

**Isiolo YOUTH POLICY DOCUMENT**

**ISIOLO COUNTY**

**THEME:**

December 12, 2022

Isiolo

Isiolo County

*‘Laying the foundation for the emancipation of Isiolo youths towards prosperity’*

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Isiolo County Youth Policy seeks to provide an opportunity for improving the quality of life for the youth of Isiolo through their participation in economic and democratic processes as well as in community and civic affairs. It also advocates for the creation of a supportive social, cultural, economic and political environment that will empower the youth to be partners on County development.

In summary the Policy provides a detailed account of various aspects, key of which are highlighted below:

*Targeted Youth by the Policy*

This policy targets youth in Isiolo County regardless of their social economic status, education background, health, disability, sexual orientation, faith, race and political affiliation with special attention to marginalized groups of youth because of their specific needs. These special groups include: Youth living with disabilities, the boy child and the girl child, Unemployed, under employed, and self-employed, Youth in learning institutions, Youth living with HIV&AIDS, Youth living in informal settlements and streets, Incarcerated Youths

*Youth Challenges, Strengths and Opportunities*

The policy covers that the youth of Isiolo should have a positive component. Therefore, it highlights the challenges, opportunities and opportunities the youth are facing.

*Priority Areas for the Policy*

The policy has articulated the youth empowerment and development priorities within the Kenyan context. The priorities that shall direct programmes and activities are:

1. **Employment opportunities**
2. **Skills development and training**
3. **Education**
4. **Leadership, participation and representation**
5. **Sports, culture, arts and music**
6. ICT and Innovation
7. Health, Nutrition and Wellbeing
8. Youth Enterprise
9. Sustainable Environmental Management
10. **Crime and Peacebuilding**
11. **Drugs and Substance abuse**

Under each of the mentioned priorities, several interventions have been provided to mitigate and transform the youth to improve their well-being.

*Policy Coordination, Implementation, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Mechanisms*

The Policy provides a well-defined mechanism that will implement, coordinate, monitor, evaluate and report on youth empowerment and development interventions. The mechanism will include like-minded stakeholders, thematic working groups, and the Department responsible for Youth Affairs in the county. Each of the players shall be assigned specific roles to play.

Contents

[EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 1](#_Toc121246730)

[ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS 5](#_Toc121246731)

[1 INTRODUCTION 6](#_Toc121246732)

[1.1 Rationale for the county Youth Policy 7](#_Toc121246733)

[1.2 The scope of the Policy 8](#_Toc121246734)

[1.3 Rights, Obligations and responsibilities of the Youth 8](#_Toc121246735)

[1.4 Guiding Principles for the Youth Policy 10](#_Toc121246736)

[1.5 Alignment of the Youth Policy 11](#_Toc121246737)

[2. SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS 15](#_Toc121246738)

[2.1 Introduction 15](#_Toc121246739)

[2.2 County Situation of the Youth 15](#_Toc121246740)

[2.3 Youth Categories 16](#_Toc121246741)

[2.3.1 Dimensions of Youth Profile in the County 16](#_Toc121246742)

[2.3.2 Target Youth Policy Audiences 17](#_Toc121246743)

[*Youth in learning institutions* 19](#_Toc121246744)

[2.4 An overview of youth opportunities and potential in the county 20](#_Toc121246745)

[2.5 Challenges affecting the various categories of youth in the county 23](#_Toc121246746)

[2.6 County Youth Interventions and Achievements 29](#_Toc121246747)

[*2.6.1 Youth interventions* 29](#_Toc121246748)

[*2.6.2 Achievements* 30](#_Toc121246749)

[2.7 STREGHTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS(SWOT). 32](#_Toc121246750)

[3.1 Introduction 36](#_Toc121246751)

[3.2 Vision, Mission, Rallying call and values 36](#_Toc121246752)

[3.3 Youth policy objectives, priority areas, measures, and interventions 38](#_Toc121246753)

[3.3.1 Youth policy objectives 38](#_Toc121246754)

[3.3.2 Priority areas, measures, and interventions 39](#_Toc121246755)

[4.1 Introduction 47](#_Toc121246756)

[4.2 Implementation and Coordination mechanisms 47](#_Toc121246757)

[4.3 Enablers (ICT, transport, skills and development, making markets work etc.) 48](#_Toc121246758)

[4.6 Implementation matrix 58](#_Toc121246759)

[4.7 Role of stakeholders 61](#_Toc121246760)

[​​​​​​​5.MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING 69](#_Toc121246761)

[​​​​​​​5.1 *Introduction* 69](#_Toc121246762)

[​​​​​​​5.2 *Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework* 69](#_Toc121246763)

[6. COMMUNICATION, PUBLICITY AND INFORMATION 72](#_Toc121246764)

[​​​​​​​6.1 *Introduction* 72](#_Toc121246765)

[​​​​​​​6.2. *Communication channels (radio, TV, local language, barazas)* 72](#_Toc121246766)

[​​​​​​​6.3 *Publicity and Policy Information Sharing* 75](#_Toc121246767)

[6.4 Policy review 77](#_Toc121246768)

[7.0 CONCLUSION 78](#_Toc121246769)

# ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

ADP - Annual Development Plan

AGPO - Access to Government Procurement Opportunities

AIDS - Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome

CIDP - County Integrated Development Plan

HIV - Human Immunodeficiency Virus

ICT - Information and Communication Technology

ICG - Isiolo County Government

IYIC - Isiolo Youth Innovation Centre

KSG - Kenya School of Government

KYEP - Kenya Youth Empowerment Programme

NACADA - National Authority for the Campaign against Alcohol and Drug Abuse

NYC - National Youth Council

PWDs - Persons with Disability

PCVE - Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism

SDGs - Sustainable Development Goals

SRHR - Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights

UNDP - United Nations Development Programme

**CHAPTER ONE**

# ****1 INTRODUCTION****

There are many definitions of who the youth are with respect to their age. As examples, the United Nations (UN) defines the youth as any person between age 15 and 24 while the African Union (AU) in its youth charter defines the youth as any individual between 15 to 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”.

This Policy adopts the Constitution of Kenya definition. In Kenya, the youth aged 18 to 34 years were estimated at 35 per cent1 of the total population in 2015/16, and represented 55 per cent of the labor force. This share of potentially productive workforce needs to be fully harnessed and optimized to contribute to the country’s development. This can be partly achieved through including the youth in the design, planning and implementation of programmes 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 country's social, economic and political affairs. The highest rates of labor underutilization are often observed among the youth and many continue to suffer from low education attainment, lack of access to facilities, skills deficits, poor health; and lack of sufficient economic empowerment among out of school youth. In addition, youth with specific needs require enhanced attention including those living on the streets and in informal settlements, those living with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), the girls and women, incarcerated youth, migrant youth, the disadvantaged boy child and those with disabilities.

The youth face emerging social-economic and political issues that would require judicious management owing to their potential in affecting or influencing this age cohort including: the role of youth in national cohesion, peace building and conflict resolution efforts; youth radicalization, and the growing influence of Information Communication Technology (ICT) development.

## ****1.1 Rationale for the county Youth Policy****

Governments all over the world need different frameworks of engagements with the public. The County Government of Isiolo being cognizant of the large number of youths in Isiolo County and the need to engage with this constituency, saw it fit to develop this policy to guide the County engagement with the youth especially since the future of the county is largely dependent on the preparedness, skills, and qualifications of the youth to move the county and the country forward. The policy thus gives an overarching framework for implementation of youth programs and activities in the county of Isiolo. Implementation of this policy will rely heavily on partnerships developed and nurtured over time between the Isiolo and youth stakeholders present in the county. The policy will thus be a key reference point for both state and non-state actors willing to partner with the county government of Isiolo in execution of youth programs and projects. This will help in aligning youth work implemented by youth stakeholders with the County’s programmes and thus avoid duplication of efforts between partners and Isiolo County, a situation that was the norm in the past. The policy also provides a mechanism through which the youth of Isiolo can audit the performance of the county as far as youth development is concerned and ensure accountability. It is important for the County to be open in its dealing with the youth and this policy provides a monitoring and evaluation framework which the Isiolo Youth and other Youth Stakeholders can use to monitor the implementation of youth programmes in the county and even develop a scorecard of the County for the same. Finally, this policy also provides avenues through which partners and stakeholders interested in youth development in the county can find their niche and support in the implementation of the programs and activities as outlined.

## ****1.2 The scope of the Policy****

•    Goal: To promote the holistic empowerment and participation of the youth of Nairobi in socio-economic and political spheres for the County’s development.

•    Objectives: To mainstream youth issues in all sectors of the County development within the public private sectors and civil society organizations.

•    Vision: To have a society where youth have equal and supportive opportunities to realize their fullest potential by participating in democratic, economic, social, cultural, and religious life without any hindrance.

•    Mission: The values given emphasis in the policy are Patriotism, respect of cultural belief systems and ethical values, equity and accessibility, gender inclusiveness, participation, integrity, and accountability.

## ****1.3 Rights, Obligations and responsibilities of the Youth****

The Policy recognizes youth-hood as a period of transition and vulnerability when the youth must undergo learning, going to work, staying healthy and safe, forming families, and exercising citizenship. It also recognizes the importance of youth to enjoy their youthfulness respectful of social status, ethnic origin and sex. These rights as stipulated in Chapter 4 of The Kenyan Constitution 2010 in Articles 10, 27, 55, 100 which are:

I. Good Health

ii. Right to life

iii. Quality Education

iv. Marriage at the legal age of consent

v. Freedom of speech, expression and association

vi. Protection from social, economic and political manipulation.

vii. Seek decent and fulfilling employment

viii. Adequate shelter, food clothing and basic services

ix. Protection from harmful conditions, cultural practices and exploitation.

x. Ownership, secure tenure and protection of property

xi. Participate in making decisions that affect their lives

xii. Protection from abuse, sexual exploitation, and trafficking

*Responsibilities of the Youth*

The Policy seeks not only to safeguard the rights of the youth, but also help them to understand and fulfil their responsibilities for the development of society. Towards this goal, the responsibilities and obligations of the youth have been identified as follows:

1. Be Patriotic and loyal to Kenya and promote the country’s well-being

 ii. Contribute to socioeconomic development at all levels, including through volunteerism

 iii. Create and promote respect for humanity, sustain peaceful coexistence, national unity and stability

 iv. Protect the environment v. Help to support and protect those who are disadvantaged and vulnerable

vi. Promote democracy and the rule of the law

 vii. Take advantage of available education and training opportunities

 viii. Develop a positive attitude towards work and entrepreneurship

 ix. Lead healthy lifestyles and shun harmful/negative habits like gambling, misuse of social media, drugs use and substance abuse

 x. Avoid indulging in careless and irresponsible sex and risky sexual behavior.

## ****1.4 Guiding Principles for the Youth Policy****

Isiolo youth policy aims to complement and underpin the gains made under Kenya youth development policy (2019), that continues to cultivate an enabling environment for young people to prosper and grow. This tool will henceforth lay the foundation of identifying, prioritizing, and to proffer best practices in mitigating issues impacting on youth in Isiolo county. The county government shall play a key role in developing strategies to actualize and offer a space for policy formulation that is friendly to young people. The constitution of Kenya 2010 provides a bold path for youth to uphold principles of good citizenship by upholding tenets of national values and patriotism. These principles aim to establish a resounding environment for young people in Isiolo to be heard and appreciated on issues that affect them.

