

Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions for Sustainable Development in Kenya

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Abstract

The concern of the United Nations (UN) for global development started with the declaration of the Millennium Development Goals in the year 2000. Later in 2015, the UN developed 17 life-changing goals known as the Global Goals or the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The UN expected each member country to come up with strategies for the implementation of the SDGs. Kenya's strategies, and challenges facing them, have not been adequately analyzed and documented. This paper will add to the existing global literature in the area of SDGs implementation. SDG 16 falls under the political pillar that speaks to a democratic society based on the rule of law. This Goal has 12 targets and 23 indicators. SDG 16 also aims at promoting peaceful and inclusive communities for sustainable development. In addition, it aims at providing access to justice, accountability, and inclusive institutions at all levels. This paper sought to examine Kenya's efforts to achieve SDG 16 by examining Kenya's strategies to achieve 6 of the 12 targets. The overall aim was to examine Kenya's strategies to achieve sustainable development, while highlighting the challenges faced. Desktop research was carried out using a descriptive research design. Qualitative data was collected from internal and external sources. The findings show that Kenya has made great progress in attaining SDG 16 by developing strategies such as; the new Constitution, a number of Acts, like the Children's Act, an independent Judiciary, a National Police Service, and a number of Commissions like the Gender Commission. It is recommended that, in order to fully attain SDG 16, more financial support is needed for the institutions created and there needs to be political goodwill.

Keywords: Challenges, Development, Institutions, Justice, Peace, Sustainable strategies.

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INTRODUCTION

In the year 2000, the UN adopted a 15-year global sustainable development plan known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Thereafter, in 2015, the UN unveiled 17 Global Goals or the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These Goals are part of the UN strategy to synergize global action towards creating a better world for everyone by the year 2030 (UN, 2020). Specifically, the SDGs aimed at eradicating poverty by 2030 by targeting issues touching on the environment, society and economy. Every member country was to participate without having any one left behind. Kenya's efforts towards responding to the UN call for action on Sustainable Development can be traced back to 2008 when Kenya unveiled her Vision 2030. Vision 2030 is a development blueprint based on economic, social,

and political pillars.

This paper focuses on Kenya's efforts in responding to goal 16 of the MDGs. Kenya is a diverse society comprised of over 44 different ethnic communities with varied cultures, races, and religions. These diversities and differences, particularly ethnicity, often led to conflicts. The purpose of SDG 16 is to mitigate such conflicts. SDG 16 falls under the political pillar that addresses a democratic society based on the rule of law. It has the following 12 targets; reduce all forms of violence, end trafficking and torture of children, enforce the rule of law, reduce illicit financial and arms flow, reduce corruption and bribery, ensure accountable and transparent institutions at all levels, and create inclusive participatory and representative decision-making at all levels (UN, 2021). As stated earlier, SDG 16 aims at promoting peaceful and

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inclusive communities for sustainable development. It also focuses on access to justice, and accountable inclusive institutions at all levels. It also aims to create peaceful and inclusive societies and encourage sustainable development. To achieve these objectives, there is need for transparent institutions at all levels of society that can provide equitable justice for all citizens. This paper, therefore, seeks to examine Kenya's effort to achieve SDG 16 by examining the strategies put in place to achieve this goal and discussing the challenges faced by the government in implementing this goal and advance remedies to the challenges.

THEORY

There are very few studies on SDG 16. A number of literature sources that exist on SDG 16 are global in nature and are written by the United Nations (UN, 2020, 2021). These works lack an in depth analysis of the subject hence, the present study gives a detailed analysis of SDG 16 in Kenya. A few studies on Kenya include; the work on the SDGs Kenya Forum (GOK, 2019), and SDGs Readiness Report (KAM, 2020). These studies focus on all SDGs, with a small section on SDG 16 focusing on a few strategies of attaining SDG 16 such as; setting up a Directorate of Peace Building and Conflict Management and a National Cohesion and Integration Commission, along with a few government policies. These studies do not discuss key institutions, such as the Judiciary and the Kenya Police Service, which play vital roles in attaining SDG 16.

The important concepts used in this paper include: institution, peace, and justice.

Institution refers to formal or informal procedures, routines, and norms found in an organization's structures of the polity or political economy (UN, 2021). In some cases, conflicts are a result of institutional structures that maintain inequity in resource distribution, and authorities favoring dominant groups while marginalizing minority groups.

