

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

**DRAFT**

**KISUMU COUNTY YOUTH POLICY**

**2022**

***“* Building The Future with Young People*”***

Table of Contents

[FOREWORD 4](#_Toc121302198)

[PREFACE 5](#_Toc121302199)

[ACKNOWLEDGMENT 7](#_Toc121302200)

[ABBREVIATION AND SYNONYMS 8](#_Toc121302201)

[DEFINITION OF TERMS 9](#_Toc121302202)

[EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 13](#_Toc121302203)

[1. INTRODUCTION 18](#_Toc121302204)

[1.0 Background 18](#_Toc121302205)

[1.2 Rationale for the County Youth Policy 21](#_Toc121302206)

[1.3 Guiding Principles for the Youth Policy 23](#_Toc121302207)

[1.4 Rights, Obligation and Responsibilities of the Youth 24](#_Toc121302208)

[1.5 Scope of the policy 25](#_Toc121302209)

[1.6 The Youth Policy Development Process 26](#_Toc121302210)

[1.7 Alignment of the Youth Policy 27](#_Toc121302211)

[1.8 Organization of the Youth Policy 31](#_Toc121302212)

[2.0 SITUATION ANALYSIS 34](#_Toc121302213)

[2.1 Introduction 34](#_Toc121302214)

[2.2 County Situation of the Youth 34](#_Toc121302215)

[2.3.1 Dimensions of the youth profiles in the County 36](#_Toc121302216)

[2.3.2 Target Youth Policy Audience 37](#_Toc121302217)

[2.4 Overview of Youth potential in Kisumu County 42](#_Toc121302218)

[2.5 Challenges Affecting the Youth in Kisumu County 44](#_Toc121302219)

[2.6 Kisumu county Government Interventions and Achievements 52](#_Toc121302220)

[2.6.1 Youth Interventions 52](#_Toc121302221)

[2.6.2 Achievements 53](#_Toc121302222)

[2.7 SWOT Analysis Of Recent Kisumu County Interventions 55](#_Toc121302223)

[3.1 Introduction 60](#_Toc121302224)

[3.2 Vision, Mission, Rallying call and Values 60](#_Toc121302225)

[3.3 Youth Policy Objectives, Priority Areas And Interventions 66](#_Toc121302226)

[3.3.1 The Youth Policy Objectives 66](#_Toc121302227)

[3.3.2 Policy Priority Areas 68](#_Toc121302228)

[Respective Interventions 69](#_Toc121302229)

[4.0 POLICY COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION 78](#_Toc121302230)

[4.1 Introduction 78](#_Toc121302231)

[APPROACHES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE POLICY 79](#_Toc121302232)

[4.2 Implementation And Coordination Mechanisms 81](#_Toc121302233)

[4.3 Enablers: Asks for the County government 81](#_Toc121302234)

[4.4 Flagships 117](#_Toc121302235)

[Obligations of the County Government 117](#_Toc121302236)

[Obligations of the Private Sector 119](#_Toc121302237)

[Responsibilities and Obligations of the Youth 119](#_Toc121302238)

[Obligations of parents, guardians and caregivers 120](#_Toc121302239)

[4.5 Resource Mobilization and Financing of the Policy 122](#_Toc121302240)

[4.6 Implementation Matrix 122](#_Toc121302241)

[4.7 Roles of stakeholders 123](#_Toc121302242)

[5.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION 128](#_Toc121302243)

[5.1 Introduction 128](#_Toc121302244)

[5.2 Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning 128](#_Toc121302245)

[6.0 COMMUNICATION, PUBICITY AND INFORMATION STRATEGIES 130](#_Toc121302246)

[6.1 Introduction 130](#_Toc121302247)

[6.2 COMMUNICATION CHANNELS 130](#_Toc121302248)

[Publicity and Policy Information Sharing 132](#_Toc121302249)

[6.4 Policy Review 133](#_Toc121302250)

[7 CONCLUSION 134](#_Toc121302251)

[Annex 1: Implementation Matrix 134](#_Toc121302252)

# FOREWORD

My vision for Kisumu County is a prosperous county where every citizen enjoys a decent life and holds the hope of a bright future for the current generation and generations to come.

My Manifesto in the first five years has been about awakening a sleeping giant by solving some of the immediate problems while laying the foundation for sustainable development in the long-term. The Manifesto outlined a ten (10)-point development agenda, ‘ten things’ to be achieved in the short-term and specific legacy projects. The implementation of these “ten things” provides the basis upon which our performance can be judged. This is a re-election Manifesto. As such, the first part is an accountability statement or a scorecard of our first term in office, going through the ten-point agenda, the ‘ten things’ and the legacy projects.

In our view, notwithstanding the Covid-19 pandemic, we have done all that we promised to do and much more. We have restored the County on a development trajectory. For five years, we have been BUILDING BACK BETTER.

Now that we have taken off, in the next five years, we are focused on BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE by consolidating the gains made and initiating new programmes and projects as elaborated in the second part of this Manifesto. We are giving an account of our achievements in the first term (Ma Wasetimo) and our programmes for the next five years when the people of Kisumu County renew our mandate (Ma Wadoktimo).

As always, there is work to be done. Let us do it!

**H.E. Prof. Peter Anyang’ Nyong’o, Governor,**

**Kisumu County.**

# PREFACE

The youth are a crucial part of the growth of our county and are vital in achieving Kenya's Big Four Agenda, Vision 2030, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This Kisumu Youth Development Policy, which was influenced by county-level conditions, situates youth in the broader framework of national development and aspires to provide all youth with beneficial chances to realize their full potential as people and contributing members of society.

The policy also requires young people to take an active role in their own development rather than relying solely on assistance from the county government of Kisumu or other stakeholders. The creation of a Kisumu Youth Development Index, for the first time, to track and measure the impact of youth initiatives, programs, projects, and activities at all levels, is one of the most notable areas that the policy wants to focus on. The Index will contain distinct characteristics that will make it simple for it to be included in the routine national and local surveys and reporting systems. The policy also intends to maximize the youth's potential for long-term growth and economic creation.

The ideas, goals, vigour, and vision of the younger generation are crucial for future advancement, yet they endure numerous obstacles that prevent them from accomplishing their goals. Therefore, the policy is created to provide direction and satisfy the diverse requirements of young people. Other policy priorities include youth participation, involvement, and governance.

This policy was created through an inclusive approach.

Through consultative and participatory processes that included county public participation forums, county stakeholder validation forums, expert consultations, technical team forums, executive meetings, and technical services and professional facilitation by pertinent policy teams, it included the youth themselves as well as a number of partners and stakeholders.

The three key tactics that will be used are behaviour change communication, capacity building, and lobbying and advocacy. Second, it dehumanizes promoting the rights of young people with disabilities to actively engage in youth programs.

The plan will promote awareness creation and capacity building, primarily through training, to attain the above objective.

# ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We take the opportunity to acknowledge with thanks all individuals, groups, and organizations that made a contribution towards the successful formulation of the policy. To name just a few: Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (**KIPPRA**) for technical support; all the youth and youth groups who candidly shared their views during the public

All youth serving groups and organizations that provided views to enrich the policy; and all authors of publications and other information resources whose ideas were sourced to inform the content of the policy.

We also wish to thank the staff of the Ministry of ICT, Innovation and Youth Affairs in collaboration with the **National Youth Council** for their contribution towards the development of this policy. Special gratitude goes to the entire team of the National Youth Council, for guidance, facilitation, and selection of capable multi-stakeholder technical youth champions that worked with the Kisumu county government to provide the overall coordination of the entire policy development process as well as refining and finalizing the document.

Finally, we once again call upon all those who supported the policy formulation process, together with other new well-wishers, to commit more support to the next phases of the policy, which include; implementation, monitoring, reviews, and reporting of impact.

# ABBREVIATION AND SYNONYMS

**PWD**s Persons with Disabilities

**AIDS** Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

**STI**  Science Training and Innovation

**UHC**  Universal Health Coverage

**UN**  United Nations

**UNDP**   United Nations Development Programme

**UNICEF** United Nations Children's Educational Fund

**VCT** Voluntary Counselling and Testing

**CBO** Community Based Organizations

**COG** Council of Governance

**CSO** Community Service Organizations

**FBO**  Faith Based Organization

**HIV** Human Immune-deficiency Virus

**ICT**  Information Communication Technology

**IEC**  Information, Education and Communication

**ILO** International Labour Organization

**KIPPRA**   Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis

**KIHBS** Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey

**KNBS** Kenya National Bureau of Statistics

**KYDP** Kenya Youth Development Policy

**KYEOP** Kenya Youth Employment Opportunities Programme

**MDAs** Ministries, Department Agencies

**MTP** Medium Term Plan

**NEET** Not in Education Employment and Training

**NGO**         Non-Governmental Organization

**SDGs** Sustainable Development Goals

**KECOSOC**

# DEFINITION OF TERMS

**Youth**

The policy defines a **youth** as a person aged 18 years or younger who has not reached the age of 35 years. [Kenya Constitution 2010]. However, for purposes of labour analysis, persons aged **15-34** years were considered. Further, the policy directs that the term “youth” will not be used interchangeably with other terms such as “**young people**”, “**young person’s”,** “**young women**”, or “**young men**”; terms which are relative, ambiguous and normally misdirect focus from the real youth.

The policy uses the term ‘**youth**’ to refer to both age and youth hood. With respect to age, a young person will be defined as a person, male or female, in the age bracket of 18 to 34 years; while youth–hood will be looked at as the *specific stage between childhood and adulthood* when people have to negotiate a complex interplay of both personal and socio-economic changes to manoeuvre the transition from dependence to independence, take effective control of their lives and assume social commitments.

The policy recognizes youth-hood as a period of transition and vulnerability when the youth have to undergo learning, going to work, staying healthy and safe, forming families and exercising citizenship. Success in this period of transition requires the development of human capital of the youth, empowering the youth to productively contribute to sustainable development both nationally and internationally; take up leadership roles, make informed and competent choices, and develop a sense of wellbeing.

**Youth Empowerment**

**Youth empowerment** is both a means and an end, an attitudinal, structural, and cultural process whereby youth gain the ability, authority, and agency to make decisions and implement change in their own and other peoples’ lives both now and in their adulthood while bearing responsibility for the consequences of those decisions and actions.

The Commonwealth Youth Ministers and Heads of States endorsed that “***Empowering youth means creating and supporting the enabling conditions under which youth can act on their own behalf and on their terms, rather than the direction of others***”.

These enabling conditions include:

1. Economic and social base;
2. Political will and commitment for mainstreaming youth issues at all levels, adequate resource allocation and supportive legal and administrative framework;
3. A stable environment for equity, peace and democracy; and
4. Access to knowledge, information and skills.

Youth empowerment is often addressed as a gateway to intergenerational equity, assets enhancement, civic engagement and democracy building and all programs that focus on positive youth development.

**Government**

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

**Stakeholders**

These include the private sector, development partners, Faith Based Organizations (FBOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), Youth Serving Organizations (YSOs), Youth-led Organizations (YLOs), and individuals.

**Youth Participation**

Youth participation refers to the youth having influence on and shared responsibility for decisions and actions that affect the lives of the youth within a context that acknowledges and respects their talents and strengths and supports them in finding ways to deal with the issues that affect them.

**Youth Employment**

This Policy defines youth employment as a means of providing youth with opportunities for work that are productive and deliver a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection, better prospects for personal development and social integration, freedom for the youth to express their concerns, organize and participate in the decisions that affect their lives and equality of opportunity and treatment.

**Youth Work**

The Policy defines youth work as all forms of youth engagement that build personal awareness and support the social, political and socio economic empowerment of youth. This Policy holds that youth work involves skills and competency development among the youth while enhancing their self-esteem, social connectedness, economic productivity, emotional and intellectual maturity and autonomy as well as supporting their self-empowerment within a caring and supportive environment.

**Youth Worker**

A youth worker is a suitably trained and knowledgeable individual who undertakes youth work, engages and responds to young people from a place of deep contextual understanding and co-creates with young people spaces and activities that support their agency to organize their lives and engage positively with their communities and the world.

**Youth Sector**

The policy defines the youth sector as any section of an institution that deals with youth issues.

**A Safe Space for Youth**

A space occupied by young people that is co-governed by the youth with rules and norms set by young people. A safe space should be one that enables young people to experience feelings of love, ownership, learning, growth, freedom and social hope. This policy holds that any facility- physical or virtual earmarked as a youth centre must be a safe space.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Kisumu Youth Development Policy 2022 seeks to provide an opportunity for improving the quality of life for young people in Kisumu County through their participation in economic and democratic processes as well as in community and civic affairs. The policy also seeks to begin a county specific encounter with the young people, repurpose youth agenda and retool this most fundamental demographic. The need is to accelerate access to decision making and creation of unlimited opportunities through employment, capital flow, and promotion of innovation and entrepreneurship as key antidotes to dethrone the cyclic poverty among the Youth and the generations they take after. It also advocates for creation of a supportive social, cultural, economic and political environment that will empower the youth to be partners in national development. The Policy therefore provides a detailed account of various aspects, key of which are highlighted here under.

**Achievements of previous Legislative, Policy and Institutional Frameworks**

The Policy has underscored the importance and role that previous legislative, policy and institutional frameworks have been able to achieve in advancing the youth agenda in Kisumu county. Some of the milestones acknowledged in the Policy are:

1. The young people are already unlocking the opportunities in agriculture.
2. The Rotary Youth Business Incubation and Innovation Centre
3. Establish proper governance in Kisumu City by creating a City Management Board and a City Manager.
4. Clean up the city and remove that TAKA TAKA (mound of solid waste) at Kachok which has been decommissioned and we have established a new waste management facility (Kasese) outside the City.
5. Established Village Councils and Village Administrators as the foundation of devolution;
6. Taken a comprehensive census of all Nyamrerwa health workers in the County and, within the context of the County Health Management Bill, make provisions of their monthly stipends and clear terms of service
7. Established Kisumu Economic and Social Council (KECOSOC)
8. Initiated the rejuvenation of the rice industry in collaboration with the National Irrigation Authority (NIA), and expanded the area under irrigation by over 6,500 acres.
9. Initiated the modernization of Jubilee, Kibuye and Otonglo markets to improve security for traders, create more space for trading, better sanitation, provision of water and easier access to banking and financial services.

**Policy Goal, Vision, Objectives and Values**

**The Policy Goal** is to *take affirmative action for the youth as a strategy of participation and empowerment while harnessing their potential.*

**The vision:** a community that promote the holistic participation of the youth in socio-economic and political well-being for themselves, and bring youth closer to youth programming by engaging the county government of Kisumu, national, regional, African and global organizations, and opportunities that address issues pertinent to young people in Kisumu.

**Policy Mission:**  to facilitate increased impact and expanded national, regional and country-level action to address the needs, build the framework and advance the rights of young people in all their diversity around the county, and to ensure their engagement and participation in the implementation, review and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as other relevant global, national and kisumu county agendas and frameworks.

**A Rallying call:** Youths to be involved in decision making and creation of unlimited opportunities through employment, capital flow, and promotion of innovation and entrepreneurship.

**The Values** given emphasis in the Policy include **patriotism**, **respect** for diversity and ethical values, equity and **accessibility**, **inclusivenes**s, **good governance**, mainstreaming youth issues. The values are anchored on the principles of **responsiveness** by stakeholders to address youth issues, **accessibility**, **equality**, **participation**, **integration**, **access**, **diversity**, **empowerment** and inclusion among the youth.

**Special interest groups**

The Policy gives special attention to certain groups of youth because of their specific needs. These special groups include: youth living with disability; street youth; youth infected with HIV and AIDS; female youth; unemployed youth; and out of school youth. In each of the targeted youth groups, the Government and organizations working with the youth will be required to give special attention and affirmative action to the special interest groups.

**Mandate to drive the Youth Agenda**

Deriving from the Executive Order No.1 of 2016 on Organization of the Government of the Republic of Kenya, the Policy gives the mandate to drive the youth agenda in the country to the Directorate in charge of youth affairs, with direct oversight by the parent Ministry.

**Youth Challenges as well as Strengths and Opportunities**

The policy emphasizes that the narrative about the youth in Kisumu County should have a positive component. In this regard the document shares the various challenges that face the youth such as: runaway unemployment, deep financial exclusion, absence at decision-making platforms, and a myriad of other poverty catalysts. The Policy has also brought out key strengths and opportunities that the youth present. Some of these positive aspects include: their numbers which presents the highest workforce dividend that needs to be harnessed and optimized; they are highly educated; their readiness to learn and be taught; they easily embrace ICT and optimize its use; they have energy and are available; and they demonstrate high affinity for networking, creativity, teamwork, patriotism and cohesion.

**Priority areas for the Policy**

The policy has articulated the youth empowerment and development priorities within the Kenyan context. For transformative, sustainable, equitable and inclusive development, special attention will be given to this social group who also forms a majority of labour workforce in the following low hanging solution areas: Youth in Agri-business and Rural; Economy Arts, Creative’s, and Sports Education, Innovation, and STEM Enterprise; Development Youth Inclusion in Governance and Leadership Youth, Health and Nutrition; Patriotism and Volunteerism; Skills Development and Employment, and Entrepreneurship Development; Creativity and Talent Development; ICT Development; Environment and Sustainable Development; curbing Drugs and Substance Abuse; Crime, Security and Peace Building; Youth Mainstreaming; and eradicating Radicalization and Violent Extremism. Under each of the above-mentioned priorities, a number of policy objectives and measures have been provided to develop and transform the youth for improved well-being.

**Rights, Responsibilities and Obligations of Stakeholders**

The Policy seeks not only to safeguard the rights of the youth, but also to help them to understand and fulfil their responsibilities, for the development of society. It further stipulates the obligations of other stakeholders, including Government and non-government actors. Highlights under this section are: Rights of youth; Responsibilities and obligations of the youth; adults and parents; the State; and the private sector

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

The Policy provides a well-defined mechanism that will support effective implementation, coordination, monitoring, evaluation and report on youth empowerment and development interventions. The mechanism will include relevant stakeholders, thematic working groups, Inter-Agency Forums and the Directorate in charge of Youth Affairs in Kisumu County. Each of the players shall be assigned specific roles and expectations. The Policy implementation mechanism will be operational zed through the integrated implementation plan and annual Action Plans detailing: policy priorities, key actions, indicators, timelines, responsibility, and estimated financial and non-financial resource mobilization and budgetary requirements per year.

**Recommended Budget for Implementation of the Policy**

The Policy proposes that the county government of Kisumu allocates at least 1 percent of the county Annual Budget to facilitate its successful implementation. It is also expected that the Policy will be revised when need arises and when other government legal and policy frameworks are revised. Finally, the Policy is a credible guide and reference tool for effective development and implementation of youth empowerment and development interventions in Kisumu County.

