

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KAKAMEGA



**COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, SPORTS, YOUTH,
GENDER AND CULTURE**

KAKAMEGA COUNTY YOUTH POLICY

THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KAKAMEGA,
P.O. BOX 36-50100,
KAKAMEGA

© 2023

FOREWORD



The youth bulge is a global phenomenon that must be accorded attention at all levels. As a County Government of Kakamega, we have always placed the interest of the youth at the centre of development. The County Government is implementing a self-styled county-level Community Youth Service to support 3,000 youth and women with an estimated annual budget of Ksh.350 million. This group is taken through training and engaged in county government labour-based construction work of roads and markets. We intend to increase the beneficiaries to 6,000 youth and women spread across all the

wards. The County government has focused on enhancing manufacturing through agricultural value addition processes aimed at job and wealth creation to the youth and improve agricultural potential and capacity for poverty alleviation and sustainable development.

On youth and talent, the County has continuously sponsored sports and clubs. The county has also constructed Bukhungu Stadium and several other sports fields for nurturing of sports talents from the grassroots to the national and international levels. The County is working to improve talent mapping and identification through the Governor's Cup, Youth Inter-county games and inter-sub county tournaments. On youth and skills training, the County has invested in infrastructure for vocational education and training centres, employed instructors and ensured that it has increased access to these institutions through a partnership with the Higher Education Loans Board and the County Bursary and School fees subsidy programme.

As a County, we are aware of the challenges, especially in the agricultural sector that has threatened the livelihoods of many families, especially the youth. We are also aware that many educated youth in our villages remain unemployed and or underemployed. These concerns force the county to establish interventions to mitigate youth-related issues.

Mophat Mandela,
County Executive Committee Member,
Social Services, Sports, Youth, Women Empowerment and Culture

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



I acknowledge support of the Kakamega County Administration led by H.E. Hon. FCPA Fernandes Odinga Barasa, OGW for steadfast support and commitment to the Youth of Kakamega County. He has understood the youth agenda and sustainable development goals and committed a manifesto that is youth-friendly and at the same time responsive to the policy priority needs of youth in the County. I further acknowledge the support of the Deputy Governor H.E. Hon. Ayub Angatia Savula who has ensured that this policy undergoes the necessary approvals to pave the way for its implementation.

Further, I extend special thanks to, the Executive Committee Member responsible for the Youth in the County Mr. Mophat Mandela together with Chief Officer for Social Services, Children, Labour, Gender and Culture Ms. Vivien Ayuma for their most admired resource mobilization abilities leading to the finalization of this policy. Besides, the Office of the County Attorney County led by CS, Vivianne Mmbaka Komwonyo, the County Attorney has been instrumental in the development of this policy.

Additionally, special thanks go to the former administration of the County Government of Kakamega who spearheaded and prioritized the development of this Policy. We especially recognize the steadfast support of the former Governor H.E. Dr. FCPA Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya; the CECM responsible for Youth Dr. George Lutomia; and former Chief Officers Dr. Phitalis Masakhwe, CPA John Imbogo and Dr. Brenda Makokha. Further, Special thanks extend to the Technical Working Team who drafted this policy led by James Khalwale, the head of Youth Section in the County with support from Bjorn Aswa and Mercy Akolo.

Finally, we acknowledge our competent partners in the development of this policy. Indeed, we recognize the immense support from the UKaid and Deepening Democracy Programme through World Vision Kenya, the International Republican Institute, Youth Alive Kenya and the Mzalendo Youth Group for their human and financial support. We also thank the Kakamega State Department of Youth, the National Youth Council and the Kakamega County Youth Committee for the unending guidance. In equal measure, we acknowledge contributions of the Kakamega County Assembly Youth Caucus in the development of this policy led by Hon. Kevin Mahelo. This commitment is unrivalled. We pray that may God reward you in abundance.

Joseph Abucheri,
Chief Officer,
Youth, Sports and Library Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Constitution of Kenya, 2010 under Article 55 obligates the state to take measures including affirmative action programmes to ensure that the youth access relevant education and training have opportunities to associate, be represented and participate in social, political, economic and other spheres of life, access employment and be protected from harmful cultural practices and exploitation.

Whereas the county dreams to achieve sustainable wealth creation for all mainly through agriculture, industry and manufacturing, unemployment remains one of the significant challenges for youth. This results from amongst others; high youth population growth rate, limited vibrant industries to engage competent graduates in the county and limited employment opportunities particularly in the formal sector due to the high county wage bill. Others include limited access to available information on employment opportunities, limited access to credit facilities, inadequate structures and frameworks to address youth issues in various aspects, and inadequate skills for self-employment. Underemployment exacerbated by inadequate frameworks consequently leaves room for the exploitation of youth into employment opportunities characterised by vulnerability, discouragement, low-productivity, low-wage jobs, limited labour and social welfare entitlements.

The Kakamega County Youth policy is developed in response to issues that affect the youth of the county and in Kenya by extension. Such issues include the mismatch between the skills needed in industry against what is supplied from training institutions; and secondly, inadequate post-primary education opportunities that can support practical work related skills development. The policy targeted action areas are broadly classified as Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship; Youth Coordination and Mainstreaming; Youth Participation in Governance; Youth Education and Training; Youth Health and Well-Being; Sexual and Gender Based Violence; Responsive Affirmative Action and Social Inclusion; Youth-Led Environmental Conservation and Action for Climate Change; and Prevention of Youth Radicalization and Countering Violent Extremism

In addressing issues on youth empowerment, this policy obligates the National Government to coordinate the implementation of the National Youth Policy of 2019 and other national statutes on youth activities in the county and at the same time provide general supervision for youth development activities at the County level. The County is obligated to be the lead agent in supporting the implementation of this policy covering all the envisaged initiatives and programmes as well as allocate budget and avail resources to cater for youth empowerment and development activities.

This policy further requires the youth to be patriotic to the Country and Kakamega County; be agents of change and progress; and bring in innovations and new skills in the job industry for more productivity at a lower cost. The Private Sector and Civil Society Organizations are obligated to complement the County Government in empowering the youth and to provide resources to drive innovation that support youth programs and affairs.

For coordination in implementation, the policy provides for the establishment of the County Youth Sector Working Committee to provide overall oversight and coordination on youth development and empowerment in the County. The policy also provides for the establishment of the Kakamega County Youth Committee at the technical level to provide advisory in of youth programs in the county.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	iv
ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	vii
DEFINITION OF TERMS	viii
CHAPTER ONE	1
INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Situational Analysis.....	2
1.3 Statement of the problem	5
1.4 Vision	7
1.5 Mission	7
1.6 Rationale.....	7
1.8 Policy Guiding Principles.....	7
1.9 Legal Framework	8
1.9.1 International and Regional legislative frameworks concerning youth	8
1.9.2. National Legal Framework	10
1.9.3. County Legislations	12
1.10 Policy Objectives.....	13
CHAPTER TWO	15
POLICY FRAMEWORK	15
2.1 Introduction	15
2.3. Priority Thematic Areas	15
2.3.1 Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship	15
2.3.2. Youth Coordination and mainstreaming.....	16
2.3.3. Youth Participation and Governance	17
2.3.5 Youth Education and Training	19
2.3.6 Youth and Health.....	20
2.3.7 Sports, Recreation, Art and Culture.....	21
2.3.8 Youth in Agriculture.....	23
2.3.9 Access to Science and ICT for production and productivity	23
2.3.10 Responsive Affirmative Action, Youth Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion	24

2.3.11 Youth-Led Environmental Conservation and Action for Climate Change	25
2.3.12 Prevention of Youth Radicalization and Countering Violent Extremism	26
CHAPTER THREE	27
POLICY IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK.....	27
3.1. Introduction	27
3.2. Collaboration with other actors	27
3.2.1 Obligations of the National Government.....	27
3.2.3 Roles of the County Government of Kakamega.....	28
3.2.2 Role of the Youth in the County.....	28
3.2.4 Duties and Responsibilities of the Private Sector and CSOs.....	29
3.4. Coordination Framework	29
3.4.3 Summary of coordination framework.....	31
3.5. Resource Mobilization and Communication Strategy	31
CHAPTER FOUR.....	32
MONITORING AND EVALUATION	32
4.1 Monitoring and Evaluation.....	32
4.2 Guiding Principles in Monitoring and Evaluation	32
4.3 Policy review.....	32
REFERENCES.....	33
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS.....	34

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Acronym	Meaning
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
CEC	County Executive Committee
CECM	County Executive Committee Member
CIDP	County Integrated Development Plan
CSO	Civil Society Organization
FBO	Faith-Based Organisations
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IEC	Information Education and Communication
MERL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning
NHIF	National Health Insurance Fund
NSSF	National Social Security Fund
PWD	Persons with Disabilities
UKaid	UK Department for International Development
UWEZO	Uwezo Fund
VCT	Voluntary Counselling and Testing
WEF	Women Enterprise Fund
YEDF	Youth Enterprise Development Fund
NYC	National Youth Committee
KCYC	Kakamega County Youth Committee
YESCO	Young Entrepreneurs Sacco

DEFINITION OF TERMS

County/County Government – Unless the context requires otherwise means the County Government of Kakamega

Enabling environment: refers to a set of interconnected conditions that collectively provide and facilitate achievement of a sustainable balance between the social, economic, political and environmental needs for youth defined through legislative frameworks, financing and investment structures among others.

Entrepreneurship: means the creation of an economic value such as setting up a business by taking financial risks in the hope of profit.

Female youth means all persons defined as youth in this document who are of the female gender

Male Youth mean all persons defined as youth in this document who are of the male gender

Sustainable Development: involves development that meets the needs of the present youth without compromising the ability of future youth generations to meet their own needs

Sustainable livelihood: refers to adaptive strategies by youth to cope with and recover from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance their capabilities and assets both now and in the future, while not undermining natural resource bases.