Peace refers to as a state of tranquility or quiet (Merriam-Webster, 2020). The concept of peace has also been defined as the absence of violence, conflicts, and war. It is freedom from fear of war, conflicts, or violence, followed by settlement treaties (Mani, 2005). Galtung (1969), however, posits that

the term peace is not just the absence of violence, but also the social goals agreed to verbally by many, including the absence of violence. Galtung (1969), adds that peace may be defined as 'negative peace', which refers to the absence of personal or direct violence or war, and 'positive peace', which refers to the absence of structural violence; that is the presence of social justice, and its equitable distribution of power and resources. Direct violence is overt, for example, physical harm as a result of violence, such as the post-election violence that was experienced in Kenya in 2007-2008. On the other hand, structural violence is covert and kills slowly, for instance, poverty and social injustice for many Kenyans living in the slums without basic needs, such as water, food, and decent shelter, that slowly reduce one's life span. 'Positive peace' is about respect for other's rights, freedom of expression, non-discrimination, good environment, justice, cooperation, integration, and, no violence in solving conflicts. The challenges to peace include; inequality, marginalization of societies, tribalism, ethnic animosity, corruption, gender-based discrimination, and resource scarcity or poverty; among others. Galtung's broad definition of peace is adopted in this article because it is more comprehensive in addressing the Kenyan case.

Justice refers to the attainment of what is deserved. Justice encompasses the rule of law in the desire to reclaim individual and group rights, and leading to social restructuring or bringing things back to order (Selim and Murithi, 2011). The term justice is used to refer to freedom, equal opportunities, and accessibility of basic needs, equality, equity, and inclusion; among others. Justice exists when people respect human rights, and when there are processes in place for holding to account those who violate the rights of others (Karari, 2014). It also involves restoration, rectifying the wrongs, and creating the right relationships based on equity and fairness (Karari, 2014). In other words, justice is about making things right after violence or injustice. Justice is important for healing and overcoming historical injustices that are responsible for social, economic, and political exclusion in many African nations, including Kenya (Karari, 2014). Karari (2014), posits that the concept of justice needs updating because the term is an ever-evolving process of assessing fairness and equality for individuals or groups in a particular context.

The strategies adopted by the Government of Kenya towards the implementation and attainment of SDG 16 are in form of legal provisions, commissions, and departments created to address the attainment of SDG 16. These are independent variables which, when acted upon with financial support, may lead

to changes in the dependent variables, which in this case are the UN targets of SDG 16. The achievement of SDG 16 is the realization of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development as shown in **Figure 1**.

