



**Report on thematic visit to
Nairobi, Kenya
Maria Molde, April 9th -13th, 2018**

**GLOBAL GOALS IN NAIROBI, KENYA
- A SNAPSHOT ON CIVIL SOCIETY AWARENESS AND
INTEGRATION OF THE GLOBAL GOALS**





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1. Background

The UN Global Goals is the main global framework for addressing poverty and sustainable development for the coming 12 years. Different actors and sectors all over the world are increasingly becoming aware of the agenda and are taking increasingly ownership over it. In CISU we work to support members in integrating the Global Goals in their work, advocacy and communication and awareness raising activities. We furthermore want to support members in working with their partners on the same issues. As the Global Goals is a common framework shared by all countries in the world, it also opens up for partners inspiring each other and together explore how to address the goals in their respective countries as well as in joint development interventions – in a way that might differ from traditional development projects.

Terminology: The official name of the goals is "The Sustainable Development Goals" - or the shorter "the SDG's". However UN is trying to promote the more popular term "Global Goals", which I'm using in this report. Furthermore it is important to notice that the Global Goals are only one part of the complete 2030 agenda, which also consists of The Means of Implementation (MoI), which specify the resources and partnerships that are necessary to reach the agreed goals and targets, and The Follow-Up and Review (FUR) processes and mechanisms that will monitor and guide the implementation, including the global indicators framework.

2. Objective

The objective for this thematic visit was to explore (slightly rephrased from original ToR):

To what extent do Kenyan civil society organizations and networks currently integrate the Global Goals in their work, including awareness raising activities and advocacy?

Sub questions to this being:

- 1) To what extent Kenyan civil society organizations and networks integrate awareness raising about the Global Goals in their communication and campaigning activities?
- 2) What are the potentials and challenges in promoting the Global Goals further in a Kenyan context?
- 3) How can Kenyan civil society organizations and network use their partnership with Danish organizations in these efforts (if they can)?

Through these questions the objective was to generate:

- Inspiration for Danish civil society organisations in relation to working with the Global Goals – in Denmark as well as with their partners.
- Inspiration for the FRAME, VOICE, REPORT fund in CISU (funding development education and awareness raising activities in EU in relation to the Global Goals) in relation to how the Global Goals can form part of CISU members' communication and awareness raising activities – in Denmark as well as in the countries of their partners.



3. Observations on thematic issues

To what extent do Kenyan civil society organisations and networks currently integrate the Global Goals in their work, including awareness raising activities and advocacy?

Global Goals and civil society in Kenya

My overall impression was, that most of the organizations I talked to are aware of the existence of the goals, but do not work with them actively. As one person put it "we do not own them". Almost everybody could describe which goals and/or targets their work was relating to, but more as a new way of framing, what they were already doing than as a new framework actually influencing, what they were doing. A common phrasing were also "we are working with the SDG's - but silently", meaning calling it something else, working with the themes in there but without being explicit about the agenda itself.

An important factor in this is the existence of Kenya's own Vision2030 spelling out the path forward for Kenya, concentrating on different priorities in different medium term plans - the current plan focuses on "the big four" being food security, affordable housing, manufacturing and affordable healthcare. There has been an alignment process between the Vision2030 and the Global Goals taking place, showing that the Vision2030 does entail a lot of the themes from the Global Goals. Some themes are lacking though, i.e. goal 10 on inequality and goal 12 on responsible production and consumption.

Even though most people I talked to acknowledged and pointed to the big inequality in the country as a main problem, the issue of inequality as a specific theme seemed hard to address. A recurrent theme in many of the interviews was the problems, violence and inequality linked to tribalism. Addressing inequality as a theme directly would mean to open the whole sensitive and explosive "box" of tribal issues, making it very difficult. Some organizations therefore preferred to use the principle in the Global Goals agenda of "Leave no one behind" or the concept of "pro-poor" policies instead.

There were quite some differences between the attitude towards the Global Goals, with some organizations wanting to "build a movement to push for the implementation of the SDG agenda" whereas others did not see any immediate advantages of incorporating them further, feeling that the framing of the agenda as a "new" thing actually devaluated all the work they had been doing successfully for decades in their specific field.