# INTRODUCTION

## Background

1. Kenya has a young population, out of its 47.6 million constituents; a whopping 75.1 percent are below the age of 35. Consequently, her median age is approximately 20 years (KNBS Census, 2019). The youth definitively, account for 29 percent of her entire population. It thus can be concluded that Kenya is experiencing a youth bulge. Despite the promise brought forth by devolution, the country’s population growth rate has not been commensurate with the amount of opportunities generated by the economy. The few existing positions have been occupied by the significantly older generation, as a result, most of the young population feel excluded in economic, political and social spheres of life.
2. Kisumu County is one of the 47 counties created through the devolved system of governance by the Constitution of Kenya 2010 delineated as County number 42. The population is estimated at 1,155,574 (2019 Census Report).
3. The county has a diverse background comprising urban and rural set-ups as well as rich ethnic, racial and cultural diversity with the Luo being the dominant community. The county’s strategic position serves as a gateway for Kenya into the rest of the African Great Lakes region. It is located on the shores of Lake Victoria and serves as the main commercial and transport hub for the Western part of Kenya and the East African region.
4. The county hosts the third largest city in Kenya, Kisumu city, which serves as the County's headquarters. There are five major urban centres; Ahero, Katito, Muhoroni, Chemilil, and Maseno. Other emerging fast-growing centres include Awasi, Pap-Onditi, Holo, Kombewa and Sondu. The major economic activities of the residents are trade, farming and fishing.
5. Kisumu County lies between longitudes 33020’E and 350 20’E and latitude 00 20’ South and 00 50’ South. The County is bordered by Homa Bay County to the South, Nandi County to the North East, Kericho County to the East, Vihiga County to the North West, Siaya County to the West and surrounded by the second largest freshwater lake in the World; Lake Victoria. Kisumu County covers approximately 567 km2 on water and 2086km2 land area, representing 0.36% of the total land area of Kenya's 580,367km2. The county is sub-divided into Seven sub-counties (comprising Kisumu Central, Kisumu East, Kisumu Central, Kisumu West, Nyando and Muhoroni) and 35 wards.
6. The youth population in Kisumu accounts for approximately 60% of the total population. However barriers to socio-economic and political participation hinder them from harnessing their growth potential. Many of the youth who are productive and energetic remain unemployed, continue to suffer from poor health, and lack sufficient support. Some of them have special needs that require attention. These include those living on the streets, those living with HIV/AIDS, Youth addicted with alcohol and drugs, the girls and those with disabilities.
7. The policy is premised on the following ratified instruments Lisbon Declaration (1998), United Nations Youth Strategy 2030 (2018), Common Wealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment 2015, Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention No. 111 (1958), Human Resources Development Convention, No. 142 (1975), African Youth Charter (2006), and Dakar Declaration on Youth Empowerment Strategy (2001).

The youth are full of energy and potential yet the most vulnerable part of the population so guidance is key and with this policy it will be easy to know where and how to engage them to improve their productivity in the county. If there is a favorable legal ground for youth, they can invest their efforts, knowledge, and skills in those aspects. Youth need real access to opportunities to enable them to participate in political processes of their counties and contribute to practical solutions that advance both social and economic development.

This policy document is informed by the following intentions:

1. Adoption of a positive attitude that eliminates the marginalization of youth in county government whilst also strengthening the concept of participatory development;
2. Recognition of the needs, problems, aspirations and innovations of youth; and
3. Leveraging Youth capacities as a main asset to economic, social and political development across the great Kisumu County.
4. Adoption of Kisumu Youth Advisory Board

To achieve the stated goals of this policy, joint inter-sectional and cross-sect oral efforts, including governmental agencies and civil society organizations and the private sector are essential. Service provision for sustainable development of youth requires coordination in programmes and decision making in both the public and private sectors, and procedures for monitoring and evaluation must be developed.

## 1.2 Rationale for the County Youth Policy

1. Inspired by the Constitution of the Republic of Kenya, the East Africa Community Youth Policy, the African Youth Charter, and the United Nations World Programme on Youth all of which recognize the importance of young people's role in poverty reduction and development.
2. Development of this policy aims at actualizing Article 55 of CoK that mandates the state to take measures, including affirmative action programmes, to ensure that the youth have access to relevant education and training; opportunities to associate, be represented and participate in political, social, economic and other spheres of life; and to access productive engagement including employment and entrepreneurship.
3. This policy aims at domesticating the existing KYDP, and cascading it down to the county of Kisumu specific thematic priority area concerns for the youth. The priority set forth in this policy aligns with the county priority areas highlighted in the CIDP 2018-2022 and the national Vision 2030 blue print.
4. The youth of Kisumu county are faced with a challenging socio-economic and political environment e.g. limited access to and quality of education, limited opportunities to effectively participate in the political, economic and social spheres of life, high levels of unemployment, increased dependency rates due to poverty, exit of expert youth from the county, exclusion from policy and developmental societal discourse which has created political disengagement, lack of youth-friendly health services, drug and substance abuse, non-inclusive nature of peace negotiations and security matters, and marginalization of youth in governance.
5. Due to this fact and the evolving changes in the needs of the youth, National Youth Council engage jointly with the Kisumu County youth leadership and champions across eight  sub-counties in order to develop a youth policy paper that will serve as a strong advocacy and engagement tool with the leadership of political parties and Kisumu county government officials in addressing and putting the concerns and issues affecting the youth at the centre of planning, budgeting, programming and mobilization for action.
6. Besides the broad requirements for its development, the policy is important for the county’s development agenda for a number of reasons. Specifically, the Policy shall:
7. Enable the development of an integrated framework to improve clarity, coherence and coordination of youth initiatives and programmes across Kisumu County Governments and other stakeholders;
8. Enhance Youth inclusion in social, economic and political affairs of the county of Kisumu through a specific requirements and programs;
9. Coordinate of youth affairs and evaluate the effectiveness of various County Government policies, action plans and strategies in regards to youth issues to ensure youth centric plans and actions;
10. Establish broad-based strategies and partnerships to provide enhanced opportunities to the youth to maximize their potential;
11. Equip the youth with knowledge and skills to use ICT appropriately, including the capacity to analyze and treat information in creative and innovative ways, to share their expertise and participate fully in the information society.
12. Establish a working framework of Youth Empowerment Centers to work closely with both the county administration and the county assembly in ensuring the potential of the County’s Youth is realized
13. Anticipate the risks associated with emerging issues to youth participation in development and counter the risks through policy and programme interventions. The risks include: dynamic technological advances; labor underutilization, income polarization; and radicalization; and
14. Suggest an implementation mechanism and strategy

## 1.3 Guiding Principles for the Youth Policy

11. We are happy as young people to roll out this Kisumu Youth Development Policy (2022). The policy is a demonstration of the county’s commitment to spearheading multi- dimensional approaches and initiatives to address the challenges currently facing our youth, while optimizing the several strengths and opportunities that they present.

12. It is important to acknowledge that previous policies have helped the county to achieve a number of key milestones in youth empowerment efforts. Notable among them being: the establishment of the Kisumu Youth Sector as a representative body advancing the voice of the youth; and the establishment of several Affirmative Action Funds that continue to provide the youth, women and people living with disabilities with low/ interest-free funds for economic empowerment activities.

13. This policy, which is an outcome of a broad based consultative process, is therefore designed to scale up youth empowerment interventions as well as the youth's valuable contribution to both Kisumu county and nation building. It is gratifying that among the many benchmark priorities set out in the new policy are: alignment of the youth programmes to the **AGOA**, Multiple multilateral and bilateral trade agreements, African Continental Free Trade Area, the East African common market protocol, and the **National Youth Agribusiness Strategy 2018-2022**, **Kisumu** **County Integrated Development Plan III**,  **Kenya Vision 2030** and its **Medium Term Plans**, the **Constitution (2010)** and the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (2030)**; establishment of a **National Youth Volunteerism Strategy** to allow the youth to give back to society through their competencies and talents; and development of a **Kenya Youth Development Index** to  track and measure the impact derived from all the youth programmes, projects and activities that we implement.

## 1.4 Rights, Obligation and Responsibilities of the Youth

14. The Policy seeks not only to safeguard the rights of the youth, but also to help them to understand and fulfil their responsibilities, for the development of society. It further stipulates the obligations of other stakeholders, including county government and non-government actors. Highlights under this section are: Rights of youth; Responsibilities and obligations of the youth; adults and parents; the county; the State; and the private sector.

This policy recognizes the categories of Youth as listed below, while cognizant of their unique diversity, expectations, challenges and opportunities.

1. Male and Female
2. Educated and Uneducated
3. Formally trained and informally trained
4. Rural and urban residents
5. In-school and out-of-school
6. Adolescents and Young adults
7. Physically challenged and able-bodied
8. Migrant and Non-migrant
9. Economically engaged or not

## 1.5 Scope of the policy

The Kisumu Youth Policy applies to the Kisumu County government, the private sector, development partners, youth organizations, youth groups and individual.

**GOAL**

To harness the potential of the youth in Kisumu County through empowerment, strategic participation and involvement

**VISION**

To promote the holistic participation of the youth in socio-economic and political well-being for themselves, and bring youth closer to youth programming by engaging the county government of Kisumu, national, regional, African and global organizations, and opportunities that address issues pertinent to young people in Kisumu.

**MISSION**

To facilitate increased impact and expanded national, regional and country-level action to address the needs, build the framework and advance the rights of young people in all their diversity around the county, and to ensure their engagement and participation in the implementation, review and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as other relevant global, national and Kisumu county agendas and frameworks.

**OBJECTIVES**

1. To increase youth involvement in leadership, decision making and community-based development programmes.
2. Build a qualified and competent youth workforce for sustained development.
3. Create opportunities for youth to earn decent and sustainable livelihoods
4. Nature value driven, morally upright and ethical generation of patriotic youth for transformative leadership
5. Support youth engagement in environmental management for sustainable development
6. Promote and develop entrepreneurial culture among the youth through access to subsidized loan, training, mentorship, internships, attachments, business incubation and partnerships.
7. Support the development of a wide range of ICT-based programmes in local languages appropriate with content relevant to different groups of youth.
8. Effective civic participation and representation among the youth.
9. Promote a crime free, secure, peaceful and united county.
10. Realize a healthy and productive youth population.

## 1.6 The Youth Policy Development Process

16. The process of developing this Policy was inclusive. It involved the youth themselves, several partners and stakeholders through consultative and participatory processes comprising county public participation forums, county stakeholder validation forums, expert consultations, technical team forums, executive meetings, and technical services and professional facilitation by relevant policy teams.

17. The preparation of the Kisumu Youth Development Policy was through a consultative and participatory approach. The process involved various stakeholders both at national and county levels. These included the public sector, private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), faith-based organizations, community based organizations and development partners. Extensive consultative activities took place with a wide range of stakeholders including the ministries and directorates in charge of youth issues at the national and county governments.

## 1.7 Alignment of the Youth Policy

18. The aligns and takes into account the  [**2010 Kenyan Constitution**](http://www.parliament.go.ke/sites/default/files/2017-05/The_Constitution_of_Kenya_2010.pdf), [**Kenya Youth Development Policy 2019**](https://ict.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Kenya-Youth-Development-Policy-2019.pdf) ,the [**Kisumu** **County Integrated Development Plan 2018/2022**](https://www.kisumu.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Kisumu-County-CIDP-II-2018-2022.pdf)  and internationally agreed frameworks such as the [**European Union Youth Policy**](https://europa.eu/youth/strategy_en), the [**Africa Agenda 2063**](https://au.int/Agenda2063/popular_version), the [**World Programme of Action for Youth**](https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/wpay2010.pdf), the [**African Youth Charter**](https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/7789-treaty-0033_-_african_youth_charter_e.pdf) and the [**East African Community Youth Policy**](https://www.eac.int/gender/youth/eac-youth-policy).

The United Nations has long recognized that the imagination, ideals and energies of young people are vital for the continuing development of the societies in which they live. The Member States of the United Nations acknowledged this in 1965 when they endorsed the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples.

 The World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) provides a policy framework and practical guideline for national action and international support to improve the situation of young people. It contains proposals for action, aiming at fostering conditions and mechanisms to promote improved well-being and livelihoods among young people.

The UN fully embraces young people’s diversity in all its forms. Therefore, the UN employs and advocates for methods and approaches reflective of this diversity to make sure all young people can reach their full engagement, empowerment and development. The UN recognizes young people as rights-holders, and promotes and facilitates transparency, accountability, and responsiveness from governments, international organizations and others toward young people.

In 2017, The UN appointed Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake was appointed [United Nations Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth](https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/) ,a global advocate for youth; she works to ensure the participation of young people in issues that matter to them, giving them a voice at the UN and around the world. Championing the SDGs, she also brings the work of the UN closer to young people around the world.

Continentally The African Youth Charter provides a strategic framework for youth empowerment and development activities at the continental, regional and national levels across Africa. It addresses key issues affecting youth, including employment, sustainable livelihoods, education, skills development, health, youth participation, national youth policy, peace and security, law enforcement, youth in the Diaspora and youth with disabilities.

The Charter provides an avenue for effective youth participation in the development process. It defines youths as people between the ages of 15-35 years. It was developed after research was conducted on the state of the African Youth, commissioned by the African Union Commission. The Charter took into consideration provisions and successes of previous declarations, Plan of Action and charters, especially the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the NEPAD Strategic Framework for Youth, the World Programme of Action for Youth and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

The Africa 2063 Agenda appreciates the critical role of the African youth play in state development. It states “ the people of Africa and her Diaspora, united in diversity, young and old, men and women, girls and boys from all walks of life, deeply conscious of history, express our deep appreciation to all generations of Pan-Africanists. In particular, to the founders of the Organisation of African Unity for having bequeathed us an Africa with exemplary successes in the fight against slavery, colonialism and apartheid.”

The Agenda 2063, rooted in Pan Africanism and African Renaissance, provides a robust framework for addressing past injustices and the realization of the 21st Century as the African Century. In the 6th ASPIRATION of the 2063 Agenda, it states that an Africa, whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children, the citizens of Africa will be actively involved in decision making in all aspects. Africa shall be an inclusive continent where no child, woman or man will be left behind or excluded, on the basis of gender, political affiliation, religion, ethnic affiliation, locality, age or other factors.

The African Youth Charter, states that every State Party is required to develop a comprehensive and coherent Youth Development Policy. At the domestic level, the Constitution of Kenya (2010) makes various provisions for the youth in Article 55, which requires the State to take measures, including affirmative action programmes, to ensure that the youth have access to relevant education and training; opportunities to associate, be represented and participate in political, social, economic and other spheres of life; and to access productive engagement including employment and entrepreneurship.

Regionally, The East African Community Youth Policy acknowledges the fact that the youth constitute the largest segment of the population in all its Partner States and they make them a critical section of society to forge forward the EAC integration agenda. Therefore, the overall objective of the Youth Policy is to guide the East African Community on the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes to address youth issues in the region while assuring sustainable social, economic and political development.

The policy prescribes strategic priority areas and actions to guide the implementation and address youth challenges. It also articulates the need for harmonising definitions of the youth, related legislation and programmes carried out across the region.

The [national youth policy](https://www.youthpolicy.org/national/Kenya_2006_National_Youth_Policy.pdf) (2006), visualizes a society where youth have an equal opportunity as other citizens to realize their fullest potential, productively participating in economic, social, political, cultural and religious life without fear or favour. The [strategic plan](https://www.youthpolicy.org/national/Kenya_2007_Strategic_Youth_Plan.pdf) (2007-2012) provided a detailed action plan for the implementation of the eight strategic areas:

1. Employment;
2. Empowerment and Participation;
3. Education and Training;
4. Information Communication Technology;
5. Health;
6. Crime and Drugs;
7. Environment;
8. Leisure, Recreation and Community Service

As a member of the [Commonwealth of Nations](http://thecommonwealth.org/), Kenya is a signatory of [The Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE) 2006-2015](https://www.youthpolicy.org/library/wp-content/uploads/library/2006_Commonwealth_PAYE_Eng.pdf).

Locally, the second Kisumu County Integrated Development Plan is the County’s development blueprint that outlines the programmes and projects which Kisumu County intends to implement during the five-year period starting 2018 to 2022. It is the social contract between the County Government and the people of Kisumu County. The plan draws from the promises made during campaigns to take up leadership of the County and convert those promises into actionable programmes and projects.

In order to put the Kisumu county on a high, broad-based, inclusive and sustainable growth trajectory recovery path. Intrusively, County development planning took place in the context of Global targets in the current Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the National Long-term Vision 2030 and its third Medium Term Plan presently anchored in the President’s “Big Four Agenda” and its implementation arrangements.

The CIPDP ten-point plan in the Manifesto is focused on the following key priorities:

1. Revitalizing agriculture for food security and agribusiness;
2. Ensuring a healthy population living in a clean and secure environment;
3. Modernizing infrastructure;
4. Promotion of skills development and innovation;
5. Conservation of environment while opening the Kisumu lake-front for business;
6. Promotion of decent housing;
7. Promotion of sports, culture and arts;
8. Promotion of sustainable energy sources in industrialization and service sector development
9. Promotion of tourism driven by culture and heritage
10. Deepening the structures of devolved governance

## 1.8 Organization of the Youth Policy

19. The document is organized by taking into account: Policy Objectives, Priority Areas, Measures/Strategies and Interventions

**Youth Policy Objectives**

20. The Policy has articulated the youth empowerment and development objectives within the Kisumu County context. The Policy objectives are:

1. Realize a healthy and productive youth population;
2. Build qualified and competent youth workforce for sustained development;
3. Create opportunities for youth to earn decent and sustainable livelihoods;
4. Develop youth talent, creativity and innovation for wealth creation;
5. Nurture value driven, morally upright, ethical generation of patriotic youth for transformative leadership;
6. Support youth engagement in environmental management for sustainable development;
7. Promote and develop of entrepreneurial culture among the youth through access to subsidized loans, training, mentorship, internships, attachments, business incubation and partnerships;
8. Support the development of a wide range of ICT-based programmes in local languages, as appropriate, with content relevant to different groups of youth.
9. Effective civic participation and representation among the youth;
10. Promote a crime free, secure, peaceful and united Kenya where no young Kenyan is left behind

**The associated priority areas for Policy intervention include:**

1. Supporting youth development, health, nutrition and wellbeing;
2. Eradicating drugs and substance abuse among youth;
3. Investing in education, training and skills development by ensuring that ICT is fully and appropriately integrated into education and training at all levels and also establishing educational networks for sharing educational resources and promoting e-learning at all levels;
4. Institutionalizing and strengthening apprenticeship and internship programmes;
5. Addressing youth unemployment, underemployment and inactivity;
6. Building capacity of the youth to fully integrate them into the County’s technological transformation;
7. Ensuring sustainable financing of youth programmes;
8. Transforming agriculture to make it attractive to youth;
9. Promoting entrepreneurship and skills training, mentorship, internships, job attachments, business incubation and partnerships for the youth;
10. Strengthening frameworks for labour export;
11. Supporting labour management information systems;
12. Supporting creativity, talent identification and innovative development;
13. Entrenching positive morals, values, patriotism and volunteerism for transformative leadership;
14. Supporting effective civic participation and representation;
15. Promoting a crime free, secure, peaceful and cohesive County;
16. Promoting mechanisms that support youth engagement in the development, protection, conservation of natural resources and environment while engaging in eco-entrepreneurship and green jobs;
17. Building capacity of the youth in green processes, technology and waste management; and,
18. Facilitating access to ICT opportunities for the youth.

# 2.0 SITUATION ANALYSIS

## 2.1 Introduction

The under 35-year-olds population accounts for three-quarters of Kenya's population of 47,564,296. With a median age of 19.1 years, the youth bulge remains one of the most sophisticated crises in Kenya coupled with runaway unemployment, deep financial exclusion, absence at decision-making platforms, and a myriad of other poverty catalysts. Kisumu County, which is an urban-rural county, does not only deal with the youth coming from its sub-counties but as a growing city, the migration of rural to urban youth from all over the Western Region forces the county government to give the youth docket the much-needed attention, majority of them coming to look for opportunities which are already scarce.

## 2.2 County Situation of the Youth

1. **Youth in Agriculture/Rural Economy**

Kisumu is already central to Africa's food ecosystem and value chain being the most strategic city sitting mid-point in the East Africa Community region. Needless to annex, Lake Victoria, a shared resource in the region makes Kisumu even more agriculturally viable with water security to 2050, the largest port connecting the region, and untapped potential in cage culture.

