



# COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF TAITA TAVETA

## COUNTY VOLUNTARY LOCAL REPORT 2024

**THEME:** "Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions"

**MAY 2024**

**COUNTY VOLUNTARY LOCAL REPORT 2024**

## **VISION**

**A prosperous, cohesive and globally competitive county with high quality of life for all**

## **MISSION**

**To promote optimum socio-economic and political development, through sustainable and prudent exploitation of resources and good governance**

## **Core Values**

- Servant leadership
- Integrity
- Inclusivity
- Transparency and accountability

## Opening Statement



In 2010, Kenya adopted a new constitution with aspirations to transform the lives of Kenyans especially the minorities and marginalized groups and regions. A key aspect of the constitution was the devolution of power to Kenya's 47 county governments, implemented in 2013. County governments represent the level of government closest to the people and are therefore better positioned to directly address the needs of the people, including the global development agenda. Kenya's Development Agenda is anchored on the Kenya Vision (KV) 2030. This aims at creating "a globally competitive and prosperous country with a high quality of life by the year 2030". The vision seeks to transform Kenya into "a newly industrialized, middle-income country providing high quality of life to all its citizens in a clean and secure environment. The vision is actualized through five-year Medium-Term Plans (MTPs) at the national level and the five-year County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) at the sub-national level which is aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The County Government of Taita Taveta (CGTT) is implementing the SDGs at the departmental levels. I have placed my County Executive Committee Members (CECM) on performance contract with clear targets and indicators aimed at realizing the SDG agenda. The implementation in CGTT is monitored through the preparation of SDGs progress quarterly reports and the voluntary local (VLRs). Kenya prepared its first VNR in 2017 and its second report in 2020, which were presented at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York. In 2020, the Council of Governors (CoG) supported piloting of county SDGs reporting through the Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs). The initiative was piloted in Kwale, Taita Taveta, Marsabit, Kisumu, and Busia Counties.

For the 2024 voluntary report, Taita Taveta County has reported on the progress and interventions' outputs it has undertaken related to the targeted five SDGs: 1 (No poverty), 2 (Zero hunger), 13 (Climate action), 16 (Peace, Justice and strong institution and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). During the process of the review, as a County we identified weaknesses in data collection and availability across all stakeholders. We have embraced the shortcomings and we shall strive to improve the future review process.

Taita Taveta County is leaving No One behind (LNOB) in the implementation of SDGs and as a County we are very much committed in the SDGs implementation and determined to achieve the aspirations by 2030.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Mwadime', written over a white background.

**H.E Andrew Mwadime**

**GOVERNOR –TAITA TAVETA COUNTY.**

## Foreword



I am pleased to share with you the second county report of the voluntary local reviews (VLRs).

The County Government of Taita Taveta works to achieve sustainable development through a good balance between economic, social, and environmental sustainability. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are very important to our County and all stakeholders work to realize these global goals. Since the onset of devolution the County has been able to present one VLR which formed basis of the 2019 voluntary national report that was presented in New York in July 2019. The VLRs helps to monitor and evaluate our progress in achieving the SDGs. Furthermore, findings and knowledge from the VLRs helps us in our work to achieve the SDGs and to manage resources where they provide the most benefit. The SDGs are about achieving sustainable development along three dimensions: economic, social, and environmental. The county VLRs have been presented to the Council of Governors (COG) for consideration and to note the progress on the county's work on the SDGs implementation. The first VLR Status for Taita Taveta goes in depth on the following six SDGs: Quality education (SDG 4), Decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), Income inequalities within and among countries (SDG 10), Climate action (SDG 13), Peace, Justice and strong institution (16) and Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17). This second VLR Status goes in depth on the following five SDGs: 1 (No poverty), 2 (Zero

hunger), 13 (Climate action), 16 (Peace, Justice and strong institution and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). The report highlight and discusses connections across and between the SDGs and the Africa Union Agenda 2063.

In reviewing SDG 1, we have recognized the multidimensional nature of poverty rather than monetary measure for effective poverty eradication.

On SDG 2, food insecurity and malnutrition continue to affect our county. Poverty and hunger is common in most of the rural areas hence a call for targeted rural development policies. Small-scale and family farmers have been supported for hunger reduction.

On SDG 13, it is evident that climate change has already impacted on the residents and natural ecosystems. We have highlighted climate change as a cross-cutting issue in our development plans as a threat to the implementation of all other SDGs. We have enhanced community sensitization and awareness creation of climate change as a policy priority. Review of SDG 16, recognized the importance of reducing all forms of violence, protecting human rights, eliminating corruption, improving the effectiveness and transparency of institutions, ensuring public access to information and upholding the rule of law. The county elaborated on measures to achieve SDG 16 through conflict resolution, peace building and regional cooperation.