Global Goals and Human Rights

It was obvious that the human rights agenda was very strongly owned and actively used by most organizations. Human Rights were driving the agenda and narratives, whether people were working with vulnerable children, trafficking or citizens' mobilization. The Global Goals have been criticized for not being explicit enough on human rights. However, the Danish Institute of Human rights have made a database (www.sdg.humanrights.dk) linking more than 90 % of the Global Goals and targets directly with human rights conventions and articles. In some meetings during my trip, we therefore discussed how the Global Goals - with all the political attention that are getting - could be used to strengthen the human rights agenda, and also how the very inviting visual presentation of the Goals might engage people, that would not normally be engaged in global development issues.



Global Goals and Environmental Sustainability

For many development organizations (not only in Kenya but generally), one of the new things about the SDG's is the merging of the development agenda with the climate agenda. A challenge in this being how to thoroughly integrate all three dimensions of sustainability that this entails, meaning not only the economic and social dimensions but also the environmental.

For the environmental organizations the picture is a bit different. Based on an interview with East African partners of the "PIPA"¹ project, it seems that some of them did not see a big difference in what they were doing over time, it was only the terminology, that had changed (first biodiversity then MDG's and now Global Goals). However, others were stressing, that it is exactly the interconnectedness and the linkages between the 17 goals that makes a powerful tool for environmental movements. Making as well politicians as communities aware that i.e., cutting of trees is closely interrelated with health, income, food security etc. One of the PIPA partners were carrying a business card sized Global Goals matrix around in his wallet, showing it to everyone who wanted to listen explaining the goals and their interlinkages.

Another PIPA partner brought up the question of reporting. If organizations - and others - are not asked to report on the environmental aspect of sustainability, not enough will happen on this. This led to a discussion of how all three dimensions of sustainability in the Global Goals agenda - the economic, the social and the environmental should be prioritized, measured and reported on an equal level in order for development to be truly sustainable.

Global Goals and advocacy

Most of the organizations interviewed were doing advocacy on different levels in relation to their specific subject. Some were directly involved as advisors or civil society representatives in policy processes at government level. Others were working through networks. Most organizations expressed a wish for dialogical processes instead of radical and oppositional advocacy in the Kenyan context. I was introduced to the concept of "evil society", that has been a derogatory label for the part of civil society working with civic and political rights - "Advocacy loses its efficiency when civil society is framed as evil". No matter whether people were critical towards government representatives and their intentions or whether they saw civil society as being complementary to government instead of opposing it, there was consensus about the fact that dialogue instead of more direct opposition was the way forward. An expression of this was also, that the Kenyan report for the SDG High Level Political Forum in 2016 were made with input from (some) civil society organizations, instead of being supplemented by a civil society shadow report, which other countries are having.

However, as indicated above, there were different views on the way the government was actually performing in relation to its work for achieving the Global Goals. Several people highlighted the alignment process between the Vision2030 and the Global Goals to be very positive and that most of the Global Goals were actually already in the Vision2030, just framed differently. Others highlighted the fact that the government seems to choose those priorities within the Vision2030 that allows them to control construction and infrastructure tenders and contracts thereby obtaining great opportunities for personal gains.

Awareness raising on the Global Goals

From the organizations interviewed, it was only Gift Development and Activista, that saw awareness raising about the Goals to a broader public as a main focus for some of their activities. They had both been facilitating workshops (one of them on behalf of the African

¹ PIPA (Promoting Implementation of the Paris Agreement in East Africa with a focus on Pro-poor low-emission development).



Platform) on the Global Goals for youth movements and activists using the Goal 16 advocacy Tool kit from the TPA Network.

However, during our discussions about the Goals several organizations expressed interest in exploring the potentials of working more directly with the Goals and the agenda in their activities.

Way Forward

On a structural level a potential for further promotion of the Goals in a Kenyan context that kept on coming up was the need for further coordination. Kenya has the "SDG forum Kenya" which started as a civil society initiative cooperating with government on the alignment process of the Vision2030 and the Global Goals. Now it has evolved into a multi-stakeholder platform also involving the UN, the private sector, the media and academia. However, it seemed the members were primarily the bigger national and international organizations, and the majority of the civil society actors I spoke to, did not know of the existence of the forum.