The youth have shown the potential and zeal to plug into the agri-business space with innovations in the use of drones, food processing technology, bespoke packaging, aggregation, transport, and logistics, digitizing marketing, and virtually linking the food market. The young people are already unlocking the opportunities in agriculture. These gains are in various charters and agreements like AGOA, Multiple multi-lateral and bilateral trade agreements, African Continental Free Trade Area, the East African common market protocol, and the National Youth Agribusiness Strategy 2018-2022. The domesticated National Strategy to Kisumu County Youth in Agribusiness Strategy will now be adopted in County Integrated Development Plan III.

Agriculture is depended on by 60% of the Kisumu population. In contrast, it contributes to only 25% of Kisumu's GDP. This shows low productivity and low returns keeping farmers in poverty making it unattractive to the youth. Yet agribusiness provides a low-hanging fruit for many youths in the value chains and business nodes.

1. **Investment in ICT and Digital Economy**

Kisumu County is conscious of the importance of the role which can be played by ICT in economic and social development. The location of the county is strategic in proximity to the LAPSET project. The county has developed an ICT strategy that involves improvement of infrastructure in terms of establishment of digital communication technologies and networking that will propel efficiency in communication and modernized ICT equipment; investors are encouraged in the county to aid in extending broadband networks to rural areas and give youth and rural citizens the same chances for internet access as urban residents.

1. **Enterprise Development**

Enterprise development and entrepreneurship must be read together in the context of creating rapid development in creating sustainable jobs. Supporting budding entrepreneurs and accelerating start-ups have been identified as key catalysts in sustaining new enterprises in the micro, small, and medium enterprise (MSMEs) space. Key to supporting Enterprise Development is the following;

1. Incubation and Acceleration
2. Deepening access to financial services and cheap credit
3. Establishing a business registration waivers, reasonable tax environment and incentives for MSMEs
4. **Youth in Arts, Sport AND Culture**

The orange economy is perhaps one of the most youth-dominated sectors over time. The arts, creative, and sporting ventures have been used by the youth as an alternative livelihood source when education and formal employment fail.

In creative art, the tiniest of ideas can spark a masterpiece. The creative industry has Art and Craft, Design, Fashion, Photography/Videography, content creation, film, music, poem, etc. These have employed more than 40 million persons worldwide according to UNESCO report 2018, but also contribute to cultural identity and social cohesion.

Kisumu County boasts of such creative’s, though not fully tapped on, for purposes of employment and revenue generation. A collaborative effort can make these achieved.

## 2.3.1 Dimensions of the youth profiles in the County

The term youth has varying definitions according to the context to which it’s being used. The World Health Organization (WHO) categorizes the youth into three categories: adolescents (those between the ages of 10 and 19 years), youth (from ages 15 to 24 years) and young people (from ages 10 to 24 years) (WHO, 2011).

The United Nations defines youth as persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years. Under AU the African Youth Charter, a Youth is a person between 15 and 35 years. The 2010 Kenyan constitution defines the term Youth as all individuals who have attained the age of 18 years but have not yet attained the age of 35 years (article 260).

Kenya has a generally youthful population. According to the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census report, Youth (18-34 years of age) were 13,618,462 which are 29 % of Kenya's population. In Kisumu County, the total youth population is 318 297 youth’s inclusive male and female.

According to 2015/2016 Household survey Youth (persons aged 18 - 34) constituted 32 per cent of the population up from 30.4 per cent in 1969 with 49 per cent being male and 51 per cent female. The youth-adult population ratio increased from 62.7 percent of the adult population in 1979 to 66.7 percent in 2009. The high proportion of the youth to adult population signifies that Kenya is facing a youth bulge.

## 2.3.2 Target Youth Policy Audience

89. This Policy document is a basis for developing opportunities for all youth in Kisumu county. However, in addressing the needs of the youth, special attention shall be paid to certain groups, such as young women, because of their specific needs. In each of the targeted youth groups, the Government and organizations working with the youth will be required to give special attention to affirmative action.

**Youth with Disability**

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

**Youth Living in Streets and Vagrant Youth**

 91. Due to the breakdown of the social fabric, street families have continued to increase in our cities and towns. From street boys and girls, we now have street youth and families. These are people who live and/or work in the streets, many of them due to homelessness. The street youth are especially vulnerable as they lack protection, supervision or direction from responsible adults. The Policy advocates for enhanced rehabilitation and re-integration of street youth in the communities and strengthening of family systems.

**Youth Living with HIV/ AIDS**

92. The youth continue to be the most affected by the HIV /AIDS pandemic. The youth are exposed to HIV/AIDS due to multiple factors including: biological, socio-cultural and economic factors. The high rate of early and unintended pregnancies, abortions, school drop-out and sexually transmitted infections confirm that the youth are engaging in unprotected sex early, increasing the risk of HIV acquisition. The Policy advocates for youth-centered models for optimal HIV prevention, universal access to treatment and care services, psychosocial interventions, multisectoral coordination and response and coordination, as well as stigma reduction to promote positive living for this target group.

**Female Youth and the Boy Child**

93. The female youth constitute 52 per cent of total youth. The lower level of education for girls, coupled with retrogressive social and cultural practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and forced early marriages, put the female youth at a disadvantage. Further, youth girls often bear the brunt of early unintended pregnancies and associated consequences including mortality and morbidity and school dropout, HIV/AIDS due to physiological factors and Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV). These factors have led to low participation and representation of female youth in decision-making. Traditional gender roles also over burden the female youth, limiting their opportunities for progression and self-development.

94. Sexual activity among the youth begins quite early in their life. Over 44 per cent of girls between 15-19 years old have had sexual intercourse. Sex at this age has adverse effects on health, besides other 33 socio-economic consequences. Studies have shown that most adolescent pregnancies (around 90 per cent) are unplanned. High level of unprotected sexual activity exposes the female youth to the risk of contracting STIs, including HIV/AIDS. Gendered roles and gender stereotyping not only over burdens young women, it also limits personal and professional development opportunities for both young women and men. Female youth should have equal access to employment, training, education, basic services and housing.

95. On the other hand, young men lack strong support systems and platforms to learn from the experienced and exposed members of their community; and assistance to develop holistically. The Policy therefore identifies policy measures for the empowerment of the young women while at the same time strengthening the boy child.

**Unemployed and Underemployed Youth**

96. Unemployment and underemployment brings along with it social ills such as crime, drug use and substance abuse, migration and thus an increased risk of human trafficking, criminal behaviour and incarceration. Further, unemployment exacerbates vulnerability to radicalisation and violent extremism. Both the Government and non-governmental agencies must address this problem. The unemployed youth should be provided with empowerment opportunities, in addition to access to services, support programmes and opportunities for further training.

**Youth not in education, employment and training (NEET)**

97. The out of school youth have special needs in terms of access to socio-economic and other opportunities. The increasing disparity between the annual output of school leavers and the job creation in the economy has resulted in high unemployment levels among the youth. Unemployment, which is mainly as a result of rapid population growth and increased pressure on land and other resources, is exacerbated by the imbalance of skills among the youth caused by the education system and over-reliance by Kenya’s industries on foreign technologies.

**Youth in the Diaspora**

98. A sizable number of Kenyan youth are living in the Diaspora, some irregularly. The Youth Policy provides measures to protect the rights of all young people living in the Diaspora and encourage them to participate in national, political, cultural, social and development programmes, and provide measures for and the youth facing challenges in diaspora to return while supporting their full reintegration into society. The youth in diaspora can be engaged through cultural events and outreach events including the promotion of blue economy skills and knowledge exchanges as well as return and reintegration opportunities;

**Youth living in informal settlements**

99. A large majority of youth live in informal settlements and settlements. These youth lack access to basic services such as clean water, sanitation, education, safe public spaces and housing.

**Youth in emergency situations**

100. The needs of youth intensify in humanitarian and fragile settings from burdens related to: malnutrition; disability; unintentional injury; violence; sexual and reproductive health needs (e.g. early pregnancy, HIV and other STIs, and unsafe abortion); water, sanitation and related health needs and mental health, displacement, discontinued education and child labour. The Policy advocates for targeted interventions for youth in emergency response plans.

**Youth in learning institutions**

101. Youth in learning institutions include the youth undertaking either education and or training programmes.

**Incarcerated Youth**

102. Incarcerated youth form a huge population in our prisons, remand homes and police cells. Youth are subjected to solitary confinement and face abusive practices such as physical injuries, sexual violence and involvement in drug taking compounding the trauma imposed by their isolation and separation from their families, friend and communities. Some find it difficult to adjust to society after completing their probation as society is not very welcoming.

**Youth in conflict situations**

103. Whenever we have any conflict, the population that suffers most are the youth as they are displaced, maimed and raped. Youth growing in conflict situations face greater challenges as violent conflict impacts them negatively on all dimensions of their lives. Their challenges cannot be ignored hence need to be intervened.

# 2.4 Overview of Youth potential in Kisumu County

The youth bulge presents Kisumu County with an immense opportunity of harnessing demographic dividend to invest in sustained development efforts to achieve increased economic, social and political development while at the same time presenting risk and threat to the country’s social cohesion and stability if not adequately empowered and supported3. However, according to the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census report, Youth (18-34 years of age) were 13,618,462 or 29 percent of Kenya's population of 47.6 million. The males were 6,504,514 while females were 7,113,427.

With that number, it’s safe to say that indeed, young people are important when it comes to shaping and developing the society we live in. They have the capability to determine the future, not only of a community, county and a nation; they can also shape the future of the world. From these statistics, it is evident that the county has a youthful population. The Youth form part of the critical mass that can be relied on to advance the growth and development interests of the county which include economic growth, social change and innovation in technology. Therefore, it is important for the county government to tap the youth’s energy.

In the political sphere, the youth constituted 39 per cent of registered voters in 2022 elections. This is a positive development that signals declining apathy and rising Interest and participation of the youth in decision making.

In the economic sphere youth is a national resource. They present an opportunity to accelerate economic growth when engaged productively. Their potential is also in education, skills, energy, creativity and innovation. In education, 41 per cent have primary education level, 35 per

 Percent have secondary education level, whereas 20 per cent have up to tertiary education level.

28. Notably, very few that are 1.5 percent of those with up to primary education have post-primary vocational training and university education. Unemployment amongst the youth stood at 24 per cent in 2015/16 which was down from 26 per cent recorded in 2009. The employment ratio for the youth cohort below 24 years however decreased, indicative of an increase of economically active individuals within that age group. According to DFID Generation Kenya Qualitative Report 2018, youth view entrepreneurship as a legitimate pathway to sustainable livelihood but have limited access to credit.

County government funds dedicated to providing interest-free loans to youth, women, and PWD owned SMEs in the county trail merchant shops, self-help groups, saccos, friends, and mobile money as a preferred source of credit among Kenyans. In general, 74 per cent of youth are subscribed to mobile money platforms.

29. In the social sphere, inclusive access to social amenities by the youth improved over time but was not equitably distributed. 76 percent of Youth have mobile phones and 80 per cent of all youth access the internet through mobile phones for purposes of networking and communication. Only 7.2 per cent of youth access the internet through education centres and a negligible number – 0.4 per cent access through community centres. Involvement in sports and arts is notably dominant with many Kenyans though the participation of young women in sport is significantly lower at 36 per cent compared to their male counterparts at 63 per cent. 34 per cent of households in Kenya are headed by persons within the youth bracket6. In setting the national development agenda, the government shall therefore

Include the youth in relevant planning processes including affordable housing services.

# 2.5 Challenges Affecting the Youth in Kisumu County

Although the youth present a potential resource that can make contribution to national development; in their current state, the youth experience various challenges. Acknowledging the central role of young people in the economic, social and political development in Kisumu County, this policy identifies addresses and responds to youth as a unique but heterogeneous population group, with particular needs and capacities which stem from their formative age. Categories of youth in Kenya include student and non student, Rural and urban youth, affluent and economic youth, industrial and young framer youth, male and female youth according to their needs and challenges , therefore, particularly this policy document highlights the challenges facing the young people in Kisumu County.

**a) THE LABOUR MARKET**

44. **The challenge of youth unemployment:** Youth unemployment is partly due to slow expansion of economic activities relative to population growth. Unemployment rate for youth aged 15-34 years excluding those undertaking education and training at the time was 11.9 per cent.

Unemployment rate for youth aged 20-24 years was 13.1 per cent in 2009 and 19.2 per cent in 2015/16 relative to an overall unemployment rate of 8.6 per cent and 7.4 per cent, in the respective years for the entire labour force (15-64 years). Urban unemployment (11.0 per cent) was higher than rural unemployment (5.6 per cent). For the youth aged 20-24 years the urban unemployment rate was 19.1 per cent in 2009 and 12.7 percent in 2015/16. The 2019 population and Housing Census show that the unemployment rate for youth aged 18-34 years was 12.1 per cent.

45. **Youth underemployment:** Some of the working youth are underemployed, on part-time employment, or left idle thereby underutilizing the worker’s skills. Under employment among youth aged 15-34 year was estimated as 27.8 percent in 2015/16. The highest rates of labour underutilization were observed among the youth aged 15-19 years and was estimated at 55.4 percent against an overall population (aged 15-64 years) underemployment rate of 26.6 percent in 2015/16. This poses a risk for the idle youth to engage in deviant behaviours and other social challenges.

46. **The challenge of vulnerable employment and working poor youth:**

Most employed youth are in vulnerable employment which is characterized by informal working arrangements associated with low productivity, inadequate earnings and difficult working conditions. Although a large share of the youth was engaged in some economic activities (about 49 per cent in 2009 and 41.7 percent in 2015/16), most are involved in informal activities. About 84 percent of the employed youth aged 15 to 34 years were in informal employment.22. The 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census report indicated that youth aged 18-34 years in employment were 8,436,418 accounting for 62 percent of the total youth population and 18 percent of Kenya's total population. The total youth population (18-34 years) constituted 13,618,462 in 2019 compared to 11,809,518 in 2009. Further, the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census indicated that the youth population, who were not in employment were 5,182,044 [computed by adding total of unemployed youth: 1,647,484 accounting for 12.1 percent and youth seeking work (inactive) 3,534,560 accounting for 26% ] of the total youth population. The total unemployed youth (12.1%) and youth seeking work (26%) is an indication that 38% of the total youth population in Kenya in 2019 were not in employment.

47. **The challenge of high levels of youth inactivity:** As indicated by the Kenya Population and Housing Census report (2019), there is a large inactive youth population. This was indicated by the 2009 population census that noted that at least one in every ten youth were inactive if those in school are excluded. Overall inactivity rate among the youth in the country was 22 per cent in 2015/16 majority of who were aged between 19 and 24 years and not engaged in any work or business. The economically inactive population includes individuals who are neither employed nor unemployed. These include the discouraged individuals who are no longer seeking work and the incapacitated. In Kisumu County, inactivity is largely associated with homemaking activities (or engagement in household related chores) and affects female youth more than the male youth. The category also includes those not in education, employment or training (NEET).

48. **Youth labour migration:** Many highly-skilled young people remain unemployed due to a lack of economic capacity to properly address the growing youth labour force. Often, they resort to taking jobs abroad and in some cases, engage in vulnerable activities.

49. **Skills shortages in the ICT labour market:** According to employers in the county, while there seems to be a sufficient number of young graduates with technical vocational education and Bachelor’s degrees in ICT, young workers appear to lack both technical and soft skills. Workers’ representatives in the country have expressed concern about the lack of access to training and up skilling for specific technical skills. Interview partners ascertain that in the country, there is a shortage of young ICT specialists. Further, there is a labour shortage of young graduates with specific technical and soft skills required within the ICT industry. In addition, young ICT specialists in the country often lack adequate English language skills.

**b) ACCESS TO RESOURCES**

50. **Inadequate collaterals and bureaucracies in accessing loans:** Youth especially those from poor backgrounds have no collateral to get finances from the financial institutions. The bureaucratic ways on the detailed proposals for the County government funds clearly locks away potential youth. Proper mechanisms to mobilize, train, and offer the resources with clear monitoring mechanisms should be in place to ensure no one is left behind because of any inability of any nature. It will also be important to unlink youth loans from land collateral requirements.

51**. Health related challenges:** These encompass malnutrition, HIV/AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), drug use and substance abuse and associated effects, mental health and wellness, other communicable and non-communicable diseases, as well as poor access, quality and uptake of health services with frequent medical commodity stock-outs. Based on the self-reported illness, at any given time, about twenty per cent (19.3 percent) of the Kenyans population is with some sickness and therefore require health services of which 12.5 per cent and 16.1 per cent are aged between 15-24 and 25-34 years respectively In 2017, the HIV prevalence rate was 4.8 per cent and new HIV and AIDS infections among the youth constituted 33 percent of the 52,767 new cases.

52. **Skills mis-match:** There is a disconnect between the courses offered in the higher institutions of learning and the needs in the job markets. Higher education institutions still offer courses which may not be relevant to the current job market. Even those who offer courses that are practical to the current dynamics, do not properly guide the youth on the career selection and therefore they end up being unemployed for several years even after training. There should be a deliberate effort to inform the youth about the options available and dynamics of the labour market.

53. **The challenge of out-of-school youth:** The County has attained substantial improvement in access to education with a primary and secondary school net enrolment of 91.2 percent and 51.5 percent in 2018 while the school age population constitutes about 46 percent of population. Tertiary education enrolment rate was 13 per cent in 2017. However, the enrolment data implies that about 8.8 per cent and 48.5 percent of primary and secondary school age population are out of school, respectively. Some youth drop out of school due to inhibitive cultural factors or practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and early marriages, indirect cost of education and poverty, and inadequate implementation of the school re-entry policy in the case of teenage mothers, among other reasons.

54. **Low youth participation in agricultural economic activities.**

Agriculture is one of the main activities in the Country. However, youth are not adequately involved in agricultural activities. The average age of farmers was over 62 years in 2017. There is a need to develop mechanisms of enhancing youth involvement in agriculture. It will also be important to support the youth to engage in other emerging sectors such as the blue economy.

**c) SOCIETAL ISSUES**

55. **Early and unintended pregnancies:** The median age at first sexual intercourse in Kenya was 18.2 years for women and 16.6 years for men in 2015/16. This exposes youth to early unintended pregnancies, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), and Reproductive Tract Cancers (RTCs) which often disrupt their participation in education, training and empowerment activities, and raises the risk of morbidity and mortality. According to the Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS, 2014), the teenage pregnancy and motherhood rate in Kenya stood at 18 per cent among girls aged between 15-19 years.

56. **Crime and defiant behaviour:** Due to inactivity and negative influence especially after completing basic education, the idle youth are vulnerable and at a high risk of engaging in crime, joining organized militia, becoming radicalized and engaging in violent extremism.

57. **The challenge of drugs use and substance abuse:** According to the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS), (2013) 12.8 percent of Kenya’s young persons aged 13-15 years had used alcohol while 20.2 percents of primary school children had used at least one of the drugs such as alcohol, tobacco, prescribed drugs, among others. The prevalence rate for alcohol and tobacco use was higher in rural areas but higher for other drugs in urban areas. According to the National Campaign against Drug Abuse (NACADA) the level of drug and substance abuse is startling.

Lifetime use of drugs and substances of abuse prevalence for those aged between 17 and 20 years was 18.1 percent in 2013. Prevalence among boys was higher than that of girls at 20 per cent and 19 per cent respectively. Despite the gravity of the situation and the need for services to address the same, very few drug rehabilitation programs, counselling and re-integration centres are available and financially accessible for the youth in Kenya. The few that are available tend to be located in urban areas. For the youth, drug use and substance abuse is associated with increased risk for early sexual debut, multiple sexual partners, early several years even after training. There should be a deliberate effort to inform the youth about the options available and dynamics of the labour market.

