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Republic of Kenya County Government of Vihiga

**Vihiga County Youth Policy (2022)**

***Equal Opportunity for Youth as other Citizens***

**November 2022**

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# Foreword

The youth belongs to the general economic services sector of the Kenyan economy. The sub -sector has strong linkages with the other sectors of the economy and contributes towards the employment and wealth creation targets of the country. In a rapidly changing global environment and social system, the youth are an integral stakeholder in the development process.

This strategic plan outlines the issues, concerns and challenges affecting the youth. These issues are youth empowerment and participation; youth education and training; youth and information communication technology; youth and health; youth crime and drugs; youth environment and agriculture.

The strategic plan further outlines the objectives and strategies that our county will pursue to enable the youth of this country to fully participate and contribute to the achievement of vision 2030. This will enable Kenya to become globally competitive and an emerging economy.

Our overall goal therefore is to empower the youth of this County, so that they can make right choices in life, become aware of these choices, make informed decisions freely, act based on those decisions and accept responsibility for the consequences of those actions.

It is noted that this strategic plan builds on the national and county aspirations already stipulated in the *Vision 2030 blueprint of 5 Medium Term Plans (MTPs) at National and County Integrated Development Plan (CIDPs) at county LEVEL MTP III 2018-2022* CIDP II.

We expect the next Kenya vision 2030's Medium Term Plans 4 (MTP IV) and the CIDP, with a view to enable the government to implement this youth agenda policies in the current plan period 2023-2027.

#

# Preface

This Country Youth Development Plan articulates the vision and mandate of the, State Department of Youth Affairs in conjunction with the County Government until year 2027. It contains the shared vision, mission, rallying call and core functions; of objectives, policy priorities, resource mobilization and requirements that we require between 2023-2027.

In developing this plan, we have recognized the county's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to youths. In which the County Governments have been able to fully appreciate some of the challenges facing this youth.

While many youths are facing challenges the most experienced one is access to employment for most lack the opportunity to a humble and decent living. It is this problem that drives the youth into drugs and crime as a sign of despair to them. This issue of creating employment opportunities for the youth both informal, formal and self-employment needs therefore to be addressed urgently with the resources and commitment. Another focus is HIV/ AIDS has also been part and is at a rise that needs more input due to negligence of the youth.

There is need for a plan in investing in building the capacity of a Kenyan youth by addressing their specific needs in terms of education and training, skills development, and employment as an imperative way in which the County Assembly have ascended into bill. This plan offers an understandable ambitious rationalistic roadmap to address this and other challenges facing young people.

Finally, it is our anticipation that just as Ministry and County engages key stakeholders in preparing process of this CYDP; it will continue to plead for the full engagement of all relevant stakeholders as well move to actualize the strategies and activities outlined in the document. Towards the end this document implementation *matrix* becomes a critical component of the plan and all identified activities will be translated into the day-to-day assignments of the County Youth Department. The County should continuously review its operations process to facilitate the smooth implementation of this strategic plan. When it comes to finances the County, Assembly is allowed to review and increase the budget allocation in implementation matrix. We are confident that by implementing this plan will be addressed in a holistic manner as the entire range of Youth Development.

Charles Olubayo Osala,

Research Assistant,

CYPD VIHIGA COUNTY.

# Acknowledgements

Sincerely, I would like to say big thank you to everyone involved, for their energy, understanding and help throughout this policy formation. Special appreciation goes to Mr. Johnstone Yeswa and Bonface Omondi, our ICT experts for the help with the formation of the Zoom links for our weekly meetings as well as, the creation of youth’s platforms. It truly has been very, very good time as far as coming up with this Vihiga County youth policy is concerned. I also would like to say special thank you to Mr. Edwin Napwora, Vihiga County NYC team leader, without your help and wise guidance this policy would have not been the same.

Finally, my profound gratitude goes to the 10 selected youths, commonly known as the Research Assistants, from the five Sub-Counties of Vihiga County who collected information and liaised with different groups and departments to ensure the Youth voices were captured with a view of soliciting ideas for inclusion in the Policy. All the other professional leaders at the National Youth Council, the County Executive Committee in charge of Youth, the various institutions and stakeholders who participated in consultation and validation processes to our support staff without whose contribution and dedication the accomplishment of this milestone would not have been possible.

Hezron Adidi Muguga,

Research Assistants' Team Leader,

CYPD VIHIGA COUNTY.

