders brought unique viewpoints and expertise to the review process e.g politicians, media, academia, CSOs , business leaders, local communities etc
Data Collection and Validation	Stakeholders assisted in data collection and validation, offering firsthand information, local knowledge, and access to resources that were not be readily available. CSOs are a valuable source of Citizen generated data.
Contextual Understanding	Local stakeholders have an in-depth understanding of the local context, including cultural, social, and economic factors. Their insights helped reviewers interpret data and identify the root causes of challenges and opportunities.
Accountability	Engaging stakeholders created transparency and accountability in the review process. It ensured that the findings and recommendations are not biased and that there is a mechanism for addressing concerns or disputes.





How engaging stakeholders contributed to VLR

Ownership and Buy-In	When stakeholders are actively involved in the review process, they were more likely to take ownership of the outcomes and recommendations. This led to increased commitment to implementing the recommended actions.
Inclusive Decision-Making	Involving stakeholders in the review process promoted inclusive decision-making. This helped identify priorities that may not have been apparent to external reviewers and lead to more equitable and locally relevant policies and interventions.
Capacity Building	Engaging local stakeholders also served as a capacity-building opportunity. It empowered communities, government officials, and organizations with the skills and knowledge needed for data analysis, policy development and program implementation
Conflict Resolution	In regions with complex or contentious issues, involving stakeholders can facilitate dialogue and conflict resolution. It provided a platform for different parties to voice their concerns, negotiate, and work towards consensus-based solutions.





How engaging stakeholders contributed to VLR

Long-Term Sustainability

By involving stakeholders, sub-national reviews are more likely to consider long-term sustainability. Local communities and businesses have a vested interest in the region's future and can contribute to identifying strategies that ensure sustainable development.

Feedback Loop

Engaged stakeholders provided continuous feedback throughout the review process and after the release of the review's findings. This feedback loop allowed for adjustments and improvements in strategies and policies over time.





