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**Lamu County Youth Policy (2022)**

**County Theme:**

Empowering Our Future: Investing in Lamu’s Youth

**November 2022**

Table of Contents

[Foreword (Governor) 3](#_Toc121232390)

[Preface 5](#_Toc121232391)

[Acknowledgements 6](#_Toc121232392)

[Abbreviations and Acronyms 7](#_Toc121232393)

[Definition of Terms 8](#_Toc121232394)

[EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 10](#_Toc121232395)

[1. INTRODUCTION 11](#_Toc121232396)

[1.1 Background 11](#_Toc121232397)

[1.2 Rationale for the county Youth Policy 11](#_Toc121232398)

[1.3 Guiding Principles for the Youth Policy 12](#_Toc121232399)

[1.4 Rights, Obligations and responsibilities of the Youth 13](#_Toc121232400)

[1.5 The scope of the Policy 13](#_Toc121232401)

[1.6 The Youth Policy Development Process 14](#_Toc121232402)

[1.7 Alignment of the Youth Policy 15](#_Toc121232403)

[1.8 Organization of the Policy document 15](#_Toc121232404)

[2. SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS 16](#_Toc121232405)

[2.1 Introduction 16](#_Toc121232406)

[2.2 County Situation of the Youth 16](#_Toc121232407)

[2.3 Youth Categories 16](#_Toc121232408)

[2.3.1 **Dimensions of Youth Profile in the County** 16](#_Toc121232409)

[2.3.2 **Target Youth Policy Audiences** 17](#_Toc121232410)

[2.4 An overview of youth opportunities and potential in the county 17](#_Toc121232411)

[2.5 Challenges affecting the various categories of youth in the county 17](#_Toc121232412)

[2.6 County Youth Interventions and Achievements 19](#_Toc121232413)

[**2.6.1** **Youth interventions** 19](#_Toc121232414)

[**2.6.2** **Achievements** 20](#_Toc121232415)

[2.7 Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis 20](#_Toc121232416)

[3. YOUTH POLICY FRAMEWORK 22](#_Toc121232417)

[3.1 Introduction 22](#_Toc121232418)

[3.2 Vision, Mission, Rallying call and Values 22](#_Toc121232419)

[3.3 Youth Policy Objectives, Priority areas, Measures/Strategies and Interventions 22](#_Toc121232420)

[**3.3.1** **Youth Policy Objectives** 23](#_Toc121232421)

[**3.3.2** **Youth Policy Statements; Youth Priority Areas; Measures/Strategies; Respective Interventions** 23](#_Toc121232422)

[4. YOUTH POLICY COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK 25](#_Toc121232423)

[4.1 Introduction 25](#_Toc121232424)

[4.2 Implementation and Coordination mechanisms 25](#_Toc121232425)

[4.3 Enablers (ICT, transport, skills and development, making markets work etc) 26](#_Toc121232426)

[4.4 Flagships (Asks for County Government, National Government, private sector, non-state actors) 26](#_Toc121232427)

[4.5 Resource Mobilization and Financing of the Policy 27](#_Toc121232428)

[4.6 Implementation matrix 28](#_Toc121232429)

[4.7 Roles of stakeholders 29](#_Toc121232430)

[5. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING 31](#_Toc121232431)

[5.1 Introduction 31](#_Toc121232432)

[5.2 Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework 31](#_Toc121232433)

[6. COMMUNICATION, PUBLICITY AND INFORMATION 33](#_Toc121232434)

[6.1 Introduction 33](#_Toc121232435)

[6.2 Communication channels (radio, TV, local language, barazas) 33](#_Toc121232436)

[6.3 Publicity and Policy Information Sharing 34](#_Toc121232437)

[6.4 Policy Review 34](#_Toc121232438)

[7. CONCLUSION 35](#_Toc121232439)

[Annex 1: Implementation matrix 36](#_Toc121232440)

# Foreword (Governor)

I am delighted to introduce the Lamu County Youth Policy – an important step towards strengthening our youth's potential, and unleashing their full potential. Lamu County is a unique place, with a great diversity of cultures, languages and ethnicities. Our youth are an integral part of this unique mix, and our county’s future depends on investing in them.

The Lamu County Youth Policy is a comprehensive plan to provide our county’s youth with the best possible opportunities for education, employment, and civic engagement. We will work closely with our young people to ensure that they have the skills and resources they need to succeed, and to create a safe and nurturing environment for them to thrive. We believe that by investing in our youth, we are investing in our future.

The Lamu County Youth Policy will help to ensure that our youth have the necessary support and resources to reach their full potential. I thank all those who have contributed to the development of this policy, and I look forward to seeing the positive impact it will have on our county’s future.

Sincerely,

Issa Abdalla Timamy

Governor

# Preface

In recent years, the government of Lamu County has been working hard to improve the lives of its youth. The Lamu Youth Policy is a response to the needs of the county's young people, and sets out a comprehensive framework for addressing the challenges they face.

The policy recognises that the county's youth are a valuable resource, and that they have a crucial role to play in the county's future. It sets out a number of key priorities for action, including improving access to education and training, providing support for entrepreneurship and employment, and tackling the problems of crime and violence.

The Lamu Youth Policy is an important step forward in recognising the needs of the county's young people, and in providing a framework for addressing them. It is hoped that it will make a real difference to the lives of the county's youth, and help to build a better future for all.

# Acknowledgements

In order to ensure that the county youth policy is successful in achieving its objectives, the county government of Lamu must receive the support and cooperation of all relevant stakeholders. These include, but are not limited to, the national government, development partners, civil society organizations, the private sector, and most importantly, the youth themselves.

