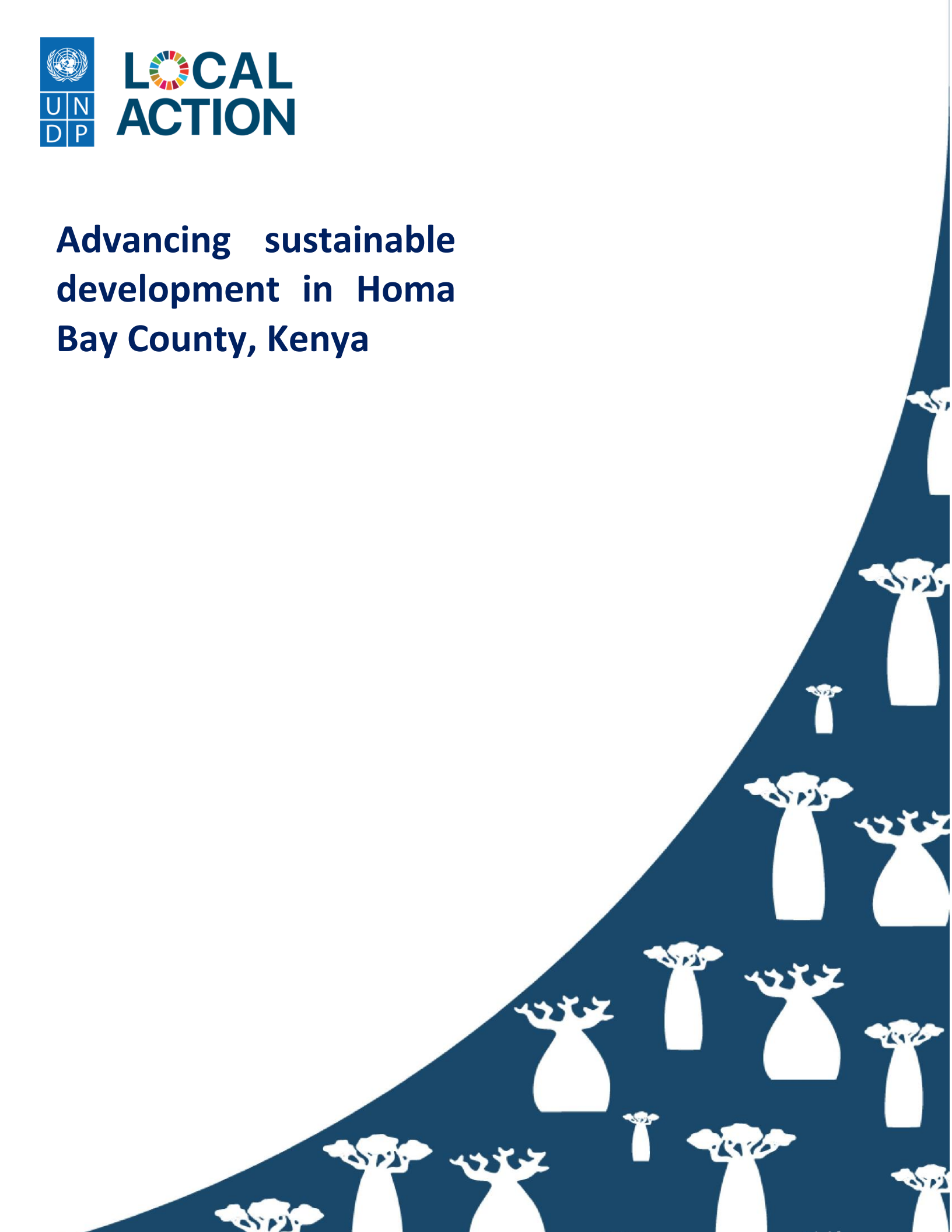
LOCAL ACTION

Advancing sustainable development in Homa Bay County, Kenya



Advancing sustainable development in Homa Bay County: initiatives and challenges

Homa Bay County, located in Kenya, is characterized by a young population, with approximately 79% of its residents under the age of 35. The majority of people in the county are engaged in agriculture, making the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 (No Poverty) and 2 (Zero Hunger) crucial for their well-being. Under the leadership of Governor Wanga, Homa Bay County has implemented various strategies and initiatives to address these goals and create a sustainable future for its residents.

Governor's park

SDG coordination and performance contracts:

Governor Wangai recognized the importance of effective coordination and accountability in achieving the SDGs. To ensure proper implementation, a cabinet committee of SDGs was established, along with an SDG

This unit comprises of SDG champions from each department who are responsible for mainstreaming the SDGs into their respective areas of work. Additionally, performance contracts have been introduced to hold staff accountable for achieving service delivery targets.

County integrated action plan

The County Integrated Action Plan (CIAP) 2023-2027 is a comprehensive community-led roadmap developed to mainstream the SDGs and achieve specific targets in Homa Bay County. This plan serves as a guide to address the challenges and prioritize initiatives aligned with the SDGs. By involving the community in the planning process, the county aims to ensure inclusivity and sustainability in its development efforts.

Launch of the county integrated development plan

Building resilience:

Recognizing the impact of climate change on the county's population, Homa Bay has taken proactive measures to make the region more resilient.

The county has established a climate resilience innovation hub, which serves as a centre for research and demonstration of climate adaptation solutions. This hub focuses on promoting climate-smart agricultural practices, renewable energy, water harvesting, sustainable waste management, and climate-resilient options in all sub-counties. Homa Bay has also invested in creating an information centre as part of the hub, serving as an early warning system for natural disasters.

Promoting livable and sustainable housing:

Homa Bay County has received recognition for its efforts in promoting affordable and clean housing. In line with sustainability principles, the county's affordable housing design includes the incorporation of recreation parks, tree planting in public spaces, and the installation of pedestrian walkways. These measures not only improve the quality of life for residents but also contribute to the overall sustainability of the county.

Affordable housing units under construction

Enhancing health infrastructure:

Improving the health infrastructure is vital to the overall well-being and life expectancy of residents. Homa Bay County has been working on strengthening its health infrastructure to ensure accessible and quality healthcare services for its population. Through infrastructure development, increased access to healthcare facilities, and capacity-building programs, the county aims to address health-related SDGs and improve the overall health outcomes of its residents.

Homa Bay Stadium

Supporting marginalized groups and public participation

Governor Wanga's administration has recognized the need to empower marginalized groups such as motorcycle riders, artisans, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and women. To support these groups, Homa Bay County has established a revolving fund that provides financial assistance. In addition, a percentage of tenders have been reserved for PWDs and women, promoting inclusivity and fostering economic empowerment.

Challenges and the way forward

Despite the progress made, resource constraints pose challenges for Homa Bay County in fully implementing its sustainability initiatives. However, the county recognizes the importance of partnerships and has embarked on an aggressive resource mobilization strategy. Additionally, legislation has been put in place to promote public participation and ensure that the voices of community members are heard in decision-making processes.

Homa Bay County, with its focus on sustainable development, has implemented various initiatives to address key SDGs and create a resilient and prosperous future for its residents. Through coordinated efforts, community involvement, and proactive strategies, the county aims to overcome challenges and continue making significant strides toward achieving the SDGs. By prioritizing sustainability and inclusivity, Homa Bay serves as an inspiring example for other regions looking to create long-lasting positive change.