   I. Partnership: all actors including non-governmental entities and private stakeholders shall strive to collaborate and unite in responding to needs of the youth in the county. This collaboration shall be aimed at providing guiding strategies for future engagement and development of long-term goals for youth in Isiolo.

   ii.Cohesion: the cosmopolitan and diverse face of youth shall be recognized and appreciated especially in their contribution to strengthening the social fabric of communities living in Isiolo.

  iii.Capacity building: young people shall be given required training, skills development and mentorship that is aimed at strengthening their potential to spur positive change and growth.

   iv. Pragmatism: Non-governmental organizations and community actors shall develop policies and plans that are responsive, realistic and approachable to resolving issues affecting young people in Isiolo county.

    v. Access to information: young people shall be availed with initiatives that timely relay vital information and opportunities aimed at fostering their career growth and nurturing technical skills needed for societal development.

   vi. Accountability: Organizations’ and entities concerned with youth development should be administered in a transparent and evaluable manner that satisfies aspirations of young people in Isiolo.

  vii. Inclusivity: young people should be drivers and enablers of their own destiny. Partners and actors shall collaborate to accommodate youth in planning and decision-making processes in spheres of economy, social structures, entrepreneurship and leadership.

## ****1.5 Alignment of the Youth Policy****

This policy mirrors the national law, the general rules of international law, treaties as ratified by Kenya and as well the sustainable development goals (SDG’s), Kenya vision 2030 and Africa Agenda 2063.Ranging from definition of terms, the affirmative actions to be put in place, opportunities in educational and economic fields, promotion of representations in parliament and county assembly draws heavily from the Constitution and enabling legislation thereto.

**The Constitution of Kenya 2010**

Article 2 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, provides that this Constitution is the supreme law of the land. Further article 2(5) and (6) respectively provides general rules of international law and as well any treaty ratified to form part of the law of Kenya. Article 260 provides for the definition of term youth as a collectivity of all individuals in the republic who have attained the age of 18 years but have not attained the age of 35.Article 55 states that the state shall take measures including affirmative action programs to ensure that the youth access relevant education and training ,have opportunities to associate ,be represented and participate in political, social, economic and other spheres of life, access employment and are protected from harmful cultural practices and exploitation. Articles 10 and 27 call for inclusivity, non- discrimination, equality and freedom from discrimination on the basis of age. Further, in addition, Article 100 and 177(c) call for affirmative action on representation of the youth.

**Acts of Parliament**

Consequently, there exists a National Youth Council established by National Youth Council Act (an Act of Parliament to establish the National Youth Council, to provide for its incorporation, powers and functions, and for connected purposes). Section 4 of the NYC Act provides for the Functions of the Council which include inter alia: to ensure effective coordination of youth related interventions and involvement of the youth in planning, monitoring and evaluation of youth interventions among others. to proceed to reflect the desires of the drafters of the Constitution and to have this policy achieve the congruence so intended both in words, letters and in spirit this policy heavily borrows from the sustainable development goals (SDGs), Africa Agenda 2063 and host of International legal instrument.

The aforementioned, individually and collectively lays a concrete foundation for this paper and/or policy, aimed at directly or indirectly contribute to the attainment of the foregoing. Suffice to add the significance of aligning this policy to the national legal and institutional framework cannot be over emphasized as enumerated in the Kenya vision 2030. The Vision envisages responsible, globally competitive and prosperous youth. Among the specific interventions under the vision are: establishment of youth centers, apprenticeship, mentorship, development of creative industry hubs and youth enterprise financing; and strengthening internships and industrial attachments to enhance employability across public and private sectors.

**Deliverables**

The above concerted legal, policy, planning and institutional development led to a more focused service delivery culminating to the following interventions:

i. Establishment of Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) in 2013 to specifically enable youth to do business with government where 30 percent of public procurement in the supply of goods and services in all ministries and departments are reserved for youth, women and persons with disabilities;

ii. Launch of the Marshall Plan for Youth Employment and Development in March, 2008. The plan focuses on creation of immediate and medium-term youth employment opportunities. The Kazi Kwa Vijana Program was the main initiative under this plan and it aimed to create 500,000 jobs per year for youth in rural and urban areas in labor-intensive public works projects implemented by various ministries;

iii. Increase in the annual intake of youth to over 20,000 annually between 2013 and 2016, for the National Youth Service through the 5-point Vision;

iv.  Implementation of the Kenya Youth Empowerment Programme (KYEP) between 2010 and 2016 by the Directorate of Youth Affairs. This was a pilot programme under the World Bank where 20,000 youth were trained and placed on internships to enhance employability;

 v.  The ongoing plan/intervention to train 280,000 youth between 2017 and 2022 through the Kenya Youth Employment and Opportunities Project (KYEOP) funded by the World Bank, and implemented by the Ministry of ICT, Innovation and Youth;

vi.  Ongoing initiatives to enhance access to finance. Since the inception of the affirmative funds encompassing the Uwezo Fund, Women Enterprise Fund and Youth Enterprise Development Fund; Hustler’s Fund

vii. The rollout of the Big Four Agenda in 2017.In this plan, the Government will focus and dedicate energy, time and resources over the 5-year period to: affordable housing; universal health care; manufacturing; and food and nutrition security. Investments in these sectors are likely to boost demand for labor and enhance youth employment and youth related services;

**Others**

Besides these domestic initiatives, the UN General Assembly in September 2015 adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that includes Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Building on the principle of “leaving no one behind”, the agenda 2030 emphasizes a holistic approach to achieving sustainable development for all. The agenda has its main objective as: eliminating poverty, making growth inclusive and sustainable, and ecosystems (including the climate) restored. At the global front, it is expected that the youth will be key in rolling out the SDGs by playing their role as: disruptive critical thinkers; creative change agents; innovators; communicators; educators; and leaders

**CHAPTER TWO**

# ****2. SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS****

## ****2.1 Introduction****

Situational analysis is a process that helps you identify opportunities and challenges that may influence a decision-making process or the functioning of an institution. This situational analysis will help us identify who the Isiolo youth are, what are their challenges and what interventions have been put in place to tackle their issues.

## ****2.2 County Situation of the Youth****

Article 260 of Kenya's constitution defines a youth as a person aged between eighteen (18) years and thirty-four (34) years. The best way to understand youth is as a time of transition from childhood dependence to adult freedom. Youth is therefore a more fluid category than other age groupings. The youth are Kenya’s power, wealth and innovation producing force. To properly prepare and empower Isiolo county youth to reach and realize their full potentials as well as to meet international commitments such as the African Union agenda (2063), the UNITED NATIONS STRATEGY for the Youth 2014 and the SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) deliberate and systematic effort is required to achieve vision 2030.

-The county government needs to engage youth in all sub-counties to understand their needs, incorporate their views in the county development plan and initiate project that will help youth generate income.

-Despite the steps made by the Isiolo county governments to promote the youths and ensure that they are not neglected in development plans, most female youth still feel that they have not been well represented especially in county employment.

-Awareness creation of existing youth opportunities in Isiolo county should be enhanced for the Youth to get information pertaining opportunities such as tenders, scholarships and sports. The county government also needs to look into other opportunities such as youth involvement in tree planting to boost forest cover in Isiolo county.

Youth bulges have become a global phenomenon and Isiolo County is no exception to this trend. Youth will remain the most abandoned assets in Isiolo county unless new strategies is generated to break that chain.

They have been neglected in such a way that after they are done with their education, they become jobless and as a result of depression they start abusing drugs and that culture continues to upcoming generations also, Isiolo County government should find ways of engaging youth in a productive manner by creating employment opportunities for them.

-Isiolo County Youth have some opportunities present in them for instance their creativity and innovativeness, their potential to become transformative, readiness to learn, their high affinity for networking and entrepreneurship, their ability to use and develop ICT and its applications. With all this combined they should be engaged in all affairs of the county as they will be resourceful and Isiolo County will be great.

## ****2.3 Youth Categories****

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

According to article 260 of the Kenyan constitution, a youth is a person between 18 years and 34 years of age. There are various categories of youth, including:

1. Youth living with disabilities
2. The boy child and the girl child
3. Unemployed, under employed, and self employed
4. Youth in learning institutions
5. Youth living with HIV&AIDS
6. Youth living in informal settlements and streets
7. Incarcerated Youths

This youth policy recognizes all the youths, the challenges they undergo, and need to provide equal opportunity for all them in Isiolo County. However, the policy affirms the diverse interests and needs. However, the policy identifies the following categories of youth with particular and special interests that require different responses.

### 2.3.2 Target Youth Policy Audiences

Youths with Disabilities

Disability leads to rejection, isolation and discrimination, therefore, hindering psychological & economic development. Yet, youth with disability require specific approach to ensure they are engaged in the society activities and growth.

Special measures should be put in place to address their needs adequately. There is a need to partner with the National Council for persons with disabilities (NCPD). NCPD has key areas and factors that should serve as a good guidance in dealing with youths with disabilities. Cash transfers for PWDs to support care givers for those with severe disability and skin care to those affected by albinism.

The youths living with disability in Isiolo County are aggrieved by the less effort made in promoting the interest of PWDs and streamlining programs in the public and private sectors to capture their interests.

***The Boy Child and the Girl Child***

The gender equality agenda should be considered with much regard. There has been a good focus on the girl child which is much progressive. However, the boy child is burdened with family-related issues and cultural practices that make him take up responsibility at a very young age. The issue of drug abuse, peer pressure and forced early marriages taking course. The female youth in Isiolo County suffer low level of education with retrogressive cultural practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM), early marriages, child labor practices that have put the girl child at a disadvantage.

Isiolo youths face a wide range of violence, including physical, sexual and psychological. The causes of violence among the youths being poverty peer pressure, lack of employment, drug abuse, forced marriages, poor parenting skills and depression. Traditional gender roles have overburdened the female youth in Isiolo, thereby limiting their opportunities for progression and self-development. Sexual activity at a very young age is also an issue since most girls encounter sexual activities between the 15-19 years. Yet, sex at this age has health implications such as STIs. Isiolo female youth also experience early age pregnancies. In addition, young men lack strong support systems and platforms to learn from the experienced and exposed members of the community and to champion great shift in placing resources on protecting female gender.

***Employed, under employed Youth and self employed***

Unemployment and under employment have led to mental illnesses, radicalization, crimes, and drugs and substance abuse in Isiolo County, especially among the youth. A need exists for better terms for the self-employed youths in our county and engaging them to support the work as well as promoting economic growth.

***Drug and substance Abuse***

The greatest challenge that Isiolo youth experience is drugs and substances abuse. Some of the common drugs include bhang, *kete*, khat, alcohol, sleeping pills, tobacco, cocaine and hashish. Bulapesa is the main area affected by the abuse of drugs. The drug abuse has a direct effect on an individuals’ productivity and economic development. Alcohol, khat/miraa, bhang and *kete* (heroine residue) have been singled out as major drugs abused in Isiolo. The results of the abuse leading to crime, diverted family resources, unplanned pregnancies rape and harm on self.

***Violence terror and banditry***

Over the years, Isiolo County has been a hotspot of tribal, terrorism and banditry attacks from time to time. This has been much fueled up by the retrogressive culture and beliefs. Most of the young people have fallen for this, resulting in war, deaths and communities rising against each other. The low education level that causes banditry demonstrates a need for industrial trainings, enrollment in TVETs, and encouraging self-employment after the trainings.

### ***Youth in learning institutions***

Youths in learning institutions include the youth engaged in education or training programs. The curriculum and programs have exhibited great disparity with the suitability in the job market leading to high number of graduates being unemployed. In addition, there is high number of youths not joining the tertiary institution due to social economic factors in Isiolo. Also, there are very few training institutions and colleges in Isiolo County.