The county government of Lamu is grateful to all those who have contributed to the formulation and implementation of the county youth policy. In particular, we would like to express our appreciation to the following partners:

The national government, for their support in the development and implementation of the county youth policy.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), for their financial and technical support in the development of the county youth policy.

The Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA), for their input in the formulation of the county youth policy. The Lamu County Youth Forum, for their active participation in the formulation of the county youth policy. All other development partners, civil society organizations, and individuals who have contributed to the development and implementation of the county youth policy. Finally, we would like to thank the youth of Lamu County for their participation.

# Abbreviations and Acronyms

**List of Abbreviations.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| AU | Africa Union |  |
| FBOs | Faith Based Organizations |  |
| ICT | Information Communication Technology |  |
| KEPSA | Kenya Private Sector Alliance |  |
| KYDP | Kenya Youth Development Policy 2019 |  |
| LAPSET | Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia-Transport Project |  |
| MEL | Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework |  |
| MTPs | Medium Term Plans |  |
| NACONEK | National Council for Nomadic Kenya |  |
| NGOs | Non – Governmental Organizations |  |
| NYP | National Youth Policy |  |
| UN | United Nations |  |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |  |
| UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |  |
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# Definition of Terms

**Policy**
The Lamu County Youth Policy is a comprehensive approach to empowering youth in the county by providing a platform whereby young people can access opportunities and resources that will contribute to their development and realization of their potential. The policy aims to ensure that young people are actively engaged in decision-making processes, are given access to quality education, health and social services, are protected from violence and exploitation, and are provided with economic and employment opportunities. It also seeks to ensure that young people can access adequate resources to participate in civic and political activities. The policy will be further developed through the establishment of a Youth Council and the promotion of youth-led organizations and activities.

**Youth**

In the Lamu County Youth Policy, youth are defined as persons between the ages of 15 and 35 years of age. This age range is in line with the United Nations definition of youth. The policy also recognizes the importance of inclusivity and states that persons with disabilities and/or other marginalised groups should be included in the definition of youth.

**Youth Development**

Youth Development in Lamu County is defined as the process of empowering young people to identify and realize their potential, build their skills, and make informed and responsible decisions. It is an approach which helps youth to become active, engaged, and responsible citizens. It involves providing young people with the opportunity to develop knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes necessary for their personal and social development. Youth development also includes providing young people with access to appropriate education and training, health care, employment opportunities, and recreation activities. Youth development aims to help young people become more self-reliant and to make positive contributions to their communities.

**Youth Empowerment**

Youth empowerment in Lamu County is defined as providing youth with the skills, knowledge, and resources to make informed decisions and actively participate in their communities. It is an ongoing process of developing the capacity of young people to take action on issues that affect their lives, giving them greater control, responsibility, and ownership over the decisions they make. This includes creating opportunities for youth to express their opinions and to have their voices heard, recognize their rights, and participate in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of policies and programs that affect them.

**Youth Employment**

Youth employment is defined as "any form of work undertaken by youth within the County, including both formal and informal employment, ranging from unpaid work to self-employment and entrepreneurship.

**Government**

Consistent with the Constitution of Kenya (2010), the word Government refers to the two levels of government: The National Government and the 47 County Governments. The Policy applies to the two levels of Government.

**Stakeholders**

Stakeholders in the Lamu County Youth Policy are defined as all individuals, groups, organizations and institutions operating within the county or nationally, both public and private, which are directly or indirectly involved in the promotion of youth development. They include, but are not limited to, county and national government, youth organizations, civil society organizations, private sector organizations, research and educational institutions, faith-based organizations, the media, development partners, youth themselves, and other relevant stakeholders.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Lamu County Youth Policy is a response to the challenges that young people face in the county. It is informed by the Constitution of Kenya, the Lamu County Government Act, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and the Kenyan government's commitment to the Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The policy sets out the county government's commitment to promoting the rights of young people and to ensuring their involvement in all aspects of county life. It recognises the unique contribution that young people can make to the county's development and the need to invest in their potential.

The policy sets out a number of goals and objectives for the county government to achieve over the next five years. These include:

1. Establishing a County Youth Council to give young people a platform to participate in decision-making.
2. Supporting youth-led organizations and initiatives.
3. Providing access to quality education and training.
4. Creating opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship.
5. Addressing the needs of vulnerable young people, including those affected by violence and conflict.
6. Engaging with young people on issues of concern to them.

The policy provides a framework for the county government to work with partners

**CHAPTER ONE**

# INTRODUCTION

## Background

There are many definitions of who youth are with respect to their age. As example, the UN defines the youth as any person between 15 and 24 while the AU in its youth charter defines youth as any individual between 15 and 35 years. The constitution of Kenya (2010) Article 260 defines youth as ‘’individuals in the Republic who have attained the age of eighteen years; but have not attained the age of thirty-five years and presented 60% of the labor forces. This shares of potential productive workforce needs to be fully harnessed and optimized to contribute to the county’s development. This can be partly achieved through including youth in the design, planning and implementation of programs and policies that affect them. Youth related issues are a priority to the government. This is partly because the youth are relatively marginalized in socio- economic outcomes including employment. A majority of the youth remain on the periphery of the county’s social, economic and political affairs. A youth policy provides a frame work for ensuring that the target beneficiaries are given adequate resources and the required enablers to fulfill their potentials.