Youth Employment: involves opportunities for work by youth that are productive, deliver a fair income, and by extension provide prospects for personal development, social integration, freedom to express their concerns, organize and participate in the decisions that affect their lives and equality of opportunity and treatment and go beyond formal unemployment, to incorporate the informal sector employment.

Youth Empowerment: refers to both the means and an end, attitudinal, structural and cultural process whereby youth gain the ability, authority and agency to make decisions and implement change in their own and other peoples' lives both now and in their adulthood while bearing responsibility for the consequences of those decisions and actions

Youth Mainstreaming: means a comprehensive approach for assimilating youth throughout the operations of the county (government and community) in order to promote full and consistent youth voice and participation in all spheres

Youth: means the collectivity of all individuals as defined in the Kenyan Constitution who have attained the age of eighteen years; but have not attained the age of thirty-five years.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Youth unemployment is a major global policy issue in recent times and a particularly devastating experience worldwide. The youth employed in precarious occupations confront job instability, few opportunities for skills development, career advancement and joblessness. The global economic crisis has worsened this global situation, and thus the youth have increasingly been making up a larger share of the world's poor people. Other problems youth face includes poverty, ignorance, mental illness, sexual and gender based violence drug and substance abuse, limited education and climate change.

The July 2011 General Assembly meeting on Youth identified youth unemployment as a critical challenge that requires an urgent response by governments as well as the international community. Youth employment is an integral part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), both as an essential target (outlined in SDG 4.4, 8.5¹, 8.6², and 8.b) in the SDGs and a crucial contribution to meeting other SDGs. SDG 4.4 recognises that by 2030, countries should have increased the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.

Kenya faces a socio-economic and political challenge of high youth unemployment rates. According to the Kenya National Bureau of statistics (2019) census report, 5,341,182 or 38.9% of the 13,777,600 Kenyan Youth are jobless. In recent years, the unemployment rates of females and males aged 15-19 and 20-24 years are quite comparable, though this trend is similar across all age groups in Kenya. These statistics combine with the fact that Kenyan youth continue to face the challenges of lack of employability skills, poor health, insufficient socio-economic support, drug use and substance abuse, radicalisation³, inadequate infrastructure, high-income inequality, and high poverty exacerbated by high unemployment, which varies across locations and youth groups.

The County Government of Kakamega recognises the potential of the youth in the County as a critical resource in the County's socio-economic transformation and sustainable development in all sectors. Accordingly, it is the responsibility of the County Government to harness youths' energies and skills to promote the political, economic and social development of the County. The youth, on the other hand, have a responsibility to participate actively in planning, budget formulation, execution and

¹ By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

² By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.

³ National Youth Policy, 2020

monitoring and evaluation processes of the projects and programmes oriented towards transforming their living standards.

1.2 Situational Analysis

The youth are a positive force for development when provided with the knowledge and opportunities needed to thrive. In particular, young people should acquire the education and skills needed to contribute in a productive economy. The youth need access to the job market that can absorb them into its labour force. Among the greatest challenges facing many countries today are inadequate human capital investment and high unemployment rates among youth. Disparities within and between countries in education and employment among youth are stark, with gender, poverty, rurality, disability, and migrant/refugee status all being major elements of disadvantage.

In 2023, the world population was 8,045,311,447 with the median age being 30.5 years implying that a majority of the people were youthful. There were 1.2 billion youth aged 15-24 years globally in 2015, accounting for about 16.7% people worldwide. By 2030, the target date for the sustainable development goals, the number of young people aged 15-24 is projected to have grown by 7 per cent, to nearly 1.3 billion. Globally in education, 142 million youth of upper secondary age are out of school. In employment, 71 million young people are unemployed; and millions more are in precarious or informal work. About 156 million youth in low and middle-income countries are working poor (ILO), while almost 30 per cent of the poorest 12-14 year old have never attended school.

Kenya's population is predominantly youth. The County aggregate population is 1,867,579 as per 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census Report. Generally, nearly 75% of the Kenyan population are persons aged 0-35 years. Additionally, the 2019 national census reported that the youth (persons aged 18 to 34) were 28.6% of the population, up from 34% in 1969, with 49% male and 51% female. The ratio of youth to adult population increased from 62.7% in 1979 to 66.7% in 2009. Youth (18-34 years old) made up 13,618,462 of Kenya's 47.6 million population, according to the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census report of whom 6,504,514 were males and 7,113,427 females.

The population of the youth (18-35 years) in Kakamega County is 484,891 based on the 2019 National Census report. The females constitute 260,987 and males 223,904. This is about 25% of the county population of 1.8 million. Nonetheless, Kakamega County's population is projected to have a larger youth population than the national average at 47% in the next 10 years. The high youth-to-adult population ratio indicates that Kakamega is dealing with a youth bulge. The youth bulge offers a huge chance to invest in sustained development efforts to achieve enhanced economic, social and political development, but also poses a risk to the county's social cohesion and stability if they are not sufficiently empowered and encouraged.

The County youth individualities who informs targeted interventions include youth with disability, the youth in the *bodaboda* industry, street or homeless youth, unemployed youth, students, out of school youth and youth with zero level of education.

Unfortunately, with the rapid youth population growth, originates challenges including, unemployment, drug and substance abuse, high poverty levels, inadequate representation of youth in political, social and economic pillars of the County among others. Due to improper organisation, economic and socio-cultural obstructions, there is limited participation and limited opportunities for youth in the County.

The out of school youth have special needs in terms of access to socio-economic and other opportunities. The increasing disparity between the annual output of school leavers and job creation in the economy has resulted in high unemployment levels among the youth in the County. In this context, out of school youth constitute youth older than 18 years of age and below 24 years of age who are school dropouts and not attending any school or training institution.

The unemployed youth are persons with necessary skills and training to join the job market and or the entrepreneurial sector but lack opportunities and or necessary capacity, for example, start-up capital and experience. This policy shall direct both levels of governments, private sector and non-profit organisations to address the problem by facilitating access to services, support and provision of opportunities.

The female youth constitute 51% of the total youth in the county. Sexual activity among the female youth begins early in their life. Studies have shown that most adolescent pregnancies (around 90%) are unplanned. High level of unprotected sexual activity exposes the female youth to the risk of being single parents (or early marriage), gender-based violence and the threat of contracting STIs, including HIV/AIDS. These have led to low participation and representation of female youth in decision-making.

For many youth, disability leads to rejection, isolation and discrimination, hindering their psychological and emotional development. Youth with a disability require specific strategies to ensure they participate fully in society. Special measures shall be put in place to ensure that their needs are adequately addressed. The policy adopts a developmental approach to youth with a disability where human rights, participation and inclusiveness are promoted. The policy advocates greater awareness of the issues faced by young women and men who are mentally or and physically, visually impaired or have a hearing impairment.

The youth in the *bodaboda* Industry is growing in proportion and composition, and because of the ability to influence one another, the class could pose risks to security if uncontrolled. The group of youth is also prone to radicalization to violent extremism and manipulations from politicians and influential members of society.

Gender-based violence and other social constraints have caused families to disintegrate and find their livelihoods on the streets while others remain homeless. Some grow from the streets and advance to their adulthood before finding a home; they are vulnerable due to lack of direction and protection. This policy recommends that various stakeholders should find mechanisms for the integration of Street or homeless youth into the community and families, including an affirmative action as appropriate.

Youth with Zero level of Education include youth who dropped out of school in their very early ages and probably have no documentation to show for their educational

achievements. They have zero qualifications. This category of youth lack entry qualifications to any formal and informal employment and risk joining criminal activities, drug and substance abuse, and irresponsible sexual behaviour. This policy advocates for an inclusion criteria of this category of youth in overall nation building and empowerment opportunities. Students consist of the most of the youth in the County. The youth policy provides specific measures for their integrated development in all possible areas of social, political and economic spheres.

According to the Kenya National Population and Housing Census 2019, Kakamega had a labour force of 785,946. Out of the 785,946 persons in the labour force, 736,602 were classified as employed while 49,344 were seeking employment. The youthful proportion of the labour force consisted of 325,339 Persons where 294,859 were classified as employed while 40,480 were seeking for employment. From a research instituted by the International Republican Institute and conducted by the Mzalendo Youth, Kakamega in 2022, about 38.6% of youth have attained only secondary education. Further, 42.4% of the youth are in the age category of 18-24 years while 35.3% in the age category of 25-35 years respectively. Overall unemployment percentage among youth was at 34.5%, from which 44.1% of the unemployed youth are in the age category of 18-24 years and 26.1% in the age category of 25-35 years. The highest unemployment rate classified in terms of sub counties was 62.7% (Navakholo) and the least was 9.4% (Mumias West). At least 60% of the youth are dissatisfied with their employment status. A larger proportion of youth, 48.6% are informed of their leaders. 66.5% have participated in public participation forums. Among the challenges facing youth in access to information, employment and education opportunities include corruption that affects 92.5% of the youth followed by political biases in selection processes affecting four in five youth in need of such services.

In education, Youth with Tangible Skills/Technical Knowledge are as follows: Carpentry 29 per cent, masonry 20 per cent, electoral installation 18 per cent, welding 12 per cent, Building technicians 9 per cent, and plumbing 9 per cent, and Motor vehicle mechanics 3 per cent. Statistics drawn from the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census Report (Vol. IV) on school attendance status revealed that out of the population aged 3 years and above: 853,031 are in learning institution; 334,397 left after completion; 352,269 left before completion and 180,344 had never been to school/learning institution (*See table 1 on education levels*).