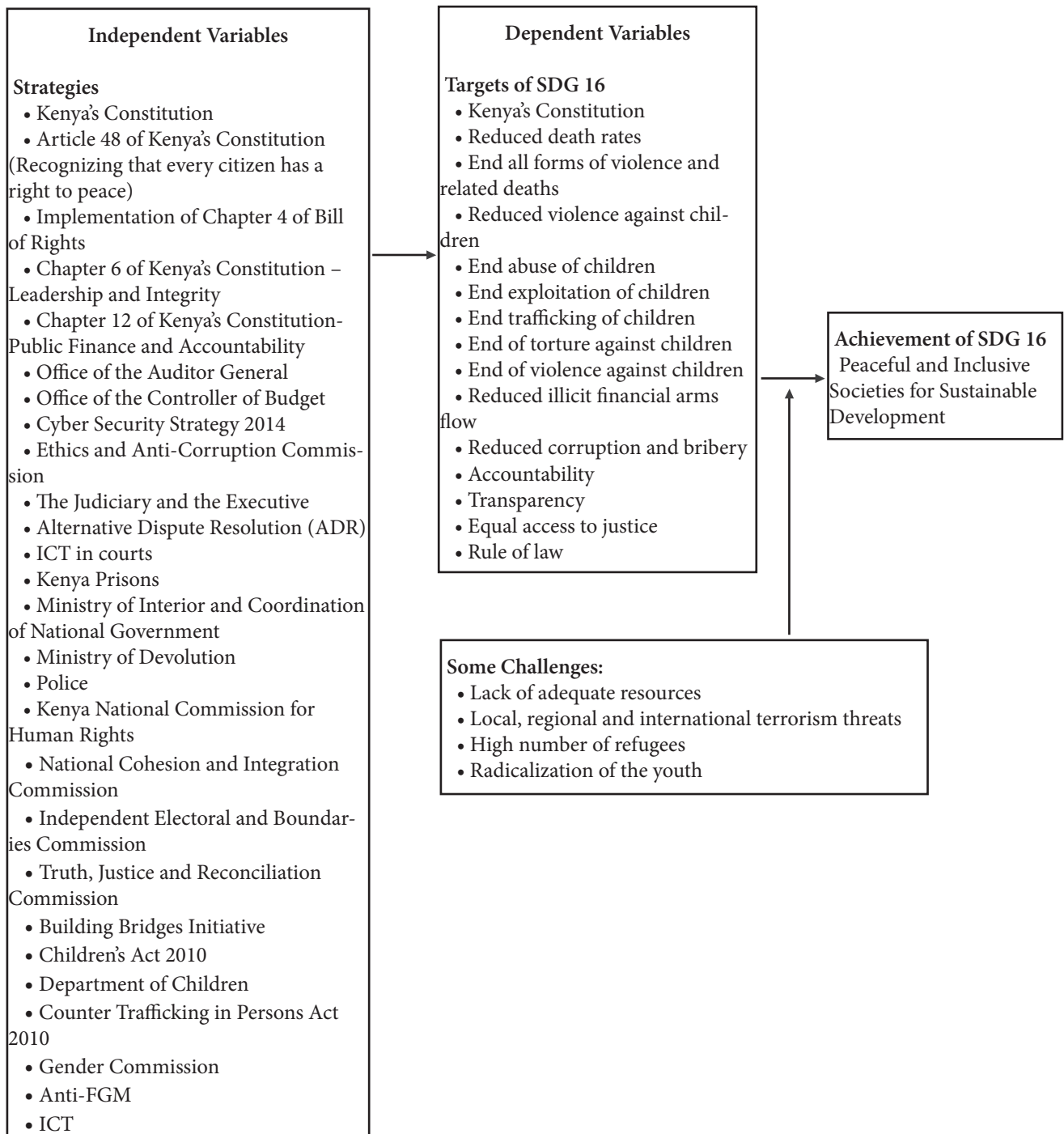


FIGURE 1
Conceptual Framework
Source: Authors 2021

RESEARCH METHODS

The paper adopted a descriptive research design to carry out a desktop research on existing literature on Kenya's efforts to attain SDG 16. Qualitative data was collected, and, thereafter, analysed thematically in line with the study objectives.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Kenya's Strategies and Challenges of Implementing SDG 16

SDG 16 is about promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice, and accountable, inclusive institutions at all levels. The twelve targets of SDG 16 are to measure direct violence, drivers of violence, governance, and justice. This Goal is important because it speaks to the need by all human beings to be free from all forms of violence and discrimination, no matter their gender, ethnicity, religion and race. Conflicts and violence lead to weak institutions that are, therefore, a threat to sustainable development (UN, 2021). Governments, communities, civil societies, and non-government and religious organizations must therefore work together to end violence, insecurity, conflicts, corruption and bribery, and embrace inclusivity and the participation of all citizens (UN, 2021). As stated earlier, SDG 16 has 12 targets. However, for a detailed discussion and analysis of the targets, the paper focused on the first six targets.

In this section, we discuss the efforts taken by the Kenyan government to achieve the six targets of SDG 16 and the challenges encountered. From the onset, we note that the Government of Kenya, since 2015, has put in place various initiatives, policies and new institutions to address SDG 16. For example, the 2010 Constitution that provides for the national values and principles of governance that bind all state organs, state officers, public officers and all persons. National values include; patriotism, national unity, sharing and devolution of power, the rule of law, democracy and participation of the people, human dignity, equity, social justice, inclusiveness, equality, human rights, non-discrimination and protection of the marginalized, good governance, integrity, transparency, accountability and sustainable development (GOK, 2010). These values are meant to lead to a just and peaceful society for all Kenyans.

