



REPUBLIC OF KENYA



KENYA NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

National Qualifications Framework as a Tool for Inclusion and Regional Integration: The Role of KNQA

Presented by Dr. Alice Kande,
PhD Director General / CEO,
KNQA

1st National Qualifications Conference 2026



12th – 14th May 2026



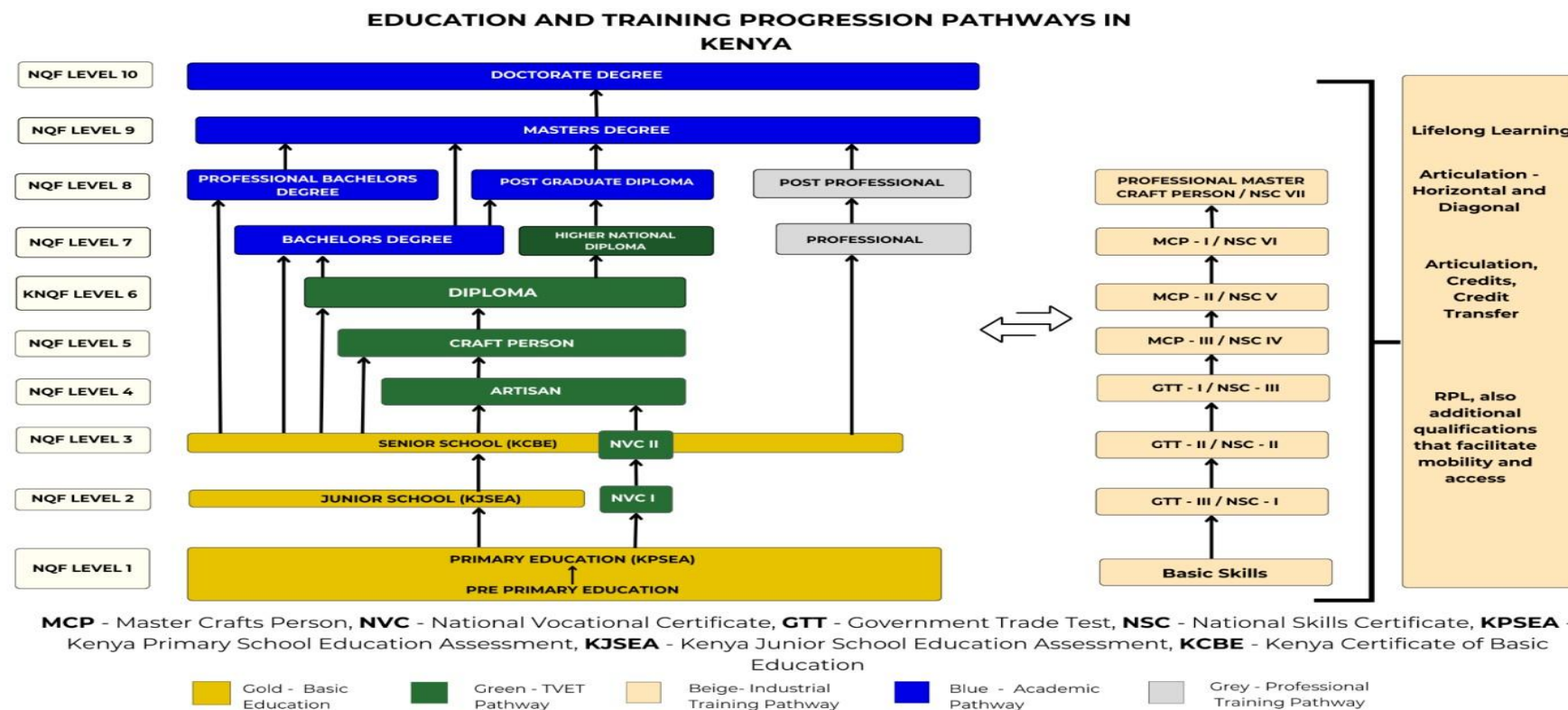
Ole Sereni, Nairobi

Mandate and Key Functions of KNQA

(Section 8 of the KNQF Act)