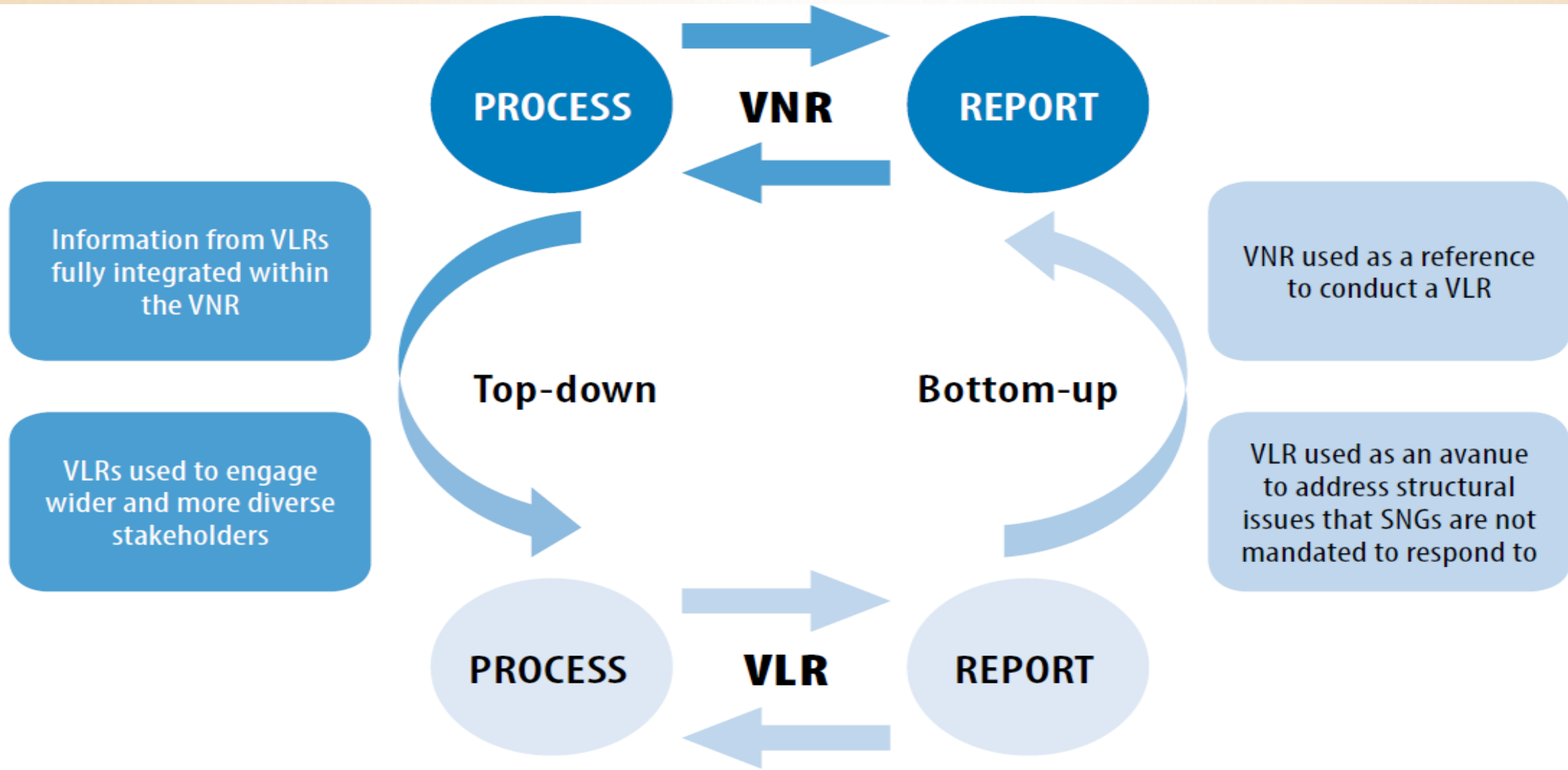
The Kenya (Busia) Vlr Process

- Development plans (CIDPs) in 2018 (supported by the UN) and in 2022 Integrating SDGs and AU 2063
- Training of SDGs champions from all 47 counties in 2019 (supported by the UN)
- Five counties (Busia, Kisumu, Kwale, Marsabit and Taita Taveta) piloted VLRs in 2019 (supported by the UN)
- Five VLRs were an input in the 2020 Kenya VNR- this year 7 counties have developed their VLRs (Best practices at SDGs reporting at sub national levels). Busia is one of them.
- Private sector (kenya private sector alliance/KEPSA) and CSOs (kenya sdgs forum) produced Complementarity VNRs which will be annexes to the kenya VNR 2024 (this was also the case in 2017,2020)
- VI. Roadmap is to roll out VLRs in all counties in kenya





Operationalizing VLR-VNR Integration





Actions Considered When Integrating VLR and VNR

Set up a national mechanism to support and consolidate the VLRs

Design and communicate the VNR timetable to allow SNGs to submit VLRs that actually inform the VNRs