In reporting on SDG 17, our County focused on actions to revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development, including initiatives, challenges and progress in mobilizing the means of implementation

The report also shows how the SDGs are linked to human rights. Taita Taveta is a human rights County and the connection between the SDGs and human rights is integrated in our work. The report shows a clear connection between the SDGs, the county government development agenda, and thematic plans. In producing the report, the County has faced numerous challenges that we have learnt from. And in the future, it will be crucial to strengthen cooperation with business, civil society, other public actors, and citizens in addressing some of the challenges. Local cooperation is very necessary for global success. The two reports show how the County through our plans and actions contributes to the global goals. It is a first step to set a sustainable course for the future and create awareness of how we can make better use of available resources.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Danson K. Mzenge'.

**HON. CPA DANSON K. MZENGE**  
**CEC-MEMBER, FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING**

## Acknowledgement



The County Government of Taita Taveta (CGTT) will endeavor to promote and actively participate in achievement of economic growth as well as social and cultural development. It will aim to realize sustainable development facilitated by sound management of the environment and sustainable utilization of natural resources. To ensure this, the CGTT will focus on effective and efficient service delivery to the people at all levels. The CGTT recognizes that programmes and projects are continually being designed and implemented to address various socio-economic problems within the county. In order to ensure that the goals and objectives of these programmes and projects are realized, there is need to have structures for providing evidence on the results. The County Government has demonstrated a significant commitment in integrating the SDGs in our development frameworks. There is need for periodic tracking and reporting on the progress of implementation to build on the significant milestones made. The reporting on local progress on the SDGs is an essential instrument to create awareness of the KV 2030 Agenda within sub-national governments, accelerate the localization movement and advocate for enabling environment for achievement of the SDGs.

This therefore required all departments to monitor, evaluate and report on the programmes and projects being undertaken taking into account the activities of all partners in a consistent and coherent manner.

This report has been developed through an extensive process of consultations, meetings and discussion forums with key Taita Taveta County development stakeholders. These stakeholders included: County Departments, National Government Agencies,

Development Partners and Non- Governmental Organizations, among others. Inputs from the consulted stakeholders were used by technical officers from the County Government to draft the report.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the process of drafting this report, notably the H.E The Governor Andrew Mwadime, County Executive Committee members for supporting the initiative. I would also like to appreciate county technical officers in the department of Finance and Planning (F&P) led by CPA Nashon Nyali the County Chief Officer, Ms. Margaret Mwangola, Director Special Programme (SP), Mr. Laban Kinyai Director Budget and Planning (B&P), and his entire team, the SDU staff led by Mr. Stanley Maigacho, for coordinating the report development process. The report also received tremendous technical inputs from the State Department of Economic Planning (SDEP) team led by Director, Mr John Olela, Chief Economist, Mr William Komu and its team members.

I would also like to express my gratitude to all participants in the meetings and workshops and all those who contributed through various means of communication. Specifically, our gratitude goes to the COG team of Eunice Fedha, Mr. Ken Oluoch and Mercy Gatabi for coordinating the entire process. Our technical lead Mr Robert Papa is highly recognized in the whole process.

Special thanks to United Nations RCO team led by Mr Julius Chokera, United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) team led by Mr. Benson Kimani for facilitating the process in the development of this report. Your financial and technical support is much appreciated.

**HARRISON MKALA**  
**COUNTY CHIEF OFFICER, SERVICE DELIVERY UNIT AND SPECIAL PROGRAMME**

## Executive Summary

The Agenda 2030 is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. Poverty eradication is recognized in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan, which is integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental. The Goals and targets will stimulate action over the next seven years. Taita Taveta County has witnessed remarkable progress towards implementation of the SDGs in our development agenda despite numerous challenges

Additionally, COVID-19 Pandemic impacted on implementation of all SDGs undermining the progress made. With the pandemic still uncontained, the degree to which SDGs implementation has been affected cannot be emphasized. This reiterates the urgency for reforms, concerted effort and accelerated actions needed to achieve the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development and SDGs in the County. The Kenya Government has developed the SDGs Recovery and Acceleration Strategy in order to position the Country and county government of Taita Taveta back on track to stimulate economic recovery and acceleratethe progress in the implementation of SDGs in Kenya in the Decade of Action.

The development process of this SDGs Voluntary local review report was highly consultative, open, inclusive and participatory involving key stakeholders to increase ownership. They included; the National government and its MDAs, UN Agencies, COG, SDGs Kenya Forum, PrivateSector, Academia, Media and local communities.

This VLR is divided into seven chapters Introduction, Methodology, Policy and enabling environment, progress in the implementation, means of implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the agenda 2030, and Conclusion.

The Introduction covers the Background (Brief description of the County – Demographic, economy and Employment among others) and Rationale (Why the VLR – benefits, linkage of the VLR to the VNR)

The methodology defines the process of development of the report (Indicator selection – KNBS indicator framework & county indicators (proxy indicators), data collection and stakeholder engagement)

The policy and enabling environment chapter explains the integration of the three dimensions in county plans, policies and budget process that includes multi-stakeholder partnerships, the spirit of leaving no one behind, coordination and institutional mechanisms.