# Abbreviations and Acronyms

AGPO Access to Government Procurement Opportunities

AIDS Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

CBO Community Based Organization

CEC County Executive Committee

CHV Community Health Volunteer

CSO’s Civil Society Organizations

FBO Faith Based Organization

HIV Human Immunodeficiency Virus

IEC Information Education and Communication

ICT Information and Communication Technology

KEPSA Kenya Private Sector Alliance

KYDP Kenya Youth Development Policy

NEET Not in Education Employment and Training

NGO Non - Governmental Organization

NYC National Youths Council

PWD’S Persons with Disabilities

SDG’s Sustainable Development Goals

STI’s Sexually Transmitted Infections

TVET Technical Vocational Education and Training

TWG Technical Working Group

VCT Voluntary Counseling and Testing

WHO World Health Organization

YECs Youth Empowerment Centre

# Definition of Terms

**Kenyan Youth**

Borrowed from the Kenya Constitution 2010 which defines a Youth as an individual who has attained the age of 18 years but has not attained the age of 35 years.

 **Youth Empowerment**

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 people’s lives both now and, in their adulthood, while bearing responsibility for the consequence of those decisions and actions.

**Youth Development**

It means improving the lives of the youth lead, giving them more freedom and opportunities to live the lives they value. Also, developing the abilities of the youth and giving them a chance to use these abilities to flourish.

**Government**

According to the constitution of Kenya (2010), the word Government refers to the two levels of Government: The National Government and the 47 County Governments, However, according to this draft policy, it refers to Vihiga County Government.

**Stakeholders**

Include Private sector, development partners, Faith Based Organizations (FBOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Non- Government Organizations (NGOs), Youth Serving Organizations (YSOs) and Individuals.

**Youth Participation**

An act of youth having influence and shared responsibility on decisions and actions that affect their lives. It also acknowledges and respects their talents, strength and supports them in finding ways to deal with issues that affects them.

**Youth Employment**

A means of proving youth with opportunities for work that is productive to deliver fair income, security in the work place and social protection. It also enhances 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 Sector**

Refers to any organization or institution that deals with youth related issues.

**Youth Work**

All forms of Youth engagements that build personal awareness and support the social, political, and socio-economic empowerment of the youth**.**

**Safe space for the Youth**

A space occupied by the youth that is co- governed by the youth with rules and norms set by young people. It enables young people to experience feelings of love, ownership, learning, growth, freedom, and social hope.

**Youth event**

Any contest, competition. Tournament or game open to participate and attend by persons regarded as Youth.

**Private Sector**

Part of the National Economy that is not under direct Government control.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The youths are an invaluable resource for the advancement of a nation, often acting as key agents for social change, economic expansion, and technical innovation. Deliberate and systematic efforts are therefore necessary to appropriately equip and empower them to attain and realize their full potential and in turn, drive the attainment of developmental objectives set in Kenya Vision 2030, and international commitments which include United Nations Strategy for the youth 2014, African Union Agenda 2063, and SDGs 2030.

The vision and energies of the youths are essential for the continued development of society which they live in. It is through these that the County Youth Policy of Vihiga County has been rolled out, to ensure long term solutions for Vihiga county youth to participate in and take opportunities available in the county. The policy further expresses the collective concern of all stakeholders to harness and optimize the strengths and opportunities that the youth present while addressing personal and structural barriers that affect their productivity.

It is noteworthy that this policy recognizes the previous policies that have been developed. For instance, the Kenya Youth Development Policy 2019, the National Youth Council which is a national body representing the voice of the youth, affirmative action funds that continue to target the youth, women and persons living with disabilities as an economic empowerment strategy.

The Vihiga county youth policy has analyzed the current situation of the youth, the challenges which they have been facing such as lack of employment for the well-educated, lack of special educational facilities for PWDs, non-inclusion in the major decision-making processes, early pregnancies and marriages, high level of school dropouts, HIV/AIDS, minimal training, and mentorship programs, SGBV and lack of enough capital for entrepreneurs.

This Policy, which is an outcome of a broad based consultative process, is designed to promote the creation of sustainable decent jobs and income generating opportunities for all youth, promote accessible markets for the entrepreneurs, quality education in all the learning institutions that can be accessed by everyone including the PWDs, facilitate building of digital skills and leverage young people’s natural affinity to technology which is powerful in helping the county grow and strengthen its economic base thus become more competitive in today’s globalized markets. Further, inclusion of youth in public participation and major decision-making tables to give them a fair share of resources. In addition, it will nurture a value driven, moral, ethical generation of patriotic youth with a heart for volunteerism and transformative leadership. Harnessing the full power of youth sports and talent, creativity and innovation for wealth creation is critical for a job-ready work force across all sectors of national and global economy and this has been given consideration in this policy. The policy has outlined strategies that contribute to a crime free, drug addiction free and secure Vihiga County.