Another potential already being explored, was to use the Goals to address the issues of inequality in Kenya. Either directly through goal 10 - or more indirectly through the principle of "Leave no one behind", which in a Kenyan context is easier to address and less political than the concept of inequality which can very quickly open up tribal conflicts.

Further potentials being discussed in the meetings, but without being explored directly yet, was the option of using the Global Goals as a new shared language for private sector partnerships as well as of engaging other sectors or individuals (also among the middleclass) in social, economic and environmental development issues, that normally would not care about this.

Besides the perceived lack of coordination of civil society efforts in relation to the Goals another dilemma was the obvious – and understandable - prioritization of the Kenya's own Vision 2030 over the Global Goals. Both the government, the country administration and the public are very much tuned into the Vision 2030 and its current priorities. The question is whether this focus is at the expense of a focus on the Global Goals or whether these two agendas can go hand-in-hand. Without clear conclusions, the discussions in my meetings evolved around the relevance of trying to shift the narrative into a Global Goals agenda or keeping talking the language of the Vision2030 with a bigger chance of actually being heard.

Another similar dilemma evolved around the Kenyan constitution from 2010, that everybody agrees is really progressive and valuable, but not being implemented. The civil society network URAIA is working for entrenching the constitution as well as promoting free, fair and credible elections with the inclusion of previously marginalized and minority communities. In this way URAIA works directly with some of the core issues in Goal 16, but they frame it with other words. Again URAIA were not quite sure, whether it would make sense for them to articulate their work through the Global Goals instead of the constitution. But of course also discussing that it did not necessarily have to be an either or, but could be both depending on the situation.

Global Goals and partnerships with Danish organizations

Only four of the organizations and networks interviewed (Nafsi Africa, SOS Children's Villages Kenya, HAART and PIPA partners) had Danish partners, and this question was not discussed a lot.

However, for Nafsi Africa, the only activity, where they explicitly had worked with the Global



Goals so far was in a campaign they carried out with their Danish partner SPOR Media. The campaign focused on Goal 12, and Nafsi Africa met with Danish school children to discuss garbage production, collection and recycling linking it to responsible consumption of resources and management of waste.

In the same way it seemed that for SOS Children's Villages, it was in their programme component with SOS Denmark, that the Global Goals were strongest articulated in the organization.

For HAART the Global Goals had not been an explicit component of their work and neither had they been part of the cooperation with their Danish partner HopeNow.

For the PIPA project, the Goals are not an explicit part of the project document with the Danish partner Sustainable Energy. The Goals were definitely quite present for most of the PIPA partners, but it was not evident, whether this had been reinforced by the partnership with Sustainable Energy or more was a result of the PIPA partners being part of regional networks and meetings.

4. Recommendations

It is always difficult to condense a lot of nuanced and detailed meetings and conversations into a few specific recommendations, but I have tried doing it anyway. And since CISU is an umbrella organization for Danish development organizations, the recommendations focus on CISU's role in relation to its members - and only indirectly on the CISU members' relation to their partners in i.e. Kenya.

My recommendations informed by this trip are the following:

- 1) CISU should encourage their members to actively discuss the Global Goals with their partners in relation to different national contexts, exploring how they might contain a potential for the work, advocacy and communication of their partners, as well as for the partnership. Several organizations expressed a clear wish for knowing more about the work with the Global Goals of other civil society organizations outside of Kenya. This process should allow for an exploration of both the shared potentials for working with the goals in Denmark and in the countries of partners, as well as explore specific differences in working with the goals due to different contexts. Specifically "Global Goals in the partnerships" could be the theme of an upcoming training in CISU (fyraftensmøde).
- 2) CISU should draw the attention of grant holders and potential applicants for funds to the fact that CISU funds can be used for shared learning processes on the Global Goals between CISU members and partners. One way of doing this could be to include this as a specific case in the upcoming revision of guidelines for the Civil Society Fund.
- 3) CISU should equip their members to know about the new dimensions of the Global Goals compared to the MDG's (for example the universality aspect as well as the incorporation of the climate agenda) making sure this comes up in discussions with partners, so the Global Goals are not seen as business as usual - just with a different name
- 4) CISU should further develop the subpage on www.cisu.dk focusing on the Global Goals, equipping it with updates on the Global Goal process as well as providing tools that can be used in the dialogue with partners.
- 5) CISU should promote a space for members (and partners?) to discuss and explore how to



ensure, that all three dimensions of sustainability are part of their strategies, programmes and projects, with the inclusion of environmental sustainability as the one dimension apparently being the newest for many organisations. This could also be the theme of an upcoming CISU training (fyraftensmøde).

