

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KAKAMEGA

Open Government Partnership (OGP)

County Action Plan-2025

Open
Government
Partnership



REPUBLIC OF KENYA



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KAKAMEGA

OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP (OGP)

County Action Plan 2025



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VISION

**A wealthy and vibrant County offering
high quality service to its residents.**

MISSION

**To improve the welfare of the people of Kakamega County through
formulation and implementation of all inclusive multi-sectoral policies.**

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF THE SIX PILLAR DEVELOPMENT AGENDA,

1. To enhance access to quality and affordable healthcare and water services;
2. To support wealth creation and infrastructural development;
3. To improve food security;
4. To enhance quality education;
5. To facilitate social economic development; and
6. To promote good governance.



ABBREVIATIONS:-

PWD's - People with Disability

CSO's - Civil Society Organization

OGP - Open Government Partnership

MSMEs - Medium Enterprises

POC - Point of Contact

ICS - Institute of Certified Secretaries

IRM - Independent Reporting Mechanism

A Citizen Empowered through an Open and Responsive County Government.



Dr. Lawrence Omuhaka
County Secretary and Head of Public Service



Dr. Bonface Okoth
CECM Public Service and Administration



For more information, Contact

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During the implementation period, more content will be uploaded
to www.opengov.kakamegacounty.go.ke



**H.E. Hon. FCPA Fernandes Barasa, OGW.,
Governor Kakamega County
and Chair Finance Committee CoG.**

Message from H.E the Governor

It is a great honor to submit our first Open Government Partnership (OGP) Action Plan 2024-2027 for the County Government of Kakamega. Through this first submission the County Government of Kakamega joins five other County Governments in Kenya and 150 local governments globally committed to promoting transparency, accountability and public participation in governance and affirm its commitment to good governance.

The 75 countries under OGP including Kenya, play a key role through developing and implementing action plans, engaging CSO's to ensure public participation in decision making, advancing open government reforms, leadership and advocacy by leading regional or thematic initiatives within OGP and advocating for global open governance norms and provide technical support to other countries.

The action plan outlines the County's long term Open Government vision and presents short term government actions. The period for implementation for this initial plan is four years and aims to establish necessary systems and sets the foundation to achieve the Open Government vision and goals outlined in this action plan. The action plan marks a significant milestone in our journey towards a more transparent, accountable, and participatory governance. The launch of the Kakamega County Action Plan under the Open Government Partnership (OGP) is a testament to our unwavering commitment to these principles.

Our vision is clear: to foster a governance system that is open, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of our people. This action plan outlines our strategies to work collaboratively with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and all stakeholders to enhance service delivery and ensure sustainable development.

We have identified key areas for improvement:

1. **Digital Governance:** We are prioritizing the adoption of e-government services to streamline service delivery. By expanding our ICT infrastructure and automating systems, we aim to make processes more efficient and accessible.
2. **Access to Information:** We are committed to creating robust information management systems to ensure timely and accurate communication with the public. This aligns with our goal of increasing awareness of county projects and policies.
3. **Economic Empowerment:** By integrating community feedback into economic initiatives, such as social grants to support Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), we are fostering inclusivity and equity in economic opportunities.

4. **Climate and Environmental Governance:** Collaborative efforts, such as the Kakamega Forest Restoration Programme, aim to protect our natural resources while involving local communities in conservation activities.

Our medium-term goals focus on enhancing transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement. We plan to expand digital platforms for service delivery, strengthen community involvement in decision-making processes, ensure timely access to data on development projects, and establish platforms to address citizen concerns efficiently

This action plan aligns with the OGP's strategic vision by promoting transparency, accountability, citizen participation, and innovation in governance. By adopting open data initiatives, encouraging citizen engagement, and leveraging technology, we aim to build public trust and drive socio-economic development.

On Climate change, it is not just an environmental issue, but a major challenge in open government. As a county, we recognize that effective climate action requires transparency, public engagement, and accountability. That is why Kakamega County is committed to leveraging the Open Government Partnership (OGP) framework to ensure that climate solutions are inclusive, data-driven, and citizen-centered..

Our Approach to Climate Action through Open Government includes:-

1. Transparency in Climate Governance

We will publicly disclose climate policies, funding, and implementation plans to ensure accountability in climate initiatives.

2. Citizen Participation in Climate Solutions

We will strengthen public engagement in decision-making through town halls, participatory budgeting, and community-driven climate action programs.

3. Open Data for Climate Resilience

We will promote open access to climate-related data, enabling researchers, businesses, and the public to develop innovative solutions for climate adaptation and mitigation.

4. **Accountability in Climate Commitments**

- We will establish monitoring mechanisms, including citizen
- oversight, to track progress on our climate commitments and ensure effective implementation.

