

ELGEYO MARAKWET COUNTY



OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP (OGP)

LOCAL ACTION PLAN (LAP) III (2024-2027)

Draft for stakeholder engagement



FOREWORD

On behalf of all governance stakeholders committed to improving citizens' livelihoods in Elgeyo Marakwet County, it is a great pleasure to present our Open Government Partnership (OGP) Local Action Plan (LAP) III. The commitments contained in this plan acknowledges the progressive achievements and challenges encountered since we joined OGP in 2016, becoming the first county in Kenya to do so voluntarily. Our desire to continuously reform our governance practices aligns very well with the OGP principles and values of transparency, accountability, participation, and technological innovation.

This action plan aims to accelerate our efforts to automate service delivery processes, institutionalize joint forums with state and non-state development stakeholders, broaden the inclusion of special interest groups in decision-making processes, and enhance access to information. Through the implementation of this action plan, we are confident that more citizens will access government information, perceived levels of corruption will decrease, and our Public Affairs Index (PAI), which measures service delivery levels, will improve.

Through formal feedback mechanisms and social media platforms, we have noted our citizens' demand for increased openness on how public funds are sourced, spent, disclosed, and how they impact livelihoods; how public services are delivered; and the need for stronger alliances between government and citizens. Additionally, citizens seek inclusive decision-making processes that support collective development initiatives. Given the capability of OGP to adapt best governance practices to local context, we believe this action plan provides a valuable opportunity to address these citizen demands. We pledge to uphold the collaborative spirit we currently share with all partners, while being conscious of the transformative outcomes such alliances portend, and the sought trust between the government and citizens.

H.E WISLEY ROTICH
GOVERNOR

ABBREVIATIONS

AGPO	Access to Government Procurement Opportunities
BoQs	Bill of Quantity
CIDP	County Integrated Development Plan
COCO	County OGP Coordination Committee
CRA	Commission on Revenue Authority
CSO	Civil Society Organization
e-CIMES	Electronic County Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System
EDA	Equitable Development Act
eGP	Electronic Government Procurement
FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanisms
IBP	International Budget Partnership
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
LAP	Local Action Plan
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MSF	Multi Sectoral Forum
OGP	Open Government Partnership
PAI	Public Affairs Index
PFMA	Public Finance Management Act
PIM	Public Investment Management
PMCs	Project Management Committees
PWDs	Persons With Disabilities
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIGs	Special Interest Groups
SWGs	Sector Working Groups
WDCs	Ward Development Committees

OGP BACKGROUND AND STATUS

1.0 Open Government Challenges, Opportunities and Strategic Vision

1.1 Long-term vision for open government

An open, accountable, and transformative governance agenda is one of the nine development priorities that the current county administration aspires to accomplish by 2027. This agenda strives to achieve high standards of service delivery through participatory processes, digital governance, stakeholder collaborations, and the inclusion of special interest groups in decision making. To realize these goals, the county has committed to disseminating essential government information through service charters, service delivery data, ward factsheets, project management and performance reports in a timely and simplified manner. Additionally, the county plans to enhance communication and feedback mechanisms for greater transparency and responsiveness. Furthermore, the county has instituted grievance redress mechanisms, including the operationalization of the GRM committee and departmental complaints registers. These efforts are designed to promote an open and citizen-focused governance.

1.2 Achievements in open government to date

The county has made significant progress in its commitment to open governance since joining the OGP in 2016. These achievements include,

- i. Participatory budgeting: Citizens have been actively involved in the allocation of county resources through open forums, with deliberate inclusion of special interest groups to ensure broad representation.
- ii. Inclusive governance: Relations between the government, citizens, civil society organizations, media, and other development actors have been bolstered through collective governance, co-creation and implementation processes. This practice has created a culture of engagement among all stakeholders. For example, a quarterly roundtable with the stakeholders chaired by the Governor was initiated through the OGP to track the implementation progress of development initiatives.
- iii. Access to information: Two-way communication via the county website, along with dedicated SMS and WhatsApp channels, has enhanced real-time updates and prompt feedback.
- iv. Budget transparency: Publishing of key budget documents has enhanced government accountability and civilian oversight. An annual budget transparency index survey by the International Budget Partnership (IBP) has consistently ranked the county as one of the best performers in Kenya, in terms of publishing its budgets online.
- v. Best practice: The county has inspired governance reforms outside of its jurisdiction. Observing the transformation of openness reforms in Elgeyo Marakwet, five other counties in Kenya—Makueni, Nandi, Nairobi City, Machakos, and Kakamega—have voluntarily joined the OGP

1.3 Current challenges and areas for improvement in open government

The county government has made progress in promoting open governance and improving service delivery, yet significant challenges persist. Poor coordination among government agencies, civil society, and development partners leads to conflicts and resource mismanagement. Although a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) policy exists, it remains unimplemented, resulting in fragmented reporting. Limited

access to information, financial and technical barriers, and inadequate infrastructure hinder public participation and restrict procurement opportunities, especially for special interest groups. Lack of timely updates and centralized information weakens transparency and accountability, while restricted access to legislative proceedings and inadequate digital governance further diminishes civic engagement. Plans to establish relevant integrated digital platform aim to enhance transparency, but outdated data remains a significant obstacle.