Chapter four and five highlights on the progress and means in the implementation of the SDGs in Taita Taveta. The highlights capture the significant milestones since the adoption of SDGs. They include; preparation of the SDGs road map which addresses five thematic areas, mainstreaming of SDGs into planning and budgeting frameworks, undertaking of policy gap analysis and preparation of report, assessment of SDGs awareness across the country, implementation status of the goals. The financing of SDGs, investment opportunities, science, technology and innovation (ST&I), statistics and data for SDGs, partnerships, institutional and coordination mechanisms including Capacity building are clearly defined as enablers to the implementation of the SDGs

Chapter six covers monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs, and the system in place to track the implementation of the SDGs.

Chapter Seven, summarizes the key challenges of the review and follow-up actions

## CHAPTER ONE: COUNTY GENERAL INFORMATION

### 1.1 Background

Taita Taveta County is located approximately 360 km southeast of Nairobi and 200 km northwest of Mombasa, and is a port and major gateway to the United Republic of Tanzania through Taveta town. The county, whose headquarters are situated in Mwatate sub-county, is one of the six counties in the Jumuiya ya Kaunti za Pwani (JKP) regional economic bloc. The major towns in the County include Voi, Taveta, Mwatate and Wundanyi.

The county covers a total area of 17,084.1km<sup>2</sup> with 10,649.9 km<sup>2</sup> (62.3%) being within Tsavo East and Tsavo West National Parks, providing a major tourism destination. Water bodies within the county occupy 106 km<sup>2</sup> comprising of Lakes Jipe and Chala in Taveta sub-county. The rest of the area is spread within public and private land such as ranches. Sisal estates and hilltop forests occupy less than 100 km<sup>2</sup>.

The projected 2022 population of the county stands at 360,000 with a gender split of 51% being male and 49% being female. The population density per km<sup>2</sup> in the county ranges from 6 persons in rural areas to more than 900 persons in urban areas. The population distribution in the county is influenced by cultural heritage, rainfall and terrain. The main ethnic groups in the county include: Taita, Taveta, Kambas, Maasai, Luos, Kikuyu and Somalis.

The lower regions of the County receive an average of 440 mm of rain per annum whereas the highlands receive up to 1900 mm. Altitudes range from 500 metres above sea level to almost 2300 m at the highest point in the county Vuria Peak. The highest temperature of the County is 32 degrees Celsius while the lowest is 15 degrees Celsius. 62 % of the County land is occupied by Tsavo East and West national park. The size of the county arable land is 2,055 km<sup>2</sup> while non-arable land is 14,307 Km<sup>2</sup>. There are 48 forests in Taita Taveta County, 28 of which are gazetted and managed by the national government. The main activity in the County is crop farming; food crops and cash crops. The total acreage under food crops is 44787.85 acres and 8144.59 acres under cash crops. The main food crops are maize, beans, rice, green grams and bananas while the main cash crops are macadamia, avocados, assorted vegetables, mangoes, sisal and French beans.

### 1.3 County Poverty Profile

Poverty is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon. Until the 1980s, the monetary poverty approach was largely the only way to measure and report on poverty. Multidimensional poverty measures, attempt to reflect this complex experience of poverty that considers multiple dimensions of well-being beyond just monetary poverty. Multidimensional approach to measuring Poverty was given more impetus by the 2030 sustainable development goals-where Goal 1 is zero poverty with a target 1.2.2 requiring all countries to measure and report poverty using all approaches and support all forms for the various age groups. The Multidimensional Poverty Measures, therefore, **seeks to understand poverty beyond monetary deprivations.** The monetary poverty rate for Taita Taveta according to KNBS Kenya Poverty report 2021 is 32% which is slightly below the national rate of 35.7% with approximately 109,061 people in Taita Taveta being monetarily poor. Taita Taveta has a multidimensional poverty rate of 40%, which is 8-percentage point higher than the monetary poverty rate of 32% with a total of 136,647 people being multidimensional poor. When disaggregated by age groups, 32% of children in Taita Taveta are multidimensional poor. This is 20-percentage points lower than the national average of 52.5%. Among the youths, 42% are multidimensional poor compared to a national average of 48.1% while for the elderly population, 42% are multidimensional poor compared to a national average of 55.7%. Among children aged 0-17, the core drivers of multidimensional poverty are nutrition (58%), housing (54%), information (29.5%) and water (23.2%). For youths aged 18-34, the core drivers of multidimensional poverty are education (54.3%), housing (53.4%), nutrition (42.3%) and economic activity (38.2%). Among adults aged 35-59, the core drivers of multidimensional poverty are education (60.8%), economic activity (66.7%), housing (53%) and nutrition (42.7%). Among the elderly aged 60+, the core drivers of multidimensional poverty are nutrition (64.7%), housing (62%), education (48%), and water (28.8%).

### 1.3. Rationale for the review

The overall objective is to produce a voluntary local review (VLR) report for Taita Taveta county on generally the 17 SDGs but with deliberate emphasis on five SDGs namely: 1 (Poverty Eradication), 2 (Zero Hunger), 13(Climate Change), 16(Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), and 17 (partnerships for the Goals) which are to be reviewed in-depth at the **10<sup>th</sup> session of high-level political forum (HLPF)** in July 2024.. The Taita Taveta County VLRs will be incorporated into Voluntary National Review (VNR) The VLRs will be incorporated into Voluntary National Review (VNR)

The reporting would be useful to various stakeholders especially the Government of Kenya (GoK), which is the employer of all public service employees through the MDAs.