5. **Technology and Innovation for Sustainability**

We will explore digital tools, such as early warning systems, mobile reporting platforms, and GIS mapping, to enhance climate resilience and disaster preparedness.

By embracing the **OGP Challenge**, we reaffirm our commitment to an open, inclusive, and sustainable Kakamega County. I invite all citizens, civil society organizations, and stakeholders to join us in this collective effort. Let us work together to build a greener, more resilient future.

Finally, I take this opportunity to thank all the stakeholders co-ordinating our multi-stakeholder's forum for providing leadership and guidance throughout the co-creation process, Mzalendo Trust for the support they gave our team led by the office of OGP Point of Contact (POC), OGP Steering Committee, OGP Technical Committee and more importantly the citizens and civil society members all of whom contributed immensely towards the development of this action plan.

I call upon all stakeholder's, government officials, CSOs, private sector partners, and the citizens of Kakamega County to join hands in implementing this action plan. Together, we can create a governance system that truly serves the people, fosters trust, and propels our county towards greater prosperity.

Let us embrace this opportunity to transform our governance landscape and set a benchmark for others to follow.

Thank you, and may God bless Kakamega County.

H.E FCPA Fernandes Barasa
Governor, Kakamega County

1.0 Mission statement

Kakamega County is committed to fostering an open, transparent, and accountable government that actively engages its citizens, combats corruption, and leverages innovative technologies to enhance governance. Through our participation in the Open Government Partnership, we aim to empower our community by ensuring access to information, promoting public participation, and delivering quality services that meet the needs and aspirations of all residents.

1.1 Long Term Vision

The long-term vision aligns with Kenya's Vision 2030 and focuses on sustainable development, economic growth, and improved quality of life for its residents. The county's vision is to be “a wealthy and vibrant county offering high quality service to its residents” The vision is supported by a mission to “improve the welfare of the people of Kakamega County through formulation and implementation of all-inclusive multi-sectoral policies”.

1.2 Achievements

Kakamega County has made significant strides in various sectors since the inception of devolution in 2013. An overview of key achievements across multiple domains:-

1. Governance and Leadership

- **Recognition for Good Governance:** In January 2025, the County Government of Kakamega was honored by the Institute of Certified Secretaries (ICS) for exemplary governance and leadership. This accolade reflects the county's commitment to transparency and effective administration.

2. Economic Development

- **Investment in Development Projects:** Since 2013, Kakamega County has invested approximately KSh94 billion in various development projects. These initiatives have spanned sectors such as agriculture, infrastructure, and education, contributing to the county's socio-economic growth.

3. Environmental Conservation

- **Kakamega Forest Conservation:** Efforts have been made to conserve the Kakamega Forest, Kenya's only tropical rainforest. Initiatives include promoting eco-tourism, conducting environmental education, and engaging local communities in conservation activities to preserve biodiversity.

4. Public Participation and Inclusivity

- **Enhanced Citizen Engagement:** The county has prioritized public participation in governance, ensuring that citizens are involved in decision-making processes. This approach has fostered inclusivity and accountability in the implementation of county projects.

These achievements underscore Kakamega County's dedication to improving the quality of life for its residents through strategic investments and inclusive governance.

1.3 Gaps

Kakamega County has made notable progress in various sectors; however, several challenges persist that hinder its full development potential:

1. Poverty and Unemployment

- **Economic Challenges:** High levels of poverty and unemployment persist, particularly in rural areas, affecting the overall quality of life and economic stability.

2. Agricultural Productivity

- **Post-Harvest Losses:** Inadequate storage facilities and poor post-harvest handling lead to significant losses in farm produce, affecting food security and farmers' incomes.

3. Water and Sanitation

- **Access to Clean Water:** Limited access to clean and safe water remains a concern, particularly in rural areas, impacting health and sanitation.

4. Governance and Public Participation

- **Open Government Practices:** The county has identified areas for improvement in advancing open governance and fostering development, as outlined in its key strategies and initiatives.

Addressing these gaps requires concerted efforts from the county government, stakeholders, and the community to implement targeted interventions aimed at sustainable development and improved quality of life for all residents.

1.4 Goals

Kakamega County's participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP) reflects its dedication to enhancing transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement. The county's 2024-2027 action plan outlines several key goals:

1. Public Participation and Civic Engagement

- **Enhancing Participatory Structures:** The county aims to develop its Civic Education framework to align with a long-term open government vision. This includes formulating policies and guidelines to decentralize and expand participatory structures, ensuring broader citizen involvement in decision-making processes.
- **Leveraging Digital Platforms:** To increase accessibility, especially for youth, the county plans to create digital platforms that allow citizens to remotely submit input on budgets and policies. This initiative seeks to complement existing offline forums and overcome barriers such as travel distances and time constraints.