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Objectives of the KNQF



Build mutual trust across the qualifications awarding system



Standardization & Harmonization of Qualifications
Standardization & Harmonization of



Inclusion -informal sector, refugees etc

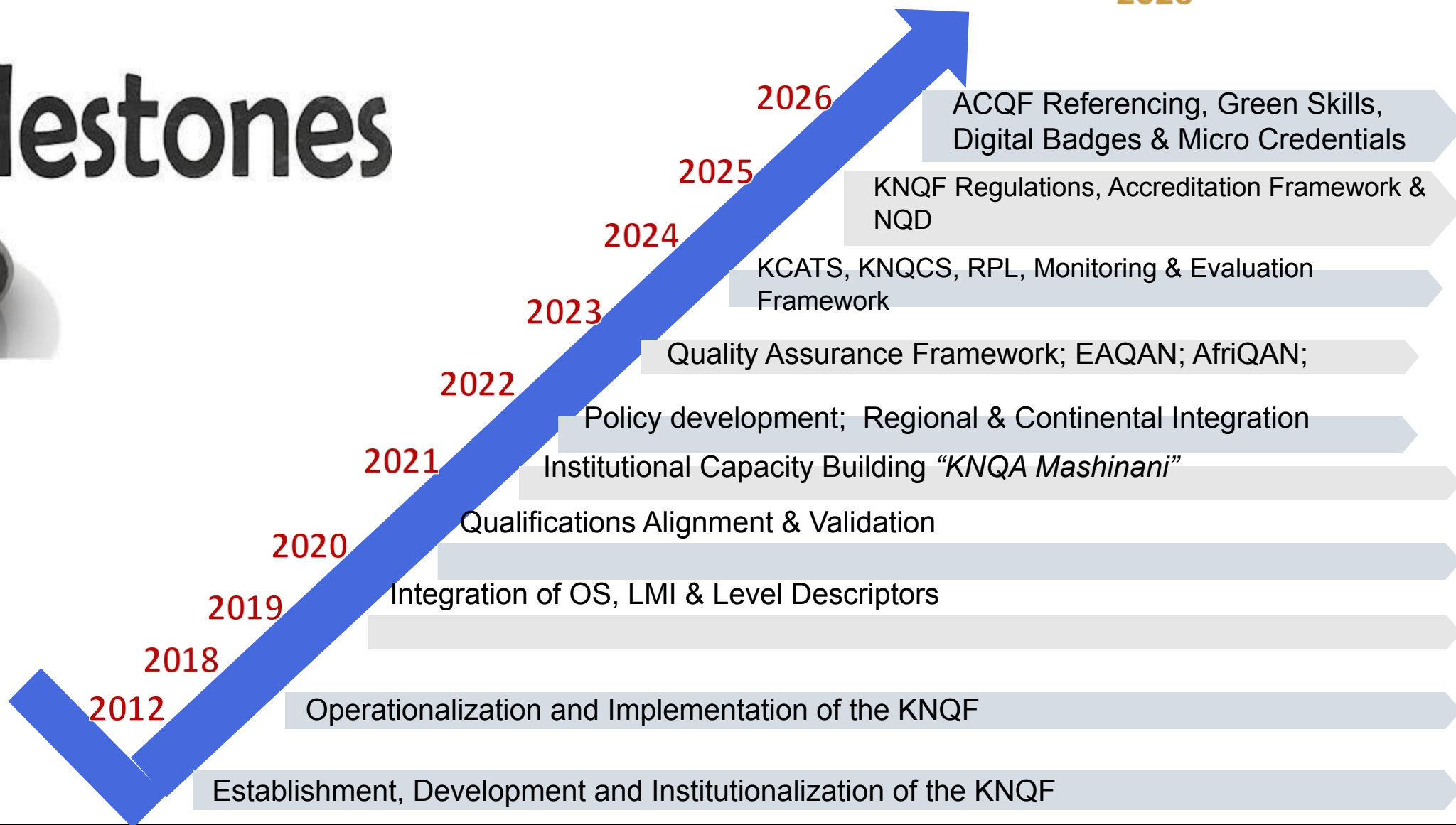


Define qualification levels and pathways, to facilitate recognition and mobility of qualifications - **lifelong learning**