The study would also act as a road map: -

- To assess how well SDGs have been mainstreamed in the County CIDP and identify gaps
- To measure the progress made in the achievement of SDG Goals and report on them
- To examine the level of participation and engagement of all stakeholders in planning, institutionalization, budgeting, implementation, monitoring & evaluation and generation of data to ensure no one is left behind. VLR should be People-centered, gender-sensitive, and respect, protect and promote human rights, with a particular focus on the people who are poorest, mostvulnerable and left furthest behind and to identify groups that have been left behind; Understand why this has happened; and Identify strategies to promote more inclusive approaches that will include these groups
- To assess the alignment of the SDGs to National priorities and the AU Agenda 2063
- To define and examine the functionality of institutional coordination mechanisms for SDGs
- To access the SDG Accelerators bottlenecks and identify policies and programmes to trigger positive multiplier effect across SDGs and targets
- To examine how SDGs have been integrated into Budgets and funding for SDGs
- To examine the availability of data for monitoring and reporting on SDGs
- To examine the awareness, advocacy, resources and partnerships built by the County on SDGs
- To identify gaps and find out how Policy integration balancing all three SD dimensions:social, economic growth and environmental protection has been implemented



## CHAPTER TWO: METHODOLOGY

The development of this VLR was spearheaded by the SDGs Coordination Unit within the office of the Governor domiciled in SDU and SP which is mandated to coordinate implementation and reporting of SDGs in the county. The unit was supported by members of the Inter Agency Technical Working Committee (IATWC) composed of representatives from the Council of Governors, KNBS, local CSOs private sector and academia. The preparation followed a highly consultative process of all stakeholders who were involved in different stages of the process, which involved review of key planning documents like the MTP III, CIDP, sector reports, citizen engagement, CSO reports, end term review of the CIDP report as well as county monitoring and evaluation reports. Key informant interviews were conducted to ascertain the level of implementation. The first draft was prepared by the service delivery unit led by the County SDG champion in close consultation with departmental technical team. A meeting was organized by the SDG champion to capacity build county staff on the development of the VLR supported by office of the Governor and the COG.

The preparatory process guided by a well-planned SDGs roadmap developed by stakeholders in a meeting held in Naivasha and based on the experience and lessons learnt in implementation of the SDGs in the county.

The following principles were followed in the development of this VLR report:

- a. The voluntary local reviews (VLRs) aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- b. The VLRs also seek to strengthen policies and institutions of the governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the sustainable development goals.
- c. Identify achievements, challenges, gaps and critical success factors and support countries in making informed policy choices
- d. Open, inclusive, participatory and transparent for all people and will support reporting by all relevant stakeholders
- e. Should be people-centered, gender-sensitive, respect human rights and have a particular focus on the poorest, most vulnerable and those furthest behind
- f. Build on existing platforms and processes, where these exist, avoid duplication and respond to national circumstances, capacities, needs and priorities.
- g. Be rigorous and based on evidence, informed by county-led evaluations and data which is high-quality, accessible, timely, reliable and disaggregated by income, sex, age, disability and geographic location and other characteristics relevant in local contexts.
- h. Require enhanced capacity-building of County data systems and evaluation programmers

## CHAPTER THREE: POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

### 3.1. Integration of the 3 dimensions in county plans, policies and budget process

The integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development is critical for sustainability. A well-balanced integration of the economic, social and environment is very important as it allows for a holistic approach. The CGTT has developed a holistic framework through integration of the dimensions of sustainable development.

The CGTT has institutionalized the SDGs Roadmap by appointment of the County SDG champion to spearhead implementation, tracking and reporting of the SDGs. This roadmap addresses seven (7) thematic areas, namely: Stakeholder collaboration and partnerships; Advocacy and awareness creation; Domestication and localization; Mainstreaming the Agenda 2030 into planning frameworks; Capacity building; Resource mobilization; and Tracking and reporting. It undertook a mapping of key stakeholders under each SDG. It participates in annual multi stakeholders' forums held to showcase ongoing initiatives, exchange inputs and ideas towards acceleration of implementation of SDGs. The County departments identified indicators relevant to them, mainstream them into plans and budgets, and also create awareness among downstream institutions. Mainstreaming of the indicators had also been undertaken in the CIDP II and CIDPIII indicator Framework. Alignment of various planning guidelines to the SDGs Agenda 2030 has also been undertaken. These include; The Strategic Plan, CIDP, Annual Development Plans (ADP). The establishment of the Inter-Agency Technical Working Group has strengthened the coordination of the implementation, monitoring and reporting on the SDGs. The operationalization of the SDGs champion has ensured seamless coordination of the implementation, monitoring and reporting on the SDGs at the county. The County is currently needs support in local reporting of SDGs through VLR and also to prepare an action plan to improve data collection and quality on existing indicators; development county statistical abstract, mechanisms for adoption of citizen generated data as official statistics; and capacity building on data collection, analysis and interpretation.