Table 1: County Youth Education attainment breakdown for ages 3 years and above

Highest level completed	Male	Female	Total
Pre-primary	47,829	47,373	95,203
Primary	417,759	454,114	871,892
Secondary	145,749	162,102	307,854
Middle level/TVET	34,311	36,429	70,741
University	18,852	12,469	31,321
Adult basic education	459	374	833
None	80,486	76,530	157,022

Source: KNBS 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census Vol. IV (distribution of population by socio-economic characteristics)

The 2019 census report lists the County among the top counties in the nation with a high unemployment rate of between 30 and 39 per cent. The high youth unemployment results from limited employment opportunities, limited access to available information on employment opportunities, limited access to credit facilities, and inadequate skills for self-employment. Underemployment exacerbated by inadequate frameworks leaves room for exploitation of youth into employment opportunities characterised by vulnerability, discouragement, low- productivity, low –wage jobs and limited labour and social welfare entitlements.

Table 2: Distribution of youth population by activity status, age group and persons in labour force

Age group	Total	Working	Seeking work	Outside labour force ⁴
15 -17	155,975	12,943	1,080	141,933
Rural	143,446	12,174	910	130,345
Urban	12,529	769	170	11,588
18-24	230,376	105,247	12,118	112,965
Rural	201,967	94,704	9,129	98,096
Urban	28,409	10,543	2,989	14,869
25-34	229,677	189,612	18,362	21,649
Rural	196,983	166,067	13,828	17,041
Urban	32,694	31,867	3,233	3,526
35-64	374,088	336,532	16,312	20,941
Rural	335,454	304,665	13,779	17,415
Urban	12,882	11,016	863	1003

Source: KNBS 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census Vol. IV (distribution of population by socio-economic characteristics)

In terms of youth and health, the available statistics show that the youth make up 33 per cent of Kenyans infected with Aids. Female genital mutilation, gender-based violence, early pregnancies, single parenthood and unstable family setups/marriages are unique with the female youth. Most affected are female youth between 20-25 years and male youth aged 25-34 years. On the contrary, these ages present the most productive segment of people in the County.

1.3 Statement of the problem

The ultimate goal of this policy is to promote youth empowerment to participate positively in the county’s socio-economic and political dimensions to achieve sustainable livelihoods and increased wealth creation. Whereas the county desires to achieve sustainable wealth creation for all mainly through agriculture, industry and manufacturing, unemployment remains one of the significant challenges for youth in the County. High youth unemployment results from high growth rate in youth

⁴ “Persons outside the labour force” is what was formally referred to as the economically inactive and includes full-time students, homemakers, the retired, incapacitated persons and those who are either too young or too old to work.

population, limited vibrant industries to engage competent graduates in the county and limited employment opportunities particularly in the formal sector due to high county wage bill. Limited access to available information on employment opportunities, limited access to credit facilities, inadequate structures and frameworks to address youth issues, and inadequate skills are additional causes of high rate of youth unemployment in the County.

Underemployment, exacerbated by inadequate frameworks also leaves room for exploitation of youth into employment opportunities characterised by vulnerability, discouragement, low-productivity, low-wage jobs, limited labour and social welfare entitlements.

Even with the threat of youth unemployment in the county, and due to the different needs of the youth, implementation, monitoring and poor coordination among policies, county sectors and stakeholders that relate to youth as well as limited accountability for youth outcomes have conspicuously remained enormous challenges for the county. Limited financial resources and capacity amongst service providers are also major impediments concerning the effective implementation of youth programmes.

Challenges resulting from the current youth education status include abject poverty levels that have a rippling effect on school dropout rates due to the expensive nature of college education. Moreover, there is no proper enforcement on readmission to school for young mothers, inadequate and inaccessible facilities/youth empowerment centres to support sports, talent and recreation activities within the County. Notably, the quality of education, especially in technical and vocational institutions is questionable evidenced with mismatch between skills needed for productive employment and those acquired.

Furthermore, health challenges quickly put down the youth. Examples of these health challenges include sexually transmitted infections, HIV, malaria, alcohol and drug abuse and inaccessibility to youth-friendly medical services. These have contributed to dropping out of school, the practice of unsafe abortions, low productivity among other negative outcomes. The youth also continue to suffer the pains of mental health arising from inadequate care and management of HIV/AIDs, Malaria, TB, Sexually Transmitted Infections and drug/substance abuse. Generally, the available health facilities and medical services including medical fees are not youth-friendly.

This policy appreciates the need to mainstream youth matters across all relevant departments. Critical dimensions for coordination and mainstreaming shall include development planning, participation budgeting, implementation, monitoring, partnership building and advocacy. Consequently, the policy provides a framework for management and administration of youth matters by the county, including county government designing, planning, budgeting and service delivery concerning youth. Understanding the heterogeneous nature of the youth population, the policy provides a balanced approach to addressing the concerns and challenges affecting youth in the county.

1.4 Vision

To be a society where the youth have an equal opportunity as other citizens to realise their fullest potential, proactively participating in political, environmental, economic and social-cultural spheres of life.

1.5 Mission

To provide a platform and opportunities for the empowerment of youth to realise their political, environmental, economic and socio-cultural wellbeing.

1.6 Rationale

This Policy is developed in response to issues that affect the youth through streamlining and mainstreaming youth matters within the Kakamega County to empower the youth in the political, economic, social and cultural pillars of the society. The youth policy recognises the existing sectorial policies, County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2023-2027, the 10 year social sector plan, the Governor's six point agenda, international policies and youth charters to which Kenya is a signatory to realise holistic integration and inclusion of the youth in different spheres.

The operationalization of this policy shall address poor coordination in existing legislations, sectors and partners. Poor coordination has negatively affected youth involvement, development and empowerment and led to the creation of an unfavourable environment that hinders them from exploiting their full potential. Additionally, it has weakened the voice of the youth in monitoring and providing feedback on the quality of policies and service delivery. Further, this policy addresses the scarcity of proven successes in implementing youth programmes.

The Policy outlines strategies that comply with the complex nature of the youth and relate to a wide range of programmes implemented by responsible authorities to achieve stated policy goals and objectives. Strategies are broadly classified as Youth Employment and entrepreneurship; Youth Coordination and Mainstreaming; Youth Participation in Governance; Youth Education and Training; Youth Health and Well-Being; Responsive Affirmative Action and Social Inclusion; Youth-Led Environmental Conservation and Action for Climate Change; and the Prevention of Youth Radicalization and Countering Violent Extremism.

1.8 Policy Guiding Principles

- (1) **Good governance:** characterised by a just and tolerant society, transparency and accountability, conscientiousness, inclusiveness, selflessness, volunteerism and pursuit of ethical conduct;
- (2) **Mainstreaming youth issues:** reflected in all sectors of County development in the county structures and functions by emphasising an affirmative action for the youth as a strategy of participation and empowerment;

- (3) **Gender inclusiveness:** the promotion of gender equality and equity, including working to eliminate gender discrimination and violence and recognising the unique needs of different youth genders to achieve a gender-just society;
- (4) **Respect of cultural belief systems and ethical values:** including cultural, religious, customary and moral backgrounds of the different communities and conformity to universally recognised human rights, without discrimination based on gender, race, origin, age, ethnicity, creed, political affiliation or social status.
- (5) **Equity and accessibility:** that subscribes to the principles of equal opportunities and equitable distribution of programmes, services and resources;
- (6) **Youth Empowerment for sustainable livelihoods:** through the promotion of a conducive environment that supports the continued life-long development of young men and women and their skills and capacities;
- (7) **Youth participation:** through Promoting youth involvement in county development, democratic and civic decision-making processes;
- (8) **Youth-driven:** development services and programmes should be youth-driven and youth-centred;
- (9) **Youth service:** through allowing youth to serve their communities while developing their skills; this is essential to developing patriotism and a sense of civic duty;
- (10) **Prioritizing youth issues:** by giving overall wellbeing of youth the highest priority;
- (11) **Sustainable development** through promoting the value of sustainability to ensure the needs of the present get met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs;
- (12) **Transparency and accessibility:** By ensuring Institutions and organisations involved in youth, development should operate in a transparent and accountable manner while ensuring that they are accessible to youth.

1.9 Legal Framework

Youth issues are diverse; thus, the policy and legal frameworks governing youth matters have effects on this policy. The youth context is premised on the governing international, regional, national and county policies and legislative frameworks. This section highlights international and national legislative frameworks that have a bearing on this policy.

1.9.1 International and Regional legislative frameworks concerning youth

1. The United Nations General Assembly, 1995

The World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) provides a policy framework and pathway for national action and international support to the year 2000, and beyond

towards improving the wellbeing and livelihoods of youth. The World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) prioritises education, employment, hunger and poverty, drug abuse, environment, girls and young women as critical areas for intervention in addressing youth concern.

2. Lisbon Declaration, 2007

The meeting titled “*young voices: meeting diversity in Education*” resolved to promote inclusive education. Kenya Youth Development Policy formulation, implementation and follow-up processes are at appropriate level considering the national priorities, realities and limitations arising from different socio-economic and cultural development contexts because of the Lisbon Declaration of 2007.

3. Dakar Declaration on Youth Empowerment, 2000

The World Education Forum held in April of 2000 in Dakar provided a framework for action. It obligated member countries in which Kenya is part of to strengthen or develop national plans by 2002 to achieve education for all goals and targets no later than 2015. Particular emphasis is on areas of concern such as HIV/AIDS, early childhood education, school health, education of girls and women, adult literacy and education in situations of crisis and emergency.