Create coherence, harmony and comparability



Milestones





KNQF Implementation

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Development, Legal
Establishment and
Institutionalization of the
Kenya National Qualifications
Framework

2012-2018

2018

Operationalization of
KNQF Implementation

Expansion of KNQF
Awareness, KNQA
Mashinani and
Institutional
Capacity Building

2021-2023

2025

- ❖ National Policy Framework,
Standards and Guidelines
for the Accreditation
System on Qualifications

- ❖ Gazettement of the
KNQF General
Regulations, 2025
— Legal Notice No. 94;
formal legal framework for
KNQF implementation

First National
Qualifications
Conference as a
Platform for
Reflection,
Partnerships and
Reimagining the
KNQF

2026



Industry Linkages

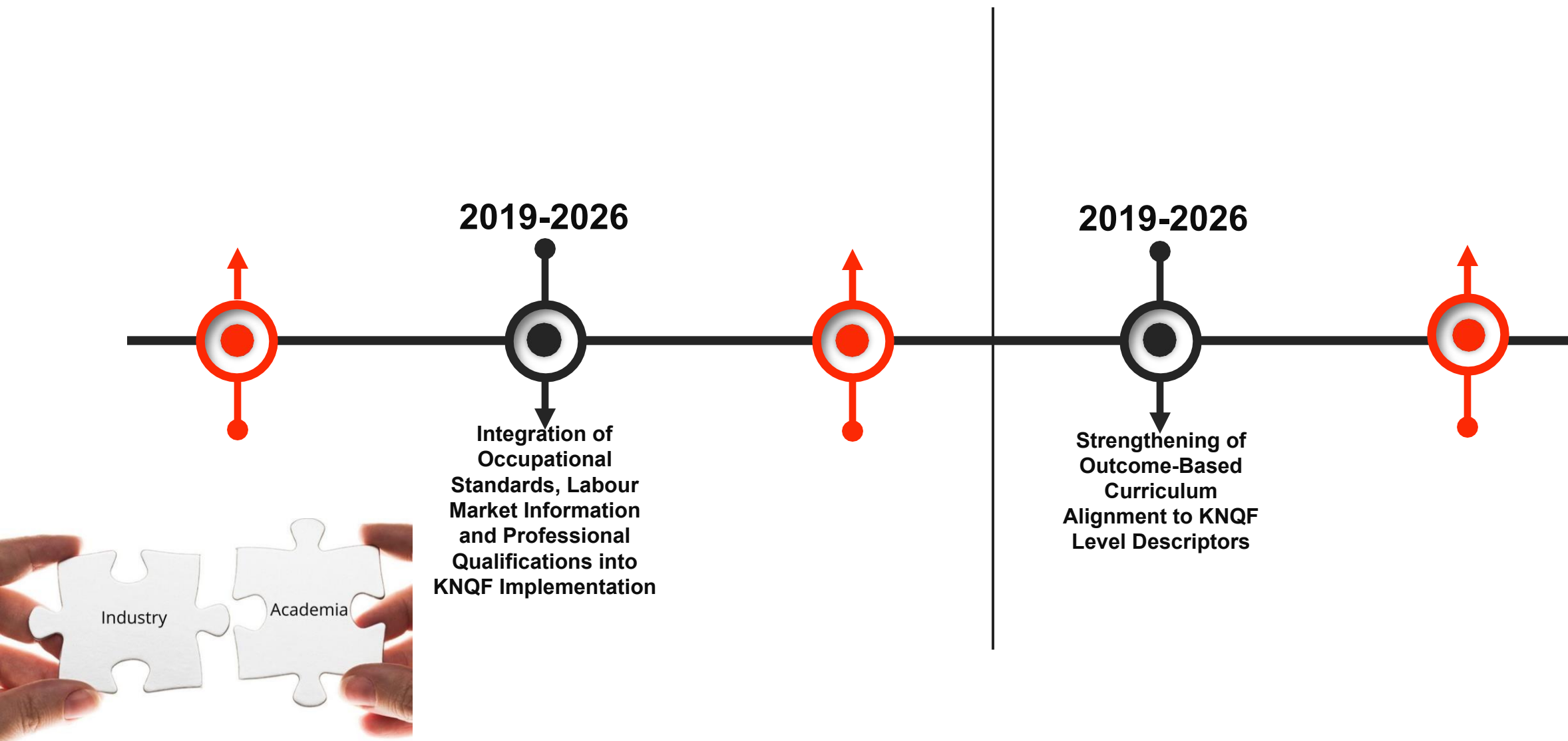