2. Open Budget and Access to Information

- **Timely Publication of Budget Documents:** The county commits to ensuring transparency in public financial management by publishing key budget documents, including fiscal strategies, implementation reports, and citizen-friendly summaries. This effort aims to foster public trust and accountability.
- **Accessible Platforms for Public Participation:** By providing accessible platforms, both online and offline, the county seeks to facilitate public participation in decision-making processes, enabling citizens to engage meaningfully with budgetary decisions.

3. Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability

- **Co-Creating Climate Actions:** The county is committed to collaborating with citizens to develop and implement climate actions. This involves engaging the community in identifying and prioritizing critical environmental areas and formulating strategies to address climate challenges.

Through these goals, Kakamega County aims to build a more transparent, accountable, and inclusive governance framework that actively involves its citizens in shaping the county's future.

1.5 Contribution of the current action plan to the vision

The Kakamega County Open Government Partnership (OGP) Action Plan (2024-2027) aligns with and significantly contributes to the Kakamega County Vision, which focuses on economic growth, good governance, social development, and environmental sustainability. The OGP Action Plan strengthens this vision through the following key contributions:

1. Enhancing Good Governance and Transparency

- **Alignment with Vision:** The county's long-term vision emphasizes accountability and transparency in governance.
- **OGP Contribution:** The Open Budget Initiative ensures timely publication of budget documents and financial reports, fostering public trust and efficient resource management.
- **Impact:** Increased public confidence, reduced corruption, and better service delivery.

2. Strengthening Citizen Participation in Decision-Making

- **Alignment with Vision:** The county's vision prioritizes inclusive governance where citizens actively engage in development planning.
- **OGP Contribution:** The action plan promotes civic engagement through digital and physical platforms, ensuring broader citizen involvement in budget-making and policy decisions.
- **Impact:** Increased accountability, more responsive policies, and improved public service efficiency.

3. Promoting Digital Governance for Economic Growth

- **Alignment with Vision:** Kakamega County aims to leverage technology to drive economic growth and innovation.
- **OGP Contribution:** The county is expanding e-governance initiatives, such as digital service delivery platforms, to improve access to information and streamline processes.
- **Impact:** Reduced bureaucracy, increased efficiency in public services, and enhanced business climate.

4. Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability

- **Alignment with Vision:** The county seeks to protect natural resources, particularly Kakamega Forest, and promote sustainable development.
- **OGP Contribution:** The OGP plan includes co-creating climate actions with citizens to improve environmental governance.
- **Impact:** Better climate resilience, sustainable land use, and stronger community involvement in conservation.

5. Inclusive Economic Development

- **Alignment with Vision:** The county's vision includes empowering marginalized groups, including youth and women, through economic opportunities.
- **OGP Contribution:** Through participatory budgeting and open governance, the action plan ensures that development funds are allocated equitably and address the needs of all citizens.
- **Impact:** More inclusive economic policies, increased social equity, and better livelihoods.

1.6 Relationship between the vision and the overall government policy

Relationship Between Kakamega County's Vision and Overall Government Policy

Kakamega County's long-term vision aligns with and is guided by Kenya's national government policies to ensure coherent development, economic growth, and effective governance. This relationship can be analyzed in several key areas:

1. Alignment with Kenya Vision 2030

- Kenya Vision 2030 is the national development blueprint aimed at transforming Kenya into a middle-income country by 2030.
- Kakamega County's Vision aligns with this by focusing on economic growth, infrastructure development, healthcare improvement, and environmental sustainability.
- Example: Kakamega's investments in agriculture, industrialization, and healthcare (Kakamega County Teaching and Referral Hospital) contribute to Kenya's national goals in healthcare and economic transformation.

2. Decentralization and County Development Goals (Big Four Agenda)

- The Big Four Agenda (2017-2022) focused on food security, affordable housing, manufacturing, and universal healthcare.
- **Kakamega County's Vision supports this by:**
 - Enhancing agriculture through subsidies and improved farming techniques (food security).
 - Expanding healthcare infrastructure, including KCTRH (universal healthcare).
 - Promoting industrial parks and SMEs (manufacturing and job creation).

3. Governance and Public Participation (Open Government Partnership - OGP)

- Kenya's County Government Act (2012) and Public Participation Act mandate public engagement in governance.
- Kakamega's Open Government Partnership (OGP) Action Plan aligns with this policy by:
 - Increasing transparency in budgeting and service delivery.
 - Expanding citizen participation in decision-making.

4. Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action

- Kenya's National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) aims to mitigate climate risks and promote sustainable land use.
- Kakamega's vision for conservation and climate resilience aligns with this through:
 - Kakamega Forest conservation initiatives.
 - Sustainable agriculture and waste management programs.

5. Economic Empowerment and Employment

- Kenya's economic strategy (2022-2027) focuses on job creation, MSME growth, and social development.
- Kakamega County supports this by:
 - Investing in agro-processing industries.
 - Expanding youth and women empowerment programs through business funding.