**d) SOCIETAL ENVIRONMENT**

58. **Limited participation in economic and political spheres:**

Despite the high proportion of youth in the country, 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.

59. **Limited access to safe public spaces:** safe public spaces offer the youth a platform for social recreation and interaction. The youth often do not have the financial means or legal standing to own private spaces, and thus are dependent on access to public spaces for a range of activities such as sports and recreation, space to socialize and spend their time productively where they can strengthen and develop their character and talents. However, such spaces are scarce, and where they exist, they are sometimes not accessible, more so for young women.

60. **Limited and poor housing:** Many youth, especially those in the urban areas and those who live in informal settlements, do not have access to decent housing and environments that favour healthy living, often due lack of land ownership.

61. **Poor prison facilities:** As Kenya’s prisons are currently operating at over twice their capacity, the conditions have become detrimental to the overall well being of inmates. Majority of those who are incarcerated are the youth who due to lack of economic opportunities are engaged in crime and other defiant behaviours.

62. **The challenge of limited access to information and communication technology (ICT)** which constrains youth from exploiting relevant career, business and education opportunities available especially in rural areas. ICT access costs are high in rural areas while there are also emerging challenges associated with negative use of ICT and social media, there is limited device accessibility and network connectivity, schools have limited technical support, lack of resources for integrating ICT in education. The 2019 Population and Housing Census indicated about half of youth aged 15-24 years and 4 in every 5 youth aged 25-34 years own a mobile phone in Kenya; Less than half of young persons in Kenya use internet, computers, and online purchasing services. For instance, youth gaining access to internet use accounted for 27% of the total Population in 2019. Further, the ownership and use of ICT by youth is higher in the urban areas compared to the rural areas.

63. **Cyber-crime:** Due to advancements in the ICT sector in the country there is an inherent risk of cyber security and crime. Offenses are committed against individuals or groups.

64. **Sexual and gender-based violence:** Owing to their vulnerability, the youth are exposed to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). According to KDHS (2014), 7 per cent of girls and 3 per cent of boys aged 15-19 years have ever experienced sexual violence compared to 13 percent girls and 4 per cent boys aged 20-24. The survey further indicates that only 33 percent of girls and 20 percent of boys aged 15-19 years seek help for such cases. Young people who suffer sexual abuse and violence are more likely to be exposed to unintended pregnancy, unsafe abortion, Sexually Transmitted Infections and HIV/AIDS.

65. **Challenge of weak values among youth:** A critical role of values and principles is to bind individuals and institutions in exercising their powers to achieve shared goals. However, the country faces challenges of weak social fabric, weak cohesion, threats from negative ethnicity and corruption. This has adversely affected the youth hence loss of opportunities and poor values.

66. **Climatic conditions:** Droughts and floods are two common disasters that are associated with extreme climate conditions in Kisumu County. This is a global problem where Kenya is not an exemption in experiencing extreme weather conditions. This affects youth who depend on agriculture and other weather-related activities as a means of livelihood. The state needs to develop mitigation interventions.

## 2.6 Kisumu county Government Interventions and Achievements

## 2.6.1 Youth Interventions

In an effort to enhance Youth empowerment the government is implementing a transformative youth empowerment program through the 5-Point Vision under the National Youth Service (NYS) that is prioritized as a flagship project of the Kenya Vision 2030 and the Medium Term Plan II (2013 - 2017).

In this respect, the Kenya Vision 2030 and the Medium Term Plan II (2013 - 2017) seeks to promote transformative youth empowerment through skills and talent development and exploitation of the entrepreneurial potential of the youth. The county Government of Kisumu is domesticating these plans by formulating its policies, leveraging on partnerships and rebranding and redefining the role and mandate of the young people of Kisumu County.

The need for Youth Economic Empowerment across the globe has attracted increasing interest from policy makers and even Governments. Youth Enterprise Development Fund in Kenya was established in the year 2006. Youths especially from Kisumu Town East Constituency have had challenge of gainful employment and have therefore formed Youth Groups to access youth fund in order to start or expand their enterprises. Since the year 2015, the fund has received a total of Kshs3,000,000 and disbursed a total of Kshs2, 700,000 to 54 youth led enterprises in the constituency.

There is limited information on the contribution of YEDF on financial performance of Youth Led Enterprises in Kisumu Town East Constituency. Youths in Kisumu Town East constituency have started and managed enterprises from the fund. However, the enterprises keep collapsing and the youth return to poverty. Even though studies have been conducted on the Influence of Youth Enterprise Development Fund on Youth Enterprises, mixed results have been posted with none of the studies so far conducted examining the Influence of YEDF on Financial Performance of Youth Led Enterprises in Kisumu Town East Constituency.

Technical and Vocational Education Training, TVET, institutions offers various certificate, diploma and craftsmanship training to students in Kenya. The beauty with TVET training institutions is that they offer flexible entry and fee requirements to students wishing to study in these institutes.

The Kisumu county Government is also keen on youth representation of youth which falls under the Department of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sports

By Law, Each county including Kisumu county reserve 30% of all procurement opportunities for the special group which include women, youth and people living with disabilities.

Kisumu County advertises its tender opportunities on their website.

## 2.6.2 Achievements

**Some of the achievement of the Kisumu County;**

1. Access to county ward bursary to improve access and retention in learning institutions.
2. Revival and Modernization of Grace Onyango social Centre
3. Modernization of cultural sites like Kit Mikayi in Seme
4. Upgrade and construct various cultural and resource centers in all sub counties
5. The young people are already unlocking the opportunities in agriculture.
6. The Rotary Youth Business Incubation and Innovation Centre
7. Established proper governance in Kisumu City by creating a City Management Board and a City Manager.
8. Cleaned up the city and remove that TAKA TAKA (mound of solid waste) at Kachok which has been decommissioned and we have established a new waste management facility (Kasese) outside the City.
9. Established Village Councils and Village Administrators as the foundation of devolution;
10. Taken a comprehensive census of all Nyamrerwa health workers in the County and, within the context of the County Health Management Bill, make provisions of their monthly stipends and clear terms of service
11. Established Kisumu Economic and Social Council (KECOSOC)
12. Initiated the rejuvenation of the rice industry in collaboration with the National Irrigation Authority (NIA), and expanded the area under irrigation by over 6,500 acres.
13. Initiated the modernization of Jubilee, Kibuye and Otonglo markets to improve security for traders, create more space for trading, better sanitation, provision of water and easier access to banking and financial services.
14. Establishment of new Vocational Training Centers, modernization of existing centers and provision of modern equipment to keep up to date with the technological advancements
15. Support youth to access government opportunities through the Establishment of Women Enterprise fund by county government, youth enterprise fund and Uwezo fund.
16. Engagement of youths in agribusiness through partnership with WFP
17. Participation in youth leadership forums in partnership with UNDP
18. Lobby for partnership and collaboration with stakeholders

# 2.7 SWOT Analysis Of Recent Kisumu County Interventions

70. The Policy also confirms that although youth in Kisumu County are faced with a number of challenges, they indeed present great strengths and opportunities that the country should tap into for national wellbeing. The most notable strengths and opportunity that the youth present are: they are the largest population cohort in the country and therefore a major human resource for socio-economic development; majority have received required basic education and a sizable number have tertiary education; they have energy and are available; they are often “first adopters” of new technologies; and they demonstrate high affinity for networking, teamwork and cohesion.

Table 2: **SWOT ANALYSIS OF THE YOUTH IN KISUMU COUNTY**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Positive** | **Negative** |
| **Internal** | **Strengths**1. Creativity, talent and innovation
2. Flexible and easily trainable
3. Quick in embracing ICT.
4. Ethnic diversity (Multiplicity of ethnic identities coexisting in Kisumu and represented in its leadership)
5. Strong community structures enjoying local support to resolve conflicts and influence leadership
6. A youthful political leadership, bringing youth voices to decision making platforms
7. Existing and practice indigenous cultures provide strong identity for youth, women and elders.
 | **Weaknesses**1. Lack of employable skills due to low education attainment and skills gaps
2. Weak value systems
3. Prone to negative peer influence
4. Limited capacity to effectively engage in entrepreneurship activities
5. Negative stereotypes among the youth
6. Early marriages
 |
| **External** | **Opportunities**1. Devolved governance structures
2. ICT advancements
3. Vibrant social media
4. Potential to exploit youth demographic dividend
5. Operationalization of Competency Based Education and Training (CBET) Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET)
6. Unexploited talents in sport and arts (vii) Access to Government Procurement Opportunities
7. Youth as change agents
8. Untapped socio-economic potential of the Blue Economy sector
 | **Threats**1. Vulnerability to engage in terrorism and radicalization
2. Drug use and substance abuse
3. Insecurity
4. Emerging cultural trends
5. Harmful cultural practices)
6. Youth Unemployment
7. Climate change
8. Reintegration and rehabilitation gaps
 |

Table 3: **SWOT ANALYSIS OF THE YOUTH INTERVENTION**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **STRENGTHS** | **WEAKNESSES** |
| **Policy Interventions*** + National Youth Council Act 2009
	+ Constitution of Kenya 2010
	+ National Employment Authority Act, 2017
	+ The Affirmative Funds (YEDF, UWEZO)
	+ Access to Government Procurement Opportunities Act, 2016
	+ Kenya Youth Employment Opportunities Programme (KYEOP)
	+ Ajira Digital Programme
	+ Presidential Digital Talent Programme (PDTP)
	+ Digital Literacy Programme (DLP)
	+ Private Sector Initiatives
	+ National Youth Service
	+ Kenya Vision 2030
	+ Big 4 Agenda, 2018-2022
	+ SDGs, 2030
	+ International Youth treaties (African Youth Charter, UN Youth Charter 2030)
	+ National Youth Service Act (2018).
	+ International Youth Foundation (IYF).
	+ Provision of Basic Education is free and compulsory
	+ Financing of tertiary education is subsidized through provision of HELB loans, bursaries and scholarships
	+ MOE policy on 100% transition of learners to reduce drop-out rates in schooling
	+ MOE promotes access to quality education through affirmative action
	+ Establishment of a State Department for Post Training and Skills Development to link Industry with Education and Training in development of skills
1. Negative stereotypes of youth
2. Lack of focal point for registration of youth groups and organizations
3. Lack of youth mainstreaming strategy
4. Lack of communication strategy on youth matters
5. Weak framework for youth development information systems
6. High cost of business financing
7. Weak awareness and networking among the youth
8. Weak monitoring and evaluation framework
9. Weak collaborations between government, the private sector, development partners and other stakeholders in implementing youth initiatives.
10. Inadequate mechanisms in place for meaningful youth engagement and participation in development programmes across sectors
11. **Institutional Structures**
12. (xxiii)State Department for Youth
13. (xxiv) National Youth Council
14. (xxv) Youth serving organizations
 | 1. Weak coordination of youth initiatives
2. Lack of integrated youth data and information.
3. Low awareness of Affirmative Funds
4. Poor repayment of the Affirmative Funds
5. Unclear standards and definition of youth
6. Weak support from society
7. Negative perception towards entrepreneurship and self employment
8. Negative stereotypes of youth
9. Lack of focal point for registration of youth groups and organizations
10. Lack of youth mainstreaming strategy
11. Lack of communication strategy on youth matters
12. Weak framework for youth development information systems
13. High cost of business financing
14. Weak awareness and networking among the youth
15. Weak monitoring and evaluation framework
16. Weak collaborations between government, the private sector, development partners and other stakeholders in implementing youth initiatives.
17. Inadequate mechanisms in place for meaningful youth engagement and participation in development programmes across sectors
 |
| **OPPORTUNITIES** | **THREATS** |
| * 1. Devolved structures of governance,
	2. Involvement in County leadership
	3. ICT Advancement
	4. Vibrant social media
	5. Operationalization of Technical Vocational education and Training (TVET)
	6. (vi) Sport and Arts
	7. Access to Government Procurement Opportunities
	8. Youth talent and creativity
	9. National Curriculum reform into CBC that aims to produce an engaged, empowered and ethical citizen and offers various pathways that enhance access, retention and transition in education to develop every learners’ potential
 | * 1. Inhibitive cultural practices such as female genital mutilation
	2. Youth Unemployment
 |

3.0 KISUMU YOUTH POLICY FRAMEWORK

# 3.1 Introduction

This section focuses on policy objectives, policy priority areas, interventions and measures aimed at empowering and harnessing the potential of the youth while contributing to the Country’s sustainable development.

# 3.2 Vision, Mission, Rallying call and Values

**3.2.1 Goal**

**71. The Policy Goal** is to *take affirmative action for the youth as a strategy of participation and empowerment while harnessing their potential.* It is important to emphasize that this Policy is meant for the youth and youth serving organizations, families and the community. Its main objective is to mainstream youth issues in all sectors of national development, on both the micro and macro levels, at national and county levels, within the public, private sectors, families and civil society. All are encouraged by the Policy to take affirmative action for the youth as a strategy of participation and empowerment while harnessing their potential.

**3.2.2 Vision**

**72. The vision:**  a community that promote the holistic participation of the youth in socio-economic and political well-being for themselves, and bring youth closer to youth programming by engaging the county government of Kisumu, national, regional, African and global organizations, and opportunities that address issues pertinent to young people in Kisumu. The policy aims to promote the holistic participation of the youth in socio-economic and political well-being for themselves, and bring youth closer to youth programming by engaging the county government of Kisumu, national, regional, African and global organizations, and opportunities that address issues pertinent to young people in Kisumu.

**3.2.3 Mission**

**73. Policy Mission:**  to facilitate increased impact and expanded national, regional and country-level action to address the needs, build the framework and advance the rights of young people in all their diversity around the county, and to ensure their engagement and participation in the implementation, review and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as other relevant global, national and kisumu county agendas and frameworks.

**3.2.4 A Rallying call**

Youths to be involved in decision making and creation of unlimited opportunities through employment, capital flow, and promotion of innovation and entrepreneurship.

**3.2.5 Values**

**74. The Values** given emphasis in the Policy include **patriotism**, **respect** for diversity and ethical values, equity and **accessibility**, **inclusivenes**s, **good governance**, mainstreaming youth issues. The values are anchored on the principles of **responsiveness** by stakeholders to address youth issues, **accessibility**, **equality**, **participation**, **integration**, **access**, **diversity**, **empowerment** and inclusion among the youth.

Pursuant to the envisioned role of the youth, the following values shall inform aspect of policy programming and drive its implementation:

**(i) Patriotism.**

75. The Policy emphasizes the importance of patriotism among the youth. They should demonstrate a spirit of nationhood, love, respect and pride in the country 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 country's best interests first, endeavour to preserve and protect the nation as it currently exists, while eventually working together to make it better.

**(ii) Respect for diversity and ethical values**.

76. The Policy respects 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. ethnicity, physical mental capabilities, social economic background, sex, for right to be informed, heard, for right to determine their own future, destiny and happiness. This also includes recognition of the individual diversity, shared experiences of the people, right principles enshrined in the Kenya Constitution (2010), the universal declaration of Human right, the UN Convention on the rights of people with disabilities, the convention of the right of the child, declaration of the right of the child.

**(iii) Equity and accessibility**

77. The Policy subscribes to the principles of equal opportunities and equitable distribution of opportunities, services, and resources. It also endeavours to promote access to socio-economic and political opportunities for the youth.

**(iv) Inclusiveness**

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

**(v) Good governance**

79. The Policy seeks to promote the values of good governance, integrity, a just and tolerant society, transparency and accountability. In addition, the Policy serves as a channel to promote values of industriousness, inclusiveness, selflessness, volunteerism and pursuit of good conduct.

**(vi) Accountability**

80. Accountability implies responsibility for one’s activities and resources entrusted to them. The Policy therefore supports accountability among the youth through a supportive environment that will enable youth to harness their abilities and experiences for improved productivity.

**(vii) Self-reliance**

81. Reliance on one’s own capacities and capabilities is fundamental for one to attain identified goals in life. The Policy supports youth to depend on their individual capabilities and judgment while restraining from conformity and false consistency. The Policy therefore inculcates the fundamental principle that youth can change and control their destiny, feel secure and influence their future.

**(viii) Honesty and integrity**

82. Honesty and integrity are core components for individual development. The Policy therefore encourages youth to stand by what they say they will do and do what is right regardless of the circumstances. The Policy encourages the youth to put personal agendas aside and focus on the greater good of the country. The youth shall also be supported in developing their physical, emotional and intellectual capabilities, skills, talents, strength, abilities, in promoting their physical, mental and spiritual well-being, and fulfilling their potential, and aspirations while meeting their needs. Families and communities shall ensure a conducive environment for active participation, sense of responsibility, caring, capacity to build and attain quality life and relationship with their community, home, world of work and nation at large.

**3.2.6 Youth Policy Principles**

83. The Youth Policy seeks to appreciate the stipulation of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and especially the National Values and Principle of Governance under Article 10. The Kenya Youth Development Policy therefore becomes a vehicle for prioritizing critical actions aimed at creating an enabling environment for the youth to fully achieve their aspirations in nation building. The Policy addresses key strategies needed to engage the youth in ensuring their active participation and holistic engagement in actualizing National Values and Principles of Governance. The overarching values were based on the principles of responsiveness, access, participation, inclusion, integration, diversity, empowerment and equity. The values are underpinned and informed by the following principles:

1. **Responsiveness:** governments, private sector, civil societies, Faith Based Organizations (FBO) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in all relevant sectors shall respond to the needs and concerns of the youth and act with an aim of harnessing their human potential for sustainable development of the country;
2. **Access:** youth shall be supported and encouraged to access quality services while ensuring equality for opportunity and active participation in society and economy;
3. **Participation:** in cognizance of principle of public participation and constitution youth shall be involved in advocacy, behaviour change, communication, planning and decision-making processes that affect them and wider society;
4. **Inclusion:** The main impediment to youth’s active participation and political engagement and socio-economic fears shall be addressed and positively taken to support direct and indirect inclusion of youth in various activities;
5. **Integration:** all stakeholders involved in youth activities including government, private sector, civil societies, faith-based organizations (FBO) and NGOs, among others shall be required to cooperate and coordinate their efforts to create synergy in supporting development of youth and helping them realize their full potential;
6. **Diversity:** in designing implementation of the Policy, the diverse background of the young people shall be recognized and respected including their role in the emotional, social, cultural and spiritual development;
7. **Empowerment:** young people shall be empowered to take control of their own lives and destiny and take full responsibilities of their action while influencing their own future and trigger positive change;
8. **Equality:** all youth shall be given equal respect, opportunity, dignity regardless of their experience, ethnic or socio-economic status, physical and mental capacity, sex, age, vulnerabilities and disabilities; and,
9. **Transparency:** Institutions and organizations involved in youth development should operate in a transparent and accountable manner.

**3.2.7 Rignhts of the Youth**

84. The Policy recognizes the importance of youth to enjoy their youthfulness. Irrespective of social status, ethnic origin, sex, the youth have a right to life. These rights as stipulated in Chapter 4 of the Constitution of Kenya (2010) are:

* + 1. Right to life;
		2. Quality education;
		3. Good health;
		4. Marriage at the legal age of consent;
		5. Protection from abuse, sexual exploitation and trafficking;
		6. Seek decent and fulfilling employment;
		7. Adequate shelter, food, clothing and basic services;
		8. Protection from harmful conditions and cultural practices and exploitation;
		9. Freedom of speech, expression and association;
		10. Participate in making decisions that affect their lives;
		11. Protection from social, economic and political manipulation;
		12. Ownership, secure tenure and protection of property; and,
		13. Protection from harmful cultural practices and exploitation.