***Youth Living With HIV&AIDS***

The youths continue to be the most affected by HIV&AIDS. The young people are exposed at a very young age due to multiple factors such as biological, socio-cultural and economic factors. The high rate of early unwanted pregnancies, abortions and STIs confirm that the youth are engaging in unprotected sex. The findings of NACADA (2020) have shown that injecting drug users are vulnerable to infections like HIV&AIDS. There is need to harmonize resources and activities at the county level. The County Government should ensure proper coordination of programs with partners (NGO) to effectively align resources to realize significant progress.

***Youth Living in Informal Settlements and Streets***

A good number of youths live in informal settlements and the streets of Isiolo. These youths lack access to basic services such as clean water, sanitation education, safe public spaces and quality housing.

***Incarcerated Youths***

Unemployment has led to increased crime among the youth leading to enormous incarceration rate. Various detention facilities subject youths to abusive practices. Instead of being corrective facilities, they turned to breeding grounds for notorious criminals and members with social dysfunction. These youth need to be considered so as to make the policy inclusive.

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

***Operationalize Isiolo Abattoir***

The County Government should target the expansion of meat supply for the local Kenyan market before going ‘international’. This can be done by closing the current Isiolo slaughterhouse and transferring its operations to the abattoir. By incentivizing livestock traders to slaughter livestock at the abattoir and sourcing for market for meat, the ripple effect in terms of jobs and other opportunities created will be enormous. A visit to small private abattoirs such as Choice Meat and Neema Slaughter facility proves that this can actually work. The county can then encourage value-addition inform of sausage making, leather tanning, bio-fertilizer, use of hoofs and horns for making buttons and other souvenir products etc. Bones can be used to as additives for animal feeds or incinerated to supply cheaper energy for the abattoir. The number of jobs and other opportunities that this abattoir can create is enormous. Currently, the county government has KES 400 million from the World Bank for the operationalization of the abattoir. This amount is MORE than enough to kick start the operations of the abattoir, albeit not necessarily ‘international standard.’ In any case, the international market that the county government is targeting requires huge improvements in the livestock body conditions and stringent safety and disease control regime, which we are not yet ready to meet. In addition, there is the small issue of the Isiolo Airport run-way which cannot accommodate cargo planes to transport the meat to international markets!

***Operationalize Rapsu and Malkadaka irrigation schemes***

Each year, Isiolo County has been allocating more than KES 150 million for ‘special programmes’ emergency support. Over the past 5 years, that is nearly KES 1 billion. Yet, the county government is currently in dire need of food aid to avert famine and starvation. One would ask, what has this special programme money been doing? Who has been misappropriating money meant for the poor, the hungry and the starving children of the great county of Isiolo? If half of this money (KES 75M) is allocated to reviving Malkadaka and Rapsu irrigation schemes, it will directly employ nearly 2,500 people and feed more than 40% of Isiolo residents. All that is required is to establish proper cooperative society where farmers become shareholders of the scheme and the County Government supports provision of farm inputs and technical advice while guaranteeing purchase of food produced by the scheme to ‘feed’ its hungry people. NGOs providing food aid can also be encouraged to purchase from these cooperative schemes.

***Activate the Young Women, Youth and Persons with Disability Fund***

Last year, the County enacted a law to establish this fund with pomp and color. However, just like all the other laws, this fund has never been operationalized. The centralization of the financial control has meant that departments and sectors are moribund when it comes to financial control and management. Allocating KES 100 million to this fund will enable nearly 2,000 small business to acquire affordable loans. The amount of funds available to these small-scale traders can actually triple if you adopt the cooperative model and enter into partnership with banks such as Cooperative or Equity to match the funding from the County Government. With proper systems in place, the County can then sustainably finance small groups and cooperatives to engage in small and micro-enterprises across the county.

***Invest in the local tourism sector***

Contributing roughly KES 70 million per annum, tourism is the largest revenue earner for Isiolo County. Increasing efficiency, stopping current revenue pilferages and tapping into local tourism potential is one way of improving earnings from this important sector. One tragedy of devolution is the many workshops and seminars that County senior staff keep attending at the expense of real service delivery. What is even worse is that these workshops and seminars mostly take place outside the County so that these staff can maximize on per diems. Most of our senior level workshops and seminars (both by County Government and NGOs) are done in high end hotels in Meru, Nanyuki or Naivasha, effectively taking away money and undermining our own tourist-class hotels. By enforcing a policy where 50% of County workshops and seminars should be done at either Shaba or Simba lodges, the county will be ‘keeping’ a lot of our own funds within the County. These funds can support more local people to be employed by these lodges, could be re-invested in the tourism sector, supporting youth establish spill-over businesses such as curio-shops, and local transportation to the park etc.

***Establishing effective public works department***

Department of roads & infrastructure budget for rehabilitation of local roads is one of the heavily funded dockets. If this fund is consolidated and put under an effective public works docket that is financed and tasked with continuously rehabilitating our local roads, then this can employ many youths throughout the year.

***Youth and Climate change***

In response to the growing number of engaged youth organizations in the intercounty climate change process, the work undertaken with and by youth is crucial to raise ambition of governments to come to an agreement on a new climate change regime by 2022. Tackling climate change requires concerted coordinated government action as well as conscious and informed efforts by individuals.

***Capacity building activities for Youth***

Isiolo County is part of the ASAL (Arid and semi-arid lands). In order to emancipate the people of Isiolo from the crisis of food security and climate uncertainty, the county government needs to spread awareness among our youth on the importance of our immediate environment and how we can come up with conservation measures and resilient building, exposure to early warning systems and protection from shocks and protracted calamities

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

The youth have been facing a lot of challenges in the past years hence barring them from achieving the best of their full potential in the society. This are just but a few of the challenges the youth face in their day to day lives as they try survive and reach their dreams. Hopefully a solution can be found to the problem of the youth. This may include the launch of more youth groups and support from the government and non-governmental organizations.

i. Employment creation

There are about 500,000 youth who graduate from various tertiary institutions yearly ready to enter the job market every year. However, due to the slow economic growth, corruption, nepotism and demand for experience by potential employers, 75% remain unemployed. Isiolo has one of the highest poverty rates in the Country, with unemployment rate of 53.6% compared to the National average of 10.4%. This has caused the poor to remain at home while those who can afford to proceed to other employment ventures. The skilled youth’s organizations to be considered for tenders from either the National/County Government.

ii. Empowerment and Participation

One of the greatest challenges in Youth Empowerment and participation is how to ensure that young people are passionate about causing transformation in the county and the nation at large. Youth Empowerment and Participation is the quit essential force for causing such transformation. Young people need a youth branded platform from where they can speak powerfully, take appropriate action, and inspire belief that will have a catalytic impact all over the county through youth-led development initiatives like how County Youth Council can have ward representation and mandate to plan and implement youth programmes at all levels of the county and ensure inclusion in any county matters. Youth empowerment and participation is a dynamic cycle.

All County committees and sector working groups to have quotas for youth representation, youth programmes on empowerment, job creation and capacity building should have an allocation from the budget. Limited participation in political sphere, despite the high proportion of youth in the county, youth are the least represented in political and economic spheres due to societal attitudes, socio-cultural and economic barriers, and lack of proper organization, orientation and empowerment. Overall, it is anticipated that the outcome of Youth Empowerment and participation is strong contribution to county prosperity, economic competition and reduced unemployment.

iii. Health

The uneven distribution of health facilities in the county continues to widen disparities in affordability and access to medical care. Medical personnel are also too few to sufficiently address the health needs of the county’s population, let alone those of the youth. Currently in the urban areas and it is estimated that only 2% of the health facilities are youth friendly. Health has become a major issue among the youth. Apart from the traditional health problems like malaria, tuberculosis and the more conservative sexually transmitted diseases, the exponential spread of HIV/AIDS and drug abuse have become issues of major concern. Mental health is increasingly becoming a common problem among the youth. Depression, anxiety, eating disorders, psychosis and substance abuse are also becoming leading mental problems among our youth.

iv. Education and TVETS.

The 8-4-4 system of education was geared to imparting appropriate skills to enhance self-employment. However, due to the high costs of living, poverty and lack of facilities, there have been high school dropout rates. Most of the youth either drop out of school or graduate without necessary skills for either self/employment opportunities. Many girls drop out of school due to lack of fees or early pregnancies. Also, the Technical Colleges in the County is not well managed and they should offer to offer courses on skills such as plumbing, electrical, tailoring, motorbike/phone mechanics beauty, carpentry, baking and pastries making, and masonry so that they can be financially independent. Also, bursary allocation for higher education should be set.

v. Drugs and Crimes.

The youths in Isiolo County are immensely engaged in harmful habits like using drugs, crime. According to the National Authority for the Campaign against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA), Isiolo has the highest use of khat (67%) and with marijuana and heroin among the most abused drugs by the youths. Alcohol, cigarettes, khat (miraa), and cannabis sativa have remained the most popular abused substances in the country. There is a fast-emerging trend of injecting drug use especially narcotic in Isiolo, it is known as (*kete*), and it is believed to be the residue of cocaine. It’s on the rise and our leaders like, the past three County Assemblies and the Structure that are in charge are really not doing much in airing ways of mitigating this menace. Moreover, the abuse of drugs is highly associated with the risks of contracting HIV/Aids and other sexually transmitted diseases mostly among the youth. Violent criminal attacks, including rape, mugging, armed carjacking and home invasions are increasingly being associated with the youth these days. Over 50% of all the convicted criminals are our young people aged between 16 and 30 years. Also, the youths are victims of the terrorism groups, they’re recruited to join the terrorism groups as way to escape the society or due to the challenges like unemployment they tend to be swayed to join these terror groups.

vi. Sports, recreation, and community service

Sports, recreation and community service are important for the psychological and physical development of the youth. It contributes to their personal development by promoting good health, personal discipline, leadership and team building skills. It also provides opportunity for appreciation, participation and creative experience in leisure, music, art, dance, drama crafts, novelty events service and cultural activities. This helps engaging the youth to make good use of their sports time, express their beliefs and values as well as promote and preserve local art and culture for the benefit of the future youth. It can also be an Income Generating Activity since they will be earning from their own talents, skills or passion, which help in reducing the rate of unemployment in youths.

However, current investment in sports and recreation has not reflected its importance. The sector suffers from inadequate funds and facilities, moreover they have only focused on football leaving the other sports at bay, while the talented youth lack motivation and are often exploited by organizations. Due to these constraints, it has not been possible to tap fully the talents of many youths. The formulation of a Sports bill for better support for sport activities at the county level and beyond, can be attained with the enforcement of the 30 % on AGPO.

vii. Youth and Environment

Degradation of the environment, through pollution, poor waste management and deforestation, is a major challenge for Kenya. With the ensuing climate change, destruction of water catchments, depletion of fish and other marine stock, pollution of rivers and destruction of plants and animals, the youth cannot be assured of quality life in the future. The need to conserve the environment has become increasingly important and many youth organizations are engaged in activities to protect the environment such as tree planting, clean-up campaigns, bio-diversity conservation, wildlife preservation campaigns and agro-forestry.

viii. Information and Communication Technology

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) may arguably be the most powerful tool for social and economic change. Rapid and continuing growth and development in ICT is transforming the ways in which youth live and work. Communities living in Isiolo County being among the marginalized groups in Kenya have endeavored to empower the youth through talent, ICT and business support to engage in County issues and become active citizens who not only participate in the selection of leaders but also can become leaders at both the local and national level. For this to be effective, there was need to provide the youths with a platform for engagement on governance and leadership issues, talent nurturing and capacity building. This need led to the establishment of the Isiolo Youth Innovation Centre (IYIC). The Centre has helped build the youth capacity in different sectors e.g., essential computer literacy course, entrepreneurship, interlocking block making, bleach productions (Village Savings and Loans Association) Hydroponics Farming, Personal development like for example, CV and cover letter writing, Film production, Transcription, Subtitling and Dubbing, digital marketing and more.