This Policy is underpinned by strong partnerships and a multi-agency approach including the youth, private sector, development partners, youth serving organizations, faith-based organizations; and other stakeholders through these partnerships, the objectives of this Policy will be pursued through right based, professional, mainstreamed, sustainable and coordinated approaches guided by national values and principles of governance.

The Policy provides for its implementation, co-ordination framework at the county and sub-county levels through the County Government administration structures, department of youth affairs down to the informal actors such as the legislators, courts, bureaucracies, pressure groups and grassroots community organizations. The Policy also provides for institutional, communication, monitoring and evaluation frameworks to ensure effective implementation of the identified Policy objectives and measures.

Finally, success in the implementation of the Policy shall require the youth to play an active role in identifying their needs and taking necessary action with the support of stakeholders. All youth serving organizations and youth groups; development partners; families and the larger society; private sector; the County Governments; National Government, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and the international community shall also play a leading role in the realization of the aspirations of the Policy.

**VIHIGA COUNTY YOUTH POLICY DRAFT**

**CHAPTER ONE**

#  INTRODUCTION

## Background

Vihiga County is situated in Western Kenya and borders Kakamega County to the North. It covers an area of 530.9 km2, and a population of 590,013 km. Vihiga County has its headquarters in Vihiga town. It has a total of 5 constituencies and a total of 25 wards.

The Constitution of Kenya (2010) defines a ‘youth’ as a person aged between 18-35 years. The term ‘youth’ has varied definitions according to social and cultural inclinations of the people of Vihiga County, not limited to an unmarried person above the age of 35 years and a 15-year-old who has a child outside wedlock.

This youth policy is an epitome of several processes including SDGs, vision 2030 and THE BIG4 agenda which directly affect the youth of Vihiga County. Among other stakeholders like religious bodies and non-governmental organizations like the world vision and Elimu trust.

The first meeting of the youth of Vihiga considered the need of the county to strategize on challenges in areas of employment, Gender, Children, Social protection, and community Development including Gender based violence (GBV), TVET education, Small and micro enterprises, Youth fund, Ajira platforms, Youth empowerment through skills development and life skills programs and community empowerment to facilitate effective participation in social development programs.

The strategies proposed by this youth policy includes development of a county comprehensive program that address sexual and Gender Based violence, school dropouts, Monitoring and evaluation frameworks, promotion of social protection frameworks targeting the poor and vulnerable groups, development of appropriate structures for innovations, policies, and laws to improve youth participation, increased opportunities for TVET education and training.

**On the issue of youth empowerment, this policy recommends;**

1. To establish and devolve the youth council structures and through relevant Youth Committees formed to include persons with disabilities into the social development programs of the county.
2. Request that youth and gender equality issues be fully harmonized and mainstreamed in all development policies and programs in Vihiga County.
3. Ratify the Vihiga County youth charter
4. Conduct campaigns against harmful cultural practices including GBV, HIV/AIDS, Drug Abuse, Disco Matanga and so forth in Vihiga County.
5. Identify county, regional, national, and even international markets for women and youth products in Vihiga County.
6. Sensitize youth on matters climate change, COP27 dialogue and agreements and the importance of the green economy.
7. Establish county resource centers, Innovation hubs and the Ajira digital platforms.
8. Develop youth exchange program, skills, and entrepreneurship.
9. Establish and enhance county youth awards and recognize improved talents e.g., the Vihiga Queens.

## Rationale for the county Youth Policy

This national youth policy visualizes Vihiga to be a county where the youth can participate in any developmental programs or county activities either socially, politically, economically and can also be given an access to employment without any fears or favor. This is as stipulated in the Constitution of Kenya 2010, Chapter 4, which advocates for equality of all citizens of Kenya and sub article 55, which focuses on the representation of the youth.

The national youth policy seeks for youth targeted interventions to enable the youth to actively participate in the economic status of the county. Over the years, the youths of Vihiga County have experienced unemployment challenges which they still do. However, this is not a local problem, but a global problem. International Labor Organization (ILO) estimated a global 73 million youths being unemployed in 2022, the worst additional factor being the COVID 19 pandemic which affected more young people than any other age group because of the layoffs. ILO further states that 12.7% of the youth in Africa have opted to withdraw from the labor market altogether because there are no employment opportunities for them.