Design the VNRs and VLRs as an interconnected stakeholder engagement mechanism

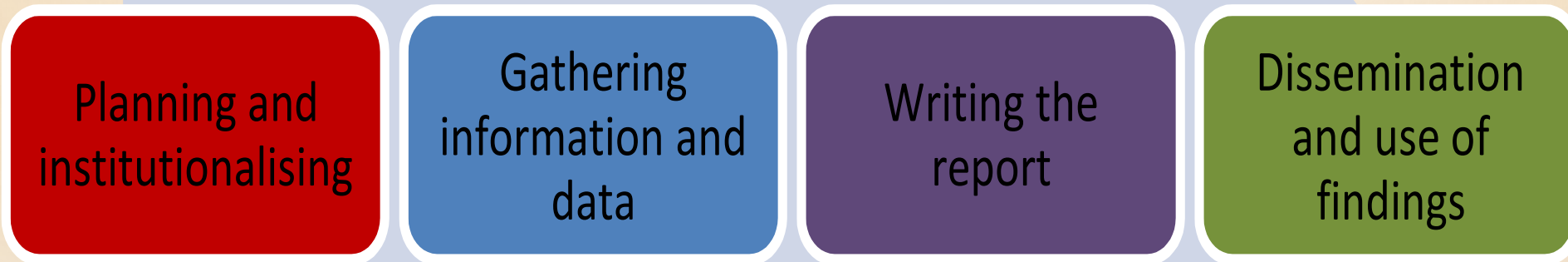




Guidelines on the process for developing vlrs

- In order for VLR to have the most impact, it was necessary to plan the reporting process a head, taking into account matters such as the roadmap, the timeline, how to work with partners, how to gather cases studies and Data, how to organize the content of the report and how to take advantage for dissemination and use of our findings

- **KEY PHASES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A VLR**





Plan and Timeline Followed In Preparing Busia VLR

OCTOBER 2022

- Candidate reporting countries with VNRs to the HLPF was announced. Started exchange with national government on County participation in VNR process, within existing SDG coordination mechanisms through the CoG and national SDG coordination focal point. Develop a plan for the preparation of the VLR and validate the plan.

NOVEMBER 2022

- Identified stakeholders and partners in the VLR writing process and assembled the steering group.

DECEMBER 2022

- Start involvement of local and regional governments in the
- VLR process through a kick-off meeting/consultation
- Collected information on the national strategies for SDGs localization and on the institutional enabling environment for the county government (decentralization, local finances, local planning etc.

JANUARY 2022

Continued collecting information on the institutional enabling environment and started gathering information on the county government's initiatives for localization of the SDGs (SDGs mainstreaming in CIDPs, projects and programmes)





Plan And Timeline Followed In Preparing Busia VLR

JANUARY – APRIL 2023

- Analyzed the information collected through surveys and other sources, identifying local experiences and identifying local best practices to be included in the VLR. Organized interviews and focus group discussions to complete the information.

APRIL

- Asked all stakeholders including civil society organizations, academia, private sector etc. to submit their input for inclusion

END OF APRIL AND MAY

- Validated the VLR through a workshop involving all stakeholders

END OF MAY –JUNE

- Editing and publishing of the VLR

JULY

Presentation of the VLR at the HLPF

AUGUST –SEPTEMBER

Disseminate the finding of the VLR within the county departments and to other stakeholders





Were Sdg implementation gaps identified from vlrs?

Misalignment of SDGs with local development priorities . Policies not addressing all targets