# 3.3 Youth Policy Objectives, Priority Areas And Interventions

## 3.3.1 The Youth Policy Objectives

The Policy has articulated the youth empowerment and development objectives within the Kisumu County context. The Policy objectives are:

1. Realize a healthy and productive youth population;
2. Build qualified and competent youth workforce for sustained development;
3. Create opportunities for youth to earn decent and sustainable livelihoods;
4. Develop youth talent, creativity and innovation for wealth creation;
5. Nurture value driven, morally upright, ethical generation of patriotic youth for transformative leadership;
6. Support youth engagement in environmental management for sustainable development;
7. Promote and develop of entrepreneurial culture among the youth through access to subsidized loans, training, mentorship, internships, attachments, business incubation and partnerships;
8. Support the development of a wide range of ICT-based programmes in local languages, as appropriate, with content relevant to different groups of youth.
9. Effective civic participation and representation among the youth;
10. Promote a crime free, secure, peaceful and united Kenya where no young Kenyan is left behind;

Figure 1: Presents a comprehensive framework for the Kisumu Youth Development Policy (2022). The Policy upholds the principle of continuous investment in the development of the youth and improved services and opportunities for long - term impact on the country’s development. The main outcome after implementing the Policy is youth who are adequately empowered, healthy, safe, competent, earning decent livelihood, and patriotic, upholding ethical values, volunteering their services, effectively participating in decision making spaces and protecting the environment.

***Figure 1: Kisumu Youth Policy Development Framework***



## 3.3.2 Policy Priority Areas

The Constitution of Kenya (Article 55 in the Bill of Rights) obliges the state to take measures, including Affirmative Action programmes, to ensure that the youth access relevant education and training; have opportunities to associate, are represented and participate in political, social, economic and other spheres of life; have access to employment; and are protected from harmful retrogressive practices and exploitation. The government therefore prioritizes youth policies and interventions that are consistent with the country’s development priorities, the Constitution, international conventions and the global trends relating to the youth agenda.

The identified measures shall involve both National and County governments; public and private sectors; NGOs; FBOs and other youth stakeholders. The youth transformative agenda will not only target the youth but also formal and informal sectors and institutions dealing with youth issues in both the rural and urban areas. The interventions shall be mainstreamed into the wider sustainable development agenda.

The key priority areas for the Policy intervention include:

**The associated priority areas for Policy intervention include:**

1. Supporting youth development, health, nutrition and wellbeing;
2. Eradicating drugs and substance abuse among youth;
3. Investing in education, training and skills development by ensuring that ICT is fully and appropriately integrated into education and training at all levels and also establishing educational networks for sharing educational resources and promoting e-learning at all levels;
4. Institutionalizing and strengthening apprenticeship and internship programmes;
5. Addressing youth unemployment, underemployment and inactivity;
6. Building capacity of the youth to fully integrate them into the County’s technological transformation;
7. Ensuring sustainable financing of youth programmes;
8. Transforming agriculture to make it attractive to youth;
9. Promoting entrepreneurship and skills training, mentorship, internships, job attachments, business incubation and partnerships for the youth;
10. Strengthening frameworks for labour export;
11. Supporting labour management information systems;
12. Supporting creativity, talent identification and innovative development;
13. Entrenching positive morals, values, patriotism and volunteerism for transformative leadership;
14. Supporting effective civic participation and representation;
15. Promoting a crime free, secure, peaceful and cohesive Country;
16. Promoting mechanisms that support youth engagement in the development, protection, conservation of natural resources and environment while engaging in eco-entrepreneurship and green jobs;
17. Building capacity of the youth in green processes, technology and waste management; and,
18. Facilitating access to ICT opportunities for the youth

## Respective Interventions

This policy is guided largely by other national policy initiatives around youth empowerment and reflects international programmes and conventions for which Kenya is party to. It takes into account the role of both national and county governments with respect to youth affairs from a policy and implementation perspective.

The Government has put in place various legal, institutional and policy frameworks to address the issues affecting the youth. These include passing legislation and developing policies on youth development. The county government has also established a number of institutions/interventions to specifically handle youth affairs. These include: The county Department in charge of youth, the Kenya Youth Employment and Opportunities Project (**KYEOP**), the National Youth Council, National Youth Service, the Youth Enterprise and Development Fund and the Uwezo Fund, among others.

The Kisumu County Youth Development Policy (2022) therefore recognises and draws its framework from, the supremacy of the Constitution of Kenya (2010), which underscores the importance of youth in national development. The implementation of this Policy will also be linked with other relevant national policies such as on education and training, and most significantly, Kenya Vision 2030 and international commitments 14 (see Table 1). The youth shall consequently, in their roles as actors in state and non-state institutions, affect their patriotic duty of promoting the realization of national development goals as envisaged in the Constitution.

Whereas, there are efforts at the national level towards the formulation of a national policy framework for youth affairs, the county government of Kisumu has nonetheless proceeded to formulate this policy document for purposes of responding to and dealing with county specific circumstances around youth affairs.

1. The Constitution of Kenya (2010): The Constitution has provided for the youth in Article 55 which provides that the State shall take measures, including affirmative action programmes, to ensure that the youth: Access relevant education and training; Have opportunities to associate, be represented and participate in political, social, economic and other spheres of life; access employment; and are protected from harmful cultural practices and exploitation.
2. The Kenya Youth Development Policy (2019): The Kenya Youth Development Policy (KYDP) seeks to provide an opportunity for improving the quality of life for Kenyan youth through their participation in economic and democratic processes as well as in community and civic affairs. It also advocates for creation of a supportive social, cultural, economic and political environment that will empower the youth to be partners in national development.
3. Kisumu CIDP (2018-2022): This is aimed at increasing employment and empowerment of youths. It entails interventions in all the sectors geared towards ensuring youths are actively participating in economic activities in the county. It seeks to increase youth participation in agriculture and civil works construction (road, water works and water harvesting), build an entrepreneurship culture among the youth, increase financial support and access to market by youth enterprises, enhance employability of youth through training/skill development and enhance employment opportunities for them through sports and recreation.
4. Commonwealth Youth Charter – 2005: Provides the parameters within which youth policies in all commonwealth countries should be developed. It aims to empower young people to develop their creativity, skills and potential as 11 productive and dynamic members of society. The charter highlights the importance of full participation of young women and men at every level of decision making and development.
5. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) -2030: Sustainable Development Goals relevant to the Youth includes:
6. Kenya Vision 2030: The vision envisages responsible, globally, competitive and prosperous youth. Among the specific interventions under the vision are: establishment of youth centers, mentorship, development of creative industry hubs and youth enterprise financing.
7. Other International Conventions and Treaties The relevant international and regional instruments providing for governance on youth matters include:
8. The African Youth Charter, 2006.
9. Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment.
10. World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY).
11. Dakar Declaration on Youth Empowerment (2000)

**Table 1: *Legal Framework On Youth Issues***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **COUNTY/NATIONAL INTERVENTION** | **STATUS & ACHIEVEMENTS** |
| National Youth Service Act | Train young citizens to serve by integrating them in nation building |
| Youth Enterprise and Development Fund Order, 2007 | It created the enabling framework for increasing youth employment opportunities through entrepreneurship development in the informal sector in the country. |
| National Youth Policy, Sectional no. 2 of 2007 | It was the first policy on youth development in Kenya which provided information on youth development programs and intervention in the country. It has been implemented over the years and currently being reviewed. |
| Women Enterprise Development Fund, 2007 | The initiative targets all women, youth and adults. |
| National Youth Council Act, 2009 | This was established as a legal instrument to actualize youth voice nationally and advocate, lobby for the youth and to facilitate the representation of youth and to promote the implementation of coordination of youth servicing was also mandated to provide research advisory services on youth organization nationally. Currently to be amended in line with the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 |
| Constitution of Kenya (2010) | Promulgated in 2010 and gives a platform for the implementation of the national agenda including youth matters |
| Medium and Small Enterprise Act, 2012 | Established to formulae and coordinate policies and harmonize public and private sector initiatives for the promotion of micro and small enterprises. Its implementation currently on-going |
| Technical and Vocational Education and Training Act, of 2013 | To provide for the establishment of a technical and vocational and training system. This is currently under implementation with an aim of expanding the youth skills capacity for self employment and employable skills. |
| Uwezo Fund (Public Finance Management Act, 2014) | It was established as an affirmative intervention to provide technical and financial support to Youth, Women and Persons with Disabilities in Enterprise development |
| Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act, of 2015 | Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) is currently under implementation to ensure that the youth, women and marginalized groups get the 30 percent procurement opportunities. |
| Employment Policy and Strategy for Kenya Sectional Paper No. 4 of 2013 | It has been implemented and reviewed |
| National Employment Authority Act, 2016 | This established the National Employment Authority which provides a comprehensive institutional framework for employment management, increasing employment by the youth, minorities and marginalized groups. |
| National Government Affirmative Action Fund (Public Finance Management Act, 2012) | It was created to address the plight of vulnerable groups and it’s meant to provide access to financial facilities to women, youth and persons with disabilities. |
| National Youth Service Act, 2018 | The Act established NYS as a State Corporation. |
| **INTERNATIONAL INTERVENTION** | **STATUS & ACHIEVEMENTS** |
| World Program of Action for youth to the year 2000 and beyond | Consistent with the Millennium Development Goals, the Program identified interventions for youth development and empowerment |
| Lisbon Declaration, 2007 | Ensuring that Kenya Youth Development Policy (2019) formulation, implementation and follow-up processes are at appropriate level. Developing national youth policies and operational programmes, at appropriate levels, to implement the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, taking into account the national priorities, realities and limitations arising from different socio-economic and cultural development contexts; Establishing the necessary policies and programmes by the year 2000 to improve living standards for young women and young men and to permit the effective implementation of national youth policies, of an inter-sect oral nature, foreseen, among others, in the Programme of Action |
| Dakar Declaration on Youth Empowerment, 2000 | The Dakar World Youth Forum as “a splendid example of young people coming together to work out their own agenda, without waiting for governments to tell them what to do.” The Forum adopted the Dakar Youth Empowerment Strategy, which includes concrete recommendations, strategies and tools to empower young people to participate in decision-making and in evaluation of policies and programmes on key youth issues, in order to ensure action at the local, national, regional and international levels. |
| African Youth Charter, 2006 | Was established to ensure the constructive involvement of Youth in the development agenda of Africa and their effective participation in the debates and decision making processes in the development of the continent. The Charter sets a framework to enable policy makers to mainstream Youth issues in all development policies and programmes. It thus provides a legal basis for ensuring Youth presence and participation in government structures and forums at national, regional and continental levels. |
| East African Youth Policy | Focuses on youth development and empowerment within the East African Countries |
| Commonwealth Plan of Action for youth empowerment, 2006 | The plan contains strategies and tools to empower young people to effectively participate in social, economic, political and cultural spheres of life both in their countries and internationally. |
| United Nations Youth Strategy, 2030 (2018) | The Strategy aims to enhance impact and expand action to address the needs, build the agency and advance the rights of young people globally. The Strategy aims to ensure youth are engaged and participate in the implementation, review and follow up of the global agendas and frameworks including the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development. |
| International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action (1994-2014) and ICPD Beyond 2014 | The conference articulates the relationships between population development and individual wellbeing. A 20-year Programme of Action that was extended in 2010 continues to serve as a guide to people centered development progress. The Programme of Action recognizes reproductive health and rights, women empowerment and gender equality as cornerstones of population and development programmes. |

69. The legal framework on youth issues has undergone immense changes since independence. Table 1 presents an overview on the evolution of the national and international legal frameworks on youth issues in the country.

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

* 1. National Youth Policy, 2007;
	2. 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;
	3. 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;
	4. 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;
	5. 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;
	6. 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;
	7. 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;
	8. 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; and
	9. Besides these domestic initiatives, the UN General Assembly in September 2015 adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that includes 17 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.

# 4.0 POLICY COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

## 4.1 Introduction

The overall coordination of the youth activities in the County shall be anchored in the office of the Governor. The Department responsible for youth affairs shall ensure establishment of effective institutional framework for collaboration of all stakeholders in implementation of youth activities and programmes in Kisumu County.

The Department of youth will also guide establishment of a youth economic movement led by youth from the village to county level.

The implementation of this policy will depend on a sound institutional framework, adequately coordinated implementation support, effecting resource mobilization and funding, effective programme monitoring; and active political, administrative and technical support for the translation of goals, objectives and strategies outlined in the Policy into actual programmes at all levels of society.

A concerted and coordinated effort is required by the County Government, non-government and private institutions, churches, youth groups and community organizations to address youth issues in a comprehensive way.

The Ministry responsible for youth affairs in Kisumu County shall oversee the overall coordination of the Policy implementation and ensure requisite resource mobilization, coordinate and involve stakeholders and coordinate monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment. The ministry in charge of youth affairs shall ensure establishment of an overarching legal and institutional framework for implementation of youth programs and activities in the Country.

## APPROACHES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE POLICY

The coordination and implementation of the Policy objectives, priority areas, programmes, projects and activities by all stakeholders shall be based on the following fundamental approaches as guiding philosophy:

* 1. Rights-based approach;
	2. Youth mainstreaming;
	3. Professional approach;
	4. Coordinated approach;
	5. Evidence basis and knowledge sharing;
	6. Youth oriented co-creation; and,
	7. Sustainable development.

**5.1.1 Rights-based approach:** The Constitution of Kenya (2010) provides that the State shall take measures, including affirmative action programmes, to ensure that the youth—

1. access relevant education and training;
2. have opportunities to associate, be represented and participate in political, social, economic and other spheres of life;
3. access employment; and
4. Are protected from harmful cultural practices and exploitation.

The Policy therefore holds that all organs and agencies of the state have a responsibility to deliver specific rights to citizens aged 18 to 34 years.

**5.1.2 Youth Mainstreaming**: The needs, aspirations, opportunities and challenges facing the youth are concerns for the whole society. The Policy therefore aims at ensuring that youth issues are reflected in all sectors of county development, at both the national and sub-national levels, within the public, private sectors and society. The Policy underscores the importance of affirmative action for the youth as a strategy of participation in decision making and empowerment.

**5.1.3 Professional Approach:** Noting the centrality of youth work and workers involved in youth related activities, the Policy holds that the activities will be conducted within a framework that upholds ethical practice, coherent competency and professionalism.

**5.1.4 Coordinated Approach:** The Policy interventions during the implementation of this Policy cut across various sectors and will be 70 undertaken simultaneously by multiple partners and stakeholders. The Policy shall ensure an adequately coordinated approach to enable proper targeting, prioritization, pooling of resources and monitoring of impact of the various interventions. All stakeholders will therefore align their activities with the coordination framework set out in the Policy.

**5.1.5 Evidence based and knowledge sharing approach:** This Policy holds that all stakeholders will, in designing and implementing youth programmes, projects and activities endeavour to act on the basis of evidence-based strategies. In addition, this Policy holds that stakeholders will work to establish a baseline data bank on all areas of focus in order to set a foundation for measuring impact.

**5.1.6 Youth Oriented (Co-creation):** This policy emphasizes that the young people will be placed at the core of all efforts undertaken in the advancement of youth development. Projects, programmes and activities shall be informed and propelled by youth. This Policy therefore adopts the principle of co-creation and anticipates that the youth will be co-creators of solutions and actively engaged as “solvers” where projects and programmes are initiated by youth and decision making is shared among youth and the stakeholders.

**5.1.7 Sustainable development:** This Policy upholds the approach of continuous investment in the development of improved services and opportunities for long term impact and development.

## 4.2 Implementation And Coordination Mechanisms

Effective coordination of the Policy is a priority to Kisumu County Government and non-state actors who are committed to supporting the youth harness their potential while shaping their own lives and future and promoting their active economic involvement at National, county, sub-national levels including sub-counties, wards and communities.

The Policy implementation process shall include development of an implementation plan detailing strategy, activities, target group, performance indicators, responsibility holders, time lines and resource requirements (both financial and non-financial). The implementation will be undertaken through a collaborative framework involving relevant County Governments, Non-Government Organizations or Public Benefit Organizations, private sectors, FBOs, youth organizations, community-based organizations (CBOs) and all other stakeholders involved in youth affairs (see Figure 2). The implementation plan shall be reviewed and set targets assessed on an annual basis.

# 4.3 Enablers: Asks for the County government

**4.3 Realize a healthy and productive youth population**

6 Health is a fundamental and cross cutting issue which has an important bearing on youth’s wellbeing and capacity to effectively participate in economic, social and political processes; including in education, skills development and participation in the labour market.

Nutrition and healthy eating habits support the overall wellbeing of an individual. Apart from preventable and communicable diseases such as sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS, new challenges including malnutrition, non-communicable diseases which include cardiovascular diseases (heart attacks and stroke), cancers, chronic respiratory diseases, diabetes, and injuries, among others are also increasingly becoming a major concern among the youth. Mental health problems such as depression, anxiety, propensity to commit suicide, eating disorders and psychosis contribute to youth mental health problems.

Drug and substance abuse is another major problem facing the country especially among the youth. Some youth also engage in high-risk behaviour, such as transactional sex and multiple partner relationships, which predisposes them to various health risks including STIs, HIV and AIDS, reproductive tract cancers and early and unintended pregnancies. In addition, the youth are at a particular risk of being exposed to sexual and gender-based violence and exploitation, female genital mutilation (FGM), and early marriages. However, there are limited programs aimed at addressing the health needs of the youth. Many continuing and emerging issues have come to the fore as a result of advances in information, communication and technology (ICT) and the resultant exposure to materials and practices that influence young people’s behaviour. ICTs also have a major role to play in facilitating health services delivery and availability of information on health for youth. To address the health related challenges, the government shall implement various policy measures and associated interventions.

**4.3.1 Develop and implement measures to improve nutrition, physical and mental health and well-being of the youth while mitigating non-communicable diseases (NCDs)**

8 The County Government with support from stakeholders shall:

1. Support primitive and preventive health among the youth through encouraging healthy lifestyles, including healthy eating, nutrition, sports, recreational activities to control occurrence of communicable and non-communicable diseases;
2. Promote the mental health amongst youth including psychosocial support and interventions;
3. Promote youth participation in health decision making processes such as policy formulation, planning, budgeting, implementation and monitoring of youth health initiatives;
4. Improve the technical and institutional capacity of youth organizations and community-based organizations (CBOs) to enable them effectively advocate and promote health programmes for youth;
5. Promote partnerships between the government, civil society organizations (CSOs) and the private sector to invest in youth friendly health facilities; and,
6. Develop, integrate and create awareness on information, education and communication (IEC) materials on youth health in training and empowerment platforms.

**4.3.2 Develop and implement measures for providing services, information and education on sexual reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, any retrogressive practices that may be injurious to wholesome health of the youth including FGM and early marriages.**

9 The Government with support from other stakeholders shall:

1. Strengthen education and information on sexual and reproductive health for the youth and communities, and support youth campaigns aimed at encouraging sexual behaviour change and discouraging teenage and early pregnancies;
2. Promote and establish home and community-based welfare programmes to help youth infected and or affected by HIV/AIDS;
3. Focus on eradicating harmful retrogressive practices including early marriages;
4. Build the capacity of youth peer educators to enhance awareness for health services, promote health seeking behaviour, promote establishment of youth-friendly health services at all levels of the health system;
5. Establish and develop youth friendly guidance and counselling units in schools, youth centres, health facilities, non-formal education institutions, vocational and technological training institutions, universities and encourage parents to take a lead role in teaching and counselling their children on responsible sexual behaviour; and,
6. Integrate health components across all youth empowerment platforms.