This prompts the need for a youth specific policy that advocates for an increment of employment opportunities for the youth of Vihiga County to enable them provide for their basic needs and not depend on their aging parents who are also unable to provide due to the current high cost of living.

The devolution of Kenya had provisions to provide youth empowerment platforms and an increased visibility and engagement of the youth in matters leadership and governance both at the national and county level. However, the youth in Vihiga County have felt left out most especially because the youth centered organizations which have been recipients of decisions from other people instead of being given a chance to take ownership on youth matters. This policy provides guidelines and a coordinated approach for the youth to be actively involved in the entire policy cycle management of Vihiga County.

This policy recognizes that active participation of the youth on decision making, planning and implementation process is key, and the current structures and prevailing attitudes do not adequately provide an enabling environment for the youth of Vihiga to engage. This policy provides guidelines on mainstreaming youth issues in sectorial programming in Vihiga County.

Many diverse interventions have been implemented in Vihiga County, such as on youth entrepreneurship and development, but there is little evidence of those that targeted specific categories of the youth. This youth policy addresses this gap by providing a space where different categories of youth can be mobilized and equipped with relevant skills and other support towards meaning engagement in the labor market.

The launching of the Vihiga County youth policy will bring into perspective the plight of the youth whose current image in the community and county is progressively negative and has often been linked to idleness, drug abuse and ethnic/clan conflict among other characteristics. This policy highlights challenges facing the youth in the county and promotes unity amongst all people residing there.

**1.3 Guiding Principles for the Youth Policy**

 The Vihiga County Youth Policy will be guided by the following principles, derived from existing national and international frameworks, such as the African Youth Charter (AYC) and the United Nations World Program of Action for Youth (WPAY).

1. **Non-discriminatory approach -** development initiatives should not discriminate against young People based on age, gender, race, disability, or any other form, in accessing resources and services as enshrined in the Constitution of Kenya.
2. **Holistic perspective** which embraces all aspects of physical, emotional, social, economic, political, and spiritual development of young people.
3. **Transparency and accountability** incorporated in all actions undertaken by all organizations working towards the policy objectives.
4. **Social cohesion and unity –** youth development interventions should promote the inclusion of young people as a strategic part of societal structures by involving them in democratic processes.  **Civic engagement and participation** - include strategies and programs for young people by sharing information, creating opportunities, and involving them in decision-making leadership, economic empowerment initiatives and creating space for youth to voice their democratic ideals.
5. **Sustainable development** - young people’s assets, potential, capacity, and capability must be harnessed and maximized so that they can respond effectively and efficiently to challenges, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
6. **Diversity**- interventions to recognize and acknowledge the diverse backgrounds from which young people come and celebrate the roles played by different agents of socialization, tradition, culture, and spirituality in the development of young women and men.
7. **Youth service** - young people should be involved in meaningful activities which benefit communities, while developing their sense of patriotism and their abilities through learning and services provided.

## 1.4 Rights, Obligations, and responsibilities of the Youth

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| **Rights of the Youth** 1. The freedom of Association
2. Right to life and security of the person
3. To live in an atmosphere of love and affection and to keep all family ties.
4. The freedom of opinion and expression
5. The right to access appropriate information
6. The right to a safe, clean and health environment.
7. The right to leisure, culture, and sport activities
8. Be a role model to other youth when in leadership position within community and other structures such as learning institution
9. Acting as guides of community peace by participating in efforts to curb violence and criminality in their communities.
10. Participating in forums dealing with HIV/AIDS and other illnesses affecting society
11. The right to equal opportunities
12. The right to proper education and training
13. To be protected from harassment, violence of any kind, cruel treatment or punishment, unlawful arrest, or deprivation of liberty
14. To privacy and non – interference in personal matters.
15. Freedom of thought, consciences, and religion
16. The freedom of opinion and expression
 |  **Responsibilities of the Youth**1. To promote peace, security, and sustainability development.
2. To be youth ambassador and promote inter county national and international exchanges
3. To participate freely in the social economic cultural and political life of the country
4. To seek information on health issues more specifically reproductive health
5. To promote a healthy life style free from diseases, alcohol, and drugs
6. To ensure environmental protection management and stewardship
7. To give value to learning and training for oneself and others
8. To discourage act of violence crime exploitation and oppression of vulnerable persons or groups
9. To promote gender equality and respect for the rights and dignity of girls and women
10. To undertake social and philanthropic work
11. To promote respect for other young persons for adults and the elders.
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| County government of Vihiga has the prime responsibility to ensure the youths;* Enjoy their rights.
* Are provided for the necessary frame work to fulfill their responsibility.
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| Parents have a key role to play to ensure a proper development and well-being of young and to respect and promote the rights of youths more specifically;* To ensure their child grow up in an environment of warmth and affection, security, and stability.
* To promote his/her physical and psychological development, to embrace human right value and individuality of youngest according to age and maturity and
* To allow them to make choice of their education field and career.
* Give counsel support, help, and ensure parental guiding depending on the need of the child.
* Be positive role models, treat young people with respect and give them opportunity to contribute positive to societal development
 |
| Private sectors should safeguard the rights of workers and more specifically;* Respect gender equality and social justice for the young
* Recognize the right of the youths with disability, respect labor law and ensure the young give their opinion.
* Give relevant training for the youths for effective delivery and undertake a youth friendly initiative that incorporates environmental sustainability and promote greater environmental responsibility.
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## 1.5 The scope of the Policy