Kenya's long-term development blue print Vision 2030 mainstreamed all the SDGs. Furthermore, the government has mainstreamed SDGs in performance contracting, action plans and Sub-National County Integrated Development Plans 2018 - 2022 to better implement the SDGs (UN, 2021). The government has also developed awareness campaign strategies, and distributed training materials on SDGs to the citizens. At the same time, social media communication platforms are used to disseminate SDGs to the public (GOK, 2020). The Kenyan government follows the 'whole of government' and 'whole of society' approach and has institutionalized stakeholder involvement in implantation of SDGs. For instance, the Parliamentary Caucus, Kenya Private Sector Alliance and Council of Governors, dealing with mainstreaming SDGs in policies, planning and budgeting. The government has implemented various policies and strategies to cater for the vulnerable in the society. Government has disbursed funds for education, health, social protection, gender and youth (GOK, 2020). The government has also taken some measures for promoting peaceful and inclusive existence. For example, Sessional Paper No. 9 of 2013 on National Cohesion and Integration, Sessional Paper No. 3 of 2014 on National Policy and Action Plan on Human Rights and Sessional Paper No. 5 of 2014 on Peace-Building and Conflict Management (GOK, 2020). There are many institutions that have been established by the government for the mainstreaming of SDG 16. They include; Kenya National Human Rights Commissions, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, National Cohesion and Integration Commission and Kenya National Gender and Equality Commission. In the next sections, we look at Kenya's attempts to achieve specific targets of SDG 16 and the challenges encountered.

Target 1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

The first target under SDG 16 aims at reducing violence and related deaths. The indicators under the target include; intentional homicide, conflict-related deaths, victims of violence, and safe walking alone (Institute for Economics and Peace, 2017). As mentioned earlier, Kenya is a diverse society with over 44 different ethnic communities, different races, and religions with various interests, which at times lead to conflict. In the first, internal conflicts, ethnic violence, insecurity, and lack of justice have had destructive

impacts on Kenya's socio-economic development.

Many causes of conflicts and violence in Kenya can be characterized as institutional, systemic, and geo-political. The institutional factors include; lack of resources, transparency and accountability, and coordination; while systemic factors refer to issues that policymakers are confronted with, for example, the issues of internally displaced people in some parts of the country since the 2007 post-election violence. The geo-political issues mostly refer to regional differences, for instance, between the North Eastern Counties of Kenya which are semi-arid, and the Southern Counties that are agriculturally productive and highly populated. There are many conflicts over resources in the semi-arid parts of the country as communities fight over water and grazing land for their livestock.

Reports by the police and public health workers indicate an increase of intentional homicide deaths, especially since the beginning of the COVID-19 virus pandemic in March 2020. Intentional homicide refers to unlawful death inflicted upon a person with the intent to cause death or serious injury (Institute for Economics and Peace, 2017). This type of violence is on the increase as a result of hard economic times as societies compete over scarce resources. The other indicator is conflict-related deaths. Conflict is the use of force between two armed parties that results in death. There is an increase also in the number of conflict-related death at the family and community levels as per reports by the police and public health workers. The increase is also linked to the loss of economic power and the stay-at-home rules during the pandemic. The other indicator is the victims of violence who have undergone physical, psychological, and sexual abuse (Institute for Economics and Peace, 2017). There is an increase in the number of victims of violence at home and the community in general. The final indicator under this target is safe walking alone (Institute for Economics and Peace, 2017). According to police reports, some Kenyans have been attacked or mugged while walking alone, showing that it is not safe walking alone.

The Kenyan government has put in place institutions with strategies and policies that work to eradicate

causes of violence and related deaths. The Constitution of Kenya, for instance, is the supreme law of the land that binds all citizens of Kenya. Specifically, Article 48 of the Constitution focuses on justice for all citizens (KAM, 2020). Therefore, all citizens have a right to peace and justice. The Bill of Rights, found in Chapter 4 of the Constitution, is the framework for social, economic and cultural policies. The Bill of Rights also covers rights and fundamental freedoms. The state is to observe, respect, protect, promote and fulfill the rights and freedoms of all citizens (KAM, 2020). There are several institutions that the government has put in place to end violence and related deaths. These include the; Judiciary, National Police Service, Ministry of Interior and National Coordination, National Cohesion and Integration Commission, Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, and Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC). Another institution is the Ministry of Education Science and Technology, which has established a Policy on Peace Education in schools to build capacity among the young citizens to respond to conflict in a non-violent way (Kangethe, 2015).