4. Africa Youth Charter of 2006

African Youth Charter (2006) was established to ensure the constructive involvement of youth in the development agenda of Africa and their active participation in the debates and decision-making processes in the development of the continent. The Charter sets a framework to enable policymakers to mainstream youth issues in all development policies and programmes. It thus provides a legal basis for ensuring youth presence and participation in government structures and forums at national, regional and continental levels.

5. Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE), 2006

Commonwealth Plan of Action for youth empowerment (PAYE) of 2006 highlights ten strategies and tools to empower youth to effectively participate in social, economic, political and cultural spheres of life both in their countries and internationally. The goal of PAYE is to engage, empower and create value for young women and men through these ten strategies:

- (i) **PAYE 1:** Develop and implement measures to promote the economic enfranchisement of youth and their participation in the economy;
- (ii) **PAYE 2:** Strengthen social support systems and collaboration between key stakeholders in youth empowerment;
- (iii) **PAYE 3:** Develop and strengthen youth ministries/departments, national youth policies, and legislative and constitutional provisions impacting on youth affairs;

- (iv) **PAYE 4:** Promote positive national role models and self-images for youth, and foster their sense of responsibility and self-esteem;
- (v) **PAYE 5:** Promote the full participation of youth in decision-making at all levels, including at community, local, provincial and national levels;
- (vi) **PAYE 6:** Take affirmative and direct action to establish gender equity for all youth and equality of treatment and outcomes for youth in exceptional circumstances;
- (vii) **PAYE 7:** Promote a democratic, stable and peaceful environment in which youth's human rights, as defined in international covenants, can be exercised fully and in which they can fully accept their responsibilities
- (viii) **PAYE 8:** Take action to promote the development and maintenance of human resources and intellectual capital;
- (ix) **PAYE 9:** Adopt measures to improve access to information and communications technology (ICT) and to provide youth with the skills to make use of it;
- (x) **PAYE 10:** Identify and implement measures to broaden youth participation in sporting and cultural activities as a means of promoting positive values, healthy lifestyles and behaviour and advancing human development.

6. The East African Youth Policy, 2013

East African Youth Policy of 2013 provides a comprehensive framework for addressing youth challenges under the social welfare in the region as a requirement of the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community. A common approach in addressing the needs of the disadvantage and marginalised groups in the society amongst them the youth and persons with disability through the provision of health services, education and skill development/training is adopted.

1.9.2. National Legal Framework

1. The Constitution of Kenya, 2010

The Constitution under **Article 55** obligates the state to take measures including affirmative action programmes to ensure that the youth access relevant education and training have opportunities to associate, be represented and participate in social, political, economic and other spheres of life, access employment and be protected from harmful cultural practices and exploitation.

Article 54 of the Constitution entitles a person (including youth) to access to educational institutions and facilities for persons with disability that are integrated into the society to the extent compatible with the interest of the person. The article also requires the state to ensure the progressive implementation of the principle that at least five per cent (**5%**) of the members of the public in elective and appointive bodies are persons with disability.”

Article 10 provides for National values and principles of governance which includes (a) patriotism, national unity, sharing and devolution of power, the rule of law, democracy and participation of the people; (b) human dignity, equity, social justice, inclusiveness, equality, human rights, non-discrimination and protection of the marginalised ; (c) good governance, integrity, transparency and accountability and (d) sustainable development.

Chapter Four of the Constitution provides for the *Bill of Rights*, which aims among others to recognise and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms to preserve the dignity of individuals and communities and to promote social justice and the realisation of the potential of all human beings.

The Fourth Schedule of the Constitution confers policy development responsibility to National government; however, the reality is that youth is a function within concurrent jurisdiction between National and County Government. Therefore, in defence of the objectives of devolution, consultation between the national and county government should be enhanced towards effective governance of youth matters overall.

2. The Kenya Vision 2030

Under the social pillar of the Vision 2030, the government seeks to promote equity in access to education through the increase of financial assistance targeting vulnerable groups in initiatives including School Feeding and Nutrition Programme, bursary, Free Primary Education and Free Day Secondary Education and establishment of technical training institutions and awareness creation on TVETs.

3. The National Youth Development Policy, 2019

The National Youth policy aims at promoting holistic participation of the youth in socio-economic and political well-being for themselves, the country and the future and targets explicitly to mainstream youth issues in all sectors of national development, on both the micro and macro levels, national and county levels, within the public, private sectors, families and society. The policy also encourages all actors to take affirmative action for the youth as a strategy of participation and empowerment.

4. The National Employment Authority Act, 2016

The National Employment Authority Act, of 2016 provides for the establishment of the National Employment Authority to provide a comprehensive institutional framework for employment management, increasing employment by the youth, minorities and marginalised groups.

5. The National Government Affirmative Action Fund

The Public Finance Management Act, 2012 provides for the creation of the National Government Affirmative Action Fund to address the plight of vulnerable groups amongst them youth, women and persons with disability. The Affirmative Action has the objective to enhance access to financial facilities that would promote social-economic empowerment and provide platforms for promoting enterprise and value addition initiatives.

6. The Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act, 2015

The Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act of 2015 seeks to provide a framework for efficient public procurement and assets for disposal public entities and including the promotion of preference and reservation schemes for youth, women and persons with disability among others in what is popularly known as the **30 per cent** Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO)

7. Affirmative Action Devolved Funds

These constitute the Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEF) established under the State Corporations Act of 2012 to provide an enabling framework for increasing youth, women and PWDs employment opportunities through entrepreneurship development in the informal sector in the country. Collectively, these funds seek to address inequalities through reducing poverty, implementing policies to reduce income differences and access to social services to the disadvantage groups.

8. The National Youth Council Act, 2009

The National Youth Council Act 2009 was established as a legal instrument to actualize youth voice nationally and advocate, lobby for the youth, to facilitate the representation of youth, and to promote the implementation of coordination of youth servicing. The Council is also mandated to provide research and advisory services on youth organisation nationally.

9. The Technical and Vocational Education and Training Act, 2013

The Technical and Vocational Education and Training Act, 2013 provides for the establishment of a technical and vocational training system intending to expand the youth skills capacity for self-employment and employable skills. This Act entails the establishment and governance of training institutions. We identified Technical and vocational education and training to be the core driver of labour incorporation and mobility in youth economic activities, especially for self-employment.

10. The Medium and Small Enterprise Act, 2012

The Medium and Small Enterprise Act of 2012, provides for promotion of the development of Small and Micro Enterprises (SMEs) as well as regulation of SMEs. The Act similarly provides for the establishment of SME fund for providing access to affordable credit and capital, formulation and coordination of policies and harmonization of public and private sector initiatives for the promotion of micro and small enterprises.

1.9.3. County Legislations

The Kakamega County Youth Service and Women Empowerment Act, 2019

The Kakamega County Youth Service and Women Empowerment Act of 2019 provides for a framework for the training of youth and women to serve the county and procedures on the employment of its members to undertake tasks on the devolved functions of the county.

The Kakamega County Persons with Disabilities Act, 2022

The act provides for a framework for political, social and economic inclusion for persons with disabilities including the youth with disabilities for personal growth and empowerment through targeted programmes such as assistive devices and grants.

The Kakamega County Youth Polytechnics Act

The Act provides mechanisms for Technical and vocational education and training (TVET) for all underprivileged youth through subsidized training opportunities for all technical courses in county polytechnics. The youth can take up the opportunities to venture into the rare but useful technical skills such as plumbing for self-employment.

The Kakamega County Microfinance Corporation Act, 2018

The Kakamega County, Micro Finance Corporation Act, 2018 provides for the establishment and management of the microfinance corporation to enhance access to credit and financial services to micro and medium enterprises especially among the youth.

1.10 Policy Objectives

The aim of this policy is to promote the empowerment of the youth in Kakamega County through development of appropriate and sustainable programme interventions and infrastructure for their socio-economic and political wellbeing. The specific objectives of this policy are to -

- a) create an enabling environment for the youth to empower themselves and exploit their full potential for employment and entrepreneurship development;
- b) mainstream youth-focused programming and develop a coordinated response and participation by all stakeholders in the development and empowerment of the youth;
- c) enhance the participation of youth in development processes through capacity building and empowerment;
- d) facilitate youth in accessing and attaining the relevant knowledge, competences, skills and experiences required to enable them to participate in sustainable wealth creation processes;
- e) improve the health and well-being of the youth through provision of accessible, affordable and youth-friendly health services that address specific health problems faced by youth;
- f) develop and expand programmes and facilities that embrace youth identification, nurturing and utilization of talents in recreation, sports, leisure and creative arts for social-economic enrichment;
- g) empower the youth in the county to adopt agricultural enterprise development and value addition for self-empowerment;
- h) improve access and application of science, information and communication technology to provide socio-economic opportunities for youth;

- i) develop and incorporate affirmative and social inclusion programmes aimed at mitigating social problems affecting the vulnerable youth for example Sexual and Gender Based Violence, mental health, suicides, incest;
- j) To establish sustainable approaches for the effective utilization of renewable natural resources among the youth for creation of employment opportunities and income;
- k) create an environment that encourages active engagement and participation of the youth in public policy formulation, planning, implementation, decision-making and Governance in general; and
- l) promote measures through which youth radicalization and violent extremism is curbed in Kakamega County.

CHAPTER TWO

POLICY FRAMEWORK

2.1 Introduction

This section provides for the policy plan that shall govern the youth in the county. The policy strategy describes the pathway to mitigate, resolve and address the youth challenges and issues discussed herein.

2.3. Priority Thematic Areas

This policy provides details of the government's commitments to youth priority needs and serves as a guide on political, environmental and socio-economic development plans and measures for effective youth governance by the County.