Engagement and Coordination in the Open Government Strategic Vision and OGP Action Plan

2.1. Action Plan implementation structure

The county has established a Multistakeholder Forum to provide institutional structure for implementation of the action plan. The Forum is composed of steering committee of 14 member's drawn from the County Executive, County Assembly and Civil Society whose role is to offer policy guideline on implementation of OGP action plan, accelerate collective progress on open government reforms, protect and expand civic space, build a growing, committed and interconnected community of open government reformers and champions. The 11 Technical Committee member's drawn from County Assembly, County Executive and Civil Society selected during the co-creation process mandate is to coordinate development of action plan through multistakeholder forum and implementation of the action plan. The County Governor is the permanent Chair to the Steering Committee while County Executive Member for Public Service & County Administration and County Secretary & Head of Public Service are Co-chairs to the Technical Committee. An appointed Point of Contact (POC) provides overall coordination internally and externally.

3.0. Independent Local Monitoring Body.

An oversight person has been appointed to work with the Open Government Partnership (OGP)'s Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) to independently assess and report on the action plan co-creation and implementation. The independent oversight person has been empowered by the county's political leadership to perform this mandate.

The oversight person, with the guidance of IRM and the OGP Support Unit will develop an assessment indicator system for assessing progress and a digital reporting template for committees. Where possible, the reporting templates will embed public feedback mechanisms.

Each committee will submit a progress report or any other information as may be desired, to the Independent Reporting Committee on quarterly basis from which the Independent Reporting Committee will assess, compile and consolidate a quarterly report using the indicator system and table the report at the Multistakeholder Forum's quarterly meeting and subsequently submit to the relevant OGP organs.

At each quarterly meeting, the Chairperson of the Multistakeholder Forum will issue a media briefing outlining progress made in the quarter against the quarterly plan, identify any challenges and mitigative measures..

Commitment 1: Public Participation and Civic Engagement

Descriptive title of the commitment: Expand and restructure participatory structure to promote greater equity and responsiveness of the budget and economic policy priorities to meet the needs of citizens.

Start and End Date	30 th November, 2024	30 th May, 2027
Lead Implementing Agency [Government]	Directorate of Public Participation	Mr. George Khamati Email: khamati@gmail.com Lead Phone No.+254 723265844
Lead Implementing Agency [Civil Society]	Kakamega Development Trust	Mrs. Hellen Akalapatan Program Officer Email: hellen.aukuagmail.com Phone: +254 723 736622
Other actors involved	Transparency International	Mr. Brian Kibira Project Officer Email: bwnjau@tikenya.org Phone No:+254 795 945841

Commitment Description

Identified Public Problem	<p>Social and economic needs of special interest groups are left unaddressed by the county's budgets and related economic policies because the county's participatory approach is inaccessible to the majority of the county's residents while input collected from the few participating citizens is rarely used to inform budget decisions. This challenge is exacerbated due to the limited social interaction and the accompanying harsh economic conditions that curtail the economic ability of citizens to perform civic duties. Special interest groups of youth, women and persons with disability (YWPDs) face greater challenges owing to their special and unique needs that limit their ability to participate and influence the county's budget and policy priorities to meet their needs.</p>
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<p>Status Quo of problem identified.</p>	<p>Currently, the county implements a consultative participatory model which consists offline open forums at sub - county and ward level to receive public views and input of its citizens on the county's budget and economic policy priorities at the formulation stage. The participatory structure provides minimal participatory opportunities at implementation and evaluation stages of the budget Because participatory spaces provided at sub-county and ward level are centralized, travels over long distances to the public participation venues and hours wasted on the road create barriers and limitations to participation of citizens, especially women and PWDs.</p> <p>Additionally, existing online opportunities such as the Call Centre are yet to be operationalized and inadequately structured to create online/digital participatory opportunities for budgets and policies. Overall, the representation of citizens in the formulation of budgets and policies is low while the participatory approach does not bind public officials to use input collected from the public to inform the budget and policy priorities of the county, thus, translating to inequalities and further marginalization.</p>
<p>Kakamega County's commitment to address the identified problem.</p>	<p>We will develop the County's Civic Education to align with the long-term open government vision, formulate policies and guidelines to provide clearer methodology of decentralization and expansion of the participatory structure and provide a feedback mechanism on the use of public input. We will complement the participatory structure with the following strategic interventions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creation of digital/online platforms to create safe and secure participatory opportunities to citizens who otherwise would not attend an in-person forums to remotely submit input and views to the budget and economic policy, especially young people. 2. Integrate civic education to strengthen citizens' ability to influence the county's decisions from a point of knowledge. We will also partner with non-state actors to implement civic education activities and foster access to necessary budget and policy data and information in timely and in simplified versions that are easy to understand.