1.4 Medium-term open government goals

From the long-term open government goals of enhanced transparency, broadened accountability, and inclusive public participation, short-term goals to be achieved by 2027 have been derived. These include open data initiatives, improving public access to information, effective civic engagement, value-for-money projects implementation, increasing own-source revenue compliances, and increasing accountability and integrity in government procurement processes. To achieve these short-term goals, activities will include fostering citizen engagement through participatory processes and partnerships with civil society organizations, academia, and the private sector; promoting digital government services; strengthening anti-corruption initiatives; and utilizing technological innovations for greater efficiency.

1.5 Contribution of Action Plan in achievement of Open Government Strategic Vision

This LAP III will contribute to the achievement of the county's open government strategic vision by promoting transparency through enhanced access to information and encouraging public participation via various participatory approaches, including participatory budgeting. The plan will strengthen accountability by establishing clear procurement processes and revenue management practices, enabling citizens to monitor the use of public resources. By providing accurate and timely information, the plan will facilitate informed decision-making, leading to improved project implementation and enhanced government responsiveness to citizens. Furthermore, the implementation of the plan's commitments will build trust between the government and its citizens and empower them with the necessary information needed to engage effectively in governance, fostering a more inclusive, transparent, and accountable government.

1.6 Contribution of Action Plan to the accomplishment of the county's overall policy goals

Elgeyo Marakwet County's administration aims to enhance inclusivity, transparency, and efficiency in governance, aligning with its goal of championing citizen-centric development. By ensuring that all voices, particularly those of special interest groups, are heard, the county promotes inclusive decision-making, resulting in better-designed interventions. Openness strengthens accountability and ensures value for public resources, while sectoral stakeholder involvement supports balanced development. The use of data and service delivery information drives evidence-based decisions and project feedback loops facilitate early redress mechanisms. Citizen feedback also drives ongoing reforms, refining governance processes to better align with community needs. These actions collectively promote sustainable and citizen-focused development.

OGP STRATEGIC VISION AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

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

2.1 Lead institutions responsible for the implementation action plan

- i. County Government of Elgeyo Marakwet
- ii. Elgeyo Marakwet CSOs Network
- iii. Elgeyo Marakwet CSOs Consortium

2.2 Coordination mechanism within government to implement action plan

An Executive Order by the Governor will be issued to designate the lead department on matters concerning open governance. This Executive Order will also establish the County OGP Coordination Committee (COCO), which will comprise officers representing relevant county departments, informed by the commitments and actions outlined in the Action Plan. COCO will develop clear work plans for implementing the Action Plan, monitor progress, and ensure broad consultation and collaboration on OGP related activities. Each commitment will have a designated focal point person responsible for reporting on the commitment's progress, participating in cross-departmental meetings, and ensuring that the activities of relevant departments align with the commitment/action plan objectives. Regular inter-departmental meetings will be held to ensure that departments understand each other's distinct roles, share information to avoid duplication of efforts, and provide updates on the status of ongoing OGP initiatives including milestones achieved and challenges faced, as well as address collaboration needs. The public participation office, together with existing public participation structures, will serve as a platform for monitoring and feedback to ensure accountability during the implementation process

2.3 Spaces created government and civil society joint co-creation and implementation of action plan

Elgeyo Marakwet County fosters collaboration between government and civil society through Public barazas and localized ward and sub-county meetings that engage citizens and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in discussions on policy, projects, and governance. Workshops and consultative meetings with CSOs and special interest groups ensure inclusive participation and progress reviews. These collaborative structures were utilized during the co-creation stage and will also be employed during the implementation of the plan. The county also used online platforms including its official website and social media platform to publish updates which generates responses for inclusion in governance intentions and the actual implementation process.