### 3.2. Multi-stakeholder partnerships

The SDGs process calls for multi-stakeholders' engagement. The SDG unit has helped to enhance stakeholder engagement in Taita Taveta County. Through this unit, stakeholder have been engaged with the NG, COG, CSOs, Private Sector, Academia, UN and County Assembly among others. However, there is a need to expand the engagement to include youths, People with disability (PWDs, and research institutions.. This enhances ownership and sustainability. The unit has engaged citizens into local action in order to:

- promote shared understanding of complex national and local problems
- devise integrated solutions that benefit from broader societal consensus
- ensure ownership and commitment to possible solutions
- ensure no one is left behind both in NG and CG, development partners, CSOs, private sector, and academia are crucial to ensure the process is inclusive and accountable

### 3.3. Leaving No One Behind

The LNOB is the central, transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its goals. LNOB means moving beyond assessing average and aggregate progress, towards ensuring progress for all population groups at a disaggregated level. The County has taken explicit actions to end extreme poverty, curb inequalities, and confront discrimination and fast-track progress for the furthest behind. The County considered the following five factors proposed as key to understanding who is being left behind and why: discrimination; place of residence; socio-economic status; governance; and vulnerability to shocks. Through the VLRs we were able to:

- gain political ownership by local leaders
- promote inclusion and participation of communities and vulnerable groups
- fosters de-siloing and cooperation across public departments and an effort to promote vertical and horizontal policy coherence and enhance multilevel governance systems
- Promotes utilization of local data and mobilization of local resources

### **3.4. Volunteerism**

Volunteers in CGTT are significantly contributing towards SDGS through

- 1) Raising awareness about agenda 2030
- 2) Delivering technical expertise and services
- 3) Facilitating spaces for dialogue and action
- 4) Monitoring SDGs progress

Volunteerism remains a key facilitator in the attainment of the socioeconomic goals at national, county and grassroots level as well its meta-contribution to the *SDGs*<sup>1</sup>.

### **3.5. Coordination and institutional mechanism**

The County SDU unit and SP is responsible for the overall management and coordination of the SDGs in the County. The day to day operations and coordination of the SDGs process is delegated to the County SDU. The main responsibility of the unit is to offer secretarial services for SDGs overall management of the process, including implementation tracking and reporting. The County Chief Officer SDU and SP is responsible for policy, and budget while the Director for SDU and SP being responsible for planning and executing the implementation of SDGs. The Unit therefore needs to be strengthened and capacity-build to be in a position to handle the increased mandates provided for under the SDGs.

## CHAPTER FOUR: PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GOALS

This chapter covers the strategic implementation framework. It focuses on monitoring, evaluation and reporting. The CGTT has reported on the progress and interventions' outputs we have undertaken related to the targeted five SDGs. During the process of the review, SDGs were aligned to the Africa Union (AU) agenda 2063 targets and the indicators for each target.

### 4.1 SDGS REPORTING

GOAL	TARGET	CORRESPONDING AU TARGET/ GOAL	INDICATOR	BASE LINE	COUNTY CURRENT STATUS IN IMLEMENTATION	DATA SOURCES	BEST PRACTICES	CHALLENGES	RECOMMENDATIONS
<b>Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere</b>	1.1	Target 7: Reduce 2013 levels of poverty by at least 30%	1.2.1	33.9%	32%	KNBS Kenya Poverty report 2021	Indigenous chicken commercialization  Equipment to enhance fish commercialization	High cost of farm inputs	Introduce subsidies on farm inputs.  Reduce or eliminate taxation of essential farm inputs.
	1.2		1.2.2	15	At 15-25% level since the county has limited resources.	2019 census	Promotion of gender friendly technologies  Making a deliberate effort to target the vulnerable categories in projects/programs	Very low funding for Agriculture projects/programs	Increase funding
					Kshs 100,000,000.00	Kshs 200,000,000.00	Budget, Financial records and Records in Education department	Increased Bursary allocations	Late disbursement from treasury
				2%	6.6% of total county budget in FY 2022-23	6.6% of total county budget in FY 2022-23	Projects in partnership with DPs NAVCDP KCSAP  ASDSP II  Fertilizer Subsidy Programme  Livestock Value Chain Support Project  De-Risking and Value Enhancement.	Most projects are value chain specific.	Need projects that would cover all value chains.