2.3.1 Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship

Key Issues

Unemployment remains one of the significant challenges amongst the youth in the County. High unemployment results from high youth population, limited vibrant industries to engage competent graduates, limited employment opportunities in the formal sector, limited access to information on employment opportunities, limited access to credit facilities, inadequate structures and frameworks to address youth issues in various aspects, and inadequate skills for self-employment. Underemployment exacerbated by inadequate frameworks also leaves room for exploitation of youth into employment opportunities characterised by vulnerability, discouragement, low-productivity, low-wage jobs and limited labour and social welfare entitlements.

Objective

To create an enabling environment for the youth to empower themselves and exploit their full potential for employment and entrepreneurship development

Policy directions

In order to offset the burden of unemployment for youth, the County Government, and in liaison with other relevant authorities, commits to undertake the following -

- a) develop structures and guidelines to facilitate Youth Career Development and employment, including internship and apprenticeship;
- b) remove the need for experience in all entry-level job opportunities; and for other job cadres, consider attachment, internship, volunteership, apprenticeship as well as the number of years after graduation to count as the years of experience;
- c) link the youth with state and non-state institutions to offer temporary employment, internship and volunteer opportunities to prepare them for the competitive job market;
- d) carry out career and or innovation exhibitions for the youth to showcase their skills and talents in addressing socio-economic issues and challenges;

- e) set aside specific opportunities that can only be taken up by the youth through government procurement such as cleaning services, security, office supplies etc.
- f) develop programmes that impart life and entrepreneurial skills and knowledge in the youth to promote self-employment;
- g) establish a revolving County Youth Enterprise Fund to support the youth with affordable credit to enhance their productivity, visibility and empowerment;
- h) ensure that the youth access and benefit from Government procurement opportunities through the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) in the county;
- i) establish modalities for financing Local Purchase Orders and Local Service Orders for youth benefiting;
- j) develop measures to simplify and subsidize fees, tax, licences and procedures needed to start and or run enterprises owned by the youth in the county;
- k) in partnership with the relevant stakeholders promote the culture of entrepreneurship among the youth;
- l) establish programmes in business coaching, entrepreneurship development and mentorship programmes for entrepreneurs;
- m) facilitate the establishment of Youth Resource and Empowerment Centres at the community level where the youth can access information, technical business running skills training, recreation, business incubation, career counselling, employment creation skills etc.;
- n) provide technical, human and financial support to youth in sustainable livelihood activities and career development;
- o) support the *bodaboda* enterprise through interventions such as capacity building, insurance, asset acquisition, and training towards creation of employment opportunities;
- p) carry out sensitisation programmes that enable youth to understand and realise their talents, potentials, and opportunities available for their personal growth and empowerment;
- q) undertake to conduct regular talents exhibition events for inter-youth learning and talent development
- r) take affirmative action to ensure engagement and involvement of youth with disabilities in economic, social and political spheres of life;
- s) support the establishment of agricultural production and cottage industries to promote informal sector employment;
- t) encourage a culture of sacrifice, initiative taking, volunteerism and hard work for social and moral responsibility among the youth; and
- u) promote career guidance support programmes to provide students with a sense of direction career wise, and tap into their skills to steer them on their career path earlier on in life.

2.3.2. Youth Coordination and mainstreaming

Key Issues

Due to the different youth needs, implementation, monitoring and poor coordination among policies, county sectors and stakeholders that relate to youth and limited accountability for youth outcomes has conspicuously remained an enormous challenge

for the county. Limited financial resources and capacity by service providers usually are cited as impediments concerning the effective implementation of youth programmes. This policy appreciates the need to mainstream youth matters across all relevant departments. Critical dimensions for coordination and mainstreaming shall include development planning, participation budgeting, implementation, monitoring, partnership building and advocacy.

Objective

To mainstream youth-focused programming and develop a coordinated response and participation by all stakeholders in the development and empowerment of the youth

Policy directions

For effective Coordination and Mainstreaming of youth matters in all facets of development, Kakamega County Government shall -

- a) recruit adequate technical officers to implement the youth policy and other county development programmes focused on youth empowerment;
- b) regularly train and capacity build county youth officers on their mandates and emerging issues in youth development;
- c) facilitate youth development officers to benchmark on best practices on youth development and mainstreaming;
- d) establish modalities for mainstreaming youth development and empowerment issues across sectors and departments;
- e) establish and Strengthen a County Youth Committee for coordination of youth issues from ward to the county level;
- f) adopt and facilitate the county youth Sector working group that shall constitute county officials from relevant government and non-government departments, community focal persons, youth leaders and experts;
- g) establish a county youth Sacco for coordination of youth-specific interventions in the county;
- h) conduct mapping and maintain an updated record of youth stakeholders in the county;
- i) enter into formal agreements with partners working with the youth for coordination of development issues;
- j) develop mechanisms and templates for monthly, quarterly and annual reporting on youth development initiative for all institutions, state and non-state organizations working on youth matters in the county; and
- k) receive, register, approve and or refer all partners and stakeholders working on youth matters in the county for coordination on regional balance in development and prevention of duplication of development interventions.

2.3.3. Youth Participation and Governance

Key Issues

The Constitution of Kenya, 2010 expressly provides for the inclusion of all population groups in all decision-making and governance processes. It also introduced a devolved

system to decentralise the government and promote citizen participation. Other laws that give effect to the constitutional provisions for participation include the County Government Act, 2012 which mandates county governments to facilitate the establishment of structures for citizen participation. Secondly, apathy, ignorance and limited access to information characterize youth participation in the county development decision-making processes. Majority of the county youth have continuously failed to participate in government decision-making processes because of failure by the government to recognize and pay attention to their needs. Working with the youth is a proper way of dealing with issues rather than working for the youth.

Objective

To create an environment that encourages active engagement and participation of the youth in public policy formulation, planning, implementation, decision-making and Governance in general.

Policy directions

To create an enabling environment to facilitate youth engagement in development and governance decision-making processes, the county government shall -

- a) organise and hold sensitisation and capacity building sessions in development planning and public service management to ensure that affirmative action for youth participation is in place at every level;
- b) promote the youth to engage in debate on economic, political and socio-cultural issues through organized exchange programmes, concerts and events;
- c) support in the establishment of youth leadership positions in the county;
- d) provide training on leadership, governance and management skills for the youth and their organizations;
- e) support the youth to stand up against all forms of injustice and discrimination;
- f) support seminars, conferences, international and national youth days such as the International Youth Day and similar events to promote youth participation in wealth creation in the county;
- g) promote patriotism among the youth by supporting tailored patriotic programmes such as community service, volunteerism, paramilitary training, scouts' movements among others;
- h) reward the best initiatives and decisions involving youth participation at local level as part of project competitions;
- i) set up research and consultation groups consisting of the youth at the county and community levels;
- j) create funding opportunities for setting up and or improving sustainable youth facilities that enhance youth participation;
- k) develop civic education programmes targeting the youth in the public policy formulation, planning, implementation and Governance;
- l) promote activities of interest to the youth and tailor volunteering opportunities to various youth target groups in the county;
- m) ensure that at the level of youth centres, cultural centres and leisure facilities for youth, strategic management is conducted by youth representatives and that

executive management is exclusively appointed based on competence and utmost transparency;

- n) create platforms that enable youth to report cases of abuse, corruption and fraud in public institutions and run campaigns to encourage the use of such platforms;
- o) measure the impact of volunteering on individual performance and the personal perception of gained experience from the economic agents' perspective;
- p) ensure adequate representation of the youth in executive management positions such as executive committees, Chief Officers, and Executive Officers of county agencies;
- q) actively involve youth-led and youth-serving non-governmental organizations in working to introduce civic and political education in the formal curriculum;
- r) conduct sensitization to encourage Youth participation in electoral processes for instance registering for identity cards and registration as voters;
- s) encourage youth involvement in mock decision-making processes to facilitate their understanding of democratic mechanisms;
- t) make transparent decisions in the areas that directly affect youth;
- u) promote the involvement of youth organizations in the co-management of youth work and programme implementation; and
- v) establish a youth dialogue programme (Youth Kikao) allowing all stakeholders to contribute ideas in order to develop, agree on, implement and monitor county policies and programmes at all levels.

2.3.5 Youth Education and Training

Key Issues

Challenges resulting from the current youth education status across different categories of youth are high school dropout rate due to the expensive nature of college education and abject poverty levels. There is also no proper law implementation on readmission to school for young mothers, inadequate and inaccessible facilities and empowerment centres to support sports, talent and recreation activities within the County. Notably, the quality of education, especially in technical and vocational institutions, is questionable evidenced in mismatch between skills needed for productive employment and those acquired and as a result, youth who train in these institutions cannot get immediate absorption into the informal sector. Lack of essential vocational training facilities to prepare students for the challenging market demands is identified as a significant challenge under the education sector of the county.

Objective

To facilitate youth in accessing and attaining the relevant knowledge, competencies, skills and experiences required to enable them to participate in sustainable wealth creation processes.

Policy directions

Education is central to development thus, the county shall -

- a) in liaison with relevant authorities, review the county Polytechnic curriculum at least once every five years to address emerging training and industry needs in terms of technical skills and needs assessment;
- b) partnership with other stakeholders and advocating for affordable and accessible technical, polytechnic and university education in the county;
- c) in liaison with relevant authorities, establish and enforce a re-admission policy for female youth who drop out of school due to pregnancy and or other gender-based issues;
- d) put in place measures to ensure that students enrolled in polytechnics, technical institutions and universities do not drop out of school because of fees challenges for example by increasing bursary allocation for needy students;
- e) promote the exchange of information, knowledge and human resources between the public and private training institutions;
- f) facilitate efforts to equip existing training facilities for the youth with proper teaching and learning aids;
- g) integrate training of youth with special needs in county polytechnics and home-craft centres;
- h) promote non-formal education and in-service learning;
- i) promote and encourage skills development of the youth through vocational training and imparting life skills;
- j) develop links between training institutions and the employment market to ensure such institutions offer relevant skills;
- k) establish a scholarship programme to enhance transition to higher education among the youth in various professional fields; and
- l) strengthen family life education in schools.