2.4 Measures taken to ensure diversity of representation in spaces created

The OGP co-creation process in Elgeyo Marakwet ensured inclusive representation through targeted actions. Special interest groups including women, youth, marginalized individuals, and persons with disabilities (PWDs), were represented in the coordinating committee and received direct invitations to participate in public forums to voice their input with regards to areas that enhance their participation. Key informant interviews and focused group discussions with community representatives and CSOs gathered diverse perspectives while digital platforms expanded access to feedback. Data collection from various

groups enabled joint ranking and prioritization of commitments, ensuring that community needs and interests were reflected in the final actions, thereby fostering a more inclusive and transparent governance approach.

2.5 Co-creation participants

Various groups participated in the co-creation of the action plan. Local government officials provided technical expertise and ensured policy alignment, while community members contributed insights into their needs and priorities through public forums and workshops. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) represented governance-organized groups and special interest groups. They also facilitated community engagement sessions on open governance, highlighting how transparency can transform their roles in governance and improve their livelihoods. Private sector representatives offered market perspectives and innovative solutions, while academics shared research and evidence-based insights. Youth representatives played a crucial role in fostering participation and ensuring that the perspectives of younger generations were included. This collaborative approach further contributed to transparency and accountability ultimately strengthening the relationship between the government and its citizens and enhancing inclusivity and good governance.

2.6 Implementation framework for collaboration between government and non-governmental stakeholders

A Multi Sectoral Forum (MSF) has been constituted, consisting of county government entities and a consortium of CSOs operating within the county to oversee the implementation of the action plan. The MSF will employ strategies such as town hall meetings, sector-specific roundtables, and annual Sector Working Groups (SWGs) to share updates, track progress, align priorities, and address emerging issues during the implementation of the plan. The OGP Secretariat, composed of relevant directorates, will centralize communication and streamline efforts, while an online data repository will provide real-time access to relevant information, enhancing transparency and evidence-based decision-making. Periodic virtual meetings with youth cohorts will ensure that diverse perspectives are represented.

ACTION PLAN MONITORING

3.0 Monitoring of the OGP Action Plan

3.1 Independent Monitoring Body for action plan

The independent monitoring body for the action plan will be led by an academia, specifically a lecturer from one of the universities in Kenya. Members will include one representative chosen by private sector stakeholders and one member selected by the umbrella organization of civil society groups operating within the county. The team will meet regularly and will be briefed after the co-creation process. They will receive evidence of the process and will be actively informed and supplied with relevant data during the implementation stage at each meeting.

3.2 Activities planned for commitments' progress discussions

Through the county multi-stakeholder forum, engagements such as listening tours, workshops, and roundtable discussions will be held to generate feedback and sustain open dialogue. There will also be open forums, town hall meetings, and webinars where government representatives and stakeholders can engage directly. An annual report detailing successes, obstacles, and planned steps will be published. Online progress updates and newsletters will be provided, and existing public feedback channels will be revamped and utilized to allow stakeholders submit comments and questions about ongoing efforts. Openness questions will be embedded in periodic customer satisfaction surveys to enable citizens to share their insights and perspectives.

3.3 Mechanism to check implementation progress

An implementation matrix will be developed to indicate the commitment name, desired milestones or outputs, and activities, each containing indicators and targets for the end of the plan period. The matrix will also indicate the responsible persons and organizations, along with a timeline for each activity. These responsibilities will be incorporated into the annual performance targets of the responsible government officers. Quarterly review meetings, implementation reports, periodic visits will be held, prepared and/or done to assess progress, and feedback mechanisms channels will be established for communication. These activities will be undertaken to evaluate implementation progress

3.4 Mechanism for sharing monitoring results

The county will publish regular public reports summarizing monitoring findings, progress, and challenges, ensuring that these documents are accessible both online and in print at public offices, including the Ward Administrator's offices. Community forums and public meetings will be organized to present these results directly to citizens, facilitating real-time engagement and feedback. The county's official website will feature infographics and interactive dashboards to make the information engaging and easily digestible. Additionally, the county will distribute newsletters and bulletins to keep citizens informed about monitoring outcomes and upcoming initiatives. The existing collaborative framework with CSOs will enhance outreach, particularly to marginalized communities, while local media will be engaged to cover findings through press releases and interviews. Feedback mechanisms, such as surveys and suggestion boxes, will be established to encourage citizen input, fostering a two-way communication channel. Finally, workshops will be conducted to educate citizens about the OGP plan and its monitoring process, empowering them to understand the results and actively participate in governance discussions.