<b>Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</b>	2.1	Target 10: Reduce the 2013 levels of the proportion of the population who suffer from hunger by at least 80%.	2.1.1 2.1.2	<u>47%</u>	37.2 % rural food poverty headcount 2021	KNBS Kenya Poverty report 2021	Capacity building of livestock Farmers.  Pasture and fodder production for livestock.  Introduction and upscaling of Galla goat breeds in the community.  Quality assurance of food of animal origin  Introduction of modern beehives to improve honey production.  Promote fish production and consumption through aquaculture and capture fish strategies.  Livestock, pests and disease surveillance and control  Introduction of beef and dairy superior breeds through artificial insemination. Increase in the number of veterinary extension staff	Low budgetary allocation for agricultural development	Increase the budgetary allocation for agricultural development to 10% (as per Maputo declaration)
	2.2	Goal (3) Healthy and well-nourished citizens	2.2.1 2.2.2	26.9	19.2%	KDHS	Inadequate capacity of health workers on integrated management of malnutrition (IMAM)  Inadequate supplies to manage cases of moderate malnutrition		Conduct training to health workers on IMAM  Provide supplies for management of moderate malnutrition  Conduct health and nutrition survey in the County
<b>Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts<sup>a</sup></b>	13.1	Target 81: Increase the proportion of farm, pastoral, and fisher households resilient to climate and weather-	13.1.1*	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	Climate Directorate	Legal framework put in place - A Participatory Climate Risk	Delay in project funding. Inadequate allocation to	Establish greater collaboration and partnership for increased resource mobilization for

		related risks to 30%.					Assessment Report prepared and a County Climate Change Action Plan 2023-2027 developed. And CCF established and capitalized 2% allocation of the County Annual Development budget to the CCF	the County Climate Change Fund.	enhanced climate action.  Increase County contribution to the CCF.
				<u>2</u>	<u>21</u>		County and Ward Climate Change Planning Committees in place.		
				<u>12</u>	<u>20</u>		Prioritized. resilience investment projects to be implemented under FLLOCA (1 per ward)		
<b>Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</b>	16.1	Goal (17) Full Gender Equality in All Spheres of Life Goal (19) Africa as a major partner in global affairs and peaceful co-existence	<u>16.1.1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	YSGC&SS	Formation of gender sector group and Sensitization forums on gender awareness among women, youth, children and pwds.	Insufficient Budget allocations. Vandalism of social amenities.	Allocation of more funds in the Gender and Social Service Department.  Proper monitoring and Evaluation of all social amenities.
				<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>		Implementation of the SGBV policy and Child welfare and Protection Act.  Establishing safe spaces for the victims of Sexual violence		
	16.2	Goal (18) Engaged and Empowered Youth and Children	16.2.1 16.2.3*	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	YSGC&SS	Formation of gender sector group and Sensitization forums on gender	Insufficient Budget allocations. Vandalism of social amenities.	Allocation of more funds in the Gender and Social Service Department.  Proper monitoring

							awareness among women, youth, children and pwds.		and Evaluation of all social amenities.
<b>Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development</b>	17.1		17.1.1	264M	303M	Financial reports	Revenue Automation	Revenue leakages due to weak enforcement	Strengthen and capacity build the enforcement unit
				<u>10</u>	<u>35</u>	Finance Department and Special Program Unit	Promote partnership with DP, NGOs and CBOs in undertaking climate change adaptation and mitigation	Donor project specifics	Enhance and promote partnerships

## CHAPTER FIVE: MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The progress of implementation is still low in a number of SDGs, since CGTT requires financing, technology, and capacity building. The scale and ambition of the SDG Agenda requires a revitalized global partnership to ensure its implementation. This Partnership will work in a spirit of global solidarity, in particular solidarity with the poorest and with people in vulnerable situations. It will facilitate an intensive global engagement in support of implementation of all the Goals and targets, bringing together Governments, the private sector, civil society, the UN system and other actors in mobilizing all available resources.

The means of implementation targets under Goal 17 and under each SDG are key to realizing our Agenda and are of equal importance with the other goals and targets. The Agenda, including the SDGs, can be met within the framework of a revitalized global partnership for sustainable development, supported by the concrete policies and actions. The CGTT recognizes that each county has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development. The new Agenda deals with the means required for implementation of the goals and targets. The means of implementation will include the mobilization of financial resources as well as capacity-building and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favorable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed. Public finance, both domestic and international, will play a vital role in providing essential services and public goods and in catalyzing other sources of finance. We acknowledge the role of the diverse private sector, ranging from micro-enterprises to cooperatives to multinationals, and that of civil society organizations and philanthropic organizations in the implementation of the SDG Agenda.

The investors both locally and internationally play an important role in complementing the efforts of counties to mobilize public resources. We acknowledge also the essential role of CA through their enactment of legislation and adoption of budgets and their role in ensuring accountability for the effective implementation of the SDGs. And as a Governments we will work closely and inclusively with everybody on the SDGs implementation without LNOB.

### 5.1 Financing the SDGs

Taita Taveta County Government enhanced its own source revenue mobilization being the most predictable and reliable source of financing. The County Government explored alternative forms of development financing including Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) and untapped resources from philanthropic organizations for the realization of the SDGs. The County treasury is implementing various initiatives geared towards raising more funds to support development such as automation of revenue collection and reducing revenue leakages in addition to efficient use of enforcement strategies. The County government has develop the policies e.g M&E and Disaster Risk Management policies while enhancing incentives that will attract private sector investment in the financing of the SDGS.