Using internet for example, youth can get access to both domestic and international education and job opportunities online. Due to lack of access to information and communication technology (ICT) and such centers or hubs especially in rural areas, youth cannot exploit their career, business and education opportunities.

ix. Youth with Special Needs

The categories of youths with special needs have been identified as the: Unemployed youth; Out of school youth; Female youth; Youth infected and affected by HIV/Aids; Street youth; physically, and mentally challenged youth; and Youth with hearing impairments, they’re unable to get employment opportunities due to language barrier and even for those employed many of the are not working regular jobs or some are paid under minimum wage. For those in sports they do not have allocated budget or support from the county Government hence many loose in pursuing their talents.

x. Access to Financial Resources

Traditional financial institutions have avoided lending to youth due to their relative inability to comply with the high transaction costs, difficulty in assessing and managing their risk profile, and lack of the required financial documentation as well as collateral. If they are given access to the financial support like AGPO (Access to Government Procurement Opportunities) then youth-led SME’s will also go a long way in ensuring our youths are economically empowered.

## ****2.6 County Youth Interventions and Achievements****

### *****2.6.1 Youth interventions*****

The County Government of Isiolo, through multisectoral partnerships, has managed to design programs and interventions that provide opportunities and support the young people within Isiolo County. The program and interventions undertaken by the county government of Isiolo include:

1.    **Finance services (bursaries and scholarships)**-the county government has disbursed more than 30 million shillings of bursaries to students enrolled in secondary schools and tertiary institutions. In addition, it offers full scholarships for students that scored C+ and above in secondary schools within the county.

2.    **Grants and loans to youth**-the county government is in the process of developing a policy that will enable the youth to access funds as a business grant for both start-ups and youth with existing businesses. Although it is in its last stages of implementation, the policy aims at providing 6 million as a grant to the youth every year.

3.    **Establishments of youth polytechnics**-the county government has established two polytechnics in the two sub-counties: Isiolo north and Isiolo south. This aims at enabling the youths acquire technical skills and improving their living standards.

4.    **Nurturing of talents in sports and arts**-the county government aims at upgrading Isiolo stadium in order to uplift sporting activities in the county. Moreover, it supports teams that play in national leagues by providing them with transport and upkeep fees.

5.    **Opening of Kenya School of Government youth innovation center**- in 2020, the county government of Isiolo, in partnership with Kenya School of Government launched a youth learning center that attracts more than 100 youths daily.

6.    **Training of youths on entrepreneurships**.

7.    **Establishments of recreational facilities, rescue centers, and rehabilitation facilities.**

8.    **Involving youths in advocacy campaigns.**

### 2.6.2 Achievements

The ICG has managed to successfully launch different youth programs since its inception. These achievements have benefitted Isiolo youths economically, socially, and psychologically. Some of these achievements by the Isiolo county government include:

1. **The Kenya School of Government Youth Innovation Centre:** The opening of the Kenya School of Government (KSG) Youth Innovation Centre has been successful as it offers a safer space for Isiolo youth to grow, nurture their talents and get empowered while being mentored.

This innovation center has allowed Isiolo youth to be involved in activities such as hydroponic farming practical at Isiolo Red Cross and Creating awareness about the dangers of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). Furthermore, talented youths have used the innovation center to showcase their talents, including dancing and singing

2. **Training of youths on entrepreneurship:** As part of the 2017 Annual Development Plan (ADP), about 1500 youths were successfully trained as part of the Enterprise Training and Development Project.

3.  **Support of talented youths in arts and sports:** 40 football teams in Isiolo – which consists mainly of youths – have benefited from county, regional, national and international sports events as part of ADP’s Sports Promotion plan. Furthermore, the county government is also upgrading the Isiolo stadium in order to offer youths an opportunity to nurture and develop their talents.

4.  **Finance grants to the youth**: The Isiolo County government disbursed 40 million shillings to youths as part of the Isiolo County Enterprise Fund in 2021. The government trained young individual traders and groups and offered them market linkages for their products as part of the program.

5.  **Involvement of youths in advocacy campaigns:** The Isiolo County government has successfully involved youth groups in engaging in online campaigns to help disseminate risk – communication messaging on Covid 19 and create awareness on FGM and other harmful practices

6.  **Establishment of recreational facilities:** The Isiolo County government put up the Baraza Park, which has allowed the youth to socialize and interact with one another during their leisure time.

7.  **Bursaries and scholarships:** Over 5,000 youths in tertiary and secondary school institutions have benefitted from scholarships and bursaries funded by the Isiolo County government.

8.  **Setting up of polytechnics:** Isiolo county government has set up two polytechnics in Isiolo North and Isiolo South constituencies. These polytechnics will enable Isiolo youths to gain skills needed to empower them financially.

## ****2.7**** STREGHTHS****, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS(SWOT).****

To have an implementable document, it is important to look at the internal factors impacting the development of the youth. What is being done well – strengths; where improvement is required – weaknesses; what are the available apparatus to be exploited in achieving better results – opportunities; and what are the factors that are likely to hinder you from achieving your goals – threats.

This Youth Policy seeks to maximize on the strengths and opportunities and minimize or avoid the effects of weaknesses and threats to the youth in Isiolo County. The Policy confirms that although youth in Isiolo County are faced with a number of challenges, they indeed present great strengths and opportunities that the county should tap into for its wellbeing.

The youth are a major human resource for socio-economic development. A Majority of them have received required basic education and a sizable number have tertiary education. They are often “first adopters” of new technologies and they demonstrate high affinity for networking, teamwork and cohesion

**SWOT ANALYSIS TABLE**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **STREGHTHS** | **WEAKNESSES** |
| **-**Creativity talent and innovation (Youth Hub).  -Malleable and easy trainable.  **-**Quick in embracing IT.  -Adaptable to positive peer influence  -Sizable and manageable youth population.  **-**High value systems**.** | **-**Lack of employable skills due to low education attainment and skills gaps.  **-**Violent extremism  **-**Prone to negative peer influence, which can lead to antisocial behaviors including radicalization  -Limited capacity to effectively engage in entrepreneurship activities.  -Negative stereotypes among the youth.  Substance and drug abuse is prevalent among the youth of Isiolo county.  Insecurity.  Climate change induced drought/Famine-  Underemployment.  Violent extremism.  Petty crime.  Prostitution.  Retrogressive culture such as FGM, Cattle. rustling. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **OPPORTUNITIES** | **THREATS** |
| -Devolved governance structures.  -ICT advancements.   -Vibrant social media.  -Potential to exploit youth demographic dividend.   -Operationalization of Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET).  -Unexploited talents in sport and arts.  - Access to Government Procurement Opportunities.  - Youth as change agents.  -Untapped socio-economic potential of the Blue Economy sector. | -Weak coordination of youth initiatives.  - Lack of integrated youth data and information.  - Inadequate mechanisms in place for meaningful youth engagement and participation in development programmes across sectors.  -Vulnerability to engage in terrorism and radicalization.  - Vulnerability to communicable and non-communicable diseases.  - Alcohol, drug use and substance abuse   -Insecurity   -Emerging cultural trends (Harmful cultural practices).   -Youth Unemployment.   Low transition mechanisms from education to world of work. |

**Youth** in particular and other stakeholders shall cooperate in good faith and in a spirit of partnership in the fulfilment of the policies embodied in this Draft and in the further development of Isiolo county laws and Sustainable development goals.

**CHAPTER 3**

# 3.1 Introduction

The Isiolo youth policy framework sets to outline the vision, mission, values as well as priority areas, and interventions set to solve those concerns. This can be used in guiding policy makers in decision-making and development processes.

# 3.2 Vision, Mission, Rallying call and values

* **Vision**

Creating a generation of youth who are creative, self-reliant, and innovative.

* **Mission**

It is aimed at improving the quality of life of young people by promoting their initiatives, participation in decision making and social life, as well as by supporting easier transition from youth to adult status and the world of work and lifelong learning.

* **Value**

**1.**Patriotism

 They should demonstrate a spirit of love, respect and pride in the county and be ready and willing to invest their time, skills, energy and good character to make it thrive. Through patriotism, the youth will put the county's best interests first, endeavor to preserve and protect the nation as it currently exists, while eventually working together to make it better.

2. Respect of diversity and ethical values

 The youth to respect the cultural, religious, and social backgrounds of the different communities and conforms to universally recognized human rights, without discrimination based on sex, race/origin, age, ethnic, creed, political affiliation or socio-economic status. Respect-for individual worth, dignity of all young people regardless of their diversity.

3. Equity and accessibility

It enhances the principles of equal opportunities and equitable distribution of opportunities, services, and resources. It also aims to promote access to socio-economic and political opportunities for the youth. This ensures that also the female in Isiolo county is able to access opportunities as well as the People With Disabilities.

4. Inclusiveness

It recognizes the need to promote an inclusive approach to the development of the youth of all categories. It seeks to promote equity and equality, including working to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence.

5.Good governance

Promote the values of good governance, integrity, a just and tolerant society, transparency and accountability. In addition, it should act as a means of inculcating values of industriousness, inclusiveness, selflessness, volunteerism and pursuit of good conduct.

6. Accountability

Accountability implies accounting for one’s actions. The Policy, therefore, supports accountability among the youth through a supportive environment that will enable youth to utilize their abilities and experiences for improved productivity.

7. Self-reliance

The ability to make sound decisions by oneself without needing assistance from others to attain identified goals in life. The youth to depend on their individual capabilities and judgement while restraining from conformity. It therefore inculcates the means of individuality to influence their future.

8. Honesty and integrity

 The youth to be able to make right decisions and avoid being corrupted. This should strengthen the youth’s ability to be authentic. The Policy encourages the youth to put personal agendas aside and focus on the greater good of the country.

## 3.3 Youth policy objectives, priority areas, measures, and interventions

### 3.3.1 Youth policy objectives

The Youth Policy aims to provide an enabling environment where youth development is established in the various focal areas of county development and the formulation of operative strategies for implementing this policy instrument.

Generally, the objective of this policy is;

* Promote youth participation in community service, volunteerism, peacebuilding, and leadership irregardless of their wealth, ethnicity and gender.
* Encourage youth to take internships and other opportunities in the county government.
* Promote a safe and secure environment for the youth to flourish.
* Create employment opportunities for the youth to improve their standards of living.
* Support the development of ICT programs in local languages to capture a large youth audience.
* Support existing youth enterprises in different sectors such as tailoring, hairdressing, wiring etc.
* Develop youth talent, creativity, and innovation

### 3.3.2 Priority areas, measures, and interventions

**Employment opportunities**

The youth in the county being the most active in the population should be given enough employment opportunities to grow the economy of the county as well as sustain their livelihoods.