The Judiciary is one of the three State organs established under Article 10 of the Constitution of Kenya. It is an independent custodian of justice in Kenya. The main function of the Judiciary is to exercise the judicial authority given to it by the people of Kenya (Judiciary of Kenya, 2019). The Judiciary comprises various courts which include the; Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, High Court, and Subordinate Courts (Judiciary of Kenya, 2019). The courts have the power to hear and determine all disputes. Therefore, the Judiciary plays a vital role in deterring all forms of violence and deaths in the country. The Judiciary uses both formal and informal alternative ways to solve cases of violence. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in the Judiciary is an informal form of justice which settles disputes through negotiation, mediation, and arbitration. The Judiciary has also put in place an elaborate system to effectively serve the citizens, such as; the use of technology, e.g., such as computers and CCTV cameras in the courts, open days during which the public is sensitized on court proceedings, and the building of many more spacious courts across the country to facilitate court proceedings (Judiciary of Kenya, 2019). All these strategies have strengthened transparency in the Judiciary in handling violence

and death cases. However, the Judiciary faces many challenges that hinder the work of providing justice to Kenyans, including; lack of independence as some politicians influence some cases, lack of sufficient funds for its modernization program, shortage of personnel, including judges, magistrates, and prosecutors, corruption in the courts, few courts, and too many cases that are presided over for a long time. There is a need, therefore, to build trust in the Judiciary so that the citizens can have confidence in the justice system. There is also a need to increase funds for the Judiciary to acquire more personnel, new technology, and more office space (Judiciary of Kenya, 2019).

The Kenya Police Service is the national body in charge of law enforcement in Kenya (NPSC, 2020). The National Police Service motto is 'Utumishi Kwa Wote', which translates to service for all, meaning that it serves all citizens no matter the religion, race, or ethnicity. The National Police Service has many functions, including, upholding and enforcing the law impartially, and protecting the life, liberty, property, human rights, and dignity of the members of the public (NPSC, 2020). The Service plays a central role in the prevention of violence and deaths through; arresting perpetrators and prosecuting them, police patrols, and community-based policing, especially in conflict-prone areas, such as the Rift Valley and North Eastern.

The creation of the Gender Desk at police stations countrywide is another strategy aimed at combating domestic violence and deaths in homes and communities (NPSC, 2020). In collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Technology, the National Police Commission set up CCTV camera centres for violence and accident prevention in major cities, like Nairobi and Mombasa, to create safe cities for all people (MoICT, 2020). These cameras are used to: prevent violence, record events, collect evidence, deter crimes, and enable a response to violence. The cameras are also used to collect data on vehicle accidents, another major cause of death in Kenya. All the cameras are connected to a control center controlled by security personnel (MoICT, 2020). The use of cameras that give transparent data has improved the level of public confidence in the Service. The Service has also invested in human capital by training

the personnel at all levels, for instance, in dealing with gender-based violence and domestic violence cases at the Gender Desk (NPSC, 2020). The Service faces many challenges that include; inadequate resources, increasing cyber-crime, high youth unemployment that breeds crime, and transnational and trans-border crime networks. Other challenges include local, regional and international terrorism threats (SDG, 2021).

The National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) was established by the government in 2008 to; promote national identity and values, mitigate ethnic violence and eliminate discrimination along ethnic, racial and religious lines, and promote national reconciliation and healing. NCIC provides for mediation, conciliation, and arbitration in conflict-prone regions, such as the Rift Valley and North Eastern regions of Kenya. NCIC promotes peaceful coexistence in institutions of learning through Amani Clubs (Amani Clubs, 2020). NCIC has had a positive impact on stabilizing violent situations among communities in the country (National Cohesion and Integration Commission, 2020). The challenge of conflicts among Kenyan communities continue in spite of the measures put in place by the government. These conflicts are based on economic, social and political inequalities in the country. A recent strategy to combat post-election violence was the formation of the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI), a move focusing on promoting inclusivity, peace, security, and nationhood in Kenya. This Initiative is still an ongoing debate by the citizenry and is aimed at changing some aspects of the constitution.