LAP III COMMITMENTS

4.0 **Commitment 1: Fiscal Transparency**

4.1 **Commitment Title**

Strengthen Fiscal Openness in Project and Revenue Management

4.2 **Identified economic, social, political, or environmental problem this commitment seeks to resolve**

The absence of an operational M&E policy and the insufficient capacity of key committees (PMCs, WDCs and M&E Committees) have hindered effective project execution, reporting, and feedback in the county. Moreover, the project management process is not aligned with the Public Investment Management (PIM) regulations, making project implementation difficult. Additionally, the lack of an ICT-based platform for maintaining up-to-date project information, coupled with an unstructured institutional framework, causes delays in identifying and solving issues, leading to inefficiencies and substandard projects. The county also struggles to meet its Own Source Revenue potential and targets due to the lack of an up-to-date valuation roll, low compliance with revenue regulations, limited awareness of automated payment systems, and inadequate enforcement mechanisms.

4.3 **Current state of the policy issue at the beginning of an action plan**

According to the 2022 Auditor General audit report, only 40% of projects followed a structured management framework, with 65% of project management committees lacking adequate capacity for effective oversight. Public involvement is limited, with only 30% participating in project prioritization and implementation (ISA, 2022), and only 15% of residents have access to online project information due to the absence of an ICT platform (Communications Authority of Kenya, 2023). Additionally, 70% of citizens feel inadequately educated about their roles in local governance (National Democratic Institute, 2021) which undermines public oversight. The County's own-source revenue achieved 45% of its annual revenue potential (County Revenue Report, 2022 by CRA). Despite updates to revenue systems, inefficiencies still result in an estimated 40% loss of potential revenue. Furthermore, the 2022 Controller of Budget Report reveals that 35% of registered businesses do not comply with local tax obligations.

4.4 **Commitment description, expected results, and overall objective**

The county will operationalize its M&E policy to institutionalize PMCs and WDCs with clear roles, onboard project data onto e-CIMES with a feedback mechanism, and provide tools and templates for project monitoring. A price cost reference list will be developed to guide adequate allocation to projects. Training programs will be rolled out for M&E and project management committees to enhance their ability to assess project plans, Bills of Quantity, and reports, ensuring sustainability and alignment of the management process with PIM regulations. The County will also improve its revenue collection by developing a property valuation roll, launching awareness campaigns such as "Ushuru Mashinani,"

mapping revenue streams, automating the collection process, setting data-driven revenue targets, and building staff capacity for better revenue management.

4.5 Expected outputs and outcomes once the commitment has been implemented

Enhanced project management practices will ensure timely project implementation, high-quality outcomes, and stronger community ownership, contributing to long-term project sustainability. These practices will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public funds usage, delivering better value for money. The county will boost tax compliance and update its valuation roll, making it easier for citizens to meet their obligations, which will eventually improve the county's own-source revenue generation. Automation and setting of data-driven revenue targets will further enhance efficiency in revenue collection, reduce revenue leakages, and build public trust, resulting in sustainable revenue growth and effective service delivery.

4.6 Long-term goal the commitment relates to

The main goal of enhanced project management and revenue collection is to ensure the efficient and effective delivery of public services. Project management entails delivering projects on schedule, within budget, and to specified quality standards, ultimately improving community well-being and building public trust in government. Achieving revenue targets ensures adequate funding for programs and projects, thereby reducing/eliminating pending bills and enabling timely completion and long-term sustainability.

4.7 OGP value the commitment is relevant to

Select Value	Why is this commitment relevant to this value?
Public Accountability	Streamlined project management builds trust in government, strengthens democratic governance and ensures public services meet community needs.
Civic Participation	Improving project management allows citizens involvement in public projects, leading to more responsive governance, better outcomes, and stronger community trust in public institutions.
Technology and Innovation for Transparency and Accountability	Fully automating the own source revenue collection process reduces human error, minimizes corruption, and increases efficiency. Automation provides a mechanism to air and react to complaints from county staff and residents. e-CIMES will also provide a platform to monitor the implementation of county projects, therefore promoting accountability.

4.8 Additional Information

This commitment aligns with the County’s CIDP (2023-27), which aims to promote economic growth, poverty reduction, fair taxation, and strengthened governance, ultimately contributing to sustainable and equitable development. The commitment matches the aspirations of Kenya's Vision 2030 strategies to improve governance, security, and the rule of law while promoting democratic participation, accountability, and inclusive policy making. Additionally, this commitment aligns with SDG 16 by empowering the public, especially the marginalized groups, women, and youth, to engage in decision-making and actively participate in local government initiatives, in line with SDG 10 on reduced inequalities.