**Policy measures**

1. Develop and implement a labor market information system to provide youth with real-time information on employment opportunities
2. Increase investment in rural farm and non-farm activities and social and economic infrastructure to offer youth attractive job prospects and living conditions.
3. Embrace result-based contracting in order to strengthen the link between youth and employers.
4. Enhance access to financial support for youth entrepreneurship ventures and enterprises.
5. Promote financial support, information and technology for small scale entrepreneurs and self-employed persons.
6. Support youth associations and encourage entrepreneurship and youth employment.
7. Provision of an efficient system to deal with the production and distribution of official documents needed by the youth such as National Identification cards and Birth certificates.
8. Ensure fair implementation of AGPO within Isiolo County.

**Skills development and training**

The untapped and unexploited skills being a major setback in the county needs to be addressed by ensuring all the youth get the necessary training and finance to further sharpen their skills.

**Policy measures**

1. Mainstream industry relevant competency-based education and training through creation of institutions such as a technical institute.
2. Strengthen and increase the number of Vocational Training Centres.
3. Develop and implement a labour market information system to provide youth with real time information on employment opportunities
4. Streamline internships and apprenticeship opportunities in public and private sectors within Isiolo County in collaboration with relevant authorities.
5. Develop mechanism for monetization and commercialization of artistic and sports talents
6. Provision of skilled trainers to motivate the youth in Isiolo. Recruiting qualified vocational instructors through introducing an attractive salary scheme and proper staff recruitment process on basis of competencies and qualifications.

**Education**

As plenty of the scholars have stated that education is the key to success, but many of our youth here happen to lack that due to several circumstances. Some of which are parents not able to provide daily necessities such as sanitary towels, packed lunch, neat uniforms. Some of the youth decide to drop out of school mainly due to lack of finance at home, here they decide to go work or get married.

**Policy measures**

1. Availability of fully functioning schools
2. Employment of well-trained teachers.
3. Introduce a feeding program for students who come from humble background.
4. Increasing the number of available of bursaries to accommodate majority of the
5. Introduction of scholarships for students wanting to pursue higher education
6. Introduction of a program that is able to uplift female students who lack necessities such as sanitary towels.

**Leadership, participation and representation**

Majority of the youth do not get involved in the decision-making process in the county. Be it formulating the policies or preparation of the budget and other county documents. The female and PWDs have a difficult time in representation of their matters in the important decision-making process.

**Policy measures**

* Contribution to policy and programme development and implementation through social dialogue and collective bargaining.

1. Promotional campaigns and other initiatives targeting different groups depending on circumstances for inclusivity in the leadership process.
2. Provide for the creation of a youth Bunge where the youth will be able to participate as well as implement decision making in the county.
3. Information dissemination on statutory documents to the available county offices in all parts of Isiolo.
4. Facilitate all stakeholder ownership and support for youth volunteerism in the county.

**Health, Nutrition, and wellbeing**

Today, Health has become a major issue among the Isiolo youth population. Apart from the common health problems like tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases, the spread of HIV, new challenges like yellow fever, access to reproductive health, and drug abuse have become issues of major concern. Depression, anxiety, psychosis, and substance abuse are mentioned by medical experts as factors relating to youth mental health problems in Isiolo.

**Policy measures**

1. Capacity building of peer educators to attract more youth.
2. Strengthening food security and nutrition management systems to combat malnutrition.
3. Awareness creations and early screening for the youth.
4. Provision of adequate responsive youth-friendly services and trained medical personnel.
5. Create awareness on water and vector borne diseases as well as mental health challenges
6. Develop systems and mechanisms to support Youth with Disabilities in Isiolo County.
7. Building of rehabilitation facilities for youth needing mental health support.
8. Firm implementation of health policies such as Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy.

**Crime and Peacebuilding**

Majority of the youth are responsible for the number of crimes in the county where some are used by tribe elders or community leaders to perpetrate these heinous acts. The youth being the productive population in Isiolo, they should tend to advocate more for peace instead of joining gangs in informal settlements.

**Policy measures**

1. Eliminating stigmatization on victims of rape, bullying, and mental health by sensitizing elders in the county.
2. Design and implement programs to address gender-based violence.
3. Establish more police posts in the county for efficient service delivery.
4. Encouraging the youth to join youth-based movements such as Activista Isiolo to air their grievances.
5. Educating the youth on abiding by the Law and good neighborliness such as the enhancement of ‘nyumba’ 10 initiative and county peace committees.
6. Sensitizing youth on the dangers of choosing violence and the importance of promoting peace.

**Drugs and Substance abuse**

Excessive of use of drugs and substances has been a major issue affecting the youth of Isiolo. These drugs have led to the increase in social immorality such as rape, mugging, cyberbullying and even an increase in the number of sex workers. Khat, muguka, alcohol, weed, cigarettes and *kete* are the frequently used drugs and substances. These hinder their physical, psycho‐social, and mental development.

**Policy measures**

1. Enhance awareness about drug addiction by means of education provided by experts to families through youth centres.
2. Extend and make more active the centres for the treatment of youth drug addicts.
3. Increase the number and accessibility of rehabilitation and treatment centres for youth drug addicts.
4. Develop drug use prevention programmes to help in dealing with the needs of community
5. A county body/entity that handles matters to with drugs and substance abuse like NACADA.

**Sports, culture, arts and music**

This category is one of the most youths dominated areas in the county. Majority of the youth have the talent to play different games, create art and even perform as artists, but the youth do not have the necessary support to do so**.** They do not have the environment to carry out these activities, it is necessary for the county government in alias with other stakeholders to provide a conducive environment to nurture these talents**.**

**Policy measures**

1. The county government to strengthen and establish more stadiums or pitches for footballers and other sportsmen.
2. To sensitize the elders on the importance of extracurricular activities so as to motivate more to be productive.
3. Protect safe spaces where the youth of Isiolo generate, nurture, develop, showcase their ideas and engage in skills building and networking such as the Isiolo youth innovation Centre.
4. Establish an extensive system that identifies talent in all sub- counties for continuous recognition of talent.
5. Firm implementation of the sports bill.
6. PWD friendly sports infrastructure as well as budgetary allocation.

**ICT and Innovation**

Technology being the hub of different opportunities should be exploited by the youth of Isiolo. many youths possess modern technological skills to enable them to set up ICT-enabled businesses but lack the necessary resources. The increasing interest in the concept of online business that comes with the ICT revolution presents even more opportunities for youth employment.

**Policy measures**

1. Develop and expand ICT Infrastructure such as the Isiolo youth innovation centres.
2. Capacity building of the youth in ICT
3. Develop resource centres, youth desks, and libraries for youth to access information and relevant educational materials.
4. Develop incubation and mentor youth with ICT skills to start businesses and venture in related enterprises.
5. Promote and enhance awareness on intellectual property rights among the youth of Isiolo.
6. Leveraging ICT for civic education and public participation in the different Isiolo sub – counties.
7. Dissemination of information to rural parts of Isiolo through youth hubs.

**Youth Enterprises**

The youth in Isiolo have experienced several challenging in entrepreneurship. the lack of conducive environment for business growth, lack of startup capital, lack of market information, inadequate business development services and inefficiencies of AGPO.

**Policy measures**

1. Capacity building the youth on how to start, run and maintain their businesses.
2. Increase in advisory centres that guide the youth on various challenges they might face in running their businesses.
3. Ensure fair implementation of AGPO within Isiolo County.
4. Youth friendly requirements for application loans.
5. Review and subsidize business licensing fees for youth enterprises.
6. Establish a County Youth Revolving Enterprise Fund accessible at sub-county level.

**Sustainable Environmental management**

Isiolo County being one of the ASAL counties in Kenya has to take the matters of environment conservation and climate change adaptations. The youth in Isiolo are the most vibrant in dealing or combating the climate change effects (Eco-Vista).

**Policy measures**

1. Invest in the conversion of waste to wealth initiatives.
2. Build capacities of youth on green energy, waste management and general environmental conservation/ managemen.t
3. Educate and support youth to take advantage of green jobs and carbon credit opportunities.
4. Empower youth as environment ambassadors across the county.
5. launch and implement tree planting campaigns with youth taking an active role.
6. Proactive Disaster Risk Reduction (D.R.R) policies including its budgetary allocation.
7. Strengthening and increasing early warning systems all over Isiolo County.

**CHAPTER 4**

## 4.1 Introduction

This policy will be implemented through a coordinated involvement of various shareholders including the Isiolo County Government and Non- state actors. The implementation process will require coordination, consultations, cooperation and collaboration by the implementers.

## ****4.2**** ****Implementation and Coordination mechanisms****

This youth policy coordination and implementation framework firmly rests on four key pillars which are very instrumental in ensuring youths policy is accorded multifaceted and deserved concerted efforts across the board from all relevant departments/ministries. Effectively build synergies with relevant stakeholders and set to achieve the goals and objectives set for this policy. Suffice to add, these quartet enablers are anchored on strengthening ICT infrastructures (Huduma), Linkages between Industry and Training Institutions (TVETs, youth centers), transport (LAPPSET) and making markets work.it will proceed to highlight the dramatic changes that have taken place in regard to aforementioned themes and more specifically how the said quartet pillars will enable, facilitate and promote policy direction, adoption, enactment and implementation hitherto and answer why Kenya will need to position itself more aggressively in terms of strategies and policy direction.  
21st century ushers in a period of unprecedented connectivity, with half of humanity estimated by the International Telecommunication Union to be connected. The digital economy and e-commerce are likely to take center stage in the next few years, there is also a raging debate in regards to the education system specifically mismatches of skills offered and demands of the labour market as well as the nexus between poor infrastructures and markets is a conversation that is relevant when critiquing/evaluating the coordination and implementation of any policy to ensure that it fully reaps the benefits and opportunities presented, and to safeguard its citizens from the associated risks and potential harms Kenya will need to position itself more aggressively in terms of strategies and policy direction. On the basis of consultation and cooperation, Isiolo equally seeks to position itself in the future of this digital world and global economy, opportunities that comes with LAPPSET projects so as to enable, facilitate and promote policy direction, adoption, enactment and implementation.