Mainstreaming

Some people are being left behind especially the poor, uneducated and indigenous

Leave no one behind

Inadequate data to report on all SDG indicators not available in NSOs

Data

In sufficient budgets

Financing





SDG policy gap analysis



40 % of Targets are covered by relevant policies



36 % of SDG targets are partially covered



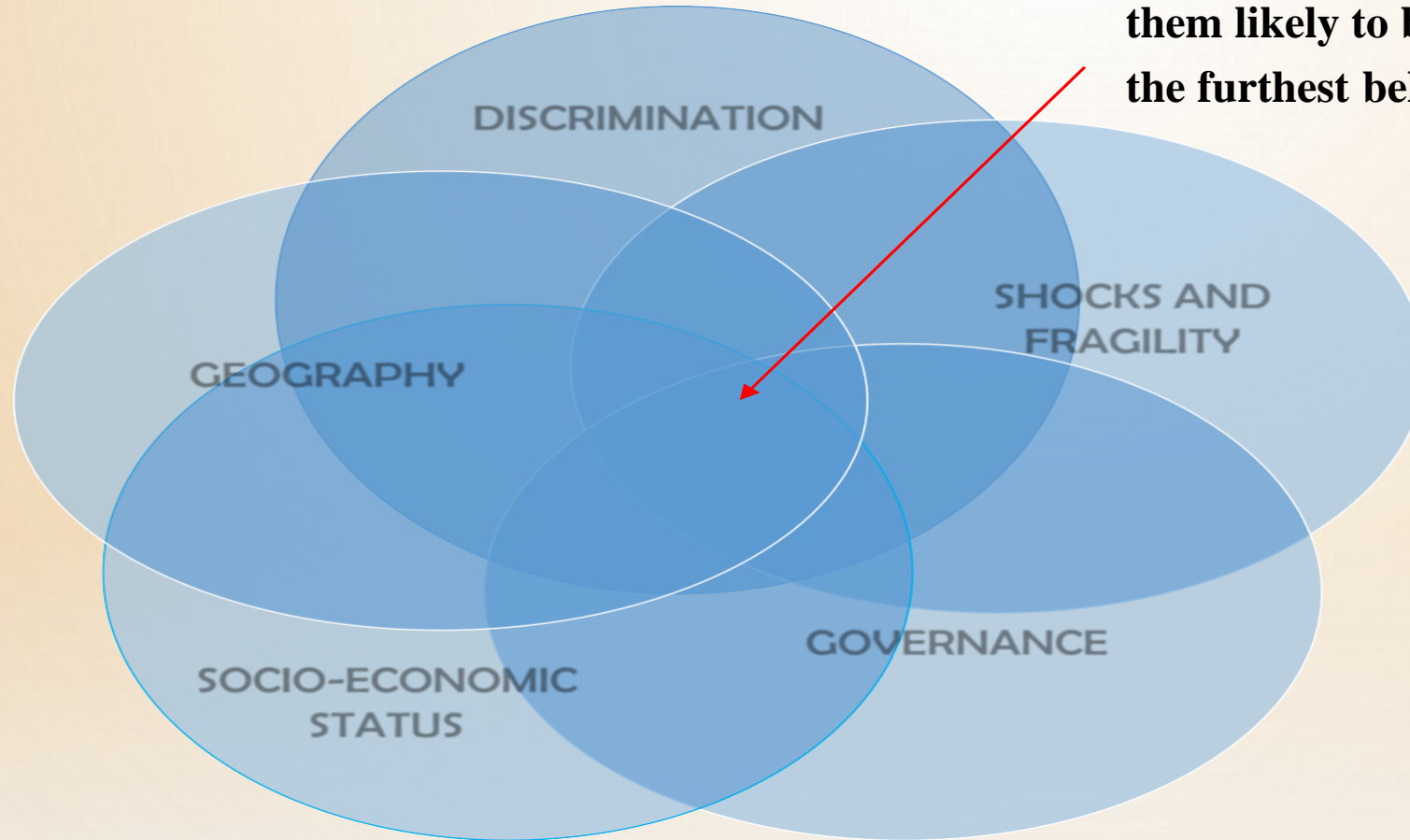
24 % of SDG targets and not covered by any policy





Why are People being left Behind ?

Those affected by intersecting factors endure reinforcing sources of disadvantage & deprivation, making them likely to be among the furthest behind





How VLRs ensure no one is left behind

- i. VLRs encourage the collection of disaggregated data, which means breaking down data by various demographic, social, and economic characteristics (e.g., gender, age, income, ethnicity). This allows policymakers to identify marginalized groups and understand their specific needs and challenges.
- ii. Through VLRs, local governments can identify vulnerable communities or populations that are at risk of being left behind. This could include marginalized ethnic or religious groups, people with disabilities, indigenous communities, and others facing social or economic disadvantages.
- iii. VLRs provide a platform for local governments to tailor policies and programs to address the unique needs of different communities. By understanding the specific challenges faced by marginalized groups, governments can design targeted interventions to lift them out of poverty and exclusion. MDGs were static with no consideration of national or regional differences