## Rationale for the county Youth Policy

The Kenyan charter. States that every county is required to develop a comprehensive and coherent youth development policy. At the domestic level, the constitution of Kenya (2010) makes various provisions for the youth in Article 55, which requires the state to take measures, including affirmative action programmes, to ensure that the youth have access to relevant education and training; opportunities to associate, be presented and participate in political, social, economic and other spheres of life; and to access productive engagement including employment and entrepreneurship. Youth faces many challenges that are supposed to be addressed by the county government and various stakeholders. Youth is a valuable resource that can be harnessed for the benefit of all therefore the county government should aim at consolidating all initiatives that can be undertaken to empower the youth in the county. The policy is important for the county’s development agenda for several reasons, specifically, the policy shall:

1.Enable the development of an integrated framework to improve clarity, coherence and coordination of the youth initiative and programmes in all relevant sectors across the county government and by other stakeholders.

2.Establish broad-based strategies and partnership to provide enhanced opportunities to the youth to maximize their potential

3.standardize the provision of service to all youth including more intensive assistance to disadvantaged youth and youth in humanitarian settings.

## Guiding Principles for the Youth Policy

1.**Rights of youth-** which are designed and implemented within the human rights framework and in the bill of rights in chapter 4 of the Kenya constitution

**2.Inclusive**-this is to recognize the diversity of the youth population and ensure equal participation of the youth and marginalized groups

3.**participatory**-the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation should ensure meaningful participation of the youth and other stakeholders.

4.**Gender responsive**-the policy should take specific actions to promote gender equality and to address gender disparities in all settings; political, socio-economic and cultural.

5.**collaborative**-work with the government, public institutions, private sector, policy experts and other stakeholders to adopt a holistic approach to youth development.

6.**Adequate resources-**it should be adequate, transparent and resources for formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

7**.practical**-the implementation should be practical and capable of producing visible and sustainable results.

8**.transversal and cross sectoral**

## Rights, Obligations and responsibilities of the Youth

As a youth of Kenya one should be able to make a choice in their own opinion and entitlement to things such as education, religion and freedom of speech. Youth should also take roles in the development of the county. This aims at achieving their potential and develop into responsible citizens.

The youth are expected to advance the current technology, education, politics and peace of the county. On the other hand, youth have also to maintain their culture, all good values in the society and development projects.

Describe how the Policy recognizes the importance of youth to enjoy their rights and carry out their responsibilities and obligations. In a table form list rights versus obligations and responsibility.

## The scope of the Policy

The Kenya Youth Development Policy applies to national and county government, all state organs, state and public officers, the private sector, non-state actors and development partners, youth organization, youth groups and individual youth.

* **Goal:** The overall goal of the policy is to promote youth participation in democratic processes as well as in community and civic affairs, and ensuring that youth programmes involve them and are youth-centered.
* **Objectives:** The objectives of the policy are:
1. To sensitize county policy makers on the need to identify and mainstream youth issues in county development
2. To emphasize, support and partner with positive and effective initiatives and programmes set up by associations, no-profits groups that help the youth to fulfill their expectations and meet their needs
3. To create proper conditions for the youth to empower themselves and exploit their Potential
4. To identify ways of empowering the youth.
5. To promote a culture of volunteerism among the youth by coming up with well stipulated guidelines
6. To explore and suggest ways of engaging the youth in the process of economic development
7. To identify constraints that hinder the Lamu county youth from realizing their potential
8. To propose ways of mentoring the youth to be just and morally upright citizens
9. To promote honest hard work and productivity among the youth.
* **Vision:** Our vision is to see a society where the youth are empowered and play an active role in shaping their future.
* **Mission:** Our mission is to engage, nurture and develop the youth of Lamu to be confident, responsible and productive citizens who contribute to the growth and development of our society.

## The Youth Policy Development Process

In developing its youth policy, the county government of Lamu has engaged various stakeholders to ensure that all voices are heard and that the policy is broad-based. The process of developing the policy began in 2015 and involved a wide range of stakeholders. The process began with a stakeholder consultation forum which brought together representatives from the national government, the county government, civil society, the private sector, and the youth themselves. The forum provided an opportunity for all stakeholders to share their views on the challenges facing young people in the county and to identify potential solutions. Following the consultation forum, a draft youth policy was developed and circulated for feedback. The draft policy was then revised based on the feedback received and was approved by the county assembly in 2016. The youth policy sets out the county government’s commitment to promoting the rights and welfare of young people. It also outlines the county government’s plans for improving access to education, employment, and other opportunities for young people. The policy is currently being implemented through a number of initiatives, including the establishment of a county youth fund and the development of a county youth empowerment strategy.

## Alignment of the Youth Policy

This entails the process and strategies of refinement, iteration, clarification and communication during the development and following the adoption of a new policy or set of policies.

## Organization of the Policy document

The Lamu Youth Policy is a document that provides guidance on how the County Government of Lamu will mainstream youth in its development agenda. The Policy is premised on the recognition of the role of young people in national development and their immense potential in driving change and spearheading growth and transformation in the County. The Policy is also informed by the need to create an enabling environment that will unlock the potential of young people and allow them to meaningfully contribute to the development of Lamu.

The Lamu Youth Policy is organized into four main sections:

1. Introduction

2. The County Government of Lamu’s Vision for Youth

3. The County Government of Lamu’s Approach to Mainstreaming Youth

4. Implementation of the Lamu Youth Policy.

The Introduction provides an overview of the Lamu Youth Policy. It sets out the context within which the Policy was developed and provides an overview of the Policy’s key objectives.