### 5.2 Investment opportunities

The CGTT has created a conducive investment climate to attract investor and partners as means of accelerating the implementation of the SDGs. The CGTT established the Taita Taveta Investment and Development Corporation (TTIDC) to spearhead the Government Investment Agenda. The mandate being investment promotion which actively seeks to bring investment opportunities to the attention of potential investors, provide capital, jobs, skills, value and exports, and increases productivity and innovations. Investment promotion is targeted to both domestic as well as investors. Various initiatives have been directed towards the achievement of this important implementation means by building trust and attracting investors. These include but not limited to: -

- 1) Lobbying of investors by the County leadership
- 2) Ease of doing business
- 3) Zero tolerance to corruption
- 4) Strengthening the political goodwill.



### 5.3 Science Technology & Innovation (ST&I)

The Agenda 2030 positions science, technology and innovation (ST&I) as the key means of implementation. The ST&I helps to drive progress on the SDGs in various ways. The ST&I advise on challenges related to SDGs; provides indicators for monitoring progress of projects and programmes; advice on relevant policies and actions essential in pushing the SDGs Agenda forward; search for innovative solutions to various challenges faced in the implementation of the SDGs and; ensure that the County has a robust science-policy interface. The CGTT enhanced the use of ST&I and ensured that all sectors have access to new technologies in order to increase productivity and efficiency in driving the achievement of the SDGs

### 5.4 Statistics and Data for SDGs

SDGs Reporting in Kenya relies on the national SDGs indicator framework hosted by KNBS. The framework provides trends analysis for each SDGs indicator based on available data from national surveys and censuses. The available data is affected by inconsistency in conducting national surveys and censuses and limited data disaggregation. In order to ensure quality and adequate data on SDGs, the CGTT will continue to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation unit to deliver its mandate. The County will work with the established KNBS office at Taita Taveta County to coordinate statistical capacity building programmes and ensure that international standards are applied in the production and dissemination of county statistics. The County Government will continue to enhance its capacity to produce high quality, timely and reliable disaggregated data and explore use of alternative sources of data, such as big data and citizen-generated data.

### 5.5 Partnerships

The various stakeholders including private sector, CSOs, and development partners continue to play a pivotal role in the implementation of SDGs in the true spirit of LNOB. The Government has been working with its development partners towards the attainment of national and county development priorities, which contribute to the realization of the Agenda 2030 and other global commitments. The development partners' assistance is aligned to the Government's national development agenda, riding on priorities such as sustainability, inequality, vulnerability and wealth creation for all. In addition to this, successful implementation of the Agenda 2030 calls for more inclusive, coordinated and harmonized approaches and not working in "silos". This calls for tapping on all forms of development financing available from all stakeholders to complement its development efforts. This needs to be done through more integrated, accountable and transparent approaches to development through inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogues – **JOINT WORK PLAN APPROACH**, chaired by County Chief Officer Service Delivery and Special Program unit domiciled in the office of the Governor

### 5.6 Institutional and Coordination Mechanisms

The County SDU unit and SP is responsible for the overall management and coordination of the SDGs in the County. The day to day operations and coordination of the SDGs process is delegated to the County SDU. The main responsibility of the unit is to offer secretarial services for SDGs overall management of the process, including implementation tracking and reporting. The County Chief Officer SDU and SP is responsible for planning and execution while the Director for SDU and SP responsible for policy, and budget implementation for SDGs. The Unit therefore needs to be strengthened and capacity-build to be in a position to handle the increased mandates provided for under the SDGs.

## **5.7 Capacity building**

The CGTT requires to build adequate technical and technological capacity to support the implementation of SDGs. Capacity building remains critical to efficiently source and manage development funds. The County focuses on scaling up regional cooperation to strengthen its capacities. The CGTT staff have undertaken various trainings at the Kenya School of Government (KSG) and with Support from UNDP, and COG the SDGs champion has been trained to strengthen capacity to mainstream SDGs in policies, planning, budgeting, implementation reviews and reporting. The County will also participate in County Government networks as a means of peer learning and benchmarking on good practices and utilize the COGs Maarifa center.

## **CHAPTER SIX: MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REPORTING OF THE AGENDA 2030**

The CGTT has clear defined systems that are in place in place to track the implementation of SDGs and how they will be monitored and evaluated during and after its implementation. The M&E processes, methods, and tools are guided by Section 232 of the Constitution and all the legal provisions that provide for M&E, The County M&E Policy is in line with the National M&E Policy, CIMES guidelines, the Kenya norms, and standards for M&E and Kenya evaluation guidelines. The M&E structure includes: data collection, analysis, reporting, and learning; M&E outcome indicators tracking; and dissemination and feedback mechanism.

### **6.1 M&E capacity**

The M&E unit has the necessary human capacity for M&E, including the County Budgeting and Planning Directorate, and departmental/sector M&E focal point persons. The County government has also taken steps to undertake M&E capacity-building for staff and the various M&E project management committees to ensure that people have a variety of skills and knowledge to run each step of the M&E system.