2.3.6 Youth and Health

Key Issues

Health has a significant bearing on youth's welfare and capability to engage and contribute to county economic, political and social-cultural progressions. Health challenges quickly put down the youth, for example, sexually transmitted infections, HIV, malaria, alcohol and drug abuse and the problem of accessibility to medical services. These have led to dropping out of school and unsafe abortions among female youth in the County. The youth also continue to swallow the pains of inadequate personnel hampering care and management of HIV/AIDs, Malaria, TB, Sexually transmitted infections and drug/substance abuse, facilities and medical fees for reproductive health care. Most affected are young women between 20-25 years of age and men aged 25-34 years that present the most productive segment of people in the County. Early marriages continue to complicate matters for young female and increase their burdens. Ignorance, illiteracy and insufficient knowledge about fertility regulation methods all have facilitated the increase in early childbearing. Generally, the available health facilities are not youth-friendly.

Objective

To improve the health and well-being of the youth through provision of accessible, affordable and youth-friendly health services that address specific health problems faced by youth.

Policy directions

To address health issues affecting the youth, the county government shall-

- a) promote and support youth campaigns aimed at encouraging behaviour change and discouraging drug and substance abuse, as well as negative peer influence amongst youth;
- b) support the development of capacity building programmes in youth-targeted health issues such as guidance and counselling programmes, mental health, lifestyle diseases, sex and reproductive health among others;
- c) adopt measures to ensure youth with disabilities receive friendly services and that any ailments and or assessments as a result of their disability get treated free of charge;
- d) support improvement of technical and institutional capacity of youth organisations to enable them to advocate and promote health programmes for youth effectively;
- e) collaborate and consult with representatives of youth groups in efforts to fight the spread of HIV/AIDS and take into account the youth dimension to HIV/AIDS and roll-out programmes to help support and empower youth who become orphaned because of HIV/AIDS;
- f) facilitate access to voluntary counselling and testing services for all youth including making appropriate self-testing kits more affordable or free and accessible to the youth;
- g) in partnership with the relevant departments and stakeholders, provide youth friendly services in health centres in all county health service providers;
- h) sensitize health service providers in the county to be accredited in NHIF and other UHCs;
- i) establish VCT centres, guidance and counselling units managed by the youth in training institutions, recreational facilities, public gathering points, universities and other learning institutions in the county;
- j) partner with other organizations to establish affordable rehabilitation centres to help youth addicted to drugs; and
- k) promote research in youth health areas and make the findings accessible.

2.3.7 Sports, Recreation, Art and Culture

Key Issues

The County has relied on sports activities to enhance unity, personal health, discipline, leadership skills, physical and psychological development amongst the youth. The county uses sports to available to the youth hence reduced prevalence of crime and irresponsible behaviour. Nevertheless, returns from sports activities in the county are not impactful, and the county has not managed to tap into the youth talents fully. The

county believes in protecting, preserving and sharing its heritage and culture, expressed mostly through beliefs, values, appreciation, beauty and aspirations. The youth have often been confused about the traditional culture of Kakamega people and the Western culture at large hence, the county finds it challenging to preserve the culture and pass the same on to future generations.

Objective

To develop and expand programmes and facilities that embrace youth identification, nurturing and utilization of talents in recreation, sports, leisure and creative arts for social-economic enrichment.

Policy directions

To address the above issue, the county government shall-

- a) collaborate with the relevant authorities to provide sports training and develop sports talents from among the youth in the county;
- b) facilitate the creation of linkage between youth talent scouts and sports academies across the world where coaches and talented youth can be attached to clubs for the development of their talents;
- c) form and facilitate county youth teams in various sporting and cultural activities.
- d) establish a programme for the honoraria for coaches, highly talented youth and youth groups and or teams in honour of their representation in various competitions and tournaments;
- e) establish structures that ensure the youth representation on committees and bodies that make decisions on sports;
- f) foster the development of Youth Empowerment Centres in every ward and or community area, which act as breeding grounds for youth talents in the County;
- g) establish and improve accessibility to recreation and sporting facilities in the county to assist in identifying and developing youth's talents;
- h) use sporting activities as platforms to advocate and campaign for peace initiatives and behavioural change;
- i) promote and facilitate traditional games for recreation and as a way of preserving culture;
- j) acquire and protect sporting facilities and recreational spaces for utilization in advancing sporting activities and talent;
- k) train and empower youth artistes in fine and performing arts and other forms of culture;
- l) promote and protect local arts and culture;
- m) support the youth involved in music, arts and culture through empowerment opportunities;
- n) establish and equip more cultural centres, resource centres and libraries to promote material and non-material aspects of culture for knowledge sharing;
- o) facilitate forums for adults and the youth to exchange ideas and views; and
- p) make theatres, cultural and resource centres affordable and accessible to the youth.

2.3.8 Youth in Agriculture

Key Issues

The County heavily relies on Agriculture as a source of livelihood and food security. However, youth in the county have shown less interest in agriculture as a source of income/livelihood. The county mainly conducts Agriculture on subsistence basis as opposed to commercial. Youth engaging in agriculture face hurdles such as lack of access to credit, market, limited skills, limited access to information and limited access to land

Objective

To empower the youth in the county to adopt agricultural enterprise development and value addition for self-empowerment.

Policy directions

As a measure to harness the challenges related to youth and agriculture, the county shall-

- a) establish youth-friendly programmes that would increase empowerment opportunities through Agriculture such as farm input subsidies;
- b) in liaison with relevant authorities, conduct capacity building forums for the youth in agricultural value chains and value addition practices;
- c) promote youth friendly farm and off-farm agricultural value chains and market aggregation and linkages for agricultural produce;
- d) promote agricultural manufacturing and industry by supporting the youth to benchmark on agricultural best practices within the county, country, continent and the world;
- e) invest in publicising and advocating for youth engagement in agriculture;
- f) promote and support agricultural clubs and groups for the youth and showcasing of the career paths of successful young farmers and “agripreneurs” as exemplary models to encourage youth to engage in the agricultural sector;
- g) support the involvement of the youth in environmental conservation programmes;
- h) establish linkages between environmental committees in the county and environmental clubs and or groups; and
- i) support initiatives by the youth in conservation of the environment, for example, tree planting, clean-up campaigns, biodiversity conservation, wildlife preservation campaigns and agro-forestry.

2.3.9 Access to Science and ICT for production and productivity

Key Issues

The key issues in the access to Science and ICT for production and productivity include the following-

- a) online fraud and cyber bullying;
- b) inaccessible ICT services;

- c) high cost of ICT services in the county
- d) piracy and infringement of intellectual property rights through information technology platforms;
- e) inadequate ICT accessible infrastructure, incubation hubs and technology centres; and
- f) inadequate ICT literacy to explore entrepreneurship opportunities in ICT.

Objective

To improve access and application of science, information and communication technology to provide socio-economic opportunities for youth.

Policy directions

To improve access and application of science, information and communication technology to provide socio-economic opportunities for youth, the county government of Kakamega commits to-

- a) explore ways to increase access to ICTs for all the youth in urban and rural areas;
- b) exploit and further enhance investment made in information technology;
- c) promote partnerships between young people, the private sector and government in exploiting science and ICT;
- d) harness the potential and limit the adverse effects of new technology;
- e) establish sub county youth empowerment centres and equip them with ICT services and infrastructure;
- f) use of ICTs to promote exchange programmes, dialogue and understanding between youth and experienced adults (MSEs and LSEs);
- g) support research development activities on modern and indigenous technologies in collaboration with universities and ATVETs;
- h) promote and support technology entrepreneurship;
- i) adopt measures to protect talents, innovations and inventions by the youth through supporting patenting, copyrighting and marketing for economic benefits; and
- j) provide public internet access to the youth in the county.

2.3.10 Responsive Affirmative Action, Youth Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion

Key issues

The County has developed the Youth Service and Women Empowerment Act of 2019 aimed at providing a framework for the training of youth and women to serve the County and procedures on the employment of its members to undertake tasks on the devolved functions of the county. However, vulnerable youth have special needs, challenges and interests that require affirmative action programmes and strategies.

Objective

To develop and incorporate affirmative and social inclusion programmes aimed at mitigating social problems affecting the vulnerable youth for example Sexual and Gender Based Violence, mental health, suicides and incest.

Policy directions

- a) sensitize and build capacity of the county departments, the private sector and civil societies on youth mainstreaming;
- b) integrate youth mainstreaming into county performance management framework;
- c) sensitize vulnerable youth on possible government and private sector opportunities available for their empowerment;
- d) promote and sensitize the youth on the utilization of affirmative action opportunities for vulnerable youths for instance AGPO, NHIF, NSSF, YEDF, UWEZO, WEF, KIE Funds etc.;
- e) lobby for and establish appropriate infrastructure, facilities and services to vulnerable youth;
- f) develop and incorporate programmes aimed at mitigating social ills affecting the vulnerable youth groups such as Sexual Gender based Violence, unplanned pregnancies, suicides, incest, mental health etc.;
- g) upgrade and expand specialised institutions (Rehabilitation, Physiotherapy centres) serving vulnerable youth; and
- h) design programmes of capacity building of the vulnerable youth on Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH).

2.3.11 Youth-Led Environmental Conservation and Action for Climate Change

Key Issues

Climate change, pollution, depletion and environmental degradation have negative impacts on people's livelihoods, lifestyles and health in the county. The youth specifically suffer from the consequences of climate change through limited economic activities in agriculture as well as health complications.