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

The county with support of the stakeholders is spearheading host of flagship programs hereinafter referred to as enablers of youth policy coordination and implementation framework. This portion will focus majorly on the following themes in our local context:  
**1. ICT**  
Kenya is at the forefront of technological innovations and is often referred to as the ‘Silicon Savannah’. The country’s ICT sector is set to contribute up to 8 per cent of the country’s GDP through IT-enabled services (ITES) and create 250,000 jobs by 2020. Internet access has continued to spur economic growth and led to the government’s launch of the Digital Economy Blueprint, a framework to improve Kenya’s and Africa’s ability to leapfrog economic growth.  
The document is hinged on five pillars:  
a) Digital Government;  
b) Digital Business;  
c) Infrastructure;  
d) Innovation-Driven Entrepreneurship and  
e) Digital Skills and Values.  
Isiolo County affirms and is committed to this strategy by adopting successful ICT models, integrating the strategy in service delivery and using it as a benchmark to measuring success in service delivery. This policy provides an insight to this coordinated approach.it shall focus on improving the existing infrastructure to allow for an ICT enabled public service delivery systems. The policy shall also include support pillars that ensure that optimization is real through  
a continuous capacity-building programme, a robust change management plan while embracing a superior shared services plan.  
The Isiolo Youth Innovation Centre is one of the priorities of the Isiolo County Government and is part captured in the 2017–2022 County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP). Every financial year since its inception, the County Government allocates resources to facilitate youth initiatives in the Centre. The County is also in the process of developing the Youth Inclusion Bill, which seeks to adopt the gains of Youth Innovation Centre which is an effort to anchor the Centre in legislation for its sustainability while also ensuring representation of young people at all levels of governance and decision making, so far among the specific gains include though not limited to:  
Computer literacy among the youths: With affordable computer classes, 100 youths in the County accessed basic computer skills which have improved their skills in use and application of technology. A further 25 youth are currently enrolled in various computer classes. The county government of Isiolo, should partner with the ministry of ICT n construct public Wi-fi points in all the 3 sub-counties; Garbatulla, Merti and Isiolo Central to enable the youths to do online jobs to reduce unemployment. The county should also partner with Donors, NGOs and other stakeholders to construct ICT labs to train more youths on basic IT skills. Hopefully, these efforts will expand opportunities to enable, facilitate and promote policy direction, adoption, enactment and implementation to other sub sectors such as our tourism sector, revenue collection and surveillance of the medical stores and as well enhanced connectivity to government services.  
**2. TRANSPORT**  
LAPPSET project has enhanced access to markets and cross border trade has significantly been enhanced since previously most goods used to originate from Ethiopia. Improved government services delivery by government institutions and agencies in the delivery of public services.  
**3. SKILLS AND DEVELOPMENT**  
Cabinet has most recently approved the establishment of center for entrepreneurship through partnership between Kenya and Germany expected to create massive opportunities for the youth to facilitate job creation by positioning micro and small enterprises as the driver for employment and wealth creation, the center to be domiciled in Kenya Industrial Estate (KIE)the program target 250,000 youth entrepreneurs across the country by providing them with information brand campaigns ,website and call in centers .Additionally,100,000 youth entrepreneurs will access in-depth screening services (coaching, mentorship and career guidance) overall, this seminal project is expected to create over 50,000 direct and indirect jobs by expanding manufacturing output and improving the overall country’s competitiveness  
In order for Isiolo County to develop, they should plan to train their human capital in skills acquisition. This can be achieved through partnering with the national government to construct more Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) to enable the youths to acquire the relevant skills required in the labour market and for the development of ISIOLO COUNTY. such skills could range from masonry, carpentry, welding, electrical installation, plumbing among others. The county government of Isiolo should enhance Skills development by setting aside some funds to sponsor orphan and vulnerable youths to acquire education because most youths  
from poor backgrounds don’t get the opportunity to further their education leading to early marriages and drug and substance abuse due to frustration.  
The Isiolo youth center offers:

1. Talent support: 1500+ youths equipped with different talents like dancing, football, Martial Arts and even acting have been allocated coaches and trainers who support their talents.  
2. Disciplined and empowered youths: 940 youths empowered to have a focused life through guidance on the pursuit of visions and how to avoid distraction from peer pressure.  
3. Agribusiness ventures: 168 youths equipped in agricultural-influenced businesses and income generating activities, including aquaculture, beekeeping, hydroponic farming and horticulture. This has led to the growth of self-employed groups who practice fish and beekeeping as a source of income.  
4. Entrepreneurship Training: The first cohort of 100 youths were trained on entrepreneurship, followed up with a second cohort of 100 youths. This has increased youths’ involvement in businesses, including Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO). From the trainees, 5 youths have directly benefitted from AGPO through County Government and other agencies. Other youths from the program are already pursuing businesses as sole proprietors.

5. Empowered youths to participate in leadership: 940 Young people in Isiolo County have been empowered through the coffee talks to participate in leadership programmes and activities with confidence and awareness

6. Job opportunities: The visibility and experience from the Centre has assisted youths who have been trained there to secure employment in both County and private sectors. As a result,4 youths secured formal employment and 20 youth pursuing opportunities in business, videography, agriculture and saloon businesses.

7. Reduced rates of drug abuse: Previously, the number of youths affected by substance abuse was high compared to know that the Centre provides a youth-friendly space to engage in various aspects of personal development. A youth-friendly peer-counselling unit also provides a space for youths to face their fears and find a way to cope with their situations.

**4. MAKING MARKETS WORK**

Cabinet has approved the legal and institutional framework to anchor the establishment and implementation of the Financial Inclusion Fund (Hustlers Fund) the fund is expected to open up affordable credit facilities and will be structured in Personal Finance, Micro Loans, SME Loans and Start-Ups. Promote financial inclusion through expanding access to credit by persons, proprietors, micro, small and medium enterprises, chamas, table banking groups, groups, SACCO societies, associations and start-ups for economic growth and job creation; The fund will be launched and rolled out on November 30, 2022, with loan limits being a minimum of Sh500 up to a maximum of Sh50,000 based on the borrower’s credit score. The fund will attract an interest of eight per cent annually.

The county govt, other than erecting floodlights in the Markets, should also drill boreholes or construct water tanks to be filled with water for usage in the markets. When allocating market stalls, the youths should also be considered in order to promote their entrepreneurship skills and make them earn a living n fend for themselves. The County government should also come up with market to buy products for the youths in order to encourage more youths to venture into entrepreneurship. For instance, those involved in agribusiness to get value for their efforts in the ventures.

**4.4 Flagships**

With full integration and harmonization of issues affecting the youth into every aspect of public policies and programmes across all ministries and government agencies, there will be production of more focused, responsive and youth-oriented strategies.

1. *Isiolo Youth Innovation Centre (IYIC).*

This was an initiative of the County Government of Isiolo, the Kenya School of Government (KSG) and

UNDP, which aimed at building the competencies of young

women and men to take on jobs or start businesses in the markets, while also working with local institutions to adopt new business models and expand the number of jobs available for youths. The center has rapidly scaled up its programmes with training benefitting youth from all 10 wards of Isiolo covering film, agribusiness, entrepreneurship, technology and social activities including drama, dance, and martial arts. This ensures that youth in Isiolo can have the full range of training, from basic digital literacy, to online marketing, transcription and also advanced courses.

1. *Education*

Isiolo county government plans to open more polytechnics at ward level so that many youths could acquire technical skills to help them take part in the national development in line with the Vision 2030. Partnership of the county government with the national government and support from stakeholders will support mitigation measures to ensure that transition rates from secondary to tertiary school are increased for both boys and girls. Engagement with community members to sensitize them on the social benefits of higher education, particularly for girls, will be critical. Financial constraints, shortage of staff and inadequate working tools and

equipment remains a major challenge in TVET facilities.

1. *Youth, Women and Persons with Disabilities Enterprise Development Fund*

The youth benefit from this fund because it will increase household income hence improving living standard. Youths are the upcoming generation and also have high population. The capacity building component of the Fund will focus on improving talent and innovations thus developing youth entrepreneurship skills which will impact creation of business opportunities by acquiring this finance, they are supported through trainings and mentorship to increase entrepreneurial skills to engage in creating impactful business.

1. *Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO)*

The AGPO initiative by the GOK through the National Treasury aimed at facilitating the businesses

registered by youth, women and PWDs to be able to access, participate and benefit from the various

Government procuring opportunities. A number of challenges have made the Uptake of AGPO opportunities by the Youth not optimal.  These challenges include but not limited to:  inadequate awareness of the available opportunities and knowledge of Government procurement processes as well as insufficient funds to finance tenders. The National Government and County Government of Isiolo together with other Key Agencies such as Kenya School of Government and Development Partners should devise AGPO intervention strategies on ways of awareness raising among the youth through:

* Infrastructural improvement that enhances use of advanced Technological and Communication channels.
* Multi-sectoral approach in Regular Capacity Building Programs on AGPO Initiatives.
* Creation of Youth Talent Management centers that harness the fundamental and numerous talents that the Youth are endowed with and can be tapped to Raise Awareness on AGPO. This can effectively be realized through proper use of creative skills in drama, dance, art, music and acrobatics.

These recommendations shall expedite Awareness Raising on AGPO among the Youth on ways of competing favorably, by plunging into and growing entrepreneurial ventures, harnessing on the entrepreneurial skills and knowledge, thereby augmenting the attainment of Global, Regional and National Development Agendas.

1. Isiolo Stadium

The rising number of sports lovers is believed to have prompted the Isiolo County Government to embark on construction of a sports stadium in efforts to nurture talent and motivate youths to embrace sports. Upon completion, it is expected to become the second largest stadium in Kenya after Kasarani stadium with a capacity of 40,000 people. It is also expected to house a volleyball, netball, basketball and indoor courts for badminton and boxing. This will allow youths to benefit and for promotion of local talent.

**4.5 Resource Mobilization**

Fiscal mobilization plays a major role in success of any government or private sector policy actualization. Resource mobilization provides a significant pace for implementation of organizational activities and strategic plans. Isiolo county is known for good formulation of policies that aims to address pertinent issues affecting communities especially on areas of human rights, gender empowerment and climate change. The main challenge to implementation and actualization of these policies have been lack of funds and sufficient resources. Despite financial allocations and huge prevalence of county government in policy formulation and enactment, Isiolo county government lacks bold capacity and roadmap to revamping the potential of such policies. Isiolo county youth policy might fall into this trap if no necessary steps and interventions is taken to actualize its immense potential and gains for youth. The policy could attract a huge base for funding and resource mobilization for its programmes through:

**Private sector funding**: Isiolo county is a hub for several international, national and community-based organizations representing human rights, climate change, peacebuilding, agriculture and education sectors. The human recruitment policies of these organization continue to negatively disfavor young people in search for jobs opportunities in Isiolo. The policy should adopt a clear structure aimed at guiding and monitoring human resource recruitment among CSOs and community organizations and to identify strategies of accommodating those seeking for jobs and funding opportunities. Corporate social responsibilities (CSR) are one of avenues the policy shall explore in seeking support of NGOs and CSOs to fund youth programmes and initiatives.

**Partnerships**: The youth policy stands to significantly benefit from enormous potential of NGOs and CBOs on areas of collaboration and pattern ships in Isiolo county. The youth policy shall embrace partnerships between civil societies organizations through collaboration on areas of projects implementation, participation of youths in decision making process of the organization and alignment of strategic plans that addresses issues affecting youths specifically on areas of employment, recruitment, economic empowerment and access to basic needs.

**Isiolo county Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2022-2027**: The county government plans and budgets for development programmes by drafting key priority areas in a five-year county integrated development plan (CIDP). The policy shall lobby and use diplomatic avenues in advising county ministerial departments to prioritize youth concerns in programme-based budgets that are adopted from annual development plans (ADPs). This shall specifically touch on areas of recruitment, public engagement, public participation, funding of the policy and material support from departments in the county governments.

**Innovation and Technology**: The youth policy must take advantage of huge potential the technology sector can offer in terms of jobs, funding and networks of youth programmes in Isiolo county. The youth policy shall henceforth explore strategies of bringing on board and enable youths in Isiolo to understand policy objectives and therefore creating pool of diverse young people who can access all vital government services and opportunities to further their dreams. The number of youths who are not registered to Isiolo NYC programmes is far larger as compared to those enrolled to the chapter. The policy shall therefore incorporate online interactions and disseminations of its programmes as a strategy to accommodate more tech-savvy youths in the county. This also aims to increase the policy outreach to all youths and to also develop a database for young people in search for opportunities in the county.

**Frontier counties development council:** Regional economic blocs have been established by several counties coming together to address common issues facing their communities. Isiolo county is one of the founding members of the bloc that took its establishment from way back in 2016. The FCDC economic bloc developed several action points and pillars covering agriculture, peace, water, education, health and innovation sectors. These sectors all touches on issues affecting young people and what can be done to mitigate them. The policy shall therefore take a lobbying opportunity to engage with FCDC secretariat in exploring funding opportunities for the youths in the county. This shall also be a benchmarking and learning experience for youths in Isiolo to borrow best practices and lessons that strengthens their capacity to adopt and implement the outlined policy objectives.