The County Government of Lamu’s Vision for Youth sets out the County Government’s vision for youth in Lamu. The County Government envisions a Lamu where young people are empowered to reach their full potential and contribute to the County.

**CHAPTER TWO**

# SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

## Introduction

This Policy is important in achieving the aspirations of Lamu County and in particular the Kenya Vision 2030. The Policy is written in the context of the Constitution of Kenya (2010) existing sectorial policies and national and county development plans.

## County Situation of the Youth

An overview of youth potential and achievements

Lamu County has a generally youthful population. In the political sphere, the youth constituted 51 per cent of registered voters in 2017 elections as compared with 46 per cent in 2013. In the economic sphere, youth are the counties major human resource. They present an opportunity to accelerate economic growth when engaged productively. Their potential is also in education, skills, technology, energy, creativity and innovation are limitless. In the social sphere, inclusive access to social amenities by the youth improved over time but was not equitably distributed and those available are not youth friendly.

##  Youth Categories

### **Dimensions of Youth Profile in the County**

This Policy recognizes the categories of the youth as listed below, while being cognizant of their unique diversity, expectations, challenges and opportunities. These are:

1. Male and female;
2. Educated and uneducated;
3. Formally trained and informally trained;
4. Rural and urban residents;
5. In-school and out-of-school;
6. Adolescents and young adults;
7. Physically challenged and able-bodied;
8. Economically engaged or not;
9. Skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled;
10. Islands and mainland youth
11. Unemployed youth

### **Target Youth Policy Audiences**

All the youth below 35 years residing in Lamu county, parents and guardians, teachers and educators, local community leaders and government officials.

## An overview of youth opportunities and potential in the county

Lamu County provides greater opportunities to the youth and there is a great potential for the youth to benefit in the future. Apart from the normal program, lapset project and the awakening of the blue economies, chances of youth employment are good.

The county government as its expanding has many employment chances either for skilled or manual labor.

The county tourism initiatives like Lamu culture provide talents, entrepreneurship and all categories of employments. The good road and the presence of Manda port, Lamu connects well with its neighbor thereby increasing investment and tourism opportunities.

There is more room to youth to explore the ever present Lamu potential in aquatic sports, archeological excavation, eco-tourism and exploitation of the rich cultural heritage Lamu County has.

With their numbers, the youth when rightly mobilize can nor only take the county assembly but has a potential to run the county executive.

## Challenges affecting the various categories of youth in the county

Although the youth present a potential resource that can make contribution to national development; in their current state, the youth experience various challenges. The following are the challenges identified as affecting the youth that this policy seeks to address. These and other emerging challenges through a series of strategies have already been identified. Stakeholders will also be key in this process as they are the gatekeepers in the lives of the youth.

1. **The labor market;**
2. The challenge of youth unemployment;
3. Youth underemployment;
4. The challenge of vulnerable employment i.e. the gulf,
5. working poor youth;
6. The challenge of high levels of youth inactivity;
7. Youth labor migration
8. Lack of proper documentation especially on skilled labor
9. Skills shortages in the ICT labor market.
10. **Access to resources;**
11. Lack of collaterals and bureaucracies in accessing loans;
12. Health related challenges;
13. Skills mis-match;
14. The challenge of out-of-school youth;
15. Low youth participation in agricultural economic activities.
16. **Social issues;**
17. Oppressive culture practices
18. radicalization
19. Early and unintended pregnancies;
20. Crime and defiant behavior; and
21. The challenge of drugs uses and substance abuse.
22. **Societal environment;**
23. Limited participation in economic and political spheres;
24. Lack of safe public spaces;
25. The challenge of limited access to information and communication technology (ICT);
26. Cyber-crime;
27. Sexual and gender-based violence;
28. Challenge of weak values among youth; and
29. Climatic conditions

## County Youth Interventions and Achievements

### **Youth interventions**

With the challenges affecting the youth, the county has enacted legislation and legal framework that can ease catapult the youth to good position. These interventions are both on national and county levels

**2.6.1.1 National Intervention**

* Some of these interventions include the overarching Kenya Vision 2030 and its associated Medium Term Plans (MTPs); the Sector Plans; the Constitution of Kenya (2010), Devolution and the Big 4 Agenda.
* National Youth Policy, Sessional Paper No. 3 of July 2007 was to provide policy framework for addressing issues affecting the youth, notably employment creation, health, education, sports, and recreation, environment, art and culture, partnership and empowerment.
* The Kenya Youth Development Policy (KYDP) (2019) is part of the Government policy commitment for a greater cohesive society, equitable, inclusive and participatory economic and social process for sustainable development.

**2.6.1.2 Lamu County intervention.**

Passing legislation and developing policies on youth development. The Kenya Youth Development Policy (2019) therefore recognizes and draws its framework from supremacy of the Constitution of Kenya (2010), which underscores the importance of youth in national development. These institutional frameworks include the following;

* The Lamu County department provides information on bursaries and scholarships to those in need and is responsible for the promotion of education standards in the county.
* The county address gender discrepancy in various aspects in the county and make deliberate effort to bring parity by providing forums or programs that the youth to participate in political, economic and social activities e.g. peace building, youth and women enterprise fund.
* In sports and talent, the county promotes all kinds of sporting activities so as to address the needs of the youth in the county. Talent development and talent identification is also the responsibility of the county.

