

# What You Need to Know About the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP)

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## Importance of County Planning

The planning process is an integral part of the development process. It is the first critical stage of the budget process (PFM 35 and PFM 126). The PFM 126 provides that every county shall prepare a development plan in accordance with Article 220(2) of the Constitution of Kenya for approval by the county assembly. **The county executive committee member responsible for planning shall submit the development plan before the county assembly by 1<sup>st</sup> September.** The development plan will inform the budget priorities for the coming year.

The County Governments Act, 2012 (CGA), 104 obligates a county to develop an integrated plan, designate planning units' at all county administrative levels and promote public participation and engagement by non state actors in the planning process. The county plans shall consist of the following;

- The County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) is a 5 year plan that shall inform the county's annual budget;
- County Sectoral Plan (10 year plan);
- County Spatial Plan is a 10 year plan using the Geographic Information System (GIS) based system and will be reviewed every 5 years;
- City and municipal plans.

The CIDP shall reflect the strategic midterm priorities of the county governments. The CIDP will contain specific goals and objectives, a coasted implementation plan, provisions for monitoring and evaluation and clear reporting mechanisms. It will contain information on investments, projects, development initiatives, maps, statistics, and a resource mobilization framework.

The Ministry of Planning issued CIDP planning guidelines in May 2013 and the process is underway in most counties. **The deadline of September 1<sup>st</sup> is fast approaching and county governments need to ensure stakeholders are engaged in the process.**

## Role of the public in the County planning process

Citizen participation is mandatory in the planning process. CGA, 106(4) states "county planning shall provide for citizen participation" and shall be done in a process that "involves meaningful engagement of citizens" (CGA, 105(1-d)). Public participation shall be facilitated through:-

### (a) The County Budget and Economic Forum (CB&EF)

(PFM 137) provides that a county government shall establish the CB&EF. It shall comprise the Governor and members of the county executive committee, an equal number of nominees of Non State Actors (NSA) (professionals, business, labour, women, persons with disabilities, elderly and faith based groups at county level). The forum

shall provide a means of consultation on the planning budgeting, economic and financial management processes in the county.

**(b) County Citizen Engagement Framework**

(CGA Part VIII) obligates the county government to establish structures for citizen participation. These are guided by principles set out in CGA87.

**(c) County Communication Platform and Strategy**

(CGA Part IX) obligates the county government to integrate communication in all its development activities, observe Article 35 through access to information. The county government is required to establish an effective communication and sensitisation framework using various media forms, targeted at widest selection of stakeholders in the county.

**(d) County Civic Education Strategy**

(CGA Part X) requires the county government to develop an effective civic education framework through which it shall empower and enlighten citizens and promote the principles of devolution in the constitution on a continual basis.

(e) (CGA 92(2)) The Governor shall submit an annual report to the county assembly on the status of citizen participation in the affairs of the county government.

**Practical Steps County Governments need to take**

- (a) Provide a meeting timetable of planning forums with sufficient notice to enable active public engagement;
- (b) Provide a meeting agenda informing the expected inputs from members of the public;
- (c) Work with NSA's, CSO's and county based media in the county to raise awareness of the county planning agenda, dates and times;
- (d) Use an effective communication strategy such as mainstream and community media, social media, and NSA networks;
- (e) Keep the process accountable by maintaining a record of public submissions, providing timely updates on the process, ensuring access to planning documents to stakeholders at all stages of the process.

**Role of Civil Society Organisations in the County Planning process**

1. **Awareness:** Use your networks to sensitize the public on the process and encourage citizens engage in the process;
2. **Support the process:** work with the county government to make the process a success through cash or kind collaboration;

3. **Keep the process accountable:** Take steps to ensure the county government has made the process participatory and open as required by the constitution and county legislation.

#### Abbreviation of Terms

CIDP	County Integrated Development Plan
CGA	County Government Act 2012
PFM	Public Finance Management Act 2012
CEC	County Executive Committee
NSA	Non State Actors
CSO	Civil Society Organizations

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