Objective

To establish sustainable approaches for the effective utilization of renewable natural resources among the youth for creation of employment opportunities and income.

Policy directions

In liaison with other relevant authorities, the county government of Kakamega commits as follows-

- a) invest revenues to develop sustainable approaches for the effective utilization of renewable natural resources;
- b) research the income and employment generating potential of natural resources;
- c) facilitate engagement of the youth in income generating environment activities;

- d) promote Youth-led community based Natural Resource Management; and
- e) promote Establishment of youth environmental clubs and facilitate their linkages.

2.3.12 Prevention of Youth Radicalization and Countering Violent Extremism

Key issues

Due to unemployment and inadequate opportunities to find decent jobs in the county, the youth in both rural and urban informal settlements are an easy prey for terrorist activities. The youth are main target by the extremist organizations and local militia hence have become vulnerable to the offers they are promised. This increases the level of subscription to criminal gangs, ethnic sects and local militias in the county. Terror and other criminal activities by the radicalized youth have led to loss of life, pain and suffering to those affected.

Objectives

To promote measures through which youth radicalization and violent extremism in curbed in Kakamega County.

Policy directions

To promote measures through which youth radicalization and violent extremism in curbed in Kakamega county, the county government of Kakamega commits to-

- a) increase opportunities for education, employment and political participation among youth;
- b) promote youth leadership exchange programmes;
- c) enhance support to organizations working youth activities, vocational training and employment;
- d) in liaison with relevant stakeholders, design and implement programmes, including sensitizations, on countering violent extremism and anti-radicalization aimed at campaigning for peace among the youth across the county;
- e) enhance coordination and capacity development of county institutions and administrative structures to understand and address the root causes of extremism; and
- f) devise strategies on rehabilitating affected communities through development approaches that seek to provide sustainable livelihood pathways by ensuring effective implementation of available relevant policies and action plans.

CHAPTER THREE

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

3.1. Introduction

This chapter elucidates the mechanisms for implementing, monitoring and evaluating the policy. For intended policy results to be achieved there is a need for effective policy implementation, monitoring and evaluation. This strategy will require healthy institutional development, inclusion of stakeholders in governance, legal and administrative reforms.

3.2. Collaboration with other actors

The County Government, through the department responsible for youth affairs, shall spearhead the implementation of this policy. Mechanisms for funding, resource mobilization, monitoring, evaluation and review of this policy shall be put in place to ensure effective implementation.

The County shall create linkages and partnerships with other stakeholders including the National Government, private sector, The National Youth Council, Non-Governmental Organisations, Youth Serving Organizations and groups, Civil Society Organisations, Faith-Based Organisations, and other agencies dealing with youth issues to support the implementation of this policy.

The department responsible for youth affairs, in collaboration with the National Government and other relevant departments and development partners, shall develop and facilitate continuous professional and capacity development for all relevant officers in various departments responsible for implementing this policy.

3.2.1 Obligations of the National Government

National Government ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) and with the state department of Youth and the National Youth Council taking the lead, shall have the following duties and responsibilities-

- a) coordinate the implementation of the National Youth Policy of 2019 and other national statutes on youth activities in the county;
- b) provide general supervision for youth development activities at the County level;
- c) oversee data management and sharing on youth development at the County level;
- d) Provide technical support in the implementation and review of this policy;
- e) coordinate and manage youth activities and organizations in the county; and
- f) prevent, respond to abuses and report to the relevant authorities suspicious youth programmes and activities in the county including attempted radicalization.

3.2.3 Roles of the County Government of Kakamega

The County Government of Kakamega, departments and agencies and with the Department responsible for Youth taking lead shall have the following duties and responsibilities-

- a) collaborate, partner and network with other stakeholders in provision of youth disaggregated data for better planning;
- b) allocate budget and avail resources to cater for youth empowerment and development activities;
- c) design and implement programs that promote intergenerational dialogue and societal values.
- d) involve the youth in peace building, conflict resolution and prevention, and reconciliation initiatives;
- e) ensure a conducive environment for the functioning of organizations and institutions supporting youth empowerment;
- f) provide youth friendly facilities;
- g) establish youth recreational facilities;
- h) be the lead agent in supporting the implementation of this policy covering all the envisaged initiatives and programmes;
- i) establish technical and vocational training centres, home craft centres for skills transfer among the youth;
- j) provide the necessary framework for youth empowerment;
- k) support investment in alternative or non-formal education programmes that reach out to the youth;
- l) ensure youth issues are mainstreamed across sectors in the government; and
- m) create mechanisms and opportunities for participation of the youth in affairs that affect them.

3.2.2 Role of the Youth in the County

In the implementation and coordination of this policy, the role of the youth shall be to-

- a) be patriotic to the country and Kakamega county;
- b) respect and obey the law;
- c) be agents of change and progress;
- d) serve the community by placing their physical and intellectual abilities at its service;
- e) be innovative;
- f) use lawful means to agitate for their rights including structured dialogue and empirical data for lobbying;
- g) Advocate against abuse and lawlessness;
- h) preserve and strengthen social and national solidarity;
- i) preserve and strengthen the positive cultural values of their community in their relations with other members of that community;
- j) Take initiatives for their empowerment;
- k) not discriminate against others on account of ethnicity, race, disability, gender, social status or other grounds;

- l) protect the environment;
- m) be responsible and accountable for their own behaviour and actions;
- n) not abuse or harm others; and
- o) not destroy any property.

3.2.4 Duties and Responsibilities of the Private Sector and CSOs

The private sector and CSOs shall -

- a) complement the County Government in empowering the youth;
- b) report on the milestones made on youth empowerment within Kakamega County to both National and County Governments;
- c) align their programmes with the objectives of this policy;
- d) provide resources and driving innovation to support youth programs and affairs
- e) promote youth empowerment through advocacy;
- f) advocate for the rights of young people especially marginalized youth in the county
- g) mediate and resolve challenges on youth development;
- h) contribute to social innovation for youth empowerment; and
- i) influence government policy through advocacy for change to favour youth empowerment.

3.4. Coordination Framework

Policy implementation, management of resources and activities shall be undertaken through a transparent and active coordination framework to prevent duplication of efforts, enhance efficient use of resources, track progress and results, and facilitate knowledge sharing. The youth department shall lead policy implementation, coordination, including stakeholder engagement and the new and existing coordination structures at the county, sub-county and ward levels, shall be necessary.

Coordination shall include ensuring strategic priorities in the policy are integrated and harmonized with and supported by other relevant departments. Resource mobilization shall include the development of annual budgets in collaboration with the planning department and relevant youth sectors and in the context of the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework. This mobilisation shall also include ascertaining resource gaps, aligning available resources to priority results and advocating for increased government and donor support of the Policy implementation.

For the coordination of the implementation of this policy, the County Executive Committee Member responsible for Youth affairs shall establish a County Youth Committee whose main roles shall be:

- a) coordination of youth groups and organisations;
- b) continuous review of this policy; and
- c) development of an integrated costed youth action plan to facilitate effective implementation of this policy.

The County Youth Committee shall be composed as follows:

- a) The County Director responsible for youth who shall be the Chairperson;
- b) the director or his/her appointee, State department of Youth Affairs;
- c) Twelve (12) appointed Youth Champions, one from each of the 12 sub-counties selected in such manner as may be prescribed by the County Executive Committee Member responsible for Youth Affairs;
- d) one (1) youth who shall be a PWD nominated by the National Council of Persons with Disabilities where none of the members in (b) above is a PWD
- e) a technical youth officer; and
- f) a member of the National Youth Council responsible for the county.

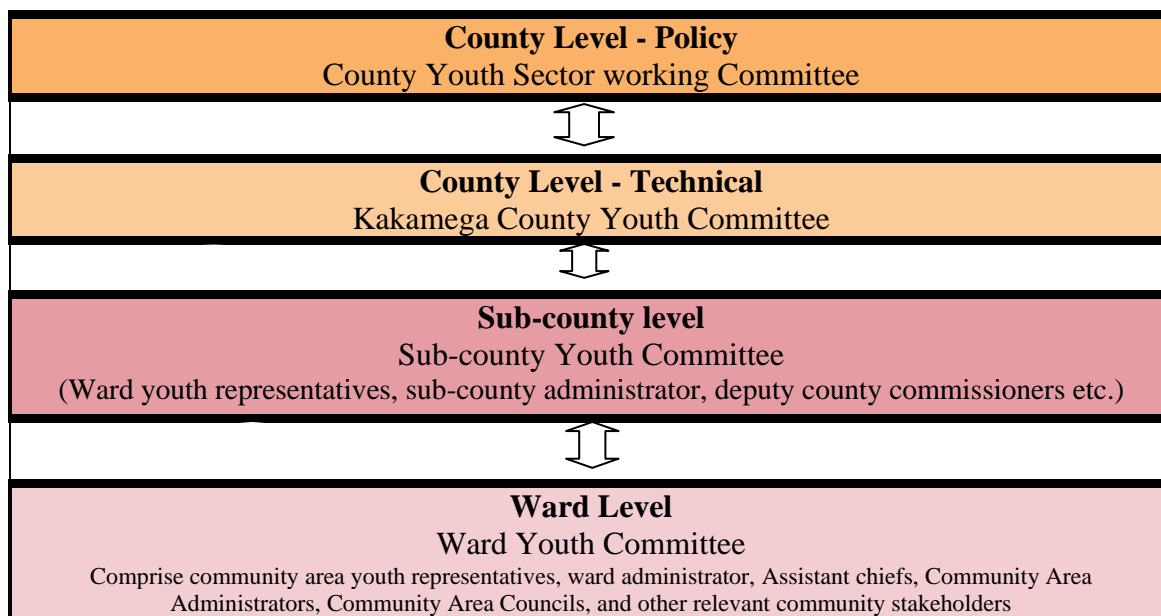
This composition and roles thereof may be cascaded to the sub-county and or ward level based on a need basis.