**4.3.3 Strengthen and implement comprehensive and inclusive mental, emotional, psychosocial wellness and spiritual support programmes to facilitate achievement of full youth potential.**

The County Government with support from other stakeholders shall:

1. Promote youth’s mental, emotional and spiritual health through engaging in creative social and economic activities;
2. Provide tailor made interventions for the youth to enable them develop protective initiatives and eliminate mental health risks;
3. Facilitate access to counselling and rehabilitation services for youth at risk of mental illness;
4. Provide psychosocial interventions and initiatives to address issues of social disorder, substance abuse, family/relationships problems, depression and anxiety; and,
5. Integrate mental health and counselling across all youth empowerment programmes.

**4.3.4 Develop and implement measures for providing information and education on control of drug use and substance abuse among youth**

The County Government with support from other stakeholders shall:

1. Design and implement programmes that address drugs use and substance abuse among the youth; strengthen guidance and counselling programmes in learning institutions, health facilities
2. and all other youth spaces to curb drug and substance abuse;
3. Develop Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials to sensitize, inform and educate the youth on the dangers of drug and substance abuse;
4. Buttress campaigns to create awareness on the effects associated with drug use and substance abuse and utilize dance, music and drama to create awareness on dangers of drug use and substance abuse;
5. Develop and promote youth friendly rehabilitation and reintegration centres and re-integration into the community; and,
6. Involve community and faith based organizations and other youth serving organizations in campaigning and creating awareness on effects of drug use and substance abuse.

**4.3.5 Harness Information Communication and Technology platforms in health care delivery targeting the youth**

The government with the support from stakeholders shall:

1. Support utilization of ICT and other innovative approaches in delivery of information and services related to youth health ,drug use and substance abuse; and
2. Utilize ICTs for research on health to gather information on youth friendly facilities services and engagement with youth through relevant mechanisms such as social media and other technology Applications.

**4.4 Build skilled, competent and disciplined youth workforce for sustained development**

Youth population dividend can be harnessed through provision of relevant skills, and competencies, which are consistent and aligned with job market requirements. The ICT skills gap among youth is a primary barrier to youth employment in the digital economy.

Providing Competency Based Education and Training (CBET) as well as imparting life and communication skills can achieve this. Enhanced ICT education will improve the link between theoretical education and workplace training since; there is a weak link between education and training on one hand and needs of the labour market on the other hand. This makes it difficult to fully integrate youth into the labour market. In addition, the youth lack apprenticeship and incubation programmes hence have limited knowledge of actualizing what they learn in training institutions and demands of the industry. The Government will use ICTs as an enabler in providing dignity and financial stability to our youth.

The secondary education net enrolment rate was 47 per cent in 2017. This implies that over half of the secondary school-age youth aged 14-17 years were not in school. Further, only 14 percent of Form 4 graduates attained minimum university entry grade. This leaves out a large number as unskilled youth. A feasible measure therefore is to train the youth through vocational training institutions to provide them with skills and strengthen linkage with the labour market. It will also be important to enhance training in other skills, including information technology.

To address the skills deficit, the county government of Kisumu will adopt the following measures:

**4.4.1 Develop and implement initiatives that utilize both formal and non-formal education, training and skills development channels and mutually reinforce and enhance youth educational progress and attainment.**

The government with support from the stakeholders shall:

1. Strengthen education, training and skills development by providing ICT integrated education to improve cooperation between government, education institutions and enterprises;
2. Ensure youth of school going age have access to quality education and training at all levels;
3. Target initiatives to raise level of retention and progression in learning institutions, and attainment of skills relevant to the labour market;
4. Support the youth not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET) by enhancing their skills through technical training programmes to enable them effectively participate in the labour market; and promote life-long and e-learning among the youth;
5. Provide career guidance, relevant professional advice, and support youth placement mechanism into industry to ensure smooth transition to the labour market; and,
6. Enhance the role of the National Youth Service (NYS) to rehabilitate, train and engage youth who have limited access to formal education and training to competitively participate in the labour market.

**4.4.2 Institutionalize and strengthen apprenticeship and internship programmes**

The government with support from stakeholders shall:

1. Develop and implement industry-specific internship and apprenticeship policy guidelines and initiatives; Promote linkages between education and training, and industry through institutionalized entrepreneurship and apprenticeship initiatives; strong and effective partnerships between learners, training institutions and employers both in public and private sectors;
2. Strengthen and increase access to quality formal and informal Technical, Vocational Education Training (TVET); and,
3. Revitalize employment placement centres targeting the youth with varied competencies and skills.

**4.5 Create opportunities for youth to earn decent and sustainable livelihoods**

Youth unemployment, underemployment and inactivity are major obstacles to sustainable development. Unemployment entails social exclusion, and is thus one of the social drivers of youth underutilisation and has potential of driving youth criminal activities. Employment creation for the youth is therefore government priority. In this regard, the Government shall encourage new business models and service delivery paradigms built around freelancing, online work and opportunity swarming.

The Government has established Affirmative Action funds such as Uwezo Fund and Youth Enterprise and Development Fund (YEDF). These services provide accessible and flexible financial and business development support. There has also been a renewed effort to make agriculture more attractive to the youth with a view to increase the youth participation in agriculture as business. Similarly, ICT has also been focused on as a sector in the economy with high potential. Another initiative is the effort to open up the Blue Economy to provide an alternative source of livelihood. To facilitate youth engagement with these opportunities, the government has developed a programme to orient youth capacities towards entrepreneurship. Youth however lack assets that would act as collateral in accessing loans and other forms of credit. Further, formal public and private sectors have not been growing substantially to create adequate jobs for the mass of unemployed youth. To create more opportunities, the government shall undertake measures to:

**4.5.1 Address youth unemployment, underemployment and inactivity**

To address the challenges of youth unemployment, underemployment, and inactivity, the county government shall:

1. Accelerate and sustain inclusive macroeconomic and social policies that create decent jobs;
2. Expand investment in productive sectors, key among them agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, blue economy among others for enhanced job creation;
3. Strengthen public finance management systems at national and county levels to ensure public resources are prudently managed and utilized for improved service delivery; improving business environment and creation of employment opportunities;
4. Address the challenge of gambling and sports betting by initiating programmes and activities that encourage sustainable engagements and positive means of livelihoods;
5. Support youth entry into both public and private sector employment through strengthening linkage between education and training; and labour market; and,
6. Address challenges youth face when searching for a job through investment in jobs search infrastructure including strengthening the Kenya Labour Market Information System up to county level and enhancing employment services across all counties.

**4.5.2 Ensure sustainable financing of youth programmes**

The county government with support from other stakeholders shall:

* 1. Embrace result-based contracting in order to strengthen link between youth and employers;
	2. Support development of business infrastructure;
	3. Support business subcontracting to youth-based enterprises;
	4. Develop and institutionalize financial market access systems for the youth; and,
	5. Enhance access to financial support for youth entrepreneurship ventures and enterprises.

**4.5.3 Transform agriculture and agri-business to make it attractive to the youth**

Agriculture is the mainstay of the Kenyan economy and a key livelihood pillar for most of the youth while food and nutrition security is one of the pillars of the Big Four Agenda of the Government. The sector accounts for about 40 percent of Kenya’s total exports and provides both formal and informal employment in urban and rural areas. The sector comprises six subsectors, namely: Industrial crops, food crops, horticulture, livestock, blue economy and fisheries and forestry.

However, the agriculture sector in the country is dominated by an aging population (average age of a farmer was 62 years) and utilizes rain fed farming methods. It will be important to integrate the use of ICT to assist in the establishment of innovative and modern farming methods, value addition, and marketing to achieve improved food security and nutrition. In addition, in rural areas, women, more so young women are at a more disadvantaged position regarding education attainment, access to land, livestock, finance, more demand on their time due to reproductive roles and lower mobility. The Government is determined to ensure that the energy, innovation and passion of the youth are fully and inclusively integrated in the operations of the agricultural sector. The government shall undertake the following measures:

**4.5.4 Position youth at the forefront of agriculture growth and transformation**

 This will be achieved through boosting youth employment in agriculture and agribusiness. The county government with support from other stakeholders shall:

* 1. Increase access to appropriate agricultural education and training; and ensure that youth in diverse agro-ecological zones are provided with training and skills necessary for living and working productively in their respective areas. In addition, provide career guidance to youth at an early age to inform them on job prospects in agriculture including the blue economy;
	2. Increase investment in rural farm and non-farm activities and social and economic infrastructure to offer youth attractive job prospects and living conditions; and transmit a positive social and economic image and status of rural areas through education, the media, and other means of communication;
	3. Promote access to domestic and global market linkages, mechanization, financial inclusion including review and development financing models and products targeting youth enterprises;
	4. Support youth’s access and ownership of land for agri-business as well as access to innovative agricultural technologies, including climate change adaptation;
	5. Strengthen youth’s agribusinesses through enhanced coordination, monitoring and evaluation of product development and supply chains in agribusiness activities;
	6. Promote innovation and incubation of agricultural technologies, youth access to credit for agricultural development; and,
	7. Provide youth with extension services to support growth and development of enterprises.

**4.5.5 Identify and address the fragility and increasing vulnerabilities for youth in agriculture and enterprise**

To realize this, the government in collaboration with all stakeholders shall:

* 1. Rebrand agriculture as the unexplored frontier for growth in business opportunities;
	2. Specialize by redirecting and training youth to focus on sections of the value chain activities such as production, processing and marketing;
	3. Develop innovative financial packages that provide incentives for youth entrepreneurs in the sector;
	4. Invest in value addition through processing, branding, quality, individual life improvements;
	5. Invest in irrigation and water harvesting technologies to facilitate full time engagement of the youth and shorten waiting time for economic returns;
	6. Digitize agricultural production and marketing information into web-based resources;
	7. Invest in emerging livestock and agricultural technologies;
	8. Profile successful youth role models in agri–business to mentor other upcoming youth;
	9. Review land tenure and use systems to provide adequate security and access to land to encourage youth to invest in land improvements, development and productivity, minimize conflicts and encourage lease arrangements for private and corporate investment for irrigation development; and,
	10. Promote the participation of the youth in climate smart agriculture as a viable career opportunity for the youth and as an economic and business option.

**4.5.6 Strengthen frameworks for labour export, foreign employment management and Diaspora engagement**

Labour export is one of the strategies for creating additional jobs for the youth. The Policy provides measures to encourage youth to seek employment in other countries and protect their rights. The government in collaboration with stakeholders shall:

* 1. Encourage and support the youth to seek employment in other countries; and participate in Diaspora activities;
	2. Encourage and support the youth working in the Diaspora to participate in national, political, social and development programmes in the country and create enabling mechanisms to enable them invest locally;
	3. Develop and in collaboration with other stakeholders enforce guidelines on employment of Kenyans in foreign countries and accreditation of private employment agencies; and,
	4. Through use of ICT set up a portal for youth to easily access labour opportunities locally and internationally.

**4.5.7 Take measures to strengthen labour management information systems among the youth.**

The county government in collaboration with the private sector and other stakeholders shall:

* + 1. Implement labour market information system to support decision making on youth employment opportunities;
		2. Establish a one-stop information centre on employment opportunities across counties;
		3. Institutionalize tracer studies of graduates to gauge the relevance of learning programmes to the labour market;
		4. Revitalize national employment placement centres to cater for youth competencies and skills;
		5. Develop an effective labour migration policy to curb exploitation of youth employed or seeking employment abroad; and,
		6. Promote and implement programmes that target skills development, entrepreneurship, and apprenticeship and business incubation among youth.

**4.6 Develop youth talent, creativity and innovation for wealth creation**

The youth constitute a huge pool of untapped talent potential including in sports and performing arts. This creativity potential of the youth could be tapped and nurtured to create alternative pathways of earning a living. Besides their sports prowess, youth in Kenya are creative, innovative and easily adapt to technology changes. The Policy therefore encourages establishment of a network of talent development institutions to support and incubate ideas and talents of the emerging generation of highly creative youth.

 The county government of Kisumu in collaboration with other stakeholders shall develop structured recreation opportunities for the youth. Participation in these activities shall build positive social relationships, help nurture conflict resolution skills, and promote mental health, civic and corporate social responsibility. Successful participation in recreational activities also helps in reducing juvenile delinquency, boosts positive behaviours, reduces violence, enhances self-confidence, optimism, and self-initiation and contributes to improved productivity.

The government with support from stakeholders shall therefore set up youth friendly recreational activities to reduce negative behaviour while promoting individual development and productivity. To achieve this objective, the government shall:

**4.6.1 Develop and implement inclusive mechanisms for identifying, developing, nurturing and supporting the youths’ creativity and talents; and promote cross-sectional cooperation in recreational activities at national and county levels.**

The following measures shall be put in place:

1. Revitalize the county youth talent academy;
2. Develop and implement youth talent identification and nurturing policy;
3. Create a database on talented youth and the industry players to facilitate networking and referral;
4. Establish and rehabilitate creative talent hubs and Youth Empowerment Centres;
5. Sensitize youth on the value of talent and talent development
6. Establish a comprehensive talent scouting system in all regions/counties for continuous identification of talent and creative innovations;
7. Liaise with stakeholders in talent identification and development;
8. Institutionalize annual youth sport week to promote the value of physical exercise and the spirit of healthy living and competition among youth;
9. Promote sport activities that fosters social inclusion and community integration and inclusivity in the country;
10. Encourage and support volunteering in sports and extra co-curriculum activities across all counties.

**4.6.2 The government shall put in place mechanisms for creation of infrastructure, promotion, coordination and protection of the youths’ creativity, innovations and talents.**

The government shall also stem the growing problem of doping and mismanagement of earnings from sports by professional sportsmen and women.

To implement this, the government and stakeholders shall implement the following policy measures:

* + 1. Invest in community, national and regional music and cultural festivals;
		2. Promote art for national cohesion and national values among the youth;
		3. Strengthen, support and reward system for participation in sports at national and international levels and implement the National Sports Policy;
		4. Encourage private sector participation in the promotion of arts and sports sectors for youth;
		5. Strengthen and promote extra-curricular activities in educational institutions;
		6. Identify and promote regional and local recreational opportunities such as outdoor activities, sports and opportunities for enhancing creativity.
		7. Effectively implement the Kenya Anti-Doping Act, 2016.
		8. Build the capacity of the youth to manage their sports earnings through collaborative initiatives.
		9. Support and encourage youth in sports not to engage in doping activities and to invest their earnings in productive activities and initiative.

**4.4.3 Development and implementation initiatives that enhance youth’s artistic talent while promoting cultural and creative awareness and participation in related activities in their communities at national and sub-national level. The government shall also correspondingly address copyright infringements.**

The county government in collaboration with other stakeholders shall:

* + 1. Support and encourage youth to develop their creativity, artistic and practical skills, music, script writing and drama;
		2. Support and promote literature for young writers; and
		3. Encourage and facilitate access to entrepreneurial activities through Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO).
		4. Enhance the implementation of the Copyright Act, No. 18 of 2014 and create awareness on copyrights and enhance the capacity of the youth to value intellectual property rights.

**4.7 Tackle Crime and Support Security and Peace Building**

Increased incidences of crime across the country are a major socio-economic policy concern. This is linked to the growing number of youth who are taking to crime, especially in major cities and towns. Probable causes of this increase in youth's involvement in criminal activities include: high poverty levels, idleness and disillusionment occasioned by increased unemployment rates despite more youth having access to education. Peer pressure and use of drugs and substances of abuse contribute to crime among the youth. The country’s security landscape is also characterized by   various conflict drivers such as competition for power, poverty, youth under employment and unemployment, transnational crime, terrorism, recruitment of vulnerable youth into militia groups and criminality and proliferation of small arms.

To address this challenge:

**4.7.1 The Youth shall be included in the peace building processes and inclusion in decision making on matters related to peace building.**

Inclusion and participation of young people enhances their capabilities and affords them the opportunity to improve their lives as well as their communities. The government shall involve the youth in security and peace building processes as stakeholders and decision makers and allow them to participate in policy processes that affect them.

The county government shall:

* + 1. Work with multi-agency, families and communities to engage the youth in promoting peace and secure crime free neighbourhoods.
		2. Support inclusion of youth as specific stakeholders in community driven security and peace building initiatives, as they are largely affected by both conflict and instrumental to peace building;
		3. Recognize and include the role of youth led and youth-based peace building organizations in peace building activities and promoting a culture of peace;
		4. Create a participatory monitoring framework that has built in mechanisms to ensure young people’s active participation;
		5. Commit to funding resources and mechanisms for raising awareness and extending the outreach to all young people, especially to vulnerable or marginalized groups of young people;
		6. Involve the youth in social inclusion and citizenship education to enhance the active involvement and participation of young people;
		7. Support investment in alternative or non-formal education programmes that reach out to school youth, and that include peace building components, and track the situation of those youth after they leave the programme;
		8. Educate the youth on abiding by the law and good neighbourliness;
		9. Involve youth in peace building, conflict resolution and prevention and reconciliation initiatives;
		10. Design and implement livelihood skills programs for youth;
		11. Design and implement programs to promote intergenerational dialogue, societal and national values.

**4.8 Entrenching Patriotism and Volunteerism**

The youth have the energy, skills and time that can be harnessed to support national socioeconomic and political development through volunteerism opportunities. In such opportunities, the youth find a rare chance to make a difference in the lives of their fellow citizens. This Policy strongly advocates and encourages all stakeholders to undertake strategic actions to embed the culture of volunteerism among the youth.

The County government shall:

**4.8.1 Involve the youth in activities that promote volunteerism and community service while developing their sense of patriotism and nationalism and promotion of national values.**

The government shall: Cultivate national values among the youth and build their capacity to enable them to participate in leadership and community service. Specific interventions include:

* + 1. Support development and implementation of a National Youth Volunteerism Policy Framework;
		2. Facilitate all stakeholder ownership and support for youth volunteerism;
		3. Increase outreach and capacity of the National Youth Volunteer service.
		4. Educate and cultivate the youth on the value of patriotism, national cohesion and volunteerism
		5. Mainstream youth volunteerism in all sectors of Government [national and county];
		6. Synergise Community Policing Initiatives (Nyumba Kumi) with the Youth Volunteerism Plan; vii) Implement a mechanism for monitoring, evaluating and recognizing the youth who successfully accomplish their roles within the volunteerism programmes;
		7. Establish community service for youth and promote volunteerism;
		8. Establish a reward system for recognizing outstanding community service among youth at national level; and
		9. Promote private sector support for youth volunteerism

**4.8.2 Develop and implement strategies to enable the youth to actively participate in voluntary and community initiatives.**

To achieve this, the county government and other stakeholders shall:

* + 1. Encourage and support community-based projects, activities and events involving the youth;
		2. Encourage the youth to participate in voluntary activities at various levels;
		3. Promote active citizenship, social inclusion and solidarity among the youth;

**4.9   Investing in skills and entrepreneurship development, apprenticeship training and employment**

There is a weak link between education and training on the one hand and needs of the labor market on the other. This makes it difficult to fully integrate youth in the labor market. Youth also lack bank security in the event of bank guarantee requirements. Formal public and private sectors have not expanded substantially to create adequate jobs for the mass of unemployed youth. The youth lack apprenticeship and incubation programmes hence have limited knowledge of actualizing what they learn in training institutions demands of the industry.

To address this challenge the government shall:

**4.9.1 Develop and implement initiatives that utilize both formal and non-formal education3 and mutually reinforce or enhance youth educational progress and attainment.**

1. In this regard, the county government in collaboration with other stakeholders shall:
2. Develop strategy to support learners who excel in extracurricular activities;
3. Support the youth not in education, employment, or training (NEET) by enhancing their skills through technical programs to enable them effectively participate in the labor market;
4. Promote life-long and e-learning for the youth;
5. Provide career guidance and relevant professional advice for youth to ensure smooth transition to the world of work;
6. Ensure equitable and inclusive access to quality education and training for youth at all level right from early learning, primary, secondary, university and technical education and promoting attainment levels in literacy, numeracy, science, technology and other market driven competencies;
7. Undertake targeted initiatives to improve education attainment of youth at risk of vulnerabilities such as poverty;
8. Undertake initiatives to raise level of youth retention and attainment of free and subsidized schooling including primary, secondary, TIVET and tertiary education training and university education; and
9. Assist and support the youth to attain knowledge, apprenticeship skills and experiences required to enable them effectively participate in national development of their counties, communities and families.