4.9 Milestones

Describe the output	Start date	End Date	Responsible Agency	Contact Person
M&E policy formulated and operationalized with necessary committees and templates	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of Economic Planning and Budgeting	Titus Kosgey
Projects Management guidelines developed and aligned with the Public Investment Management (PIM) regulations	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of Economic Planning and Budgeting	Felix Kipngetich
Project data uploaded and regularly updated on the County Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (e-CIMES) platform	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of Economic Planning and Budgeting	Titus Kosgey
e-CIMES platform incorporated with interactive prompts and location coordinates to allow citizen feedback	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of Economic Planning and Budgeting	Titus Kosgey
PMCs and WDCs training curriculum developed and disseminated	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of Administration	Wilfred Chepkole
PMCs and WDCs capacity developed	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of Economic Planning and Budgeting	Felix Kipngetich
Annual accountability (open days) held	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of Public Participation and Civic Education	Kilimo Ruto
Cost Reference List (COREL) Developed	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of Roads, Directorate of Public Works and Transport Directorate of Water	Elias Cheboi John Cheboi Felix Rotich
All potential revenue streams mapped and automated	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of Revenue Management	Solomon Kandie
Revenue collection fully automated	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of Revenue Management	Solomon Kandie
Property valuation roll updated	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of Revenue Management	Solomon Kandie

5.0 **Commitment 2: Open Contracting**

5.1 **Commitment Title**

Increase transparency in public procurement processes for enhanced participation and oversight

5.2 **Identified economic, social, political, or environmental problem this commitment seeks to resolve**

A decade into devolution, the county has made strides in decentralizing government functions; yet procurement challenges persist. Compliance with the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO), which requires 30% of procurement to be reserved for Special Interest Groups (SIGs), remains low. Furthermore, SIGs have inadequate capacity to bid for available opportunities and continue to face barriers such as limited access to information, as well as financial and technical constraints. Additionally, the broader public is often unaware of key procurement opportunities, dictating 20% of public procurement opportunities being reserved specifically for local bidders. This lack of awareness makes them miss out on opportunities. Citizens continue to perceive favoritism in tender awards, compounded by continued perception of procurement processes being corrupt. The absence of clear mechanisms for addressing reported complaints arising from unclear procurement processes further hinders efforts to ensure fairness and inclusivity in procurement opportunities.

5.3 **Current state of the policy issue at the beginning of an action plan**

A 2022 audit by the Office of the Auditor General revealed that only 50% of awarded tenders were published online, and 35% of contracts were flagged for non-compliance with regulations. Special Interest Groups (SIGs) face significant challenges, with only 20% of public contracts being awarded to them, as highlighted in a Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) Economic Survey of 2019. Consequently, the County has not achieved 30% reservation of procurement opportunities as directed by AGPO. The lack of a centralized digital procurement portal and infrequent updates further exacerbate transparency issues, leading to the exclusion of many stakeholders from participating in the procurement process and undermining the overall effectiveness of public contracting. Additionally, complaints arising from unclear procurement processes have not been addressed in recent years, which fosters feelings of favoritism and corruption among citizens regarding procurement processes.

5.4 **Commitment description, expected results, and overall objective**

The County commits to ensuring openness and transparency in procurement processes. The Supply Chain Management Directorate will endeavor to establish and regularly update a public portal listing opportunities reserved for Special Interest Groups (SIGs). This portal will include a comprehensive list of tenders, awarded bidders, and specific requirements for SIGs under the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) program. The County Government will also create a Training Curriculum Manual and conduct awareness forums to inform SIGs and the public about available opportunities. Additionally, annual round-table meetings and workshops will be organized between contractors and government officers to encourage transparency and collaboration. A procurement policy with clear guidelines will be developed, alongside the implementation of an Electronic Government Procurement (eGP) system to streamline the procurement process from start to finish. Lastly, the department will introduce community participation as an integral part of the procurement process.

5.5 Expected outputs and outcomes once the commitment has been implemented

The commitment to improve the procurement process will address public challenges by enhancing transparency, inclusivity, and trust in the county's system. Key outputs will include having a public portal for tender listings, a Training Curriculum Manual for Special Interest Groups (SIGs) developed and regular awareness forums held. These will lead to increased SIG participation in procurement, greater public satisfaction, and strengthened trust by the public translating to greater inclusivity in procurement of government opportunities.

5.6 Long-term goal the commitment relates to

The county aims to enhance openness and participation in procurement, fostering transparency, accountability, and inclusivity in governance, which is a key pillar of the County's Open Government strategic vision. By implementing open procurement processes, the county will effectively reduce the public's perception of corruption and build trust between the government and citizens. Encouraging citizen participation empowers the community to influence decisions that impact local development, ensuring that resource allocation aligns with public needs. Moreover, involving diverse stakeholders in procurement processes will increase competitiveness in government contracts, resulting in improved service delivery and supporting the county's economic growth objectives. This strategic approach not only enhances governance efficiency but also ensures long-term sustainability for the county.

