



## Report on the Use of Micro-Grant from the Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA)

**Title:** The Uptake of Climate Action Financing for Community Adaptation Plan Implementation and Local Climate Actions in Nairobi.

**Implementing Organization:** SDI Kenya

**Location:** Nairobi City County

**Period:** March-May 2022

### Project Rationale:

Nairobi County currently lacks the relevant policy framework to mainstream climate action in county's planning and budgeting. As a result, there are no finances set aside by the county government to fund local adaptations, and county plans contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation. On the other hand, counties such as Makeni, Kitui, Nakuru, and Kisumu etc. have already set up frameworks for Climate action financing. These counties are however, at different levels in terms of the operationalization of the Climate Change Action Plan Framework policy.

In Nairobi County, priority is shifting towards the development of adaptation plans for the slum areas, due to continued impacts of climate change resulting from the disadvantaged location of the slum settlements in the city. One such plan to have been developed successfully with strong collaboration of CSO's, academia, private organizations, INGO's, the local community organizations, Nairobi County and Nairobi Metropolitan Services, is the Mukuru Special Planning Area Project. Additionally, there are other plans developed by local communities, organised in different groups to improve their resilience to the impacts of climate change such as the river riparian rehabilitation and beautification, waste management and recycling, and urban agriculture among others.

The absence of the climate action plan framework at the city level has meant that these projects have little to no access to climate change financing by local climate actors within the City of Nairobi.

Although Nairobi City County had developed its Climate Change Action Plan with support from C40 Cities, the official launch of the plan had not occurred. Recognizing this as a strategic opportunity, SDI Kenya applied for and received a micro-grant from the Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA) to Support the county in launching the Plan and to initiate deeper collaboration focused on climate action in informal settlements.

## Project Description:

The development and operationalization of the County Climate Change Policy, and the framework for the uptake of climate change financing by climate actors in the city requires crosslearning involving counties with best practice. This project was aimed at providing capacity strengthening and training of government officials; exchange learnings; and stakeholder forums, aimed at influencing policy and setting city framework.

The Capacity strengthening gap that was prioritized by Nairobi County was in the uptake of policies and legislative frameworks to enable the City allocate resources and facilitate urban poor settlements develop adaptation plans.

## Purpose of the Grant

After consultations with key stakeholders, SDI Kenya and ADA agreed on the following objectives:

1. Support Nairobi County in launching its Climate Change Action Plan.
2. Facilitate the creation of a policy framework enabling planning, budgeting, and access to climate finance by local actors.
3. Strengthen engagement between county officials and informal communities on climate-related policy formulation.

## Key activities supported by the Grant

1. Official Launch on the Climate Action Plan (April 2022): SDI Kenya worked closely with the Nairobi County Department of Environment and Climate to coordinate the official launch event. A parallel grassroots launch was held in Mukuru Slums, Mathare and Korogocho informal settlements, facilitated by climate action partners and documented through the Know Your City TV platforms.
2. Community Sensitization Forums: Forums were held in informal settlements to raise awareness about the Climate Action Plan and build local understanding of its relevance and opportunities.
3. Stakeholder Engagement for Policy Development: SDI Kenya facilitated meetings between community actors and county officials to begin formulating key climate governance tools such as a County Climate Change Act.

## Outcomes:

1. Successful Launch of the Nairobi City County Climate Action Plan with broad participation from City, CSOs and grassroots actors.
2. Strengthened collaboration with the County Department of Environment, leading to high-level engagements with the County Executive Committee and technical staff.
3. Signed Memorandum of Understanding between SDI Kenya and Nairobi City County, establishing a framework for continued collaboration on climate governance, especially in informal settlements.
4. Enhanced visibility and voice for informal settlement communities in shaping climate action at the city level.

### Challenges:

Initial implementation delays were experienced due to the unexpectedly swift and high-level response from County officials, requiring adjustments in coordination timelines.

### Conclusion:

The Micro-grant from ARA played a catalytic role in unlocking County engagement, facilitating the long-overdue launch of Nairobi's Climate Action Plan, and establishing a long-term collaboration framework between SDI Kenya and Nairobi City County. This engagement is expected to support further community-driven climate actions and policy innovations in informal settlements.