The County Executive Committee Member responsible for Youth affairs in the county shall prepare terms of reference for the engagement of the County Youth Committee. The committee shall be responsible to the County Executive Committee Member responsible for Youth affairs and shall perform the following functions-

- a) Oversee the implementation of youth programmes in the county;
- b) promote mechanisms to ensure implementation and adherence to the policy;
- c) mobilize, sensitize and organize the youth under one umbrella for economic and socio-cultural activities;
- d) productively involve the youth in activities that are beneficial to them and the County at large;
- e) co-ordinate youth activities and initiatives being undertaken by youth groups, youth focused community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, civil society movements and other organizations;
- f) track and review youth activities carried out by various players in the National and County Government as stipulated in the action plan;
- g) mobilize resources to support the county youth committee programmes and activities;
- h) encourage relations between youth organizations and other institutions with similar objectives and interests;
- i) stimulate and promote the spirit of unity, devotion and volunteerism among the youth;
- j) act as a voice and bridge to ensure that the County Government and other policymakers get informed of the views and aspirations of the youth;
- k) facilitate the periodic review of the national and county youth policy in line with other government policy statements;
- l) advocate for legislation on issues affecting the youth;
- m) liaise with other organizations to ensure that the youth gain access to resources and services appropriate to their needs;
- n) formulate operational guidelines that protect the youth against any form of abuse or manipulation;
- o) mobilize and sensitise relevant stakeholders on the concept of community youth service;
- p) promote the inclusion of youth agenda in the formulation of policy by public institutions and organisations;

- q) promote the inclusion of youths in decision-making bodies, boards, agencies and other public institutions and organisations;
- r) participate in county youth sector working group activities; and
- s) perform any other lawful duties and functions that may be instructed by the County Executive Committee Member responsible for Youth Affairs or their representative.

3.4.3 Summary of coordination framework



3.5. Resource Mobilization and Communication Strategy

The implementation of this policy shall be financed through annual budgetary allocations on youth development by the county government of Kakamega. The CSOs, Private sector, national government MDAs, and other institutions involved in youth matters shall partner with the county government in resource mobilization for implementation of policy directions in this policy.

A communication strategy for mobilisation and information sharing towards the realisation of the strategic policy priorities shall be developed. Awareness creation on the policy shall be undertaken to generate broad support in Kenya and beyond for cooperation and resource mobilization for the effective implementation of the policy. The county shall prepare for enactment and adoption of an Information, Education and Communication (IEC) strategy based on the practical and widely shared use of print, mass and electronic media and in different languages. The IEC Strategy shall give a prominent role to the youth.

The CECM in charge of youth affairs shall provide mechanisms for information sharing and dissemination. However, copyright for any information produced by or in partnership with the county government shall be owned by the county government with other stakeholders being acknowledged. Information involving the county government shall require the express approval of the CECM responsible for youth affairs before being published or disseminated for public consumption.

CHAPTER FOUR

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

4.1 Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation is critical for establishing what works and what does not work within the context youth management. The County Government Act, 2012 requires county governments to establish performance management systems, which include Monitoring and Evaluation frameworks. In addition, the County Governments Act also imposes reporting requirements to the Governor and senior county officials in respect to key governance functions of the County. In this regard, Monitoring of the Policy shall be based on a system of information gathering and analysis of performance indicators set in the envisaged agreed implementation matrix. On this basis, each implementing agency will be required to produce annual work plans that incorporate priority areas highlighted in the County Youth Integrated Action Plan that will be translated into operational activities. The quarterly and annual reports shall be used to manage the programme outputs and expenditures for proper and efficient programme management.

The Policy shall be evaluated at midterm and end-term through the Kakamega County Youth Committee. To facilitate this evaluation process and ensure it is aligned with the government programme calendar, the timing of the evaluations shall get integrated into the Government budget cycle. It shall report on the effectiveness, impact, sustainability, and value for money of the interventions and the extent to which expected outcomes were achieved. The evaluation shall be conducted at the end of every five years implementation period and based on the available monitoring reports

4.2 Guiding Principles in Monitoring and Evaluation

Policy strategies in this regard shall be guided by the following-

- a) Use of participatory approaches in Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning (MERL), while placing the youth at the centre of the process;
- b) Use of scientific methods in collection, analysis and reporting on respective projects and programmes;
- c) Integrated Information Management; and
- d) Linking Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning outputs with key County decision-making processes.

4.3 Policy review

This policy may be reviewed after every three years of implementation to address emerging issues and such other events affecting its implementation.

REFERENCES

Constitution of Kenya, 2010

Global Help Youth Desk (2020). Available at: [http://www.globalyouthdesk.org/
http://www.unicef.org/adolescence/cypguide/resourceguide_intro.html](http://www.globalyouthdesk.org/http://www.unicef.org/adolescence/cypguide/resourceguide_intro.html)

National Youth Policy, 2019

UNESCO (2021). Available at: www.unesco.org/most/growing.htm

UNFPA (2019). Available at: <http://www.unfpa.org/public/home/adolescents/pid/6482>

UN-Habitat Youth (2021). Available at:
<http://www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=531>

United Nations (2020). *UN Youth Strategy: Youth 2030, working for and with young people*. Available at: https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/18-00080_UN-Youth-Strategy_Web.pdf

United Nations (2020). *Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. Available at: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/world-youth-report/wyr2018.html>

United Nations (2022). *Youth participation*. Available at: <https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/fact-sheets/youth-participation.pdf>

UNV Youth Volunteers (2021). Available at: <http://www.unv.org/what-we-do/thematic-areas/youth.html>

www.un.org/youth

Youth peer (2020). Available at: <http://www.youthpeer.org/web/guest/home>

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. H.E. Hon. FCPA Fernandes Barasa, OGW – Governor, Kakamega County
2. H.E. Hon. Ayub Savula, Deputy Governor
3. Mophat Mandela – CECM, Social Services, Youth, Gender, Sports and Culture
4. Dr. George Akolo Lutomia – Former CECM, Social Services, Youth, Women Empowerment, Sports and Culture
5. Hon. Kevin Mahelo – MCA Butali Chegulo ward
6. Dr. Boniface Okoth, County Secretary
7. CS, Vivianne Mmbaka Komwonyo – County Attorney
8. Joseph Abucheri – Chief Officer Youth, Sports and Library Services
9. Leah Khasandi Shisia – Chief Officer, Social Services, Gender and Culture
10. Vivien Ayuma – Chief Officer, Education, Science and Technology
11. Dr. Phitalis Were Masakhwe – Chief Officer, Risk Management and Service Delivery
12. Dr. Brenda Makokha - Former Chief Officer, Social Services, Youth, Gender, Sports and Culture
13. CPA John Imbogo - Former Chief Officer, Social Services, Youth, Gender, Sports and Culture
14. James Muchiri – Director, Youth and Sports
15. Mildred Wandema – County Solicitor
16. Cyril Mululu – Deputy Director of Administration
17. Everlyne Ityeng’ – Principal Human Resource Officer, Kakamega County
18. Emmanuel Makokha – Youth Advisor
19. James Khalwale – Head of Youth Department, Kakamega County
20. Alex Lubanga – County Department of Education/TVET
21. Allan Wanga – County Sports Officer
22. Justus Wabuko – Legal Officer
23. Sylvia Ashitsa Muhanda – Legal Officer
24. Annet Majoni – Policy Technical Assistant, UKAID
25. Apollo Edewa - International Republican Institute
26. Arnold Ambei – Catholic Justice and Peace Department, Kakamega Diocese
27. Benjamin Ilagosa - World Vision
28. Rhoda Wanzetse - County Sports Officer
29. Bjorn Aswa – County Youth Officer
30. Cynthia Livoli – County Assembly of Kakamega
31. David Onguko - World Vision
32. Dennis Muhanji - Mzalendo Youth Team
33. Elphas Were - KEYNET
34. Geoffrey Nyakwara - Planning Officer
35. Godfrey Wanyama – County Youth Service Programme
36. Greg Ombisi - County Sports Officer
37. Hardley Muteshi – Department of Trade, Industry and Tourism
38. Hilary Onyango – Policy Technical Assistant, UKAID
39. Jared Omwandasi – Chairman National Youth Council/County Youth Committee
40. Joseph Kisaka - County Department of Agriculture
41. Juma Omwendo – Sub county Administrator, Kakamega County

42. Levi Juma – Youth Alive Kenya
43. Lucas Ogutu –State Department of Youth
44. Luke Wangwe - KNCCI
45. Mercy Akolo - Youth Officer
46. Nelly Cheroben - Mzalendo Youth Team
47. Nickel Tari – Katega Youth Group/KNCCI
48. Peninah Vulimo - World Vision
49. Peter Oduk - World Vision
50. Shakila Ouna – Department of Water, Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change
51. Terah Keith - Mzalendo Youth Team
52. Victor Wanyama (KNCCI)

Participating Organizations/Institutions/Partners

1. Catholic Justice and Peace Department
2. County Government of Kakamega
3. International Republican Institute (IRI)
4. Kakamega County Youth Committee
5. Kakamega County Youth Sector Working Group
6. Kakamega County Assembly Youth Caucus
7. Kenya Economic Youth Network (KEYNET)
8. Kenya National Chamber for Commerce and Industry (KNCCI)
9. Mzalendo Youth Team
10. National Youth Council Kakamega
11. State department of Youth, Kakamega County
12. UKAID
13. World Vision Kenya
14. Youth Alive Kenya