	<p>3. Establish Ward Open Days to create permanent forums for proactive engagement with civil society and citizens. Through these open days, the county stakeholders will identify, discuss and recommend interventions that will strengthen the county's open government initiatives.</p> <p>4. Issuance of timely feedback on the use of public participation input to explain which input was used and justifications for input not used.</p>
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How commitment will address the problem identified.	<p>By improving representation of citizens, especially special interest groups and mandating the use of input received from the public as well as feedback for the use of this input, the reform will have created meaningful spaces for quality deliberation and negotiation among citizens and with government officials on how best to spend the county's annual budget. Fruitful deliberations and negotiations between citizens and governments that produce satisfying output also means a greater number of citizens attending and actively participating in the budget formulation. The use of purposefully selected delegates to represent various segments of the county's population including youth, women and persons with disabilities will strengthen the voices of marginalized groups in the county's budget and policy priority setting process. Additionally, the formulation of policies and guidelines to institutionalize participatory budgeting and related procedures and systems will foster transparency and accountability of public officials throughout the budget and policy cycle over the long-term.</p>
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Commitment milestone activities and outputs

No.	Milestone Activity	Verifiable Deliverable (Output)	Start – End Date	Required Resources	Responsible Agency and Contact
1	Operationalize Kakamega County Public Participation Policy	Operationalize Kakamega County Public	January 2025 – June 2025	Staff time, Conference cost, ICT Platforms	Directorate of Public Participation Mr. George Khamati

2	Design and integrate interactive digital platforms to the participatory structure	Design and integrate interactive digital platforms to the participatory structure	July 2025 – July 2026	Staff time, Conference cost, ICT Platforms	Chief Officer Risk Management and Service Delivery, Chief Officer ICT and Director of Public Participation and Civic Education
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3	Carry out continuous civic education to improve the capacity of citizens to participate	Increased access to relevant information for informed participation	July 2025 – July 2026	Staff time, Conference cost, ICT Platforms	Director Public Participation and Civic Education
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Commitment 2: County Assembly Openness

Descriptive title of the commitment: The commitment to county assembly openness seeks to address the problem of limited transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement in governance. Economically, opaque operations hinder equitable resource allocation, reducing public trust and investment in local development. Socially, lack of openness exacerbates inequality by marginalizing vulnerable groups from decision making processes. Politically, secrecy in governance fuels corruption, undermines democratic principles, and fosters public disillusionment with leadership. Environmentally, poor transparency in planning and oversight may lead to unsustainable exploitation of resources and inadequate responses to environmental challenges. By promoting openness, county assemblies aim to enhance accountability, foster inclusivity, and empower citizens to participate meaningfully in governance, ultimately strengthening democracy, economic equity, and sustainable development.

Start and End Date	30 th November, 2025	30 th May, 2027
Lead Implementing Agency [Government]	Kakamega County Assembly	Ms. Veronica Mang'eni Fiscal Analyst Email: veronicamangeni@gmail.com Phone No:+254 710460065
Lead Implementing Agency [Civil Society]	Kakamega Community Centre	Esther Anyango. Project Lead Email : estheranyango011@gmail.com Phone : +254707979784

Commitment Description

Identified Public Problem	<p>The commitment to county assembly openness seeks to address the problem of limited transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement in governance. Economically, opaque operations hinder equitable resource allocation, reducing public trust and investment in local development. Socially, lack of openness exacerbates inequality by marginalizing vulnerable groups from decision-making processes. Politically, secrecy in governance fuels corruption, undermines democratic principles, and fosters public disillusionment with leadership. Environmentally, poor transparency in planning and oversight may lead to unsustainable exploitation of resources and inadequate responses to environmental challenges. By promoting openness, county assemblies aim to enhance accountability, foster inclusivity, and empower citizens to participate meaningfully in governance, ultimately strengthening democracy, economic equity, and sustainable development.</p>
Status Quo of problem identified	<p>Kakamega County has taken steps to promote transparency and openness in its County Assembly operations. Members of the public are encouraged to participate in legislative activities, including observing proceedings from the public gallery and contributing to committee discussions where citizen input is sought. This inclusivity aligns with efforts to strengthen citizen engagement and ensure legislative processes reflect public needs.</p> <p>Governor Fernandes Barasa, during the opening of the County Assembly's second session in 2023, highlighted the importance of balancing collaboration between the Assembly and the Executive while maintaining checks and balances. Recent initiatives have focused on ensuring financial prudence, passing crucial legislation like the Ward Development Fund Act, and enhancing service delivery across the county. Additionally, the County Assembly has worked on improving its facilities and processes, including budgeting for a modern assembly chamber to enhance accessibility and efficiency.</p>