### **6.3 Data Collection, Analysis, and Reporting**

The M&E unit has a defined and developed the main methods and tools that will be used for data collection, archiving, analysis, and reporting arrangements in line with the national M&E norms and standards. The County CIDP Indicator handbook which is in the development stage will guide the monitoring & evaluation of the CIDP and track the implementation of the SDGs. The handbook will be accompanied by the data management plan to help coordinate the M&E functions and organize the collection, analysis, and dissemination of information needed for effective CIDP and SDGs implementation. The M&E plan will define the data collection tools for the indicators, the data collection methods, and the data processing and analysis methods.

### **Dissemination, Feedback Mechanism, Citizen Engagement, and Learning**

The CGTT has a feedback-and-response System (FRS) to create a two-way communication loop that will enable the various sectors/department to receive citizens' feedback and respond timely to their suggestions and concerns. The feedback mechanisms allow the citizens to provide feedback through channels that include meetings, suggestion boxes, hotlines, and others. This mechanism acknowledges receiving of feedback and provide appropriate responses to the public in a timely manner.

Regarding learning from the M&E initiatives and reports, the information generated from M&E is useful for decision-makers, policymakers, and the wider county audience as it will provide facts and evidence, that when accepted and internalized, provide knowledge products for promoting learning. The County will incorporate learning into the overall programme implementation by using the information disseminated from the M&E processes and making it available for potential users to become applied knowledge. The county will utilize critical reflection sessions, after-action reviews, and peer-to-peer learning, among others, as strategies for learning to improve the overall county performance and quality of results of ongoing and future programs, strategies, and interventions.

## **CHAPTER SEVEN: CONCLUSION**

This CGTT encountered numerous key challenges encountered in implementation of the SDGs during the period under review. Key lessons learnt are also briefly highlighted hereunder

The challenges experienced across virtually all sectors and departments include the following:

- 1) Inadequate funding and late disbursements from national treasury
- 2) Inadequate and poorly developed infrastructure
- 3) Inadequate Human Resources.
- 4) Inadequate or lack legislation framework
- 5) High cost of farm inputs
- 6) Climatic change and Prolonged Drought
- 7) Weak Monitoring and Evaluation System
- 8) Lack of harmonised plans

The inception and slow take off of devolution in the county still lacks harmonised plans in critical areas such as spatial planning. Consequently, the county has not been able to plan and control developments resulting in myriad of challenges such congestions and traffic in urban areas, pollutions, environmental and health hazards, floods among others. Additionally, lack of a spatial plan has led to conflict of interest among different partners which has resulted delayed and skewed development in some areas of the county:

## 7.2 RECOMMENDATIONS AND FOLLOW UP ACTION

Achieving a better balance between social, economic and environmental outcomes requires both political actions –galvanizing better coordination across sectors and nations, and shaping consumption habits of the rich and institutional as well as technical innovation to create and implement policies in support of inclusive sustainable economic transformation by ensuring successful SDGs implementation, tracking, reviewing and reporting.

Moving forward,

- The County needs to collaborate with KNBS and local CSOs to use citizen generated data
- The current institutional M&E framework need to be revamped, including building capacities of departments for M&E and Reporting.
- The County will formulate all the required policies and Acts required for the support of SDGs implementation
- Partnership and stakeholder engagement will be enhanced
- The County will map all the SDGs against the mandates of the County Government Agencies and development partners and take the lead role in the planning, implementation, tracking and reporting of their respective goals.
- Lead County departments and other stakeholders in each goal and target should be identified. Since the departments are the ones responsible for mainstreaming the SDGs in planning frameworks, budgets, work plans and performance contracting in their respective sectors.
- The County Government appointed SDGs champion who will be supported and adequately facilitated to spearhead and deliver the Agenda
- The County will work closely with the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) which are critical stakeholders in the SDGs and their linkage will be through their own institutional structure.
- The County will work with civil society to continue providing advocacy and awareness on the SDGs.
- The County will strengthen the current collaboration with the Private Sector which is a significant contributor to the realization of sustainable development in Kenya. The Private Sector involvement in the SDGs is coordinated by Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA), ns
- Technology and Innovation plays a significant role in the achievement of the SDGs targets by improving the efficiency and effectiveness of new and more sustainable ways of development. The creation of new technologies that foster research and stimulate innovation is thus required. This process can be boosted by strengthening knowledge-sharing and collaboration among stakeholders.
- For the successful delivery of the Agenda 2030 in the Decade of Action, there is a need to have both sufficient numbers of technical staff and the appropriate skills that are needed for executing the job. The SDGs Acceleration strategy requires an assessment of the human capital that is available to implement the SDGs. Training and capacity building of staff involved in the delivery of the SDGs needs to continue and the training should incorporate technical skills. It should also target those charged with various roles and responsibilities at county level including coordination, planning and budgeting, implementation, statistical capacities, monitoring and evaluation and reporting.
- The level of awareness and sensitization on the SDGs is crucial in the successful implementation and monitoring of the strategy in the County. There is a need to ensure that the general population understands the essence of the Agenda 2030.
- Since the adoption of the SDGs, one of the key challenges in the implementation has been inadequate funding. To address this, effort will be made to aise additional resources as well as focusing on innovations and learning and thereby targeting resources more effectively.