 71. The increasing youth population offers the country an opportunity to turn the demographic dividend into jobs and economic growth by developing appropriate skills through quality and relevant job-market specific training opportunities. However, high unemployment among the youth is a major challenge. Further, despite the evident skills deficits in the country, education and training remain critical tools in addressing the mismatch between skills development and training, entrepreneurship and the job market demands.

The Government in collaboration with the private sector and other stakeholders shall:

**4.9.2 Take measures to promote skills development, entrepreneurship, apprenticeship, incubation and employment among the youth.**

The county government shall:

* + 1. Develop an effective labour migration policy to curb exploitation of youth employed or seeking employment abroad;
		2. Promote industry relevant education and training, entrepreneurship and apprentice training; iii) Strengthen and increase Technical, Vocational Education Training (TVET) institutions;
		3. Develop a labour market information system to support decision-making on youth employment opportunities;
		4. Establish a one-stop information centre on employment opportunities in each county and online portal;
		5. Undertake tracer studies of graduates to gauge the relevance and level of uptake of learning programmes;
		6. Operationalize national employment placement centres to cater for youth competencies and skills;
		7. Create an enabling environment for young entrepreneurs to thrive including; enhancing access to credit and reducing the cost of business start-up. The government shall also improve social services and infrastructure.

**4.9.3 Promote a culture of entrepreneurship among the youth through training, mentorship, incubation and business partnerships.**

The county government with support from stakeholders shall:

* + 1. Enhance entrepreneurship capacity building programs through supporting or expanding internships, mentorships, attachments and business incubation;
		2. Review of regulatory framework on SMEs to make it friendly to youth; and
		3. Ensure compliance to AGPO at both levels of government.

**4.10 Support active engagement, empowerment and participation of youth groups**

72. The country has a weak framework for youth engagement, empowerment and structured participation in decision making. To address the challenge the government shall:

**4.10.1 Develop and implement initiative programmes and activities that actively involve youth and youth organizations in developing competencies and skills that enhance their learning and future economic engagements.**

The county government shall:

1. Support youth empowerment programs which include projects such as literature, visual art, media, music, filming, volunteering, special needs studies and training, internship, community work at national, county sub-county, constituency, ward and community/local levels. The programmes shall be continued, revitalized, further developed and expanded to include new dynamics and innovative dimensions that take into account the dynamic and heterogeneous nature of the youth;
2. Implement intervention to support innovative and smooth transition from school to further education and trading and/or labour market. This will involve provision of professional development and accreditation of youth work and non-formal learning;
3. Establish outreach program and targeted youth initiatives to address the excluded groups and youths at risk including social, economic and political risks; and
4. Support collaboration between the youth council and community-based networks, in promoting youth work, cultural events and activities

**4.11 Support Entrepreneurship and Employment**

The government has implemented various initiatives that focus on enhancing self employment, access to finances and promotion of skills development and work experience for the youths. Currently, there are two initiatives aimed at enhancing self- employment of youths namely Uwezo Fund and Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF). Through the two funds, the government provides unsecured and interest free loans to young people. The government has also implemented a transformative youth empowerment program under the National Youth Service (NYS). This program helps in skills and talent development and exploitation of the entrepreneurial potential of the youth.

The county government amended procurement laws to allow 30 percent of contracts to be given to the youth, women and persons with disability without competition from established firms. In addition, Youth Development Centres were established to offer mentorship, nation building, vocational and entrepreneur skill development opportunities. An on-line Industrial Training Attachment Portal (ITAP) was also developed to link industrial training institutions to industry and help students secure industrial attachments. The government has also launched The Kenya Labour Market Information Systems (KLMIS) which brings trainers, jobseekers, and potential employers into one platform.

Other interventions include the Internship and apprenticeship programme that is targeting the unemployed graduates and their Five-year Youth Agriculture Drive aimed at creating innovative, attractive and sustainable employment for the youth through agribusiness.

Despite these innovative interventions, there shall be a need to monitor performance and enhance the effectiveness of the government initiatives.

The county government shall therefore:

**4.11.1 Develop an implementation initiative to enhance effective youth participation in the labour market to better their future economic engagements such as employment, apprenticeship, and entrepreneurship; occupational and professional activities.**

Specifically, the county government and other stakeholders shall:

* + 1. Develop mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation of intervention and initiative implemented by the public sector
		2. Enhance the coverage of the labour market information system (LMIS) to link the youth for opportunities;
		3. Promote entrepreneurship and apprenticeship among young people through formal education, non-formal education, and other alternative learning and skills development opportunities;
		4. Promote and support training skills development that meets needs of industry and meet labour market through strong and effective partnership between employer, leaner, training institution;
		5. Inform, induce and support youth access training, apprenticeship, internship and other labour market-oriented opportunities in both public and private sector;
		6. Encourage and support youth in self-employment;
		7. Promote work exchange programmes for youths abroad; and 2
		8. Establish and profile the youth not in education, employment, training (NEET) and mount targeted programmes for them.
		9. Sign and support initiatives aim at integrating youths with special needs/disabilities in the labour market.

4.11.2 **Enhance youth employability, active participation in the labour market and equipping youth with skills and capabilities to gain initial economic engagement either through employment or entrepreneurship, maintain the engagement and grow the career paths including in business.**

 Specific strategies shall include:

* + 1. Enhance employability of the youth by linking training and higher institutions of learning with the world of work; address mismatch between education and training systems, needs of labour market, weak employment systems, and weak entrepreneurship spirit of young people and inadequacy of labour market governance for young people. The government and non-public sectors shall provide internship opportunities, industry experience and mentorship for youth.
		2. Support coordinated evidence-based capacity development programmes for the youth.
		3. Identify, design, implement and strengthen mechanisms for integrating employment of youth in public contracts including AGPO;
		4. Develop techniques for promoting better employability of young people through multisectoral approaches including encouraging multi-sectoral public private partnerships with local and international organizations in youth training and empowerment.
		5. Reverse the tendency of young people to favour formal employment by promoting self employment. vi) Creation of entrepreneurship curriculum that involves a change in the mindset of young people as early as at adolescence age by fostering the entrepreneurial spirit and acumen of desiring to be an employer rather than an employee.
		6. Stimulating employment creation, facilitating skilled labour and entrenching entrepreneurship culture among the youth; improve efficiency of labour markets and strengthen labour administration and social dialogue.
		7. Reduce youth unemployment and improve economic productivity through establishment of special economic zones, supporting the development of small micro and medium enterprises, embracing technology and innovation, promoting adoption and enhancing linkages between industry and training institutions, implementation of targeted industrial training attachments.

Different institutions and frameworks that support youth entrepreneurship include YEDF, WEF, UWEZO fund and Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO). The programmes provide start-up capital, low cost investment capital for expansion, training on business management, financial literacy, business incubation services, and mentorship. Further the programmes provide business infrastructure and assists youth access to markets through organized exhibitions.

The government also invests in Local Purchase Order (LPO) financing in support for financial intermediation. The funds have also supported entrepreneurship among youth by encouraging them to create jobs. The youth who have participated in the programmes have also benefited through access to loans, market support, and provision of trading premises, work sites, business development and some youth have been facilitated to access jobs abroad. However, emerging challenges include loan default, weak coordination, monitoring and evaluation, and weak business development skills. Most of the funds are also located in urban areas while youth in rural areas are either underserved and or have limited information on the existing potential opportunities.

To support the programmes, the county government shall:

* + 1. Invest in capacity building and appropriate financial services for youth in MSMES and support youth investment in small and medium enterprises in industrial parks and special economic zones.
		2. Embrace result-based contracting in order to strengthen link between youth and employers;
		3. Support development of business infrastructure; and iv) Support sub-contracting to youth-based enterprises. v) Develop and institutionalize market access systems for the youth.

**4.11.3 Foreign employment management and diaspora engagement**

Labour export is one of the strategies for creating additional jobs for the youth. The Policy provides measures to encourage youth to seek employment in other countries and protect their rights.

The county government shall:

* + 1. Encourage and support the youth to seek employment in other countries; participate in diaspora activities
		2. Encourage and support the youth working in the diaspora to participate in national, political, cultural, social and development programmes in the country and create enabling mechanisms to enable them invest locally and
		3. Develop and enforce guidelines on employment of foreigners and accreditation of private employment agencies.

**4.12 Youth and Information Communication Technology Development**

Embracing ICT development is critical to economic growth. Some of the innovations and inventions of Kenyan youth have earned the country a top ranking as an ICT hub in the region and internationally. Further, with the on-going revolution in the ICT sector offers various opportunities for the youth and most of whom possess modern technological skills to enable them to set up Citeable businesses. The increasing interest in the concept of business processing outsourcing that comes with the ICT revolution presents even more opportunities for youth employment. Some institutions provide mentorship programs to students through the incubation Centres to help the youth actualize their ideas. Despite the high level of participation of youths in online platforms and social media, the government has not tapped into this potential by creating platforms that favours youth’s participation in economic growth through online platforms. Cyber security incidents have been on the rise and Kenya is ranked among most vulnerable cyber security countries. These threats undermine the confidence in venturing into online business operations and activities due to fear of losses related to cybercrime attacks.

To address these gaps the government shall:

**4.12.1 Renew and update the knowledge and skills of youth to meet the needs of the labour market through use of information communication technology (ICT).**

The government in collaboration with the private sector and learning institutions will harness the benefits of technology change through:

* 1. Target investment in apprenticeship skills development and technology innovations
	2. Equip the youth with skills required to cope with technological advances while shrinking the supply of increasing redundant low skilled labour.
	3. Facilitate and support technology exchange and innovation programmes for youth through establishment of technology incubators and research development.
	4. Address challenges youth face when searching for a job through investment in jobs search infrastructure including strengthening employment services across all counties.
	5. Increase labour productivity through education and technology.
	6. Support professional integration of young people through distribution of installation and incubation of businesses and funding for the youth.
	7. Support industrial innovation through ICTs mainstreaming, telecommunication and agribusiness.

**4.12.2 The county government will create a conducive environment to reduce the risks involved in venturing into online businesses.**

 The county government shall;

* + 1. Establish a department to manage and monitor cyber security incidents and create awareness to organizations and individuals on information security issues;
		2. Expand Ajira Digital Youth empowerment programme to sensitize and train youth on online jobs;
		3. Create a fair and competitive environment by enforcing open access to ICT infrastructure.

**4.12.3 The county government of Kisumu will enhance access to ICT infrastructure across all sub-counties and wards.**

 To increase accessibility of ICT infrastructure the government shall:

* + 1. Create an enabling framework to deploy broadband across the country;
		2. Develop and expand ICT Infrastructure across all counties;
		3. Ensure availability of a reliable and affordable broadband connectivity to all citizens especially in the counties;
		4. Encourage Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) to create ICT enabled systems;
		5. Promote Digital Literacy Programs for providing ICT equipment and services to youth; and
		6. Establish Constituency Innovation Hubs to promote access to ICT among the youth.

**4.12.4 The government will build capacity of the youth to fully integrate them into the country’s technology transformation**

To enhance capacity building in ICT the county government shall:

* + 1. Build the capacity of youth in ICT through training;
		2. Develop resource centers and libraries for youth to access information and relevant educational materials;
		3. Develop incubation centers and mentorship of youth in ICT skills, in collaboration with the private sector, to start businesses and venture in related enterprises;
		4. Initiate and institutionalize effective capacity building initiatives through internships, mentorship and attachments; and
		5. Provide equipment and create Smart classrooms; and
		6. Help youth decisively confront anti-social behaviour such as physical and cyber bullying behaviour.

**4.13 Environment and Sustainable Development**

Kenya is rich in natural resources in the forms of plant and animal biodiversity, fresh water, minerals, and land with diversified potential. Eighty per cent (80 percent) of the country’s economy depends directly or indirectly on exploitation of natural resources in the form of agricultural products, minerals, tourism, fisheries, timber and other wood products, and industries based on agriculture.

Over 70 percent of the population relies on natural resources within their immediate environment for their daily livelihood. However, current practices and rate of exploitation affects future generations through depletion of resources and loss of biodiversity. The Constitution of Kenya, 2010 provides for the right to a clean and healthy environment and includes the protection of the environment for the benefit of present and future generations either through legislation or other measures. Kenya has become prone to disasters such as floods, droughts and other shocks that require interventions by the youth in every stage including prevention, management or recovery. The Policy therefore 32 acknowledges the critical role the environment plays and encourages the Government to take leadership in creating partnerships and networks, including the youth, to scale up and strengthen environmental programmes in the country.

**4.13.1 The county government and stakeholders shall ensure there are mechanisms that support youth engagement in the development, protection, conservation of the natural resources and environment while engaging in eco-entrepreneurship and green jobs.**

The county government with the support from stakeholders shall put in place the following measures:

* + 1. Encourage youth to participate in management, protection and conservation of the environment;
		2. Build capacities of youth on green processes and technology, waste management and general environmental conservation/ management;
		3. Invest in the conversion of waste to wealth initiatives;
		4. Identify high potential value chains in green energy, waste management and alternative prudent natural resources utilization;
		5. Facilitate the youth to participate in green jobs and carbon credit opportunities;
		6. Empower youth as environment ambassadors across the country; and
		7. Enhance capacity building of the youth on disaster management to participate in awareness creation, prevention, management and recovery.

**4.14 Eradicate drug use and substance abuse**

81. Drug and substance abuse is one of the major problems facing the country today especially among the youth. According to the National Campaign Against Drug Abuse (NACADA) the level of drug and substance abuse is startling because many young people are getting hooked on drugs. Alcohol, bhang and tobacco are increasingly being abused by youths of all ages.

The county government shall:

* + 1. Strengthen guidance and counselling programmes to curb drug and substance abuse;
		2. Mainstream drug and substance abuse control in the school curriculum to create awareness on the effects associated with abuse of drugs;
		3. Develop Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials to sensitize, inform and educate the youth on the dangers of drug and substance abuse;
		4. Run adverts through the media, campaigns and road shows on the effects associated with drug and substance abuse; and
		5. Curb drug use and substance abuse among the youth.
		6. Set up youth friendly rehabilitation centres and design and implement programmes that address drugs and substance abuse among the youth;

**4.13 Curb Radicalization and Violent Extremism**

82. Youth unemployment is very high in Kenya and with a little chance of getting education or sustainable and decent jobs, the youth and especially those in the urban informal settlements is an easy prey for terrorist activities. The youth are the main target by the extremist organizations and local militia hence have become vulnerable to the offers promised to them. Subscription to criminal gangs, ethnic sects and local militias has been experienced in the country. Terror activities have led to loss of life, pain and suffering to those affected.

To address this policy issue the county government shall:

* + 1. Increase opportunities for education, employment and political participation among youth,
		2. Promote youth leadership exchange programmes,
		3. Enhance support to organizations working in the slums and informal settlement on education, youth activities, vocational training and employment
		4. Design and implement programmes on countering violent extremism and anti-radicalization aimed at campaigning for peace among the youth across the country- National Counter Terrorism Centre
		5. Enhance coordination and capacity development of national and sub national institutions to understand and address the root causes of extremism
		6. Build resilience by rehabilitating affected communities through development approaches that seek to provide sustainable livelihood pathways and provide a counter narrative to radicalization and violent extremism through ensuring effective implementation of the anti-terrorism policy.

**4.14 Youth Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion**

83. Mainstreaming is a strategy that seeks to ensure that youth perspectives are integrated into programmes and budgets and calls for a multi-agency engagement from both state and non-state actors, supported by a comprehensive local and international policy and legal frameworks. National and county government measures shall support capacity building, on-the-job coaching, support and targeted implementation of youth mainstreaming programmes.

The county government shall:

* + 1. Sensitization of leaders and decision makers on the broad concept, rationale and benefits of mainstreaming for a consistent policy and programme framework;
		2. Skills transfer on mainstreaming and tools for effective results based on mainstreaming targeting focal points and support functions such as finance and information technology; and
		3. Sensitize and build capacity of the private sector and civil societies on youth mainstreaming. iv) Enlisting non-state actor champions Conducting youth audit on budgets and budget consultations;
		4. Targets, indicators and timelines developed by stakeholders which are harmonized with the national development agenda; and
		5. Integrate youth mainstreaming into public sector performance management framework.

**4.14.1 In pursuant of constitution (2010) develops and support social inclusion opportunities among youth people from disadvantaged backgrounds.**

The county government shall:

* + 1. Support and integrate youth with disabilities to fully participate in social and community life; ii) Encourage and support youth with behaviour challenges to integrate and fully participated in social and community life;
		2. Support youth from families at risk of poverty and social exclusion will be supported to integrate and fully participate in social and community life;
		3. Promote gender equality, awareness and mutual respect for all young people regardless their social economic background; and
		4. Ensure youth leaving juvenile detention are supported and encouraged to integrate into community life and economic activities; and
		5. Strengthen family systems, ensure street youth are supported and integrated into community life as they participate in productive economic activities.

**4.14.2 Create new spaces at local community level for youth and youth organizations**

Create new spaces and facilities at community levels to support the development of young people through active involvement and participation in non-formal opportunities

The government shall implement the following measures:

* + 1. Develop and enhance physical infrastructure and human resource capacity of the youth activity centre at county level while initiating an expanding appropriate sport and recreational facility;
		2. Strengthen youth hubs and services offered in human centres through creation of youth information one-stop-shop-desks. The information will also be shared widely both locally and internationally through e-platforms; and
		3. Expand youth support services to include programs for secondary schools, TIVET and universities’ youth support services, programs and activities, and resources will be mobilized for young people and young workers both at national and county levels.

**4.14.3 Awareness raising, listening and supporting the voice of the youth**

85. Create initiatives and opportunities that enhance youth’s social and political awareness that enable their voices to be heard while impacting lives of their fellow young people

* + 1. In collaboration with the NYC, the government shall hold annual cultural dialogue youth at community ward, county, sub-county, national level to address youth issues; and
		2. Increase political awareness among youth and their constitutional rights.

**4.14.4 Supporting street youth**

The policy advocates enhanced reintegration and rehabilitation of street youth in the communities and strengthening of family systems. The government in collaboration with other stakeholders shall:

* + 1. Develop rehabilitation and corrective centres targeting street children and youth, ii) Engage street youth in environmental management activities as groups
		2. Strengthen family and community systems in order to tackle street children challenges especially in urban areas

**4.14.5 Mainstreaming programmes for disadvantaged male and female youth**

This policy recognises that there are both disadvantaged male and female youth. This includes: persons forced into early marriages and premature economic activities. The government shall:

* + 1. Support disadvantaged and marginalized youth through skills training and empowerment,
		2. Support and encourage disadvantaged and marginalized youth to access gainful economic activities,

Involve disadvantaged and marginalized youth in community service activities.