The scope of the policy will consist of;

1. Goals
2. Vision
3. Mission
4. Objectives

**Goal of the Youth Policy**

To have active and vibrant youth who are involved in decision making and access to equal opportunities in Vihiga County.

County Government of Vihiga to recognize the importance of contributions by youth and consult them in planning and implementations of County Programs

**Vision of the Youth Policy**

Empowered and effectively engage youth in decision making, and promoting youth participation for a better Vihiga County.

**Mission of the Youth Policy**

To create a dynamic youth sector that responds systematically to the ever-changing needs and aspirations of young people in Vihiga County.

 **Objectives of the Youth Policy**

The following objectives will guide the implementation of this policy;

1. Encourage youth to participate in politics and Governance and select leaders of their own choice.
2. To promote skills, trainings, and entrepreneurship to all the youth in Vihiga County
3. To create health awareness on matters HIV and Aids, early pregnancies, and Life styles
4. To promote employment and equal opportunities for al youth in Vihiga County
5. To encourage youth to participate in sports and Culture in Vihiga County
6. To encourage youth to value education as the key to life
7. To have measures to prevent violence and prevent unethical behaviors in Vihiga County

## 1.6 The Youth Policy Development Process

The youth policy is meant to create opportunities for young people to find a home within a community of values and by doing this can support social cohesion and economic development.

Youth policy is also a strategy implemented by public authority and its aim to support young people in successful integration into a society; it also reflects how the government and decision-makers view young people. The way a society treats its young people is important for its present and future.

The development of youth policy was a process that required consultative and participatory approach. The process involved various stakeholders at Vihiga County, these include public sector, private sector, community-based organization, Faith-based organization, Youth based organization and youth groups, workers (Nurses, teachers, county workers) and development partners.

A wide range of stakeholders including Vihiga County ministries, departments and agencies were involved in various extensive consultative meetings and forums targeting youth, youth groups and youth organizations at the county.

**The following are steps followed to develop the Vihiga County Youth Policy;**

1. Identify the problem / issues that necessitate the development of Vihiga County youth policy
2. Appoint people to coordinate Vihiga County youth policy development process.
3. Establish Vihiga County youth policy development process.
4. The research on youth, youth groups and youth organizations based in Vihiga County, prepare a discussion paper that explain the nature of the problem or issues that necessitated the development of youth policy.
5. Conduct stage one consultation on Vihiga youth policy development
6. Prepare a draft policy for Vihiga County
7. Conduct stage two consultation
8. Adopt the Vihiga County youth policy by management
9. Communicate the adopted Vihiga county youth policy throughout the management and stakeholders
10. Review and evaluate the Vihiga County youth policy.

## 1.7 Alignment of the Youth Policy

Alignment of a policy is a process of refinement, clarification and communication during the development and following the adoption of a new policy or a set of policies. In broader sense it is a more detailed explanation of the intent of a policy and often the procedural steps required to correctly process a case according to the policy.

**Challenges**

Sometimes even the best policies put forward from the county as well as the country face challenges in its various stages of inception and implementation. These Challenges may include –

1. Influencing the youth transition takes time and requires working across many sectors, yet a few counties/countries take a coherent approach to establish clear lines of accountability. Most policies formulated before need to be revisited and revamped
2. Youth lack voice in the design, implementation as well as monitoring and evaluation. The main clients of the policies are usually left out. The National Government as well as the County Governments need to set up a conducive environment for youth interaction especially older youths beginning to engage as citizens
3. Stage of demographic transitions from one generation to the other. With the youth population ever growing in our country there is need to Invest resources in the development of human capital which is majorly concentrated on the young people.
4. Minimal degree at which youth are influenced in the decision-making process before and after formulation of new policies.