### **Achievements**

1. Signed memorandum with Aga Khan Foundation, GIZ, NACONEK (National Council for Nomadic Kenya) under social economic empowerment program for youth to impact skills which will result to self-reliance.
2. Sponsored 139 youth into tertiary courses like plumbing, electrical, building and constructions thus empowering them to get jobs.
3. Supporting youth oriented activities and building infrastructures like social hall for identification and promoting talent

## Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis

This analysis allows strategic planning of youth development agenda and able to focus on the goals of inclusivity of youth in the county strategic planning.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Strengths** | **Weaknesses** |
| 1. Youth comprises more than half of Lamu population
2. Good engagement and support from the county and its development partners
3. Youth have good knowledge in ICT.
4. Energy, creativity and dynamism
5. Entrepreneurship attitude
 | 1. Weak institutional, legal and social policy framework that deliberately addresses youth centered issues
2. Lack of resources to promote county youth agenda
3. Lack of data for proper planning on youth engagement and participation
4. Lack of capacity development structures
5. Lack of industries to provide employment
6. Lack of enough trained workforce
 |
| **Opportunities** | **Threats** |
| 1. Great untapped economies that the youth can engage e.g. blue economies, archeology and ICT infrastructure
2. Bursaries to help in education and training of skilled labor
3. Expansion of ICT industry as the next development infrastructure tool
4. The laps set program
5. Support of the county government
6. More NGO and charity organization willing to work in Lamu
7. Existence of god infrastructure port, airport and roads opens up lamu to the other regions
 | 1. Cultural practices
2. Radicalization
3. Climate change
4. Limited funding for youth
5. Political interference in youth programs and activities
6. Low youth perception
7. Duplication of youth oriented activities in different county departments create confusion
 |

**CHAPTER THREE**

# YOUTH POLICY FRAMEWORK

## Introduction

The Lamu County Youth Policy Framework seeks to provide a comprehensive and coordinated approach to addressing the needs of the county’s youth. The policy sets out the county government’s commitment to promoting the well-being of all young people in Lamu, regardless of their background or circumstances. The policy has four main objectives:

* 1. To promote the inclusion of youth in all aspects of county planning and decision-making.
	2. To ensure that all young people have access to quality education, training and employment opportunities.
	3. To reduce the incidence of crime and violence among young people.
	4. To create an enabling environment for youth-led initiatives and entrepreneurship.

## Vision, Mission, Rallying call and Values

**Vision:** Our vision is to see a society where the youth are empowered and play an active role in shaping their future.

**Mission:** Our mission is to engage, nurture and develop the youth of Lamu to be confident, responsible and productive citizens who contribute to the growth and development of our society.

**Rallying call:** Our rallying call is for the youth to stand up and be counted! We must be the change that we want to see in our society.

**Values:** Our values are: honesty, integrity, hard work, determination, resilience, and respect for others.

## Youth Policy Objectives, Priority areas, Measures/Strategies and Interventions

### **Youth Policy Objectives**

Lamu’s youth policy is in line with the National Youth Policy (NYP) and the areas highlighted in the NYP are also relevant to our County, specifically the following areas:

1. Youth in employment,
2. Youth in education,
3. Youth in sports and recreation,
4. Youth in leadership and governance,
5. Youth in social transformation and
6. Youth in peace and security.

The NYP also recognises the inherent diversity of Kenya’s youth and therefore advocates for a comprehensive approach to the implementation of its mandate.

The NYP recognises that the youth are the future leaders and therefore their development is an important undertaking. It is important to develops the youth holistically.

The NYP recognises that youth must be adequately prepared for the challenges of employment and self-employment.

The NYP advocates for the development of a Youth Enterprise Fund to support youth in developing enterprises.

The NYP recognises that Kenya’s youth are the most.

### **Youth Policy Statements; Youth Priority Areas; Measures/Strategies; Respective Interventions**

The priority areas for youth policy in Lamu are:

1. Promote access to quality and affordable education for all young people.
2. Enhance access to quality and affordable health care services for all young people.
3. Promote access to quality and affordable housing for all young people.
4. Enhance access to quality and affordable transport for all young people.
5. Enhance access to quality and affordable information and communication technology (ICT) for all young people.
6. Promote access to quality and affordable recreation and leisure facilities for all young people.

The measures/strategies and interventions to achieve these objectives and priority areas include:

1. Establish a County Youth Fund to support youth empowerment initiatives.
2. Develop a County Youth Policy to guide youth empowerment initiatives.
3. Establish a County Youth Council to coordinate youth empowerment initiatives.
4. Support youth-led initiatives that promote peace and social cohesion.
5. Support youth-led initiatives that promote economic empowerment.
6. Support youth-led initiatives that promote environmental sustainability.

**CHAPTER FOUR**

# YOUTH POLICY COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

## Introduction

The Lamu Youth Policy Coordination and Implementation Framework is a tool for guiding and supporting the coordination and implementation of youth policy in Lamu. The framework provides an overview of the key areas of focus for youth policy and outlines the roles and responsibilities of various government agencies and other stakeholders in supporting the implementation of youth policy. The framework also identifies the key challenges and opportunities for youth policy implementation in Lamu and provides guidance on how to address these challenges.

## Implementation and Coordination mechanisms

The Lamu County Youth Policy will be implemented through a Coordinating Committee consisting of representatives from the County Government, the private sector, civil society, and youth-led organizations. The Committee will be responsible for developing and implementing programs and activities to support the County's youth policy objectives. The County Government will provide financial and technical support to the Coordinating Committee to ensure the successful implementation of the Youth Policy. The private sector and civil society organizations will also be expected to contribute resources to support the implementation of the policy. Youth-led organizations will play a key role in the implementation of the policy, through their involvement in the Coordinating Committee and their work on the ground in communities across the County.