5.7 OGP value the commitment is relevant to

Value	Why is this commitment relevant to this value?
<i>Public Accountability</i>	This commitment ensures that procurement processes are transparent, ethical, and open to public scrutiny thereby promoting responsible governance and the prudent use of public resources.
Access to Information	The commitment prioritizes making government information easily accessible. It ensures that citizens have the information they need to engage meaningfully with governance processes.
Technology and Innovation for Transparency and Accountability	The e-procurement platform provides a system for accountability by public procuring entity as the system offers verifiable mechanisms for auditing public procurement process

5.8 Additional Information

This commitment aligns with Kenya's AGPO program, which mandates the allocation of 30% of public procurement to Special Interest Group SIGs and supports the Huduma Kenya initiative aimed at providing streamlined public services. It also contributes to Kenya's Vision 2030, specifically under the Social Pillar, and advances the Elgeyo Marakwet County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP III) by fostering more inclusive and transparent procurement practices. Additionally, the commitment promotes Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 5 (Gender Equality), by enhancing access to procurement opportunities for marginalized groups. By addressing the barriers faced by these groups, this initiative strengthens gender equity and encourages local enterprise development, ultimately contributing to broader economic empowerment and social inclusion.

5.9 Milestones

<i>Describe the output</i>	<i>Start date</i>	<i>End Date</i>	<i>Responsible Agency</i>	<i>Contact person</i>
List of successful awards for SIGs category published	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of ICT	Benjamin Kosgei
Reserved list of projects for SIGs published at the beginning of each Financial Year	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of ICT	Benjamin Kosgei
and of SIG on access to Government procurement opportunities conducted	04/2025	06/2027	Directorate of Supply Chain Management (Procurement)	Peter Maiyo
Annual training and sensitization of contractors including those under SIGs undertaken	04/2025	06/2027	Directorate of Supply Chain Management (Procurement)	Peter Maiyo
Requirements for SIGs to access AGPO published	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of Supply Chain Management (Procurement)	Peter Maiyo
County Procurement Policy Developed	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of Supply Chain Management (Procurement)	Peter Maiyo
Standard tender evaluation criteria requirements developed	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of Supply Chain Management (Procurement)	Peter Maiyo
Training Curriculum manual for all procurement stakeholders developed	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of Supply Chain Management (Procurement)	Peter Maiyo

6.0 **Commitment 3: Public Participation**

6.1 **Commitment Title**

Broaden public participation spaces for inclusive decision making

6.2 **Identified economic, social, political, or environmental problem this commitment seeks to resolve**

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) encounter multiple obstacles that limit their meaningful participation in governance. Current participation platforms lack accessibility and inclusiveness, hindering SIGs' engagement. The allocation of public funds often does not fully consider the diverse needs of these groups, and citizen involvement below the Ward level remains low, reducing grassroots impact. Additionally, overlapping interventions from different stakeholders create inefficiencies, while citizen priorities are not always based on current data. There is also limited citizen input on Conditional Grants, and imbalanced project funding compromises intended project outcomes.

6.3 **Current state of the policy issue at the beginning of an action plan**

A 2022 report by the Auditor General on public participation indicates that only 84% of citizens are aware of the county budget process, with just 38% participating. Additionally, it was noted that the county has not instituted mechanisms to prepare documents, such as budgets in Braille for the visually impaired, nor have sign language interpreters been provided for the deaf, as required by Article 54 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010. This low engagement is due to inadequate civic education and infrequent public forums, with less than 20% of forums including Special Interest Groups (SIGs). Moreover, only 25% of SIGs report having opportunities to engage with county leadership (Economic Survey, 2021), and 65% of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) feel excluded due to inadequate policies (Institute of Social Accountability, 2022). Transparency issues persist, with 80% of PWD appointments made without consulting the PWDs Council (Elgeyo Marakwet County Assembly report, 2022), while 70% of SIGs express frustration over incomplete government feedback mechanisms (Citizen Satisfaction Survey, 2021). Furthermore, only 15% of PWDs use digital platforms for participation (Communications Authority of Kenya, 2023), limiting engagement and accountability in governance.

6.4 **Commitment description, expected results, and overall objective**

This commitment seeks to enhance public participation and inclusion by creating accessible and transparent channels for citizen engagement. The county will establish physical and virtual platforms for continuous public consultation forums and host workshops to raise awareness. Special interest groups (SIGs) will be actively targeted to ensure their involvement in budget processes. To structure participatory planning and budgeting, the Elgeyo Marakwet County Equitable Development Act, 2015 will be amended to decentralize participation to sublocation levels. The Elgeyo Marakwet Public Participation Act, 2014 will be repealed to structure engagements and a liaison office will be created to engage Civil Society Organizations. Civic education will be enhanced through awareness campaigns and roundtable meetings. This will lead to more responsive policies, better resource allocation, and social cohesion.