<p>Kakamega County's Commitment to address the identified problem.</p>	<p>County Assembly openness ensures transparency, accountability, and public participation in legislative processes. It involves making information accessible, including agendas, budgets, and session proceedings, and providing opportunities for citizen engagement, such as public hearings and input in policy-making. Openness also includes accountability measures, such as regular reporting and mechanisms for citizen feedback.</p> <p>Expected Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Improved trust between citizen and the County Assembly. b) Enhanced public participation in governance and decision making. c) Better oversight of county government operations, reducing corruption. d) Policies and laws that better reflect community needs. <p>Overall Objective: To establish a participatory democracy where citizens actively influence governance, ensuring transparent resource management and aligning development initiatives with public priorities. This fosters more effective, inclusive, and equitable county governance.</p>
<p>How commitment will address the problem identified.</p>	<p>The commitment to County Assembly openness addresses public problems by improving governance, accountability, and service delivery. Transparency ensures that decisions, budgets, and proceedings are accessible, reducing corruption and fostering trust. Public participation allows citizens to voice concerns and influence policies, ensuring decisions reflect community priorities. Accountability mechanisms, like regular reporting and feedback systems, empower the public to monitor resource use and leadership performance, preventing misuse.</p> <p>By integrating diverse perspectives, openness improves decision making and resource allocation, solving inefficiencies and inequities in service delivery. These reforms create an inclusive system where citizens drive governance, enhancing trust, reducing corruption, and ensuring sustainable development that aligns with public interests.</p>
<p>The relevant long - term Open Government</p>	<p>Goal 3 of the Open Government Vision</p>

Strategic Vision	
Primary Policy Area and Sector of the commitment	Legislative Openness Inclusion Legislature
Relevant OGP Value	Technology and Innovation for Transparency and Accountability: Enhanced oversight seeks to improve government transparency, accountability, and public trust. These shall be effectively implemented under the County Assembly framework of legislative tracking by developing transparent platforms where citizens can track the progress of legislation in real-time and enhances oversight by strengthening institutional checks and balances and ensure responsive governance.
Resource requirement to implement the commitment	Kshs.12 Million. Technical support through training, capacity building and computers

Commitment milestone activities and outputs

No.	Milestone Activity	Verifiable Deliverable (Output)	Start – End Date	Required Resources	Responsible Agency and Contact
1	Design and integrate interactive digital platforms to the participatory structure	Deliverable components; Systems demonstrate real user engagement and effectiveness	July 2025 – July 2026	Staff time, Conference cost, ICT Platforms	Ms. Veronica Mang'eni and Mr. Ramadhan Mohammed
2	Livestream county assembly sessions and make	Live stream platforms eg you tube, Facebook live, government website	July 2025 – July 2026	Staff time, Conference cost, ICT Platforms	Ms. Veronica Mang'eni and Mr. Ramadhan Mohammed
	proceedings publicly accessible.	Official recording and archive			Ramadhan Mohammed
3	Establish citizen engagement platforms for feedback on legislative matters.	Legislative feedback website Public forums and consultations Official report and documentation		Staff time, Conference cost, ICT Platforms	Ms. Veronica Mang'eni and Mr. Ramadhan Mohammed
4	Develop an open data portal for bills, motions, and assembly reports.	Technical deliverables -open data platform accessing legislative bills, motions		Staff time, Conference cost, ICT Platforms	Ms. Veronica Mang'eni and Mr. Ramadhan Mohammed

Commitment 3:		Open Budget and Access to Information
Descriptive title of the commitment : Open Budget and Access to Information		
Start and End Date	August 2021 – July 2022	Lead
Lead Implementing Agency [Government]	Department of Finance, Budget, Economic Planning, ICT, e - Government and Communication	Mr. Cyrus Ondari Director Planning Email: ondaricyrus@gmail.com Phone no: +254 724 769645
Lead Implementing Agency [Civil Society]	Network for Research and Governance	Mr. Paul Odongo Executive Director Paulodongo73@gmail.com Phone No: 254 720861956

Commitment Description	
Identified Public Problem	Data needed for strengthening accountability, improving transparency, planning and measuring progress of implementation of programs, projects and processes in government is not easily available or usable. This creates an environment for perpetuation of corrupt practices, insufficient evidence to support decision making and inefficient use of human, financial and other resources in the public sector. Ultimately, citizens and the general public are affected due to the failure to implement key infrastructure projects effectively and in many instances failures in service delivery. This commitment therefore aims to address the lack of data for development which makes it difficult to strengthen accountability and ensure that policies/programmes being implemented do not result in some within the society being left behind.
Status Quo of problem identified	The current policy on open budgets and access to information in Kakamega County has notable gaps despite some progress. The county publishes key documents like the Annual Development Plan (ADP) and County Fiscal Strategy Paper but fails to consistently release others, such as quarterly budget implementation reports and the Citizen Budget. This limits public participation and oversight as mandated by Kenya's Public Finance Management Act, 2012. Accessibility of information online remains inconsistent, with stakeholders struggling to track project implementation and financial allocations. Calls for improvement have highlighted the need for transparency to enhance accountability and service delivery.

