



# KENYA

## A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs

#HLPF2020

**COVID-19:  
WORKERS DEMAND  
JOBS, INCOME AND  
SOCIAL  
PROTECTION**

## COVID-19: WORKERS NEED RESPONSES FOR RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE

The Kenyan government has put in place specific measures to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic, including a partial lockdown in four counties and a dusk-to-dawn curfew in all the country. The government has established an economic stimulus programme that comprises measures such as tax relief for people and enterprises, a horizontal expansion of the cash transfer programme to cover more vulnerable people (elderly, orphans and persons with severe disability), a weekly stipend for the vulnerable (especially the urban poor) and the lowering of the Central Bank Rate and cash reserve ratio by one per cent to provide affordable credit to SMEs. Expansion of healthcare towards universal coverage has initially been piloted in three counties.

Although other important measures are being put in place by the government, most of these leave out informal economy workers. These workers constitute 84 per cent of the workforce. COTU (K) calls on the Kenyan government to further extend social protection coverage to informal economy workers and provide more cash transfers and grants to vulnerable communities. Subsidised loans to SMEs should be increased, and childcare support to frontline workers should be guaranteed.

### ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

The Kenyan government implements the 2030 Agenda through its Vision 2030 strategy, rolled out in five-year Medium-Term Plans (MTPs). The 2018-2022 MTP, together with the County Integrated Development Plans, mainstream the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Agenda 2063.

Kenya aims to implement all SDGs, and all ministries are required to mainstream the SDGs in all their strategic plans, policies, budgets, and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) systems. In addition, the government has prioritised the Big Four Agenda (Universal Health Coverage, Affordable Housing, Manufacturing and Food Security), which also mirrors the SDG aspirations. The Ministry of Devolution and Planning coordinates the implementation and monitoring of the

SDGs; an inter-agency technical committee representing all ministries has been set up within it and linked with the county governments.

Trade unions report that there is a lack of transparency in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. They further add that government reporting, along with coordination among the different government agencies and non-state actors implementing the various SDGs, is not adequate. Trade unions are not specifically consulted on the implementation of the SDGs. Their engagement in the implementation of SDG 8 is only possible indirectly through the development and monitoring of the Decent Work Country Program, which involves both social partners.

#### TRANSPARENCY



Irregular access to limited information

#### CONSULTATION



Informal or ad hoc consultation

#### SOCIAL DIALOGUE



Social partners not involved in defining and realising government's SDG national plan



