

# GOVERNMENT OF MAKUENI COUNTY



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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Date: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Mr. Rudi Borrmann  
Deputy Director OGP Local  
Open Government Partnership  
1110 Vermont Avenue NW, Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Borrmann,

### **OPEN GOVERNEMENT PARTNERSHIP LOCAL (OGPL) SUBMISSION BY GOVERNMENT OF MAKUENI COUNTY (GMC)**

#### **1. Commitment to meet the OGP Values**

GMC hereby commits itself to uphold the principles of open and transparent government as articulated in the Open Government Declaration (September, 2011). Further, we commit to continue pursuing our model of openness to make our government more responsive to the needs of citizens through **Civic Participation, Access to Information, Public Accountability and Technology & Innovation.**

#### **2. Commitment by The Governor (Political Leader)**

In line with the provisions of the Constitution of Kenya and in my determination to promote openness and accountability, I **Prof. Kivutha Kibwana**, Governor, Makueni County, pledge our Government will develop and implement the commitments contained in the OGPL. I also promise to work closely with Civil Society in the implementation of these commitments.

#### **3. Clarity of the value proposition or benefit for the local jurisdiction in Joining OGPL**

Our value proposition is to attain value for money and achieve socio-economic transformation through inclusive, transparent and accountable governance as outlined in our Vision 2025(<https://makueni.go.ke/download/makueni-county-vision-2025/>) and our County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP II) (<https://makueni.go.ke/documents/cidp-2018-2022/>) among other periodic planning documents. By joining the OGPL, GMC shall improve on the current milestones in open governance including Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO), Open Contracting Data Standards (OCDS), Public Participation, Corruption Prevention, undertaking an

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open COVID-19 response recovery and reforms, equity and equality in opportunities and service delivery. Further, GMC will get an opportunity to learn, share and network with other like-minded OGPLs.

**4. Ambition of future directions of open government action including priority thematic areas the local jurisdiction wishes to advance and their alignment with OGP's strategic and thematic priorities, especially as it relates to engagement of citizens in shaping and overseeing policies and services**

GMC plans to enhance transparency on company ownership through disclosure of information on beneficial ownership as one of the key anti-corruption measures. Further, GMC plans to implement phase II of OCDS that will include project monitoring and evaluation. This gives an opportunity to the community to interact with projects/programs and provide timely feedback for action and improvement. Consequently, this will lead to value for money on all projects/programs and sustainability thereof. In addition, as part of its Fiscal Openness and in order to enhance transparency, GMC has put measures in place to publish final audit and public service performance reports and going forward plans to encourage the public to interrogate the reports during our open forums. GMC will formulate a policy and related framework to institutionalize OGP.

**5. Capacity and resources for co-creation and implementation, including the identification of responsible agencies in government as well as the main non-governmental stakeholders supporting the application**

GMC has established an organizational structure to support OGPL action plan. GMC has so far undertaken staff training and sensitization on open government approaches, who will constitute the necessary human resources to implement the planned sub-national action plan commitments to ensure institutionalization and sustainability. In addition, GMC commits to appropriate funds to facilitate the implementation of OGPL through the budgetary process and enhance projects information disclosure (<https://www.makueni.go.ke/projects/public/index.php>). Further, GMC will leverage existing solid partnerships with civil society organizations such as HIVOSSs, Development Gateway, Mobilization Agency for Paralegal Communities in Africa (MAPACA) Trust and Makueni County Civil Society Network as well as the local private sector among others.

**6. Track record on open government or co-creation with non-governmental stakeholders, highlighting at least one open government reform or successful example of public policy co-creation in the past 3years**

GMC has an elaborate public participation framework and practice (<https://makueni.go.ke/public-participation-framework/>) which provides opportunities for residents to participate in planning, budgeting and oversight of county implementation. For example, project identification happens at the village, prioritization at the cluster, harmonization and appraisal at the sub-ward and resource allocation at the ward level ensuring mainstreaming of gender equity and equality. Further at the implementation level Project Management Committees (PMCs) are elected from the project beneficiaries to oversee project day to day implementation. The payment of contractors is dependent on PMC reports besides other statutory reports.





The County has done a voluntary Corruption risk assessment by the Kenya Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC). On the International Anti-Corruption Day 9 December 2019, GMC launched an open contracting portal (<https://opencontracting.makueni.go.ke/ui/index.html>) in collaboration with HIVOS and Development Gateway. Currently, the county is publishing COVID-19 procurement data on the platform as part of the county's COVID-19 open response. Recently in a World Bank sponsored initiative GMC was rated for credit for creditworthiness. GMC demonstrated sound financial management. GMC has shared open contracting experience with Nyandarua County and visited Elgeyo Marakwet County for experience on their Public Participation Model. Further, GMC hosted all the other 46 Sub-national governments for peer learning in 2018.

**7. Thematic policy areas where they can contribute good practices and lessons learned for other members of the cohort**

Other members of the cohort may learn good practices under the following thematic areas;

**Open Contracting:** The County government has successfully rolled out OCDS.

**Civic Space:** GMC has established civic structures including; market committees, health committees, climate change committees, water resources management committees, local development organizations and provided civic space for participatory planning and budgeting, sensitization empowerment initiatives, Social audits, Project Management Committees (PMCs), peer review mechanisms including partnerships with NEPAD/APRM, Twaweza East Africa, ISO Certification etc

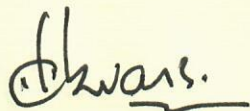
**Gender and inclusion:** GMC has invested in social protection policies that enhance the participation of men women, children, People Living with Disabilities and youth in economic development and decision-making process.

**8. Willingness to participate in peer learning and sharing experiences, both within the cohort and with other Locals in their respective countries, and thematic circles with other potential cohort members**

GMC's willingness to share experience is evident through its past participation in two global summits (Tbilisi, Georgia and Ottawa, Canada) and local sharing with Elgeyo Marakwet and Nyandarua counties as well as peer learning events among other sub-national governments in the country.

**9. Details of how they could help spread the practice of open local government amongst other locals in their jurisdictions**

GMC is represented by Governor Kivutha Kibwana in Kenya's Council of Governors. The Governor is an Executive Member of the 47 member Council, serving as the Chief Whip. This is a space for consultation, capacity building, shared information and best practices, collective voice and the promotion of visionary leadership. GMC will leverage on current regional economic blocs, professional associations and robust civil society networks to promote OGP.



Kivutha Kibwana  
**GOVERNOR,  
MAKUENI COUNTY**