How VLRs ensure no one is left behind

- iv. The process of preparing VLRs often involves engaging with local communities and civil society organizations. This engagement ensures that the voices and perspectives of marginalized groups are heard and integrated into decision-making processes.
- v. VLRs promote accountability at the local level. By publicly reporting on progress and challenges, local governments are held accountable for their actions and can be transparent about their efforts to leave no one behind.
- vi. VLRs are not one-off reports; they are part of an ongoing process. Regular monitoring and review of VLRs allow local governments to track progress over time and make adjustments to policies and programs as needed to tailor policies and programs to address the unique needs.
- vii. VLRs can encourage the integration and adaptation of social and environmental goals into broader development policies. This holistic approach can help prevent the prioritization of economic development at the expense of social and environmental well-being





How VLRs ensure no one is left behind

- viii.** The process of preparing VLRs can build the capacity of local governments and stakeholders to analyze data, set priorities, and design effective policies. This capacity-building can contribute to more effective and sustainable development efforts
- ix.** VLRs also offer local governments the opportunity to learn from each other through peer exchanges and knowledge sharing. Strategies that have been successful in one region can be adapted and implemented in others, accelerating progress in leaving no one behind



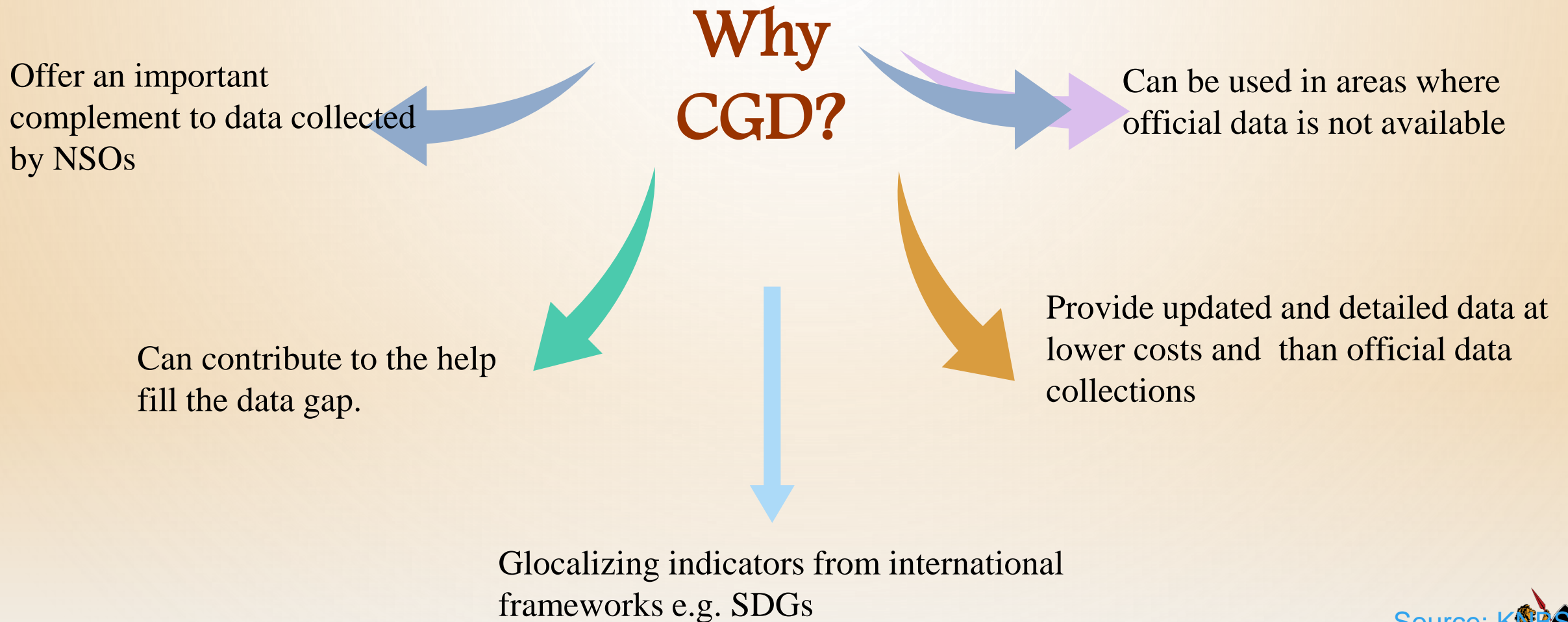


County Based Data (Collection, Analysis and Dissemination of Reliable and Timely Disaggregated Data) and Use of Big Data Analytics – Economic Survey