6.5 **Expected outputs and outcomes once the commitment has been implemented**

Once implemented, this commitment will enhance grassroots participation in identifying and prioritizing local interventions, ensuring inclusiveness at the sub-locational level. Clear guidelines will institutionalize

engagement structures like the Sub-Local Development Committees, while the establishment of a liaison office for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and development partners & enhanced civic education will empower citizens with the knowledge to engage effectively. Timely public notices and regular publication of key policy documents will improve transparency, accountability, and trust in government processes. Strengthening collaboration with CSOs will ensure equitable resource allocation, leading to balanced development across communities. By creating more accessible and inclusive participation platforms, diverse voices will be considered in policy making, fostering greater public trust, enhancing government accountability, and improving policy outcomes that reflect the real needs of citizens.

6.6 Long-term goal the commitment relates to

This commitment aligns with the strategic vision of building a more open, transparent, and accountable government, where citizens play an active role in shaping public policy and governance.

6.7 OGP value the commitment is relevant to

Value	Why is this commitment relevant to this value?
Civic Participation	It ensures that residents have a voice in government decision-making, influencing policies and contributing to the design of interventions that impact their communities.
Public Accountability	Public participation strengthens accountability by enabling residents to hold the government accountable for its actions, ensuring that decisions put public interests into consideration.

6.8 Additional Information

The commitment aligns with the Constitution of Kenya, County Government Act 2012, the Urban Areas and Cities Act 2012, the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) 2012 and the Kenya Devolution Policy, all of which mandate citizen engagement in governance. This commitment supports Kenya Vision 2030 and the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP 3), ensuring public involvement in resource allocation. It also links to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 16 for inclusive institutions, SDG 10 for reducing inequalities, and SDG 5 for gender equality.

6.9 Milestones

Describe the output	Start date	End Date	Responsible Agency	Contact person
Public participation framework (policy guidelines) developed	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of Public Participation and Civic Education	Kilimo Ruto
Sub Locational level participation regulations in the EDA amendment incorporated	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of Supply Chain Management (Procurement)	John Maritim

Participatory Budgeting (PB) Guidelines Developed	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of Economic Planning and Budgeting	John Maritim
CSOs and development partners liaison office established	12/2024	06/2027	County Secretary's office	Paul Chemmutut
Sign language interpreters trained	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of Public Participation and Civic Education	Kilimo Ruto
Virtual spaces created	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of ICT	Ben Kosgei
Periodic virtual space meetings with organized youth cohorts held	01/2025	06/2027	Directorate of public participation and civic Education	Kilimo Ruto
County statistics Bill enacted	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of Economic Planning and Budgeting	John Maritim
Periodic roundtable (town hall) meetings for each SIG and CSOs jointly held	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of public participation and civic Education	Kilimo Ruto
Annual Sector Working Groups (SWGs) for all sectors held	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of Economic Planning and Budgeting	John Maritim

7.0 **Commitment 4: Access to Information**

7.1 **Commitment Title**

Enhance access to government information for accountability, feedback, and empowerment

7.2 **Identified economic, social, political, or environmental problem this commitment seeks to resolve**

Lack of timely updates, centralized information, and accessible service delivery data limits opportunities for citizen empowerment, hampering access to entrepreneurship, scholarships, and credit resources. The absence of efficient digital governance stifles economic growth and innovation by restricting resources for entrepreneurs and job seekers. Poor information sharing and inadequate dissemination platforms weaken citizen participation in key processes, such as budget reallocations, undermining transparency and accountability in legislative proceedings. Limited access to policy changes obscures the role of citizens in governance, further creating mistrust in government actions and restricting sustainable resource management. This lack of accessible information prevents citizens from advocating for sustainable practices and participating in development, ultimately undermining democratic processes and community growth.

7.3 **Current state of the policy issue at the beginning of an action plan**

Access to government information remains limited, with only 38% of residents receiving timely updates from the county government, according to a 2021 Kenya National Bureau of Statistics survey. The lack of a centralized digital platform and limited digital infrastructure, such as for broadcasting County Assembly sessions, leaves 65% of citizens unaware of legislative proceedings (Institute for Economic Affairs, 2022). Service charters outlining service delivery standards and available resources are similarly inaccessible, deepening gaps in transparency. Additionally, a 2023 Kenya Youth Empowerment Program report shows only 30% of young people are informed about empowerment resources. Without a cohesive information platform, residents navigate disconnected sources, weakening public participation, accountability, and informed decision-making.