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Lifelong Learning

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Development of the
Kenya Credit
Accumulation and
Transfer System -
framework

2022-2024

Launch and
Implementation of the
Recognition of Prior
Learning Policy
Framework

2024

Validation of the Report
on Referencing the
KNQF to the African
Continental
Qualifications
Framework ;
Development of Micro
Credentials Framework

2026



KNQF strengthens comparability of qualifications, supports mobility and aligns Kenya with regional & continental frameworks such as EAQFHE; IGADQF; ACQF.

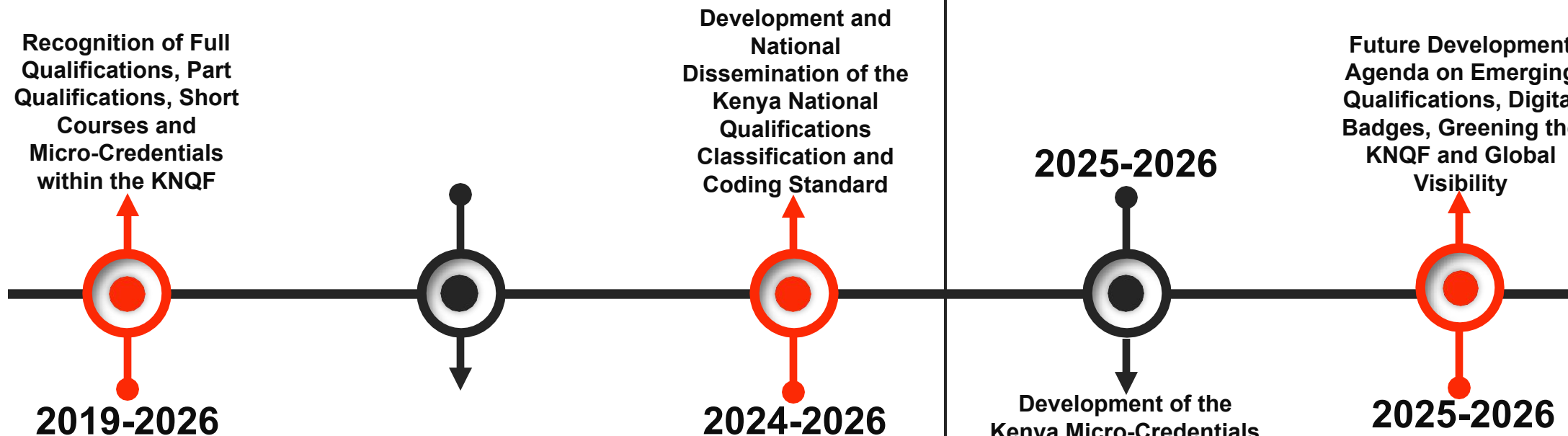
Recognition of informal learning, RPL, KCATS and flexible pathways are opening access for youth, refugees, women and workers in the informal economy.