**Solutions**

1. Coherent National and County framework for youths through well laid out objectives for youths developed with key ministries and other stakeholders (SDG’s, Vision 2030)
2. Building capacity for the voice of the youth through civic education to enable them participate in matters of decision making and formulation of laid out policies
3. Promotion of better healthcare practices among the youths to enable the human capital to grow exponentially. Scourges such as prevalence of HIV/AIDS among the youth detriments the workforce and labor market
4. Proper monitoring and evaluation through the various stakeholders including the County Chief Officer for Youth and Gender, The Secretariat, County Youth Board and all the stakeholders involved to enable seamless coordination of resources for the youth.
5. Resource allocation to ensure the smooth transition of the policy draft from its formulation, implementation, revision, and adoption.
	1. **Organization of the Policy document**

The policy document is organized into chapters focused on policy objectives, Youth Priority Areas, and Measures or Strategies of Interventions.

**Youth Policy Objectives**

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**

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 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.

**CHAPTER TWO**

# SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

## Introduction

August 12th is celebrated as the International Youth Day, globally. On this day in 1985, the United Nations recognized the youth as an integral part of the society. The UN also acknowledged that the energies of the youth need to be harnessed effectively in a productive manner. Following that, in 2016, Kenya celebrated the day with Youth-to-Youth (Y2Y) network members in Nairobi conducting four days of activities building up to the International Youth Day, which included a football tournament, a beauty pageant, community outreach and a community cleanup event, that were held at the Githurai Youth Empowerment Centre and Kayole II sub district Hospital in Nairobi. The activities were designed to mobilize the youth so that peer educators can share sexual and reproductive health information.

In March 2009, the former President Mwai Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga launched the Kazi Kwa Vijana (KKV) (‘Jobs or Work for Youth’) program. The KKV mandate was essentially to tackle poverty/hunger and unemployment among the youth by creating employment through government-related projects. As originally conceived, the KKV was intended to afford – during a period of the triple ‘F’ crisis (food, fuel, and financial) –immediate relief to young people by way of providing them with income support through employment in public works. Its objective was to employ 200,000–300,000 young people who are at risk of hunger and starvation. Some of the projects, especially those providing irrigation and water supply, were also intended to enhance food production in the areas most affected by drought.

A total of 20,384 (47% female) youth benefited from training and 13,289 (49% female) youth were successfully placed in internships against the target of 15,000 and 10,000 planned for Training and Internships respectively between 2010 and 2016. This resulted from a joint initiative by Kenya Private Sector Alliance with the Government of Kenya to implement the Kenya Youth Empowerment Project (KYEP), funded by the World Bank. KYEP involved Training and Internship component which provided the selected youth with relevant work experience and skills through training and work placements in the formal and informal sectors. Specifically, the project aimed at ensuring that at least 50% of youth completing the internship programme secure employment 6 months post internship completion. The pilot program was offered in Nairobi, Mombasa, and Kisumu and entailed two months of training and four months of work experience per cycle. It targeted vulnerable youth between 15 to 29 years of age with at least eight years of schooling and who were not in school or working at the time of entry into the program. The project run for a total of six cycles and was implemented between 2010-2016.

The government of Kenya launched National Youth Empowerment Strategic Plan 2016-2021 to guide the implementation of policies, activities, projects, and programmes towards youth empowerment in the country. The strategy strived to integrate and mainstream youth interventions in sectorial and macro policies at county and national levels; provide strategic direction and a framework for coordinating and leveraging investments targeted at youth empowerment. The strategy focused on eight key Focus Areas including the policy and legal framework that provides for collaboration with county governments and stakeholders to develop, review and implement relevant policies and regulatory frameworks to ensure smooth and efficient participatory approach in youth programs and activities. Others are Leadership and Participation, Skills Development and Employment, Talent Identification and Development, Information Communication and Technology Development; Agriculture, Environmental Management and Sustainable Development; Health, crime and security, drug and substance abuse and coordination, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting.

**2.2 County Situation of the Youth**

Vihiga County is well known for investing in education through the several educational institutions, such as colleges and TVETs that offer variety of professional knowledge. This policy appreciates the national and county government’s efforts in establishing these institutions. However, several youths are unemployed and others who are majority on self-employment through businesses and other entrepreneurial activities but lack enough capital find it quite difficult to establish themselves and put the professional knowledge into practice.