# 4.4 Flagships

##  Obligations of the County Government

It is the obligation of the county government to ensure that all its citizens are served to their expectation. It should carefully plan and be involved in developing the youth to be responsible and available to contribute to the current and future nation-building efforts. Specifically, the County government of kisumu shall:

1. Be the lead agent in supporting the implementation of the youth Policy. This support should cover all the envisaged initiatives and programmes including: creation of sufficient employment opportunities for the youth, education and training and setting up friendly health facilities for the youth including improved access to mental health facilities and rehabilitation centres;
2. Improve access to secure tenure to those in informal settlements;
3. Ensure that the youth enjoy their State rights;
4. Provide the necessary framework for youth to fulfil their obligations;
5. Provide quality education and skills development;
6. Create a mechanism and opportunities for involvement of youth in internship, and volunteerism;
7. Ensure that youth in conflict situations are mainstreamed into national youth initiatives;
8. Assist the youth to access subsidized loans to enhance and improve the economic and entrepreneurial development potential through Government Affirmative Action Programs and initiatives; and,
9. Put in place mechanisms for provision of psychosocial interventions and initiatives to address issues of social disorders, substance abuse cessation, family/relationship problems, depression, anxiety, social abuse, violence etc among the youth.

**County Assembly Roles:**

1. Pass the Youth policy for implementation.
2. Approve the budget for policy implementation.
3. Youth sensitization on the policy entails.

**County Department for Youth Affairs Roles:**

1. Develop County Youth Action Plans for policy implementation.
2. Conduct monitoring and evaluation on the youth policy implementation.
3. Resource mobilization.

## Obligations of the Private Sector

The private sector shall take part in job creation and employment of the youth; engage in entrepreneurial development, internship, apprenticeship, mentorship/coaching, provision of information and transfer of technology and skills.

## Responsibilities and Obligations of the Youth

85. The Policy seeks not only to safeguard the rights of the youth, but also to 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;
2. Contribute to social-economic development at all levels, including through volunteerism;
3. Create and promote respect for humanity, sustain peaceful coexistence, national unity and stability;
4. Protect the environment;
5. Help to support and protect those who are disadvantaged and vulnerable;
6. Promote democracy and the rule of law;
7. Create gainful employment;
8. Take advantage of available education and training opportunities;
9. Develop a positive attitude towards work and entrepreneurship;
10. Lead healthy lifestyles and shun harmful/negative habits (e.g. gambling, misuse of social media, drugs use and substance abuse);
11. Avoid indulging in careless and irresponsible sex and risky sexual behaviour; and,
12. Take responsible charge of their lives.

## Obligations of parents, guardians and caregivers

86. The strong family ties inherited from our traditional societies, which called for mutual respect between the various age groups, have weakened. As a result, signs of rebellion are visible among a number of youths. The Policy spells out obligations for parents and guardians. Parents shall:

1. Promote responsible parenting;
2. Provide positive role models for the youth;
3. Provide equal opportunities and access to family to the youth, regardless of their sex;
4. Meet basic and material needs of the youth;
5. Provide guidance and counselling to the youth against harmful habits and practices including gambling, misuse of social media, irresponsible sexual behaviours, drugs and substance abuse;
6. Train and socialize the youth into different skills;
7. Provide financial support for youth projects;
8. Offer room for youth participation at all levels; and,
9. Assist the youth to realize their goals and full potential.

Figure 2 **Kisumu Youth Policy Development Coordination Frameworks**

              

## 4.5 Resource Mobilization and Financing of the Policy

Resources and support required for implementation of this policy shall be mobilized from both public and non-state actors with the twin objective of strengthening their support and commitment as identified by the Policy.

The interventions and initiatives identified in this Policy shall be supported through mobilization of monetary and non-monetary resources from National Government, County Governments, private sector, development partners, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), Faith Based organizations (FBOs), communities and individuals, among other stakeholders. All funding sources and strategies will be required to balance between the short- and long-term goals. A sector wide approach shall be adopted at national and county levels in planning, budgeting, and programming, implementing, monitoring and evaluating youth initiatives.

The Policy implementation mechanism will be operationalized through annual action plans detailing: policy priorities, key actions, indicators, timelines, responsibility, and estimated budgets. The Government shall allocate adequate resources in the annual budget to youth

## 4.6 Implementation Matrix

The Policy shall be implemented by County Governments and non-state actors. It is expected that the Ministry which has the oversight role in the implementation, will map and collate a database on stakeholders supporting and facilitating youth initiatives, activities and programs in the county. Further, the Ministry of Youth Affairs in conjunction with thematic working groups will institutionalize roles of each stakeholder in the country and formulate a calendar of events every year. The Ministry will expect that all stakeholders will account for and report on their specific activities on a regular basis.

## 4.7 Roles of stakeholders

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| S/No | **Stakeholders** | **Roles In Youth Intervention** |
| 1 | **County****Government Of Kisumu** | 1. 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;
2. Develop an integrated county development plan reflecting the priority needs of the 76 diverse categories of the youth, including the marginalized and minority groups;
3. Integrate Youth initiatives in all county departments, their plans and strategies;
4. Ensure that public hiring/recruitment reflects the socio-ethnic face of the County; and
5. Design and conduct effective civic education on issues affecting the youth.
 |
| 2 | **Kisumu County Assembly** | 1. Promote full implementation of the Constitution (2010) at the County level;
2. Domesticating the Policy;
3. Domesticating national legislation that affect the youth;
4. Ensure the County Assembly reflects the diversity of the county and that they address youth issues;
5. Ensure that laws and other county level frameworks, including employment, promote inclusion; and
6. Monitor and evaluate the performance of the County Executive to ensure it promotes equitable development while mainstreaming the youth issues.
 |
| **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:**1. Ensure equitable employment across all diversities such as gender, age, ethnicity and persons with special needs;
2. Promote mainstreaming of youth interventions in the institutional strategies; and
3. Promote research in youth issues to support implementation of the Policy with evidence.
 |
| **Private Sector** |
| The formal private sector generates the 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 the county government of Kisumu in policy- development; and is a major employer. | 1. Create opportunities for youth engagement;
2. Develop specific mechanisms for mainstreaming youth issues and for monitoring adherence to agreed goals;
3. 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;
4. Mainstream youth issues spelt out in the Policy in the design and implementation of targeted corporate social responsibility for youth; and,
5. Offer skills and partnerships to excluded groups as a means of enabling them to enter into mainstream economic activity.
 |
| **Civil Society** |
| General **Civil society** will continue to be involved in a wide range of activities targeting the youth | 1. Continue its work of mobilization and sensitisation on the Policy;
2. Continue to support community- and faith- based organizations working on youth issues;
3. Continue to monitor all arms of the government on matters affecting the youth;
4. Rationalize interventions to focus on the needy areas and special interest groups including the youth; and,
5. 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:**1. Espousing the provisions of the Constitution in their activities;
2. Applying the religious approach to uphold morals and values among the youth;
3. Providing youth with role models;
4. Establish partnerships with Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to institute programs targeting physical, mental and spiritual wellness of youth; and,
5. 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** | 1. Espouse the national values and principles of transformative leadership contained in the Constitution;
2. Assist in mobilizing citizens to support youth initiatives; and
3. Champion a revamped system of community leaders that also promotes representation across various age groups, dialogue and peace building.
 |
| **Print & Electronic Media** | 1. Espouse the contents of the Constitution, specifically the national values and principles of governance and the Policy in their programmes;
2. Ensure objective, balanced reporting on youth issues;
3. Correct undesirable misconceptions and misrepresentations;
4. Use respective platforms to educate citizens on contents of the Policy and its strategies across county up to grassroots levels; and,
5. Assist in identifying minorities and marginalized individuals and communities for interventions through Policy.
 |
| **Individual Citizens including youth** |
| **Youth** | 1. Read and understand the Constitution, and the various legislation relating to youth issues;
2. Respect the Constitution and the laws emanating from it;
3. Participate in design, implementation and monitoring of youth initiatives;
4. Acquire and promote national values and patriotism;
5. Espouse respect for, and positively and vocally appreciate diversity and harmony;
6. Espouse respect for human rights and basic needs including supporting implementation of the Policy
7. Be fully accountable for own conduct;
8. Participate fully in the governance of their locality, such as through civic education and citizen forums targeting youth;
9. Respect and nurture the environment; and,
10. Uphold value systems in society including trust, patriotism, and hard work, among others.
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|  |  |  |

# 5.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

## 5.1 Introduction

The constitution through different articles including 10, 56, 174, 195, 201, 203, 225, 226 and 227 stipulate that monitoring and evaluation is an important part of operational zings any government activities. To ensure transparency, integrity, information access and accountability principles as well as value for money.

## 5.2 Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

At County level Kisumu CIDP 2018-2022 has put up an extensive monitoring and Evaluation framework chapter to guide, monitor and for compliance to the standard of transparency, integrity, accountability and value for money set by the constitution. This is in addition to the National Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (NIMES) which is the reporting system from National, County and sub-County levels.

In line with the above legal instruments the Monitoring and Evaluation Policy Framework purpose is to develop a more credible and consistent framework for strengthened accountability, quality improvement and informed decision-making in in inclusivity of the youths in major county government undertakings, as well as to contribute to the professionalization of the monitoring and evaluation functions of the county governance.

Monitoring and evaluation of policy can be carried out by all interested actors. Official policy evaluations themselves need to be monitored to ensure that the terms of reference are clear and specific about the gender issues that will be evaluated.

The objective of monitoring is to ensure compliance with the guidelines, goals and principles outlined in the Youth Policy. Evaluation is concerned with assessing the extent of achievement of the set goals and targets. The importance of monitoring and evaluation is to ensure successful implementation of the youth policy. Monitoring and evaluation shall be an essential strategy for the delivery of the Youth Policy.

The county should use corporate evaluations and decentralized evaluations. Corporate evaluations involve independent assessments conducted and/or managed by the county government Monitoring and Evaluation Section at the request of the governor, or at the request of other county departments for the purpose of providing independent evaluation of projects or other undertakings. Such evaluations will be undertaken internally (conducted by the Monitoring and Evaluation Section) or externally (in which case expertise outside the Institute would be retained).

Decentralized evaluations are self-assessments conducted by the county’s programs, offices and departments.

The framework is held up by the principle of inclusivity, equity and fairness. Thus, monitoring and evaluation will be done following collaborations by the county government and private sectors, informal sectors, NGOs, CBOs, FBOs, youths and other stakeholders.

# 6.0 COMMUNICATION, PUBICITY AND INFORMATION STRATEGIES

## 6.1 Introduction

This chapter will entail the means and channels of communication so as to pass information to relevant youth policy stakeholders in the county. The ministry in charge of youth in county government shall develop mechanisms using formal and informal channels, media in developing a robust and multi-faceted communication strategy for the Policy and the programme activities to all relevant stakeholders. Communication channels (radio, TV, local language, barazas) having communication plan in Kisumu County will enable passage of information easily to different audience without much efforts making it more efficient and effective. The team will use both written and oral communication channels to fit all the audience in the county which include youth, people with disabilities, literate and semi-literate, rural and urban audience.

## 6.2 COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

Communication will facilitate the flow of information and understanding between youths and youth department through different media using all the channels and networks. This flow of information is vital for decision making in general and inclusive purposes. Communication will helps understand youth’s better removing misunderstanding and creating clarity of thoughts and expression.

Communication plans makes it possible to target your audience accurately. A plan also helps clarify the goals and objectives of the communication. It helps build a relationship between audience, message, channels, activities and feedback. Just like any other essential element, communication needs some tools for it to be effective. Some of these tools include; **social media platforms, radio, television, local languages, barazas** etc.

**6.3 CHANNEL CATEGORIES**

**Formal channels**

Formal will be the official way of communicating. A formal communication channel will transmit information such as the goals, policies and procedures. Messages in this type of communication channel shall follow a chain of command. This means information flows from the various departments to the youth advisory committee and they in turn pass on the information to the next level. Examples include company newsletters, business plans, instructions, annual reports, agreements, board presentations etc.

**Informal channels**

Informal channels will not need chain of command or hierarchy in communication. There will be immense official communication where such hierarchy or command is not needed, but they happen within the official framework. Some examples will include conversations barazas and events. There will be a need to focus so much on social media to accommodate majority of youths.

**Social media platforms**

These are platforms that help people connect through internet. They include whatsapp, Face book, Instagram, LinkedIn etc.

These platforms make communication more efficient since youths can link with people from all over the world. Some of these apps have also proven to be a source of employment for most youths. They are friendly to PWDs and can be accessed by all people as long as there is internet.

**Television.**

It facilitates one way communication between the sender and the receiver. This allows the sender to persuade, entertain, inform and empower the audience. It conveys news and information from all over the world more vividly than other means of communication. Televisions have made it easier for communication since they can be accessed by anybody as long as there is a source of power. Each and every program, information or advertisement conveyed through television has a target audience and most tend to favour youths.

**Language.**

Language is a communication tool used by everyone in their daily life as a means to convey information and arguments to others. Language has the power to build societies. Language is used to express oneself by giving people ways to convey their feelings, emotions and attitude to other people. Youths have a common language that they use to understand each other. Unlike other tools of communication, language binds their audience together.

## Publicity and Policy Information Sharing

The Ministry in charge of youth in County government shall develop mechanisms using formal and informal channels, print and electronic media in developing a robust and multifaceted communication strategy for the Policy and the programme activities to all relevant stakeholders. This will also include capacity building of youth organizations on the Policy and the roles in implementation, monitoring and evaluation and impact assessment. The Ministry in charge of youth shall develop an Annual Report on The Status of Youth in the County.  The ministry in charge of youth shall facilitate the communication of results for youth interventions annually.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED** | **TARGET GROUP** | **CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION** | **MESSAGE** | **TIMELINE** |
| Dissemination of the policy | Youth  | Radio, round table discussions, eventsYouth Empowerment CentersSocial media online platforms | Message through posters “Realizing Youth Potential.” | Continuous sustained by center managers |
| Benefits of the policy to the Youth | Youths | Radio, round table discussions, eventsYouth Empowerment CentersSocial media online platforms | Message through posters “Realizing Youth Potential.” | Continuous sustained by center managers  |
| Youth engagement with the policy to actualize the implementation Plan  | Youth | Radio, round table discussions, eventsYouth Empowerment CentersSocial media online platforms | Message through posters “Realizing Youth Potential.” | Continuous sustained by center managers |

## 6.4 Policy Review

The formulation of the Kisumu Youth Inclusion Policy was through a consultative and participatory approach. The process involved various stakeholders both at national and county levels. These included the public sector, private sector, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and development partners. Extensive consultative meetings took place with a wide range of stakeholders including the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and county governments. In addition, National and County forums were held targeting the youth and youth organizations.

The youth policy will be reviewed every two years to determine the progress of implementation. This is important to guide the development of the County Integrated Development plan (CIDP).

# 7 CONCLUSION

## Annex 1: Implementation Matrix

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| **Education, Training and Capacity Building** |
| **Overall Objective** | **To build youth’s capacity through relevant training and information sharing** |
| **Outcome/Results**  | **Informed and active youth in the development of the county**  |
| **Outcome indicator/s** | **Number of fully functioning innovation centers in Kisumu county**  |
|  |
| **Recommendations** | **Objectives** | **Activities** | **Indicators/outputs** | **Timelines** | **Key actors** |
| Advocate for increased accessibility to Education both formal and non-formal and career guidance | Increase educational spaces to acquire relevant skills and guidance  | Develop career guidance and mentorship platforms Develop curriculums and training materials Design and implement county mentorship system Creating equal opportunity for all, young people in education, training and labour market.Promoting digital literacy programs | Number of curriculums and materials No of youth linked to county mentorship No of youth employed/ linked to markets |  |  |
| Support vocational training and establishment of internship, voluntership and apprenticeship to enable the youth acquire a range of skills and essential tools; | Provide platforms for gaining experience for employment  | Mainstream county internship and volunteerism through enactment of laws, policies and regulations Creating enabling environment for creation of youth employment. Promotion of relevant industry education skills | Designed and enacted policies and laws Number of interns and volunteers in the county Fully funded internship and volunteer county programs  |  |  |
| Mobilize and sensitize the youth, parents and school authorities to take advantage of available education and training opportunities at all levels | Create awareness on existing platforms to acquire relevant skills and knowledge  | Conduct each ward sensitization forumsPrint and distribute IEC materials Community radio forums  | No of sensitization forums in wards, on radios No of IEC materials distributed  |  |  |
| Promote creation of youth empowerment centers in all sub-counties to enable youth access information and acquire practical relevant skills for employment | Safe space, conducive, innovation youth centers for talent and knowledge development  | Establish fully equipped youth innovation centers in all the sub-counties Promote life-long and e-learning for the youth.Equipping youths with skills required to cope with technological changes.  Increasing youth productivity through education and technology. Supporting integration of youth through incubation of businesses. | No of fully equipped innovation centers  |  |  |

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| **Employment and Enterprise Development** |
| **Overall Objective** | **To empower the youth population economically for better livelihoods**  |
| **Outcome/Results**  | **Empowered economically active youth population**  |
| **Outcome indicator/s** | **Number of policies designed to create employment and reduce barriers**  |
|  |
| **Recommendations** | **Objectives** | **Activities** | **Indicators/outputs** | **Timelines** | **Key actors** |
| Advocate for formulation and implementation of an appropriate Contextualized Kisumu Employment Policy that addresses and responds to the concerns of the youth such as: Discrimination on the basis of age, gender and experience and exploitation through under payment; | Appropriate and contextualized employment policy that removes identified barriers  | Enactment of employment policy Dissemination and implementation of the policy  | Enactment of policy  |  |  |
| Promote entrepreneurship culture and other income generating activities among the youth by credit facilities to the youth; | Promote robust alternative income generating activities  | supporting appropriate Micro Credit Financial Institutions Matching occupation skills, competencies through promotion of research skills and competencies. Establishing the proportion and profile of youth not in education, employment and training (NEET) Promote youth enterprise development through enterprise education and establishment of information services;Enhancing linkages between industry and training instructions Coordinating evidence-based capacity programmes for the youthCreating entrepreneurship curriculum that involve the change of mindset |  |  |  |
| Provide youth who are farmers with market information, link with markets and agricultural extension services;Conduct marginality mapping and apply *No-One- is- Left- Behind* approach | Transform livelihoods through agriculture and agri-businessA mapping and solid understanding of different youth groups and their dynamics is needed to ensure funding allocation is not biased and supports the variety of youth networks more equally | Promoting youth participation in agriculture and value addition in agribusiness.  Supporting youths to access land and inputs for agribusiness  Promoting agriculture livestock and innovation.Link youth farmers with markets Ensuring accountability to all the funds provided by the government agencies and stake holders Promote fair and equality on allocation of resources among the various youth networks  |  |  |  |

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| **Youth Involvement, Participation and Leadership** |
| **Overall Objective** | **To increase youth involvement in decision--making, leadership, community based and other development programmes;** |
| **Outcome/Results**  | **Youth centered and led decision making**  |
|  |
| **Recommendations** | **Objectives** | **Activities** | **Indicators/outputs** | **Timelines** | **Key actors** |
| Advocate for increased effective youth representation and participation in key positions of decision-making, leadership and management at all levels of County Government through establishment of affirmative action mechanisms; | Enhance youth representation and participation in county process and management  | Promote establishment of County Youth Advisory committee whose chairperson is a youth and advisor to the governor on matters youthPromote enactment of county youth inclusion legislation  | Established county youth advisory board Youth inclusion legislation  |  |  |
| Train, promote and support youth champions for peace and conflict resolution in the county; | Support youth involvement in peace and reconciliation process  | Training youth peace ambassadors Encouraging Youth projects, activities and events in community. promoting active citizenship social inclusion and solidarity among youth | No of ambassadors trained No of trainings No of youth led community initiative  |  |  |
| Advocate for realization of the rights of all youth  | Realize the rights of youth. | Supporting initiatives on integrating youths with special needs and other vulnerable groupsIncreasing political awareness among youths and their constitution rights.Holding youth annual dialogue at all levels (county, sub-counties and wards) Supporting street youth  | No of events and workshops towards attaining rights No of dialogue forums held  |  |  |