Emerging Trends



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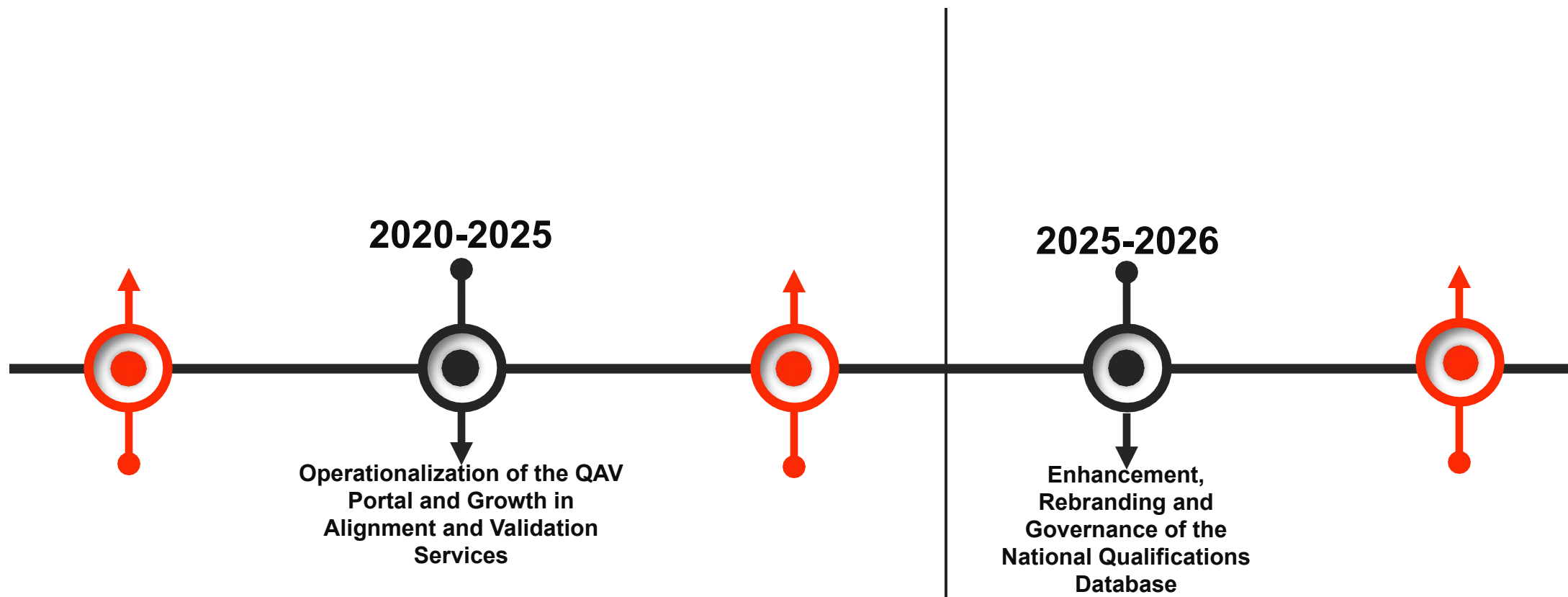