The other institution that addresses issues of crime and justice in Kenya is Kenya National Commission of Human Rights (KNCHR), which was established by the Constitution of Kenya. KNCHR functions include; working with various institutions, such as the Police Service, on issues of human rights, community policing, and solving problems of violence in the community (KNHCR, 2020). The Commission has played a vital role in the prevention of violence and deaths in the country. There are many challenges, including the many cases of missing persons, and deaths that remain unresolved in the country. The other challenge is that of the high number of refugees due to regional conflicts. Further, the radicalization of

the youth has led to increased crime (UN, 2021).

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) is an institution established by the Constitution of Kenya with the sole function of organizing national elections every five years. The Commission plays an important role in preventing electoral conflicts and violence (IEBC, 2020). Some of the electoral conflicts have, however, been beyond the control of IEBC. The Judiciary rules over such cases.

Target 2: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against children and torture of children

The second target under SDG 16 is to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against children and torture of children. The three indicators under this target include; violence against children, that is physical and emotional abuse, human trafficking, and sexual violence against children. Article 53 of the Constitution of Kenya addresses some of these aspects. It states that children are to be protected from abuse, neglect, and all forms of violence. It also states that children have basic rights that include; parental care, and a right to education, shelter and health care (GOK, 2010). The government has other legislations that address these indicators including; Children Act 2010, Counter Trafficking in Persons Act 2010, and Strengthening Child Protection in Kenya Strategy, 2011-2014. Other policies include; The National Plan of Action for Combating Human Trafficking Strategic Framework 2013-2017, National Policy on Elimination of Child Labour, and National Guidelines on Management of Sexual Violence in Kenya (KAM, 2020). The Department of Children is the main government institution in charge of child protection. There is also the National Council for Children's Services, whose mandate is policy and legislative development (Children Council, 2020). The government has also provided child protection centres and alternative family care services for abused children. The Judiciary and the Police Service also play a vital role in the issues of violence against children and human trafficking. The two institutions ensure that the perpetrators of these vices are penalized under the laws of Kenya.

The other institutions working on this target include; Anti-Human and Trafficking and Child Protection Unit, Anti-Female Genital Mutilation Authority, Gender Commission and KNCHR. It is noted that there is progress in the prosecution of gender-based violence cases through the opening of family courts. However, the indicators have not been fully realized; there are many cases of child abuse during the current Covid-19 pandemic. According to the Directorate of Criminal Investigations, there is an increase in digital threats to children during the 'stay at home' period because of the Covid-19 Pandemic. These include; cyber bullying, violent content, and pornography (CID, 2020). The challenges facing this target include; a lack of funds, limited capacity in law enforcers leading to poor crime reporting and documentation, policies that are adopted but not implemented, and low automation of the judiciary thus leaving room for corruption (KAM, 2020). Consequently, there is a need for more funding for this target to be achieved, the capacity of children services' sectors need to be strengthened and a more comprehensive government driven approach to child protection should be formulated (ANPPCAN, 2020).

Target 3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

The third target of SDG 16 is to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all. The two indicators include; underreporting of violence when reporting victimization by competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms and, un-sentenced prisoners or un-sentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population. The Constitution of Kenya states that the State shall ensure access to justice for all citizens, through the various levels of the courts, from the subordinate courts to the Supreme Court. The government has also increased efforts at modernizing the Judiciary's ICT to enhance quality services and access to justice for all citizens. Government has also increased the number of High Court stations from 35 to 40, and numbers of judges from 105 to 128 (Judiciary of Kenya, 2020). The Judiciary has posted more judges in remote areas where none existed before (Judiciary of Kenya, 2020). In addition, the Judiciary has been carrying out innovations and construction of new courthouses and facilities to improve services for the citizen

(Judiciary of Kenya, 2020). The Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government hosts the Department of Correctional and Rehabilitation Services and the Kenya Prisons Service agency which cares for un-sentenced prisoners or detainees (President of Kenya, 2020).

The success in this target is a work in progress that involves adopting more strategies, including; judicial independence, the use of ADRs to clear the case backlog in the courts, more funding for the Judiciary, investing in modern technology, and, lastly, the need to involve non-state actors through community policing, capacity building, inclusivity, transparency, accountability and political goodwill. However, the third target faces many challenges which include; lack of experts, technology and funds, many layers of inequality in regards to poverty, ethnicity, and genders, abuse of power, corruption, court cases delays, and a lack of public trust and judicial independence- as politicians and some judicial officers influence court decisions- (Judiciary of Kenya, 2020).