## 4.6 Implementation matrix

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * Objective 1: Promote youth participation in community service, volunteerism, peacebuilding, and leadership irregardless of their wealth, ethnicity and gender.   Outcome 1: Inclusivity of the youth in important decision-making processes | | | | | |  |
| Strategies | Activities | Outputs | Key Performance Indicators | Timelines  2023-2027 | Budget (2023-2027) | Responsibility |
| Strengthen the youth department in the County Government | Capacity building the youth officers | Increased number of youth agendas implemented successfully | No. of youth agendas implemented successfully |  |  |  |
| Establish a legal and policy framework for civic education and public participation |  | Increased number of policies and legislation | No. of policy and legislation |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * Objective 2: Encourage youth to take internships and other opportunities in the county government.   Outcome 1: | | | | | |  |
| Strategies | Activities | Outputs | Key performance Indicators | Timelines  2023-2027 | Budget (2023-2027) | Responsibility |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * Objective 3: Promote a safe and secure environment for the youth to flourish.   Outcome 1: | | | | | |  |
| Strategies | Activities | Outputs | Key performance Indicators | Timelines  2023-2027 | Budget (2023-2027) | Responsibility |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * Objective 4: Support the development of ICT programs to develop the local youths.   Outcome 1: | | | | | | |  |
| Strategies | Activities | Outputs | Key performance Indicators | | Timelines  2023-2027 | Budget (2023-2027) | Responsibility |
| All county public facilities within the county interconnected |  |  | No. of Sub Counties interconnected | |  |  |  |
| Improved internet connectivity across the County |  |  | KMs of Fiber Optic Extension | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |
| * Objective 5: Support existing youth enterprises in different sectors such as tailoring, hairdressing, wiring etc.   Outcome 1: | | | | | | |  |
| Strategies | Activities | Outputs | Key performance Indicators | Timelines  2023-2027 | | Budget (2023-2027) | Responsibility |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * Objective 6: Develop youth talent, creativity, and innovation   Outcome 1: | | | | | |  |
| Strategies | Activities | Outputs | Key performance Indicators | Timelines  2023-2027 | Budget (2023-2027) | Responsibility |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## ****4.7 Role of stakeholders****

There are many actors involved in youth activities in Isiolo county. Improved coordination requires that the responsibilities, mandate and roles of each actor and stakeholder be established and monitored by the Ministry in charge of Youth. Enhanced coordination will be made possible through a defined coordination structure. The structure will include:

(i) National level: Youth activities will be coordinated by the Ministry in charge of youth affairs.

(ii) Sectoral level: Various ministries, departments and agencies (MDA’s) will ensure the mainstreaming and coordination of youth priority areas in their respective sectors.

(iii) County level: County Governments will be mainstreaming youth priority areas in their plans and programmes.

(iv)  Ministry in charge of youth affairs shall ensure: Alignment of youth programs to national development goals including Big 4 Agenda and SDGs; Development of a National Youth Development Index; Reactivation of the Youth Empowerment Centres; Policy Coordination, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting; Affirmative Action on Youth Employability; Implementation of the Labour Market Information (LMI) Initiative for youth; effective management of Affirmative Funds and making them Youth Friendly; and Resourcing & Facilitation of Youth Field Offices.

**Roles of stakeholders in enhancing youth interventions in Isiolo County**

*Executive – Public Service*

At the national level, this includes the entire public sector

* Ensure the full implementation of the Constitution (2010), with emphasis on continuing civic education for optimal people participation and mainstreaming of youth issues in development agenda.
* Provide visionary leadership for all development interventions, e.g., Kenya Vision 2030 and its successive Medium-Term Plans while prioritizing youth issues.
* Ensure implementation of the Policy, starting with its entrenchment and mainstreaming into all national policies, strategies and interventions.
* Ensure equitable employment and deployment in public service while giving special attention to the youth, women, marginalized communities and minorities, including people with special needs.
* Uphold the rule of law, and support effective public resource utilization while creating conducive environment for private sector development and job creation.
* Develop appropriate monitoring and evaluation frameworks for the Policy possibly linked to the Planning ministry’s National Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation framework.
* Implement the findings of the monitoring and evaluation work through cross-sectoral and multiagency approach.

*At the County level*

* Develop strategies and enact county assembly legislation that reflects the needs of the county and its entire population, including the youth, marginalized groups and minorities.
* Develop an integrated county development plan reflecting the priority needs of the diverse categories of the youth, including the marginalized and minority groups.
* Integrate Youth initiatives in all county departments, their plans and strategies.
* Ensure that public hiring/recruitment reflects the socioethnic face of the County.
* Design and conduct effective civic education on issues affecting the youth.

Executive – Statutory Bodies, Semi-Autonomous Government Agencies (SAGAs), Constitutional Commissions and Independent Offices Statutory bodies, SAGAs, constitutional commissions, and independent offices Statutory bodies, SAGAs, constitutional commissions, and independent offices shall:

* Ensure equitable employment across all diversities such as gender, age, ethnicity and persons with special needs
* Promote mainstreaming of youth interventions in the institutional strategies.
* Promote research in youth issues to support implementation of the Policy with evidence.

*Judiciary*

Judiciary is responsible for the dispensation of justice through the:

* The Judiciary shall ensure respect for the rule of law across the country.
* Improving the accessibility of judicial services by the youth
* Conducting civic education to make judicial processes more user-friendly for the youth
* Promoting effective and widespread frameworks for alternative dispute resolution.

Legislature Parliament – the National Assembly and the Senate

* Oversee the full and timely implementation of the Constitution and ultimately provisions targeting youth.
* Ensuring the Executive at National and County levels espouses equity as a basis for national development.
* Ensure the timely passage of any bills arising from the adoption of the Policy.
* Exploit any opportunities available for the effective implementation of the Policy.

*County Assemblies*

Promote full implementation of the Constitution (2010) at the County level

(i)   Domesticating the Policy

(ii)   Domesticating national legislation that affect the youth

(iii)  Ensure the County Assembly reflects the diversity of the county and that they address youth issues

(iv)   Ensure that laws and other county level frameworks, including employment, promote inclusion

(v)    Monitor and evaluate the performance of the County Executive to ensure it promotes equitable development while mainstreaming the youth issues.

*Private Sector*

The formal private sector generates majority of the opportunities for youth engagement. The operations cover productive and services sectors such as manufacturing, industry and services. Through its umbrella bodies, such as the FKE, KAM and Kenya Private, KEPSA, and COTU it works closely with government in policy development; and is a major employer.

(i) Create opportunities for youth engagement

(ii) Develop specific mechanisms for mainstreaming youth issues and for monitoring adherence to agreed goals

(iii) Espouse recruitment practices that enable the entire youth in Kenyan labour market to feel represented; and wherever feasible, target youth, women, persons with disabilities, marginalized groups and minorities

(iv) Mainstream youth issues spelt out in the Policy in the design and implementation of targeted corporate social responsibility for youth

(v) Offer skills and partnerships to excluded groups as a means of enabling them to enter into mainstream economic activity.

*Development partners – bilateral and multi-lateral*

Development partners support public investment spending across all sectors through financing projects, and or technical assistance.

(i)  Support the country to implement the Policy

(ii) Assist in monitoring and evaluation of performance regarding policy interventions

(iii Diversify focus to non-traditional areas that can open up hitherto marginalized parts of the country while opening opportunities for youth.

Civil Society

General Civil society will continue to be involved in a wide range of activities targeting the youth

(i)   Continue its work of mobilization and sensitization on the Policy.

(ii)  Continue to support community- and faith-based organizations working on youth issues.

(iii) Continue to monitor all arms of the government on matters affecting the youth.

(iv)  Rationalize interventions to focus on the needy areas and special interest groups including the youth.

(v)   Establish and strengthen referral mechanisms for youth with drug and substance abuse problems.

*Faith-Based Organizations*

Faith-based organizations shall contribute to the implementation of the Policy by:

(i)    Espousing the provisions of the Constitution in their activities.

(ii)   Applying the religious approach to uphold morals and values among the youth.

(iii)  Providing youth with role models

(iv)   Establish partnerships with Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to institute programs targeting physical, mental and spiritual wellness of youth

(v)    Championing the rights of the voiceless youth and participating in capacity building initiatives that promote youth development, empowerment and socio-economic engagement.

*Community-Based Organizations*

(i)     Espouse the national values and principles of transformative leadership contained in the Constitution

(ii)    Assist in mobilizing citizens to support youth initiatives

(iii)   Champion a revamped system of community leaders that also promotes representation across various age groups, dialogue and peace building.

*Print and Electronic Media*

(i)      Espouse the contents of the Constitution, specifically the national values and principles of governance and the Policy in their programmes.

(ii)     Ensure objective, balanced reporting on youth issues

(iii)    Correct undesirable misconceptions and misrepresentations

(iv)     Use respective platforms to educate citizens on contents of the Policy and its strategies across counties up to grassroots levels

(v)       Assist in identifying minorities and marginalized individuals and communities for interventions through Policy.

*Individual Citizens including youth*

(i)       Read and understand the Constitution, and the various legislation relating to youth issues

(ii)      Respect the Constitution and the laws emanating from it

(iii)     Participate in design, implementation and monitoring of youth initiatives

(iv)      Acquire and promote national values and patriotism.

(v)       Espouse respect for, and positively and vocally appreciate diversity and harmony.

(vi)      Espouse respect for human rights and basic needs including supporting implementation of the Policy.

(vii)     Be fully accountable for own conduct.

(viii)    Participate fully in the governance of their locality, such as through civic education and citizen forums targeting youth.

(ix)      Respect and nurture the environment.

(x)       Uphold value systems in society including trust, patriotism, hard work, among others.

**CHAPTER FIVE**

# ​​​​​​​5.MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING

## ****​​​​​​​5.1****Introduction

Monitoring and evaluation very critical for the implementation of the policy. This indicates the process of how effectively the policy is implemented and whether there were gaps between the policy and the achievements. Hence holding stakeholders and into account by providing valuable information and outlining areas for improvement. Learning from the current trends and issues being experienced by youths in Isiolo.

Evaluation will be an essential part of the policy cycle as it will facilitate evidence - based policy design and implementation increasing accountability and transparency, demonstrating achievements towards policy objectives and assessing the policy's effectiveness, efficiency results and impacts.

## ****​​​​​​​5.2****Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework

Monitoring &evaluation frameworks are important to measure and ensure the success of an activity, intervention or program. These frameworks can define pathways for a project to trigger change at different levels. It articulates the different external and internal elements that can impact the projects outcomes and helps ensure accountability, assessment and effective decision making Furthermore the tool also facilitates evidence-based policy design and implementation, increasing the policy’s accountability and transparency, demonstrating achievements towards policy objectives and assessing the policies effectiveness, efficiency, results and impacts. Isiolo youth policy shall take key use of these tools in realizing the true benefits of the policy to all young people in the county. The policy henceforth shall adopt and actualize the following monitoring and evaluation tools in meetings its organizational objectives.

Annual reports: shall be developed covering policy activities, budgets, programmes and financial statements. These reports will ensure timely follow up on policy objectives and how aligned activities are being implemented and what areas of intervention can be strengthened. It will also provide an opportunity for development of monthly and narrative reports on youth issues in Isiolo. This will later be shared with partners and stakeholders who can use this document to determine aspects of fundraising and resource mobilization on respective activities.