Digital Transformation

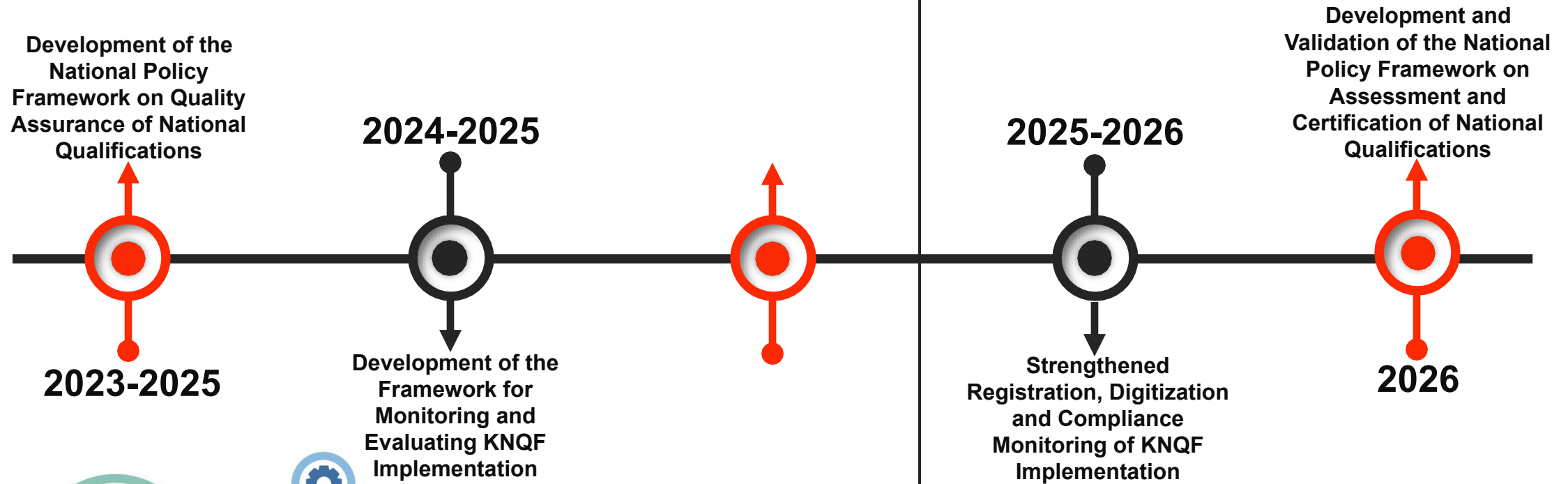


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Quality Assurance

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KNQF AS A TOOL FOR MOBILITY

RECOGNISE •• TRANSFER •• PROGRESS •• CONNECT

1 RPL – RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING



Recognises skills and experience gained through work and life.
Your experience counts.

3 RECOGNITION – QUALITY ASSURED QUALIFICATIONS



Trusted qualifications that are recognised locally, regionally and internationally.
Quality assured. Globally respected.



2 KCATS – CREDIT TRANSFER SYSTEM

Earn, transfer and accumulate credits across institutions and programmes.
Move forward with confidence.

4 PATHWAYS – FLEXIBLE LEARNING ROUTES

Multiple entry and exit points with clear pathways for education, training and careers.
Many pathways. One Framework.



LEVELS – A COMMON LANGUAGE FOR PROGRESSION

10 levels that show clear progression from basic to advanced qualifications and lifelong learning.

MOBILITY OUTCOMES



REGIONAL & INTERNATIONAL
RECOGNITION



EASIER LABOUR
MOBILITY



BETTER JOB
OPPORTUNITIES



CAREER GROWTH &
PROGRESSION



LIFELONG LEARNING
FOR ALL



INCLUSIVE & EQUITABLE
OPPORTUNITIES



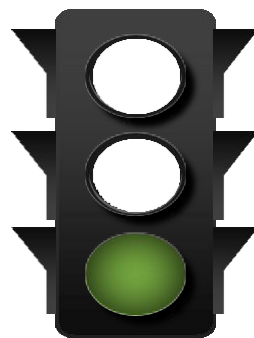
ONE FRAMEWORK. MANY PATHWAYS. ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES.



KNQA'S GLOBAL LINKAGES



Challenges



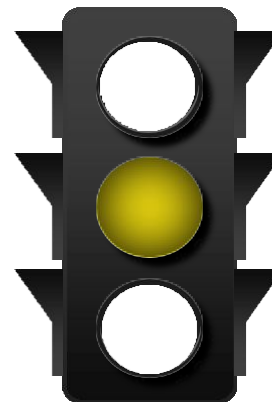
1. Minor

Communication

- Awareness Creation

Technical Structure

- Complexity in aligning different types of qualifications



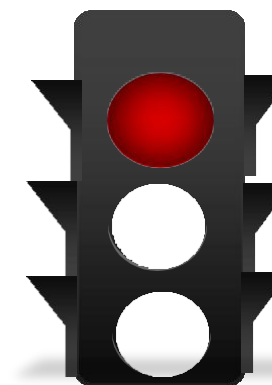
2. Moderate

Resources

- Insufficient funding & other resources

Stakeholders

- Slow uptake of KNQF



3. Major

Governance and legislation

- Varied interpretation of mandates
- Weak enforcement & ME

Emerging Issues

- Climate change & green skills gap
- Labour market dynamics & skills-first shift
- Unrecognized qualifications & mobility
- Digitalization & AI



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Emara-Ole Sereni