6) CISU might consider allowing for applications in English for the next round of FRAME, VOICE, REPORT applications to allow for CISU members and partner to develop project proposals together.

7) Finally, CISU should further explore how the Global Goals and the Human Rights agenda can mutually reinforce each other - not least in relation to civic and political rights. This could be done by a continuation of the cooperation with the Danish Institute for Human Rights discussing specific cases and approaches.

5. Outputs and Dissemination

This report with findings and recommendations from the visit will be shared with:

- All people met in Nairobi as well as with the Danish partners.
- CISU staff through a presentation
- CISU members through our newsletter and website

Specific findings will furthermore be shared with CISU members through upcoming trainings.

An output from the visit was also the mutual inspiration obtained in the meetings on how to work with the global goals as civil society. Besides CISU learning from the meetings, several participants expressed concrete new ideas, they had been inspired to pursue after our conversation.

Annexes

- Tools and Resources discussed and referred to in the meeting
- People met



Annex 1 - Tool and Resources discussed and referred to in the meetings

- **Websites with more information on the Global Goals**
www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment - UN's official site of the Sustainable Development Goals
www.globalgoals.org - site made by Project Everyone to popularize the goals
- **About the linkage between Global Goals and Human Rights**
<https://www.humanrights.dk/our-work/sustainable-development/human-rights-sdgs> - a site introducing the interlinkages between sdg's and human rights
<http://sdg.humanrights.dk/> - a database where you can search for specific connections
- **The TAP Network**
www.tapnetwork2030.org
A civil Society Network focusing on promoting Transparency, Accountability and Participation in the Global Goals agenda.
- **Local fundraising**
<https://www.changethegameacademy.org/online-courses/local-fundraising/>
A free online module for mobilising funds - with Kenya as one of the case stories
- **Alternative economic systems**
<https://www.kateraworth.com/>
"Doughnut Economics": A book written about new economic models exploring how we can shift into a circular economy, ensuring people a decent life without transgressing planetary boundaries



ANNEX 2 - People Met

Organisations met	Persons	Position
HAART <i>(Partner with Hope Now)</i>	Jakob Christensen	Programme Manager
	Sophie	Victims Coordinator
GIFT DEVELOPMENT	Odeny Salim	Executive Director
ACTIVISTA	Tinah Mghoi	Member
SDG FORUM KENUA	Rose Oluoch	Partnership and Capacity Building Coordinator
NAFSI AFRICA <i>(Partner with SPOR MEDIA)</i>	Joel Kirambo	Project Coordinator
	Kenneth	Chairman of the Board
	Mary Omilo	Administrator
URAIA	Caroline Nyamu	Civic Engagement Manager
FUTURE OF KENYA FOUNDATION	Cyprian Nyamwamu	Director
SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES Kenya <i>(Partner with SOS Children's Villages Denmark)</i>	Walther Odhiambo	National Director
	Paulene Kedogo	Advocacy Officer
	Pascal Mailu	Director of National Programs and Quality
PAWA 254	Lynette Micheni	Director
Participants in a Focal Group discussion - all partners in the PIPA project <i>(Partners with Sustainable Energy Denmark)</i>		
Suswatch Kenya	Frank Msafiri	Chairman of the board
	Susy Wandera	Secretary of the board
	Vincent Odiek	Advocacy Officer
	Juliet Makakha	Treasurer of the board
	Norbert Nyandire	National Coordinator
Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development	David Mwanyafu	Programme Officer
TATEDDO, Tanzania	Mary Swai	Programme Manager for Climate and Energy