Target 4: Reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime

The aim of the fourth target of SDG 16 is to reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime. The indicators are illicit financial flows and arms tracking. Kenya has addressed this target through Chapter Six of the Constitution, which is on Leadership and Integrity. The recovery of stolen assets is handled by the police, Asset Recovery, and the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) (EACC, 2020). The indicator on arms is handled by security agencies, together with the Judiciary. The main challenge is cyber-based money laundering, which is on the rise as the use of the internet spreads in the country. However, the Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology and the Police have set up the National Cyber Security Strategy-2014, which provides the government policy and legal framework on cybercrime (MoICT, 2020). Another challenge is the local, regional and international terrorism threats that have increased over time. In addition, there is the challenge of transnational and trans-border crime and networks.

Target 5: Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

Target 5 of SDG 16 aims at substantially reducing corruption and bribery in all their forms. The indicators are; government corruption (citizens) and government corruption (business). Corruption and bribery remain some of the major obstacles to peace and justice as large amounts of money meant for development are stolen by the ordinary citizens and government administrators. Chapter Six of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, speaks to the issues of ethics and integrity. The State has also established EACC to handle issues of corruption. The mandate of EACC is to combat and prevent corruption, economic crime and unethical conduct in Kenya, through law enforcement, prevention, public education and practices of integrity, ethics and anti-corruption (MoICT, 2020). The work of the Commission is to gather information on corruption occurring in the government and the public sector (MoICT, 2020). Corruption is one of the main vices facing the government. Corruption is found in many institutions, including government offices. The EACC is also the asset recovery agency for the government (MoICT, 2020). It recovers assets acquired through corruption on behalf of the State (MoICT, 2020). One of the challenges include the lack of resources to fight corruption, both in the government and private sector. EACC lacks experts in dealing with corruption. Another challenge is that 'corruption fights back' as many corrupt individuals fight back, leading to many unsettled cases over the years.

Target 6: Develop accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

Target 6 of SDG 16 focuses on developing accountable and transparent institutions at all levels. The indicators include responsible budget spending and satisfaction with public services. The Constitution, in Chapter 12, speaks on Public Finance and states the principles and framework of public finance (GOK, 2010). The Ministry of Devolution and Planning has been vital in the achievement of these indicators through devolving services, and participation in decision-making at all levels. The Constitution of Kenya 2010, provides for a devolved system and public participation at all levels of government, both at the national and county levels. The indicators also speak to issues of integrity and ethics captured in Chapter 6 of the Constitution.

The government has also established the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission to handle cases of transparency in the state. The National Budget is prepared by Parliament after public participation by various stakeholders including; Ministries, civil societies, professional associations and the general public. The Constitution also provides for the offices of the Auditor General and the Controller of Budget to check on accountability and transparency in the government. Kenya continues to face the challenge of corruption in the public and private sectors.

As stated earlier, inadequate resources needed for fighting corruption is another challenge. Further, the country lacks capacity in fighting corruption. The increase in cyber-crime is another challenge for the fight of corruption in the government. Finally, the lack of political will to fight corruption has remained a serious challenge for the EACC.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This paper focused on SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. SDG 16 has a total of 12 targets, however, the paper focused on six targets, which include; significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere, end abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against children and torture of children, promote the rule of law, reduce illicit financial and arms, substantially reduce corruption and bribery and to develop accountable transparent institutions.

The Government of Kenya has put in place several strategies and institutions to; reduce violence, promote governance and the rule of law, and increase participation for all citizens in line with SDG 16. These strategies and institutions include; the 2010 Constitution, various Ministries such as, Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, Ministry of Devolution, and the various Commissions, including the Kenya National Commission for Human Rights; among others. However, there are several challenges that should be addressed in order to fully attain the set targets. These generally include; lack of adequate resources, local, regional and international terrorism threats, high number of refugees due to regional conflicts, radicalization of the youth, cyber-crimes, high youth unemployment

breeding crime, transnational and trans-border crime networks, lack of capacity, technology, infrastructure and political will, corruption and bribery, and poor implementation of laws and regulations.

The Government of Kenya needs to spend more resources on SDG 16 because it lays a strong foundation for a nation. There is need also for political goodwill and support for the institutions implementing SDG 16.

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