## Enablers (ICT, transport, skills and development, making markets work etc)

The role of ICT, transport, skills and development in the Lamu County youth policy.

ICT can play a significant role in enabling the Lamu County youth policy by providing a platform for information dissemination and communication. It can also help in facilitating access to services and opportunities for the youth. In addition, ICT can help in developing the skills of the youth and making markets work for them.

Transport can help in facilitating the mobility of the youth and providing them with access to services and opportunities. It can also help in reducing the cost of living for the youth.

Skills development can help the youth in acquiring the skills and knowledge required for employment. It can also help in providing them with the opportunity to start their own businesses.

Making markets work for the youth can help in providing them with the necessary resources and support to start and grow their businesses. It can also help in creating employment opportunities for the youth.

## Flagships (Asks for County Government, National Government, private sector, non-state actors)

1. The County Government of Lamu has recognized the need for a comprehensive youth policy that will address the needs of the county's youth population. In order to develop such a policy, the County Government has sought input from various stakeholders, including the private sector, non-state actors, and the national government.

2. The County Government of Lamu is committed to working with all stakeholders to develop a comprehensive youth policy that will address the needs of the county's youth population.

3. The County Government of Lamu recognizes the importance of involving the private sector in the development and implementation of the youth policy.

4. The County Government of Lamu is committed to working with the private sector to ensure that the youth policy is responsive to the needs of the county's youth population.

5. The County Government of Lamu recognizes the importance of involving non-state actors in the development and implementation of the youth policy.

6. The County Government of Lamu is committed to working with non-state actors to ensure that the youth policy is responsive to the needs of the county's youth population.

## Resource Mobilization and Financing of the Policy

The interventions and initiatives identified in this Policy shall be supported through mobilization of monetary and non-monetary resources from National Government, County Governments, private sector, development partners, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), Faith Based organizations (FBOs), communities and individuals, among other stakeholders. All funding sources and strategies will be required to balance between the short and long term goals. The ultimate goal will be to create empowered youth and promote intergenerational equity. Consequently:

1. The achievement of the objectives of this policy framework is pegged on an effective mobilization of resources;
2. The National and County governments with support from non-state actors shall be responsible for the provision of adequate resources for the implementation of this policy;
3. The Ministry in charge of youth at County level shall be responsible for mobilizing both human and material resources to ensure that the policy framework is adequately and sufficiently implemented;
4. Government, through the Ministry in charge of youth shall mobilize community support, as well as support in cash and kind from non-state actors in the country towards implementation of the Policy; and
5. Government shall also mobilize external support, both financial and technical in a bid to ensure effective and efficient implementation of this Policy framework

The ministry in-charge of Youth Affairs at the county shall coordinate the youth initiatives. This will also include management of related data and information for effective sharing with all stakeholder at various levels.

The Policy implementation mechanism will be operationalized through annual action plans detailing: policy priorities, key actions, indicators, timelines, responsibility, and estimated budgets. The Government shall allocate a minimum of 1 percent of Annual Budget to youth programs, projects and activities.

## Implementation matrix

The Lamu County Youth Policy seeks to mainstream youth issues in all County Government activities and to ensure that the needs of the youth are taken into account in all sectoral policies. The policy also seeks to create an enabling environment for the active participation of the youth in the political, social, economic and cultural life of the County. In order to implement the policy, the County Government will put in place structures and systems to mainstream youth issues at all levels. The County Youth Office will be responsible for mainstreaming youth issues in all County Government departments. The County Youth Board will be established to provide oversight on the implementation of the youth policy and to coordinate all youth-related activities in the County. The County Government will also put in place financial and institutional mechanisms to support the implementation of the youth policy. A County Youth Fund will be established to finance youth-related activities. The County Government will also provide seed funding to youth-led initiatives. The County Government will also create linkages with national and international youth organizations to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and expertise.

## Roles of stakeholders

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **S/No** | **Stakeholders** | **Roles** |
|  | Policy makers | Creating opportunities for youth to access quality education and training, as well as decent livelihoods.Create an enabling environment for youth to exercise their civic rights and responsibilities.Supporting the implementation of youth-friendly policies and programs. |
|  | Educators | Help to develop and implement policies and programs that are designed to meet the needs of Lamu County youth. Serve as advocates for Lamu County youth, and work to ensure that their rights are respected and that they have access to quality education and other opportunities. |
|  | Parents  | 1. Participating in community consultations on youth policy: Parents can participate in community consultations on youth policy, to ensure that the voices of young people are heard and that their needs are taken into account. 2. Serving on youth policy development committees: Parents can serve on youth policy development committees to help shape the direction of youth policy in Lamu County. 3. Advocating for youth policy changes: Parents can advocate for changes to youth policy, based on their own experiences and the needs of their children. 4. Supporting implementation of youth policy: Parents can support the implementation of youth policy by providing feedback on how it is working in practice, and by encouraging their children to participate in youth-led initiatives. |
|  | Community leaders | Providing guidance and support to youth, advocating for their needs and rights, and working to create opportunities for their growth and development. Promoting positive youth development through prevention and early intervention initiatives. |
|  | Employers  | 1. Providing opportunities for young people to gain skills and experience through internships, apprenticeships, and other workforce development programs; 2. Supporting and participating in youth-led initiatives that promote positive youth development and community engagement; 3. Advocate for policies and programs that invest in the future of young people and their communities; 4. Collaborating with other stakeholders to create positive environments for young people to thrive. |
|  | Youths  | 1. To develop and implement policies and programs that will engage youths in positive and productive activities. 2. To create awareness on the importance of youths participation in policy and decision making processes. 3. To promote and support the establishment of youth-led and youth-focused organizations. 4. To provide financial and technical assistance to youth-led and youth-focused organizations. 5. To monitor and evaluate the progress of youths in Lamu County. |