<p>Kakamega County's Commitment to address identified problem.</p>	<p>The commitment to open budgets and access to information involves ensuring transparency, accountability, and inclusivity in public financial management. It requires the timely publication of budget documents, such as fiscal strategies, implementation reports, and citizen -friendly summaries, while providing accessible platforms for public participation in decision-making processes.</p> <p>Expected Results:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased public trust and accountability through transparency in the use of public funds. 2. Enhanced citizen participation in governance by enabling informed engagement with budgetary decisions. 3. Improved service delivery and resource allocation as a result of stakeholder oversight and input. 4. Strengthened donor confidence and investment by showcasing financial integrity
<p>How the commitment will address problem identified?</p>	<p>The commitment to open budgets and access to information directly addresses key public challenges related to governance, resource allocation, and service delivery. It contributes to solving public problems in the following ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Improved Accountability: By ensuring that budget documents are publicly accessible, the commitment reduces the risk of corruption and misuse of public funds. Transparent reporting enables stakeholders to monitor expenditures and hold officials accountable. 2.Enhanced Public Participation: Open budget policies empower citizens to engage in decision -making processes, ensuring that public priorities align with community needs. This fosters inclusive development and equitable resource distribution. 3.Better Service Delivery: Transparency in financial management helps ensure that allocated funds reach intended projects and services, enhancing efficiency and public satisfaction.

	4. Boosted Trust and Confidence: Open access to financial information builds trust between the government, citizens, and donors, encouraging further investments and collaborative governance.
The relevant long - term Open Government Strategic Vision	Goal 1 of the Open Government Vision
Primary Policy Area and Sector of the commitment	Audits & Controls Fiscal Openness Cross-sectoral Public Services (general)
Relevant OGP Value	Publish county budgets, procurement plans, and expenditure reports online and offline for public scrutiny by developing a user-friendly website to facilitate real -time access to financial data.
	Access to Information focuses on creating transparency, improving citizen engagement, and enhancing public access to government -held information. This involves development of access to information policy that will enhance transparency by ensuring government data, decisions, and processes are transparent to the public
	Prudent management of public funds
Resource requirement to implement the commitment.	Kshs.13 Million and Technical support through training and capacity building

Commitment milestone activities and outputs

No.	Milestone Activity	Verifiable Deliverable (Output)	Start – End Date	Required Resources	Responsible Agency and Contact
1	Publish county/national budgets and expenditures in user-friendly formats.	Number of budget documents published and publicly accessible.	Annually	Finances, staff time	Department of Finance, Economic Planning, ICT, e - Government and Communication,

					Chief Officer Planning and Director Planning
2	Establish open data portals for budget and procurement information.	Level of public access to procurement and expenditure data.	Website	Finances, staff time	Department of Finance, Economic Planning, ICT, e - Government and Communication, Chief Officer Planning and Director Planning
3	Strengthen implementation of the Access to Information Act.	Number of information requests received and processed.	Annually	Finances, staff time	Department of Finance, Economic Planning, ICT, e - Government and Communication, Chief Officer Planning and Director Planning
4	Conduct public awareness campaigns on budget processes and information access.	Number of awareness campaigns	Quarterly	Finances, staff time	Department of Finance, Economic Planning, ICT, e - Government and Communication, Chief Officer Planning and Director Planning

Commitment 4: Climate Change

Descriptive title of the commitment : Open Budget and Access to Information

Start and End Date	August 2021 – July 2022	Lead
Lead Implementing Agency [Government]	Department of Environment, Water, Natural Resources and Climate Change	Mr. Peter Mathia Director Environment Email: mathiapeter0@gmail.com Phone: +254 797682771
Lead Implementing Agency [Civil Society]	Kakamega Youth Water Parliament	Mr. Okonda Samwel Program Manager Email: isamwel.me.ke@gmail.com Phone: +254 742877831

Commitment Description

Identified Public Problem

Under the Open Government Partnership (OGP), the commitment to address climate change seeks to resolve several interconnected challenges spanning economic, social, political, and environmental spheres:

1. **Economic:** Climate change threatens economic stability by damaging infrastructure, reducing agricultural productivity, and increasing the cost of disaster recovery. This commitment aims to promote sustainable development, encourage green investment, and support the transition to low-carbon economies.
2. **Social:** Climate change disproportionately affects vulnerable communities, leading to food insecurity, displacement, and loss of livelihoods. The OGP commitment strives to empower marginalized groups, particularly those in rural or low-lying areas, by ensuring their voices are included in decision-making processes.
3. **Political:** In many countries, political inaction on climate change is a result of insufficient transparency and accountability. The commitment calls for better governance and public engagement in climate policy formulation to ensure that governments are accountable for their climate actions.
4. **Environmental:** Climate change is a leading cause of biodiversity loss, extreme weather events, and ecosystem degradation. The OGP commitment seeks to implement policies that mitigate these impacts through environmental conservation and adaptation strategies.