Strategic plans: This is critical for assessing the progress, whether the intended Isiolo youth policy outputs and outcomes are being generated, identifying a potential challenges or roadblocks, and adopting any course correction and adaption where required. The policy shall develop and adopt its own strategic plans with comparative guidance from developed documents such as Kenya youth development policy 2019 and The Youth Agenda youth policy strategic plan (2011-2015). A strategic plan helps to define the direction in which the policy must travel, and aids in establishing realistic objectives and goals that are in line with the vision and mission charted out for it. Therefore, Isiolo youth policy shall take into account important aspects of sustainable development goals (SDGs) which will play a critical role in defining the policy objectives for young people in the county.

Surveys and Database: young people in Isiolo are faced with challenge of accessing important government information and opportunities. This is due to that fact huge chunk of youths in Isiolo have no structures or a hub point that stands to avail informational for their advancement and growth. The baseline surveys shall be a tool that aims to identify key areas of prioritization that would translate into development of concepts and deliberations that are evidence- based and factual. The surveys can also be used as a medium for youth mobilization and registration in joining the NYC Isiolo County caucus. The development of dedicated Google forms and sheets are among the avenues the policy shall explore in increasing membership of the NYC branch in Isiolo and its remote environs.

Participatory methods: Isiolo youth policy shall adopt an effective, efficient and more transparent participatory methods where young people can interact, engage and deliberate on issues that affects them. This includes forum, meetings, seminars, workshops and conferences that aims to provide equal opportunity for all without favoritism and discrimination. The policy should also embrace aspects capacity building and more trainings that will prepare young people in Isiolo for more opportunities and growth.

**CHAPTER SIX**

# 6. COMMUNICATION, PUBLICITY AND INFORMATION

## ****​​​​​​​6.1****Introduction

Communication is an essential tool for effective public relations. The ministry in charge of youths in the County Government should develop a medium using formal and informal channels, print and electronic media in developing a robust and refined communication strategy for the policy and Programme activities to all relevant stakeholders.

## ****​​​​​​​6.2.****Communication channels (radio, TV, local language, barazas)

**1. Print media**

**(a) Nuru magazine, Light of the Northern Kenya**

This is a monthly magazine run by Ministry of Information and Communication in Isiolo County. The magazine covers all sectors of economy in the county but mostly education issues and is available for ksh 50 within Isiolo town. The magazine is produced monthly.

**2. Radio**

**(a) Baliti 102.7 Fm:’’Qonko Wor Isiolo’’ loosely meaning voice of Isiolo people**

Baliti FM is a community radio station which broadcasts its programmes in Boran and Kiswahili, and covers Isiolo, Garba Tula, Kinna, Archers Post, Gotu, Wamba and Timau district and neighboring counties like Meru, Samburu. With a mix of education, awareness raising and entertainment, the radio has played significant role in contributing to positive development in the area of its broadcast footprint. To date, the Baliti FM foot print is about 120 kilometers towards Garba Tula and Kinna parts of Isiolo County, 40 km towards Timau and about 100 km towards Archer’s post and Wamba areas. The station is run by a team of professionals and volunteers. Baliti programmes are magazine type laced with live interactive call-in formats, as well as features that are produced to inform debates and discussions.

**(b) Isiolo 107.2 FM: Kisima cha Nyika**

Kisima is a Kiswahili word meaning well, thus if loosely translated it means well in the plains. The radio covers Isiolo town and its environs. It is a commercially run radio station in the county and broadcasts it programmes in English and Kiswahili languages.

**(c) Shahidi 97.1 FM**

This is a radio station started by the Diocese of Isiolo in September 2013 through its communications department which aims at spreading the word of God in all dimensions of life in Isiolo. The radio station based at Isiolo cathedral centre. It broadcasts it programmes in Kiswahili and covers Isiolo town and its environs only.it is a catholic - run radio.

**3. Students’ Associations**

Students’ associations are also excellent communication channels in Isiolo county. Some of these associations include:

**(a) Layshbu**

This is an online student organization that was formed by like-minded students from Isiolo County. The memberships of the organization are drawn from students of Isiolo background studying in countries like China, Britain, USA, North Africa and local students studying in Kenya universities. The organization motto is inspired, equip and empower northern Kenya natives. Its main agenda is to redefine Northern Kenya and create more intellectual interaction to do away with culture of complacency with mediocrity and conflicts over petty issues. The organization runs a blog, twitter account and Facebook accounts to keep in touch with their colleagues. Layshbu can be reached at [layshbuteam@gmail.com](mailto:layshbuteam@gmail.com).

**(b) Was University Student Association**

This is an association run by students studying in Kenyan universities like the University of Nairobi, Egerton university, Mt Kenya university, Catholic university, Maseno university, Kenyatta university, Masinde Muliro university, South Eastern university, Moi university, International University of Africa in Sudan, University of Manitoba among other universities. It was started in October 2014 and has been registered with Ministry of Labour in the County. It draws its membership from all corners of Isiolo County. The association main objective is to fight illiteracy among the school children by creating awareness on the importance of school to the students. The other objective is to participate in governance and devolutions issues and help the locals to actively participate in decision making through information sharing.

**4. Internet usage**

Most young people are techno savvy in Isiolo. They use social media to form groups, especially Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp group pages such as Eye on Isiolo County 2017 politics, Gaddis tokumaa, Okoa Isiolo County, Wusa, Layshbu and Baliti Borana among others. They push for their agenda, front their problems to the relevant government bodies, updating each other the activities going on in the county.

**5. Traditional Institutions**

Traditionally the institutions exist as the oldest informal associations with no clear set up or formal structures. There is ‘’dheeda’’ a customary territorial natural resource management unit, which is sufficiently extensive to allow dry and wet season mobility of cattle. Within one dheeda therefore dry and wet mobility patterns can mean livestock crossing several boundaries can shift according to mobility patterns. ‘’Jars dheeda’’ is responsible for decisions about mobility, addressing social disputes in conflict resolution. More importantly, ‘jaroles’ are utilized to convey information to their community members.

## ****​​​​​​​6.3****Publicity and Policy Information Sharing

Public communication is important to an institution to have a voice in the society. The 47 County Governments have no exception. A County Government needs an improved direct communication and partnership with the communities. They need to encourage meaningful participation in the governance by all citizens. This initiative requires transparency, coordinated, timely and accurate information provided to citizenry. What seems to be lacking in most counties is the ability to authentically express their achievements to the citizens in a clear and succinct manner.

County government of Isiolo should use of technology such as online media engagement attracts more participation by youth .Youth priorities and needs may not align with those of the broader majority of their communities. For instance, a health center may receive more popular support than a market center proposed by the youth. With insufficient civic education and access to funding, youth tend to feel like complete outsiders in their own democracy, which fuels sentiments of frustration, unfairness and exclusion. County government of Isiolo can enhance communication publicity on information related to youth the following ways;

*Internet usage*

My observation is that most young people are techno savvy in Isiolo. They use social media to form groups, especially Facebook, Twitter and What Sapp group pages such as Eye on Isiolo County, Gaddis tokumaa, Okoa Isiolo County, Isiolo Mountain Movers Youth Group, Wusa, Layshbu and Baliti Borana among others. They push for their agenda, front their problems to the relevant government bodies, updating each other the activities going on in the county.

*Plan good customer service*

Youths face hurdles to reach county government on spilled garbage on the road. County government of Isiolo should communicate effectively with youths, shed off the “old Kanjo image” and break off the information bureaucracy. County government of Isiolo should give fair and equal treatment to all youths.

*Build a sustainable communications framework*

County government of Isiolo should build a sustainable communications framework. This includes centralization of communications coordination to one unit. Develop County Communications Policies. Policy document establishes general rules and principles in communication. Clarity on policy and procedure around the use of social media and other emerging technologies is very crucial. Also, separate Communication and Social Media Policies. County government of Isiolo should also train county staff on production of consistent, quality communications to the public. Training enhances skills required to initiate and produce consistently professional and quality communications that will be useful to youths. The county should deploy a consistent image through use of the county logo and other branding techniques.

*Expand the County’s Reach*

County government of Isiolo should adequately leverage on the traditional media channels to propel county agenda to youths and use new media technology too. County government of Isiolo should inform the public through social media sites such as Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.  Develop strategies for social media and website. Continuous website review should not be ignored. County government of Isiolo should make their website interesting and juicy. The county should leverage on community programs, for live interviews, scheduled media updates, and project launch. Fully enhance transparency and access to information throughout the duration on any county project to youths.

*Develop proactive communication*

 County government of Isiolo should put in place effective administrative processes to prioritize projects, provide consistent messaging across departments, and track results. To confidently tell a county’s story, and to resolve controversial projects or issues, a more targeted approach is recommended. This is where inter ministries support and plan for targeted communication projects come in handy. It is only achievable with the developed framework, and use of most appropriate media channels.  All these followed, County government of Isiolo will have an informed youths that actively participates in governance affairs.

The county can prioritize engagement and training by organizing youth-centered workshops to highlight how public participation is feasible at all levels, from the village to the county. The governments could provide training for youth on how to self-organize and turn their ideas into actionable proposals

## 6.4 Policy review

The Isiolo Youth Policy review intends to employ Read Around Group (RAM) method to make the content of this policy clearer, interesting, informative, fit for purpose and implementable. Coupled with use of correct grammar, spelling, language, variety of sentence styles and patterns and in adherence to standardized structures/outline and proper formatting, We Intend to revise and review this policy internally i.e.by the drafters of the Isiolo youth policy every two years to systematically adjust the strategies and action plans with integrated county development plans and externally by the officials from National Youth Council (NYC) every 3-5 years in order to respond to the changing environment and incorporate the change in Government policy, Agenda and all that may necessitate review of this policy, in light of the National Youth Policy, the Big four Agenda and Kenya’s vision 2030,We commit to create a generation of youth who are creative, self-reliant and innovative.

# 7.0 CONCLUSION

This youth policy touches on so many aspects succinctly and comprehensively, with chapter one introducing youth, providing rationale for the youth county policy, speaks to the scope of the policy, highlights the obligations of the youth and the duties of the state towards the same obligations and rights.it then proceeds to enumerate the guiding principles of this policy, the policy development process and concludes by how this policy mirrors the national, institutional and legal framework. The second chapter of this policy in adherence to the outline so provided by the NYC officials draw contours of the county situational analysis: identify specific opportunities and challenges that are unique to Isiolo youths and how those challenges can be remedied through this policy and /or debunk the existing affirmative action already put in place to empower the youths in our county.it is important to note Isiolo is an already marginalized and this special yet vulnerable group requires special focus in capacity building. Employment, economic empowerment and meaningful participation in politics/representations.

Further this policy has its framework anchored on the vision, mission, objectives, values, priority areas, measures and interventions and the rallying call set to guide the policy developers and other officials in their decision making.it comprehensively dissect the areas of concern to Isiolo youths and while at it provides measures and interventions suitable for specific priority areas. A case in point is the ICT sector, where at the Isiolo youth Innovation Center there is an effort to develop and expand ICT infrastructure with hundreds of Isiolo youths accorded an opportunity to gain skill and necessary training in ICT. Chapter four of this policy speaks to coordination and implementation to ensure Isiolo youth policy is accorded multifaced and deserved concerted effort from all departments, ministries and effectively build synergies with all relevant stakeholders to see this policy coordination a success and ultimately adopted and enacted for successful implementation. This portion further highlights the coordination mechanism, enablers, flagships, implementation matrix, stakeholders and resources so required. Unfortunately, the policy failed to identify even a single flagship. Finally, the fifth Chapter of this policy speaks to Monitoring, evaluation and learning with chapter six outlining communication, publicity and information.