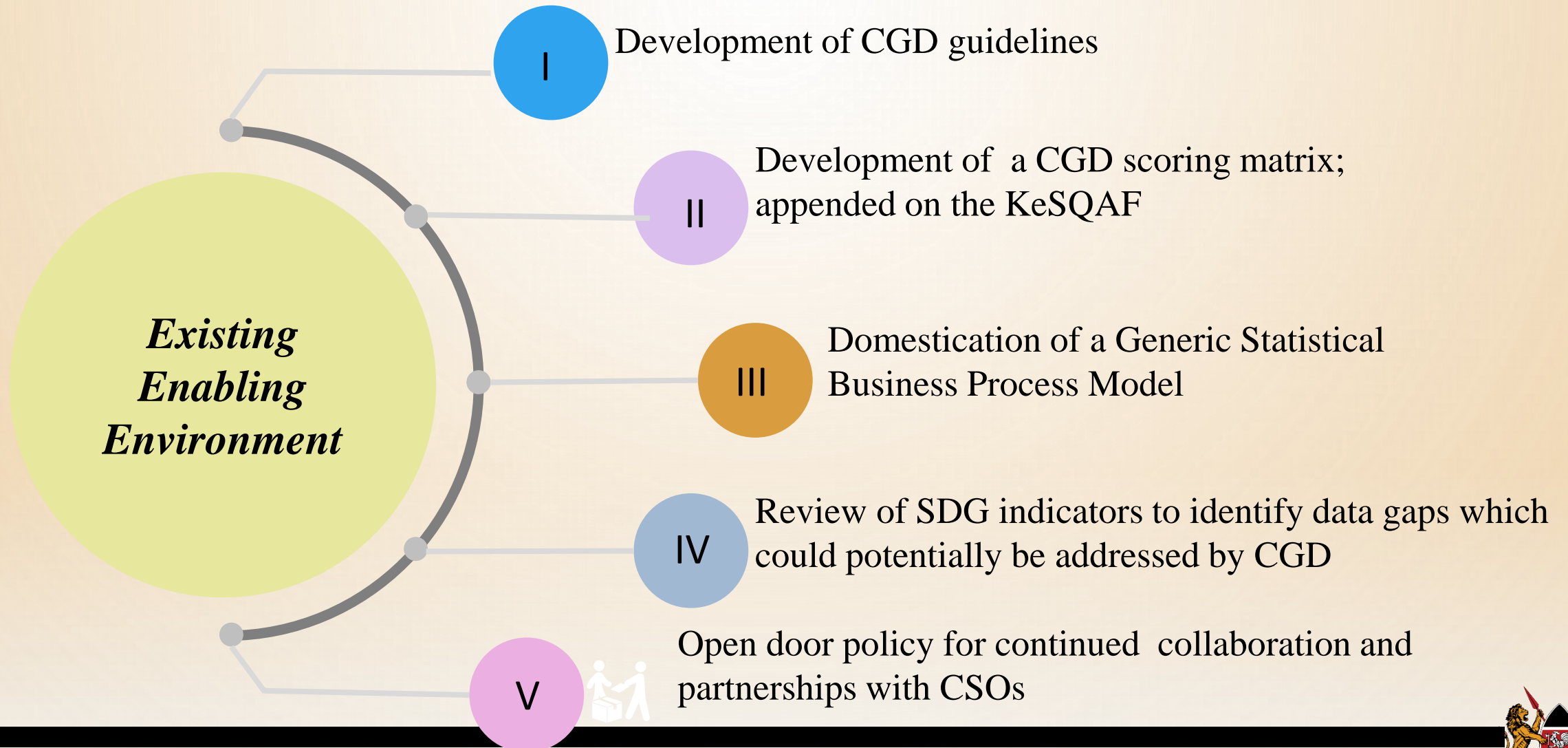


Primarily used to monitoring, demand or drive change on issues affecting citizens or their communities