	<p>Moreover, the county is actively collaborating with partners like Christian Aid to enhance climate change awareness, especially in agriculture, which is highly vulnerable to climate variability. Automated weather stations have been set up to provide critical climate information to help farmers make informed decisions. These actions show a growing commitment to building resilience against climate impacts and improving livelihoods across Kakamega County.</p>
<p>Kakamega County's Commitment to address identified problem.</p>	<p>Under the Open Government Partnership (OGP) framework, Kakamega County, like other counties in Kenya, is encouraged to adopt transparent, accountable, and participatory approaches to tackle climate change. Climate change under the OGP entails efforts to engage citizens, civil society, and stakeholders in decision making processes related to environmental protection, adaptation, and mitigation strategies. This involves ensuring access to climate data, promoting climate -resilient infrastructure, and implementing policies to reduce carbon emissions. Kakamega County is expected to develop action plans that reflect local climate risks, involving public participation in creating and monitoring these plans. This approach encourages collaboration between government institutions, communities, and environmental experts to build adaptive capacity, implement climate-smart agriculture, and enhance disaster risk management to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Ultimately, the goal is to foster a more sustainable and resilient environment through open governance.</p>
<p>How the commitment will address problem identified?</p>	<p>Climate change can contribute to solving public problems in Kakamega County under the Open Government Partnership (OGP) by enhancing transparency, collaboration, and sustainable development. Through open data platforms, the county can engage citizens in climate adaptation and mitigation efforts, such as promoting sustainable agriculture, disaster resilience, and water management. OGP can facilitate access to climate data, allowing the public to participate in decision-making on policies that affect food security, infrastructure, and health. Involving local communities in climate action plans ensures inclusive solutions, while monitoring systems allow citizens to track progress and hold leaders accountable. By integrating climate change into public governance, Kakamega can address environmental, social, and economic challenges, fostering a resilient and sustainable future for its people.</p>

The relevant long - term Open Government Strategic Vision	Goal 1 of the Open Government Vision
Primary Policy Area and Sector of the commitment	Crisis Response Inclusion Cross-sectoral Environment & Climate
Relevant OGP Value	Accountability in Climate Financing will be adopted to ensure that funds earmarked for climate action are spent transparently and reach their intended beneficiaries. This involves public reporting on climate finance sources and expenditure, helping to prevent corruption and inefficiencies. Access to Information focuses on creating transparency, improving citizen engagement, and enhancing public access to government -held information. This involves development of access to information policy that will enhance transparency by ensuring government data, decisions, and processes are transparent to the public Prudent management of public funds
Resource requirement to implement the commitment.	Kshs.7 million. Technical support through training and capacity building

Commitment milestone activities and outputs

No.	Milestone Activity	Verifiable Deliverable (Output)	Start – End Date	Required Resources	Responsible Agency and Contact
1	Formation of climate change steering committee and community level committee	Climate change steering committee and community level committee	June, 2025	Staff time, Conference costs	Department of Water, Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change
2	Develop and implement county/national climate change policies.	Number of climate policies developed and implemented.	June, 2025	Staff time, Conference costs	Director Climate Change
3	Strengthen partnerships with stakeholders for climate action.	Level of public participation in climate action initiatives.	December, 2025	Staff time, Conference costs	Department of Water, Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change
4	Promote open data on environmental and climate -related projects.	Availability and accessibility of climate -related data.	May, 2027	Staff time, Conference costs	Department of Water, Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change
5	Increase public participation in climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.	Number of public participation in climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies	May, 2027	Staff time, Conference costs	Department of Water, Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change

Annex 1: List of Participants

1. H.E FCPA Fernandes Barasa
2. Hon. Ayub Savula
3. Rt. Hon James Namatsi
4. Hon. Philip Maina
5. Hon. Cynthia Livoli
6. Hon. Roseline Katibi
7. Dr. Lawrence Omuhaka
8. Dr. Bonface Okoth
9. Mrs. Peninah Mukabane
10. CS Vivianne Komwonyo Mmbaka
11. Ms. Doreen Amwoga
12. CHRP Prisca Otipa
13. Dr. Donald Manyala
14. Mr. Nelson Majimbo
15. Mr. Cyrus Ondari
16. Mr. Peter Mathia
17. Mr. Edwin Orisi
18. Ms. Veronica Mang'eni
19. Mr. Ramadhan Mohammed
20. Mr. George Khamati
21. Mr. Edward Wambani
22. Mr. Nixon Murabwa
23. Mr. Samwel Okonda
24. Mr. Paul Odongo
25. Ms. Hellen Alakapatan

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KAKAMEGA

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