This policy provides guidelines on how the youth can acquire funds from the county government, for instance the Trade and Enterprise Fund, be included in county projects and increase the status of the already existing educational institutions so that they can offer even more practical professional knowledge to the youth of Vihiga. Some of the institutions include Kaimosi Friends University College, Maseno Youth Polytechnic, and Vocational Training Centers such as Boyani, Ebusiralo, Givigoi, Kaveye Mahudu and Nzalwa.

There has been an increase in drug addiction, teenage pregnancy, sexual and gender-based violence cases in Vihiga County and this can be attributed to the lack of talent centers and limited life skills programs either in the communities or educational institutions. There is need to sensitive the youth on life skills, promote gender empowerment for the sustainable development of the county.

This policy recognizes the role of the youth of Vihiga County using talents and life skills. It recognizes that the youth promote development through art as a talent and there is need to make good use of the same. The national youth policy provides guidelines on how these talent centers will be established to promote youth empowerment, mainstreaming in governance and youth training and mentorship will be under taken. The policy further adds on how capacity strengthening will be under taken using the savings and internal lending communities’ approach to help the youth access funds to start and grow their own enterprises to contribute to the sustainable development of the county.

Vihiga County has many youth groups, with very achievable goals but minimum knowledge on now they can take up new initiatives to promote their growth. There is need to have economic empowerment programs by the county government through the collaboration of the civil society organizations who major on youth programs as their thematic areas.

This county policy has outlined guidelines on how they youth can be educated on research programs, which can enable them to realize some of the goals they intend to achieve towards their youth groups and how they can develop Vihiga county. It also provides clear guidelines on how they county government and civil society organizations can come up with clear frameworks with specific goals on youth development.

Majority of the youths engage in small and medium size enterprises (SMEs). They contribute greatly to the economic development of the county through paying taxes and offering services. The national policy recognizes that most of the youth do not have enough capital to sustain their business due to the high economic status. The policy provides guidelines on how the youth can be given more access to the Trade and Enterprise Fund which the county is already providing but many of the youths are still unable to access.

The absence of a County Youth Institution / Platform where young people's capacities could be built to engage in governance was identified as a key gap for the county. Even though young people are represented on some county leadership positions and committees, practical challenges exist that hamper effective participation and delivery of services.

Vihiga county has youths who are abled differently (PWDs) and they have not been recognized by the government or have not been registered as is required based on various reasons by either the individual or community. This policy recognizes that the people with disabilities most especially the youth also contribute to the development of the county and therefore there is need for them to be recognized and included in every developmental activity of the county. The national policy has given provisions for their inclusion and be given employment opportunities as is required in the Constitution of Kenya 2010.

**2.3 YOUTH CATEGORIES**

**2.3.1 Dimensions of Youth Profiles in Vihiga County**

**The Policy recognises and categorises the Youths as listed below**

1. Male and Female
2. Educated and uneducated
3. In school and out of school
4. Rural and urban residents
5. Indolence’s and young adults
6. Physical challenged and not
7. Detained and not detained
8. Migrant and not migrant
9. Skilled and unskilled
10. Street and vagrant youths
11. Youth infected and affected by HIV and Aids
12. Employed and unemployed

**2.3.2 TARGET OF VIHIGA YOUTH POLICIES AUDIENCES**

The policy target audience is the key component of the development process; hence this youth policy targets the following categories of the Youths;

1. Unemployed and under-employed

These are the highest priority targeted audience therefore strengthening their relationship with the county government is the starting point of a proper development plan. There are numerous issues to this audience: Unemployment, use of drugs and substance abuse, unwanted pregnancies, insecurity among others.

1. Youths formally and informally trained.

These audiences have special needs in terms of access to information about socio-economic and other opportunities. The increasing disparity between the school leavers and the job creation in the economy has resulted in high unemployment levels among the youth.

1. Youth formally and informally educated.

This includes the youth undertaking education or training programs. Therefore, they have access to information which is underutilized and therefore needs to be sensitized and empowered through the creation of more employment opportunities.

1. Adolescent boys and young men

 Young men lack support systems and platforms to learn from the experienced and exposed members of their community and assistance to develop holistically. The policy therefore identifies measures for empowerment and strengthening the boy child.

1. Adolescent girls and young women

They form the highest percentage of the youth in Vihiga County. The lower level of education for girls coupled with social and cultural practices such as forced early marriages, put the female youth at a disadvantage. These factors have led to low participation and representation of female youth in decision making. Therefore, the youth policy aims at advocating for their rights as well as empowering them.

1. Youth with disability

Disability leads to rejection and discrimination therefore hindering the youth with disability their emotional, social, and economic development. The policy therefore brings about strategies to ensure they participate fully in society.