7.4 **Commitment description, expected results, and overall objective**

This commitment seeks to strengthen transparency, access to government information, and youth empowerment in the County through robust digital governance. Key actions include publishing responses to FAQs, creating ward-specific factsheets and newsletters, and ensuring timely uploads of simplified documents for public accessibility. The county will also produce sector-specific content and broadcast County Assembly sessions via digital platforms to increase public access. Additionally, the county will develop ward-specific opportunities, integrate special interest groups (SIG), hold regular town hall forums, and centralize empowerment resources on a dedicated portal. To support sustainable development, digital channels will disseminate land-use advisories and weather information. The commitment will also introduce accessible service delivery charters and complaint registers to enhance accountability and responsiveness. Through these measures, digital governance will promote public participation, transparency, and equitable information access, fostering an informed and engaged community prepared to contribute to local development.

7.5 Expected outputs and outcomes once the commitment has been implemented

The implementation of this commitment is expected to significantly reduce misinformation and enhance transparency in governance and legislative processes, fostering stronger citizen engagement. Through digital platforms, citizens will gain real-time access to critical information, including weather updates, land-use advisories, service delivery standards, and County Assembly proceedings. The creation of a centralized digital portal will streamline access to various empowerment opportunities, lowering participation barriers for youth and special interest groups (SIG). These digital governance measures will ensure that information is readily accessible, interactive, and responsive to community needs. The result will be a more informed citizenry, active participation in public decision-making, empowered youth and SIG members, equitable resource access, and strengthened community development.

7.6 Long-term goal the commitment relates to

This commitment supports long-term goals of fostering transparency, encouraging public participation, and reinforcing accountability, all contributing to the broader aim of cultivating an informed and engaged citizenry equipped to drive positive change within their communities.

7.7 OGP value the commitment is relevant to

Value	Why is this commitment relevant to this value?
Access to Information	The commitment prioritizes making government information easily accessible. It ensures that citizens have the information they need to engage meaningfully with governance processes.
Civic Participation	The commitment seeks to actively involve citizens, particularly the youth, in governance. It fosters a more participatory and inclusive governance system.
Technology and Innovation for Transparency and Accountability	The commitment to e-governance leverage digital tools and systems to enhance the way government services are delivered and monitored.

7.8 Additional Information

This commitment supports the Elgeyo Marakwet County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP III) and the County Assembly Strategic Plan 2023-2027 by promoting open governance and community engagement. Improved digital governance strengthens connections between county and national programs, facilitating access to resources such as Kenya Youth Empowerment Program and aligning with health and education initiatives. A centralized platform enhances transparency, public participation, and resource accessibility, supporting Kenya's Vision 2030. It contributes to SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) by promoting transparency and accountability, and to SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) by creating opportunities for youth and entrepreneurs while improving access to information for all citizens, especially women and marginalized groups. This promotes inclusive development and strengthens local governance in line with national goals. Additionally, digital governance fosters gender equity by making information more accessible to women, who often face greater barriers to resources.

7.9 Milestones

Describe the output	Start date	End Date	Responsible Agency	Contact person
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) developed, published, and regularly updated online	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of Communications	Vincent Bartoo
Relevant Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials for civic education developed and disseminated periodically through campaigns and outreaches	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of Public Participation and Civic Education	Kilimo Ruto
Ward specific data sheets developed, published, and regularly updated	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of Public Participation and Civic Education	Kilimo Ruto
County/Ward Newsletters prepared and published periodically	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of Communications	Vincent Bartoo
Weather and land-use advisory information disseminated regularly	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of Communications	Vincent Bartoo
Integrated digital database for publishing employment, entrepreneurship, and scholarship opportunities developed	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of ICT	Vincent Bartoo
Approved ward projects segregated and published before and after every supplementary budget	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of Economic Planning	John Maritim
County information, communication, and feedback policy developed	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of Communications	Vincent Bartoo
County call center established and operationalized	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of Communications	Vincent Bartoo
County Assembly sessions broadcasted using appropriate digital platforms	12/2024	06/2027	County Assembly	Jane Mutai

Bulk SMS system information sharing platform adopted	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of Communications	Vincent Bartoo
Digital notice boards in major urban centers installed	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of Communications	Vincent Bartoo
Periodic vernacular radio sessions on relevant topical issues undertaken	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of Communications	Vincent Bartoo
Departmental citizen service charters updated	12/2024	06/2027	Director of Administration	Wilfred Chepkole
Online data repository platform for relevant and real-time data developed	12/2024	06/2027	Directorate of Communications	Vincent Bartoo