**CHAPTER FIVE**

#  MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING

## Introduction

The Lamu County Youth Policy shall be reviewed every five years. The review will examine progress made in achieving the indicators defined by the Plan of Action. The goals will be reviewed to ensure relevance to the situation of young people and ensure that its policies relating to young people are informed by accurate data on their situation and needs, and that the public has access to such data to enable it to participate in a meaningful fashion in the decision-making process.

To do this, the Lamu county government will establish a monitoring, evaluation and learning system to track progress and identify areas for improvement.

The system includes a range of indicators to track progress on the policy, including:

1. The number of young people accessing services
2. The number of young people participating in programs
3. The number of young people completing programs
4. The number of young people employed
5. The number of young people starting businesses

The system also includes mechanisms for feedback from young people, to ensure that their needs and concerns are being heard and addressed.

## Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework

The Lamu County Youth Development Policy sets out the vision, principles, and goals for youth development in Lamu County. It provides a framework for government, civil society, and the private sector to work together to support the development of Lamu’s youth.

The policy includes a commitment to monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) in order to track progress and ensure that the policy is achieving its objectives. The MEL system will include indicators to track progress on the policy goals, as well as specific actions to be taken in order to improve policy implementation and outcomes. The indicators will include;

1. Youth policy formulation and implementation.

2. Inclusion of youth in governance.

3. Social and economic inclusion of youth in policy and programing Integrating youth into community development Youth participation in service delivery

4. Youth participation in advocacy

5. Youth participation in collective decision making

6. Institutional capacity building for youth social protection and safety

7. Reduced youth unemployment and underemployment

8. Access to information on sexual and reproductive health.

9. Access to financial services and support.

10. Access to land and housing

11. Access to clean water, sanitation and health services

12. Access to business support services and mentorship

13. Access to energy services.

The MEL system will be used to inform decision-making at all levels, and to ensure that the Lamu County Youth Development Policy is responsive to the needs of Lamu’s youth.

Data collection, dissemination of information, research and policy studies, inter-organizational coordination and technical cooperation, training seminars and advisory services are among the measures which can be provided on request at the regional level to promote, implement and evaluate youth programs. The county shall establish a multi-sectoral standing committee and empower it to continuously monitor the implementation of the Lamu Youth Policy. The Committee will report to the chief officer Youth, Gender, sports and cultural affairs.

**CHAPTER SIX**

#  COMMUNICATION, PUBLICITY AND INFORMATION

## Introduction

Communication and publicity in Lamu county will determine how information will be shared both internally and externally. This will play a big role in reaching different audiences by use of formal and informal communication. The process of publicity of information will increase the chances of reaching different stakeholders both internally and externally.

## Communication channels (radio, TV, local language, barazas)

Having a communication plan in Lamu county will enable passage of information easily to different audience without much efforts making it more efficient and effective. The team shall use both written and oral communication channels to fit all the audience in the county which include youth, people with disabilities, literate and semi-literate youth, rural and people in the urban and informal settlements
The below channels of communication shall be used:

1. **Radios**- The Ministry of communication in Lamu county will develop Local radio stations and encourage both literate, semi illiterate youth and people in the rural and informal settlements to listen and get current information about the county.
2. **Televisions**-The Chairperson in charge of Communication in Lamu County together with the youth team shall collaborate with TV stations to publish news and encourage people especially in the Urban settlements to watch and be informed about the current trends.
3. **Barazas**- The Chairperson of communication in Lamu county shall collaborate with the community Elders to organize barazas for the rural people and use the local language to pass information effectively.
4. **Local Language** -The Ministry of communication in Lamu county shall collaborate with youth Leaders in all communities and share relevant information about the trends in the county which will enable them spread to the people in the Rural and informal settlements. The head of communication in Lamu County will also collaborate with Radio stations to share information in local languages and encourage youth, and people in the rural areas to listen.

## Publicity and Policy Information Sharing

The Chairperson in charge of youth in Lamu County together with the team shall come up with mechanisms using formal communications which include both written and oral and informal channels in communicating the policy to the relevant stakeholders externally. The team shall also use electronic media that is; televisions, radios and social media to share the policy to the relevant teams both internally and externally. This will facilitate the building of youths Policy and the roles in implementation, monitoring and evaluation and impact assessment. Thereafter, The Ministry in charge of youth will facilitate the communication of results for youth interventions annually and develop an Annual Presidential Report on The Status of the county.

## Policy Review

The policy will be reviewed regularly by the County government of Lamu county giving cognizance to the dynamic nature of issues that affect the youth, in terms of youth and sustainability development and empowerment. When need arises, the team will take in account ways on how to implement relevant dynamics in socioeconomic environment and development priorities that will be favorable to youth in Lamu county.

# CONCLUSION

Based on the information provided, it is clear that the Lamu County Youth Policy is designed to improve the overall well-being of youth in the county. The policy focuses on various areas such as education, health, employment, and social welfare. While the policy is comprehensive, it is important to note that its implementation will require the support of various stakeholders. In particular, the government will need to provide adequate resources to ensure that the policy is effectively implemented. Furthermore, civil society organizations will need to play a role in supporting and monitoring the implementation of the policy.