KNBS Support on CGD



Source:





Name of Organization	Quality Gateway Dimensions	Score Allocation Matrix (SAM) Score	Meets threshold?	Comment
Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAWKenya)	Fail	1.8	No	Failed two gateway dimensions.
Usawa Agenda	Pass	2.6	Yes	
Article 19	Pass	2.4	Yes	
International Budget Partnership (Kenya)	Fail	2	No	Failed a gateway dimension. Scored zero on one of the SAM dimensions.
Uwezo - Twaweza	Pass	2.6	Yes	
International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)	Pass	0	No	Scored zero on the SAM dimensions.
Africa's Voices Foundation (AVF)	Fail	1.6	No	Failed a gateway dimension.
Development Initiatives (DI)	Fail	0	No	Failed all gateway dimensions.
GROOTS Kenya	Pass	2.6	Yes	
Open Institute	Fail	1.6	No	Failed a gateway dimension. Scored zero on one of the SAM dimensions.





Insufficient budgets

- There are a lot of disparities between resources required and available due to un even economic growth, limited physical space, misaligned incentives, ODA commitments unmet and increasing debt.
- Local government should be proactive and explore various financing opportunities such as ;
 - i. Increase domestic resource and Expenditure controls
 - ii. Build strong partnerships with govts, CSOs, UN, Donors, Academia, Media, Foundations, philanthropists
 - iii. Curb illicit financial flows- money stolen from one local authority invested elsewhere
 - iv. Climate change and emerging issues- green bonds
 - v. Private sector- increase investments in projects / markets that work for SDGs



The unfinished business of the MDGs



Poverty

700 million people live in extreme poverty



Hunger

795 million people are undernourished



Water

650 million people do not have access to improved drinking water sources



Sanitation

2.4 billion people still lack access to basic sanitation services



Health

16,000 children die each day before they reach the age of five, mostly from preventable causes



Energy

1.4 billion people have no access to electricity



Inequality

Inequality of income and opportunities have both substantially increased



Environment

Acute challenges, including food and water insecurity, climate change and natural disasters





The county covid-19 reengineering and recovery strategy

- The strategy was developed to enable the County to re-engineer, recover and be on an upward growth trajectory.
- It has identified six (6) pillars which include;
 - i. Health sector improvement,
 - ii. Strengthening county government's preparedness and response to pandemic and disasters;
 - iii. Tourism development, renewable energy and exploring the value chains; boosting private sector activity;
 - iv. Policy, legislation and institutional reforms;
 - v. Enhancing ICT capacity for business continuity,
 - vi. Human capital development.



RECOVERING BETTER FORWARD BETTER MATRIX

	Equity and inclusiveness	Gender Responsive approach	Digital Transformation	Sustainability	Preparedness and response
PROTECTING HEALTH SERVICES AND SYSTEMS	Inclusive health planning and policy			Innovation in linking market demand with local production	Continued Investment in preparedness measures
SOCIAL PROTECTION AND BASIC SERVICES	Strengthening Kenya's social protection system	Gender analysis of the informal sector	Investment in digital skills	Ensure access to safe and sustainable water	Improved and more resilient education system
ECONOMIC RESPONSE AND RECOVERY	Inclusive public private and tripartite dialogue	Strengthening mechanisms for employment intensive policies	Sustainable and inclusive business models	Green economy stimulus	Periodic analysis of real time data on sectoral trends
MACROECONOMIC RESPONSE AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION	Accommodative macro financial policies			Strengthening Public Procurement	Investment package to stimulate the private sector
PREPAREDNESS AND PREVENTION	Enhanced Access to Justice	Enhanced Women Leadership and Political Participation	Transitioning towards digital citizenship		Empowering Communities and Changing Behaviours