# Annex 1: Implementation matrix

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| --- | --- |
| Objective 1:Outcome 1: |  |
| Strategies | Activities | Outputs | Key performance Indicators | Timelines2023-2027 | Budget (2023-2027) | Responsibility |
| **Youth empowerment** and participation in all processes of national development and all structures of decision making. | -Organize joint sports, culture trade fairs for all youth groups.-Develop a database with integrated information system on youth groups.-Promote best practices among all YSOs, CBOs and youth groups. | -Report on youth groups.-Integrative information system on youth issues. | -Number of youths benefitting on this groups.Updated database to track youth affairs.-Youth participation in culture, sports, fair and art. | Starting January 2023 continuous. | 8 million | Youth groups, county governments, C.B.Os, NYC, YSOs, human resource, finance. |
| **Youth education and training**-To improve the quality of training programs and improve transition within the education system, thus providing quality affordable and accessible formal and non-formal education.-Equip youth with relevant skills, knowledge and attitude for labour market. | -Create database of all training and learning institutions and the programs they offer -Incorporate training on basic job skills and entrepreneur skills in training.-Expand loan and bursary scheme to cover students in tertiary institutions.-Free meal and free education in all ECD institutions with in the county. | -Youths to be trained on areas relevant to the current job market.-Enhance the capacity of independent youth.-Improve access to education. | -Program audit report and recommendations implemented.-Database on training programs.-Number of youths reached and benefitting from the program. | Starting 2023 continuous | 33 million | Ministry of education, Ministry of sports, gender, culture and art, F.BO, NGOs, UNICEF, County governments. |
| **Youth and information**Establish communication and information channels for the youth. | -Establish county youth website on youth development and encourage youth to participate interactive forums, chart room to discuss youth issues.-Rationalize and establish county youth office and help desk.-Create information reliant networks among the youth partners with private sector and stakeholders to develop youth information centers in every ward. | -Development partners reached.-Improve access to information by the youth.-Youth empowered with skills information and communication-Enlighten and sensitized youths. | -Number of functional youth information centers.-Effective information, education and communication services to the youth.-Number of IEC material or tools created and implemented.-Number of percentage of youth reached. | Starting January 2023-2024 | 12 million | NGO, NYC, civil society, Ministry of education, private sector and other stakeholders, human and finance resources, technical support. |
| **Youth and environment**-To increase participation of the youth in the protection, preservation, conservation and improvement of the environment.-Increase awareness amongst the youth on environmental issues.-Promotion of climate changePromotion of agricultural services. | -Mobilize, sensitize register youth organizations and network them for effective participation.-Formation of 4K Club and Young Farmers Club and out of school youth environmental organization.-Collaborate with NEMA and other stakeholders for forestry improvement.-Increased tree planting.-Training the youth and YSO in innovative forms of agriculture e.g. hydroponics. | -Set aside knowledge on modernized agriculture and agricultural value chain.-Increased agribusiness activities.-Increased awareness on conservation amongst the youth.-Increased innovation in environmental management.-Better informed youth on environmental issues and legislation.-Increased knowledge on climate change activities. | -Number of youths involved in environmental projects.-Number of schools actively promoting Young Farmers Club and youths participating.-Number of programs related to climate change. | Starting April 2023-2024 | 15 million | NEMA, civil society, climate change county committee, NGO, CBO, FBO,UNEP, schools, UN-HABITAT, barazas, learning institutions, ministry of education, NARIGP, ASSDP |
| **Youth and health**-Contribute to reduce the rate of HIV/AIDS and STD infections among the youth.-Improve mental and psychological health among the youth.-Improve youth participation in provision of community health services.-Communication on youth health issues. | -Train peer educators on counseling skills on HIV and AIDS to educate the youth.-Encourage socialization, peer counseling and guidance on matters of mental health thus conducting community based campaigns.-Train youth in basic health.Incorporate the youths in community health campaigns. | -Reduce rate of HIV AIDS among the youth.-Active participation by the youth in HIV and AIDS, community health programs.-Care and support services for infected and affected youth mostly mental issues.-Increased information and knowledge on health among the youth. | -Number and percentage of youths visiting VCT centers.-Inclusion of more CHVs to be youths.-Number of peer educators trained.-Number of community based campaigns held and number of youths in attendance.-Number of youths benefitting and programs initiated. | Starting January 2023 continuous | 30 million | Technical support, NGO, FBO, CBO, Youth Service Organizations, county government, ministry of health, human and finance resources. |
| **Youth crime and drugs**-Promote research in crime, drug and substance abuse among the youth.-Promote and establish home and community based welfare programs to address the needs of youths addicted to drugs.-To promote justice, security and safety of the youth. | -Conduct baseline survey in crime, drugs and substance among the youths.-Involving relevant agencies and stakeholders.-Initiate and establish programs and projects that reduce drug and substance.-Establishing, identifying centers of advocacy. | -Data on crimes, drugs and substance abuse.-Empowerment programs initiated.-Rehabilitation centers establishment.-Establishment of guidance and counseling units.Area mapped.Support systems. | -Data bank to be created on crimes, drugs and substance abuse among the youth.-Number of workshops and seminars held.-Number of empowered programs enhanced. | Starting January 2023 continuous | 10 million | Youth groups, NACADA, USAID, CBO,FBO,NGO, UNICEF, media, County government, ministry of health, barazas. |