Accelerating The SDGs



Efforts to avoid lags and to progress priority goals need to be made early on in the 2030 Agenda



The integrated and indivisible nature of the SDGs and interlinkages between the goals and targets. These interlinkages promote understanding on the way different SDGs affect each other, and how the design of interventions can create positive ripple effects across multiple SDGs not fully understood





SDG accelerator and bottleneck analysis

Bottle neck category	Planning and Policy	Finance and Budgeting	Service delivery	Service utilization	Cross cutting
Sub category	Sector strategies, policies and plans	Resource allocation	Human resource	Service efficacy	Engagement and advocacy
	Legal frameworks and laws	Resource expenditure	Infrastructure, equipment and supplies	acceptability	Coordination and alignment
	Institutional capacities	Resource Mobilization	Sector governance	Accessibility and affordability	Accountability and Transparency





Opportunities To Accelerate Sdg Implementation



Partnership and stakeholder engagement

Involve all stakeholders from Private sector, UN agencies, DPs, NGOs, CBOs, Academia, Media, foundations etc to invest in Markets that work for SDGs



Coordination and institutional framework

Put in place capable, just and strong institutions



Science Technology and innovation

Drive novel practice and innovative financing solutions



Capacity development and knowledge management

Participation in local and National SDG networks to encourage peer to peer learning



Citizen engagement and advocacy

Demystify SDGs and build solutions that matter to peoples daily lives



Monitoring and Evaluation

Statistics and data availability for monitoring and reporting on SDGs



let us reflect....ICT

 UBER

The world's largest taxi company owns no vehicles

 airbnb

The largest accommodation provider owns no real estate

facebook


The most popular media provider creates no content

 Instagram

The most valuable photo company sells no cameras

NETFLIX

The fastest growing television network lays no cables

 Alibaba.com

The most valuable retailer has no inventory

None of these six companies existed twenty years ago





Key achievement of the County Courtesy to VLR

- SDGs have been properly mainstreamed in all County planning and performance management documents.
- Evaluation and review of SDGs implementation forms the basis for subsequent planning.
- County has developed an environmental safeguards and social risk management framework for all its projects
- County has passed a citizen engagement and public participation Act that has strengthened participatory decision making.
- County has developed a grievance redress and compliments mechanism.
- Gross County Product Report for Kenya places Busia County as the 3rd fastest growing County (KNBS 2018).
- World Banks reports for 2019,2020,2023 ranked the County best on ease of doing business





Key take aways

- Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and VLRs serve as the **primary monitoring and review tool of the implementation of AU Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 at the national and local levels. The need for a strong political commitment** to ensure national development plans capture this indicators and cascade them downstream
- VLRs speak to the VNR. VNR is a compilation of VLRs. Pick targets that are relevant for each Local Government
- Different stakeholders bring unique viewpoints and expertise to the review process e.g politicians, media, academia, CSOs , business leaders, local communities etc. This is essential for buy in and ownership and assistance in data collection and validation and foster cross discipline and cross sectoral contributions to accelerated solutions
- Incentivize VLRs – Annual SDG Awards
- Start with the local Governments that are ready- others will follow suit
- Encourage and mobilize private sector to invest in SIB and markets that work for SDGs by improving your ease of doing business.





Impact

**Better Quality Life
for All People and Societies**

Inclusive, Sustainable and Transformative Development

Outcomes

People
(ensure health lives,
knowledge and
inclusiveness)

Prosperity
(grow a strong, inclusive
and transformative
economy)

Planet
(protect our ecosystems)

Goals

1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Well-Being
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality

7. Affordable and Clean Energy
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
10. Reduced Inequalities
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities

6. Clean Water and Sanitation
12. Responsible Consumption and Production
13. Climate Action
14. Life Below Water
15. Life on Land

Foundations

Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions; and Partnerships





TOGETHER

2030

05 December,
2023