1. The marginalized in the community such as the Migrants and refugees with recognition of their unique and diverse challenges and expectations and with the available opportunities for them.

**2.4 AN OVERVIEW OF YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES AND POTENTIALS IN VIHIGA COUNTY**

Vihiga county has generally youthful population according to 2019 Vihiga county census statistics, youth (person aged 18-35) constituted over 29% of the county population having increased from the 2009 census with high male youth population than female population. Also, the youth adult ratio increased as per the 2019 census report.

The high proportion of the youth to adult population indicates that Vihiga County is facing a youth bulge. The youth bulge presents Vihiga County with great opportunity of harnessing demographic dividend to invest in sustained development efforts to achieve increased social, economic, and political development while on the other hand presenting risks and threats to the county's stability and social cohesion if not adequately empowered and supported.

In the economic sphere, youth are county's resources; they present an opportunity to accelerate economic growth when engaged productively. Their potential is also in creativity, education, and skills. In Vihiga county youth unemployment rate is about 20% (KNBS report 2019). The number of youths entering the labour market in Vihiga county every year is estimated to be 16,000 and this is projected a double by 2026.The critical entrepreneurial skills for spotting opportunities and mobilizing the requisite resources to start, grow and expand enterprises are lacking among the current youth cohort.

In the political sphere, the youth constitute a higher percentage of registered voters in 2022 election as compared with percentages in 2017 election and other general elections. This is a positive development that signals declining apathy and rising interest and participating of the youth in decision making. Consequently, more youth were elected in Vihiga County during the 2022 general election; this is very significant increase of youth in Vihiga county leadership as compared to 2017 and previous general elections.

In the social sphere, inclusive access to social amenities by youth in Vihiga County is not equitably distributed. Involvement in sports in the county is dominant with many young women in the county involving in sports being lower at 32 percent as compared to their male counterpart at 67%. 36% of households in Vihiga County are headed by persons within the youth cohort. Over 80% of youth in the county have mobile phones and 80% of all youth access Internet through mobile phones for purpose of networking and communication and less than 5% of youth access Internet through education centers.

**2.5 CHALLENGES FACING YOUTHS IN VIHIGA COUNTY**

Vihiga County Youth Policy identified the following as some of the challenges facing the youth;

1. Lack of employment for the well-educated youth in Vihiga county, jobs being given to the old aged people, and more of ghost workers instead of considering the educated youth.
2. Lack of special educational facilities for the physically handicapped, mentally challenged, and hospitalized young people in Vihiga County. For example, access to Braille, wheel chairs among others.
3. Lack of participation in the County major decision-making processes, for example during the CIDP (County Integrated Development Plans) in their various Wards within the County. Youth are not involved in public participation to air their views.
4. High cases of corruption have made the youth in Vihiga County to lose hope to life because the perpetrators are not always brought to book.
5. Early pregnancies and early marriages are on the rise in Vihiga County due to lack of basic needs like Sanitary towels to the young girls.
6. High level of school dropout in Vihiga County due to lack of school fees/ poverty, the County Government Bursary is not enough and given to the chosen few.
7. HIV and AIDS are on the high rise affecting the youth of Vihiga County
8. Lack of trainings and mentorship programs on life skills, this has made many youths in Vihiga County to take off their lives since they cannot deal with tough times.
9. Most of the youth in Vihiga County hate Voluntary activities which may later open their employment opportunities.
10. Most Vocational trainings in Vihiga County lack training equipment hence youth not being well trained for example Kitulu, Chandungunyi, Vigetse Vocational trainings.
11. Sexual Gender Based Violence is also on the rise in Vihiga County, this includes: Rape, forced marriages, denial of resources/ opportunities, physical assault among others.
12. Lack of knowledge when selecting leaders during elections hence poor leadership, youth in Vihiga County wants to be educated well before choosing their leaders.
13. Lack of role models in Vihiga county, that youth do not have someone they can look up to maybe for financial, educational or employment advice because everyone is just after his/her own life., no one cares about the youth.
14. Lack of capital to start businesses in Vihiga County.

**2.6. COUNTY YOUTH INTERVENTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

**2.6.1 Youth Interventions**

Examples of intervention programs include;

1. Dropout prevention programs and feeding program in village schools in Vihiga County.
2. Vocational training, county to identify and support needy students fully
3. Budget allocation for youth programmes within and outside the county e.g., in sporting activities and talent nurturing in Vihiga County.
4. Skills Achievement development among the youth in Vihiga County.
5. Academic Improvement- Establish community libraries to engage students during vacations.
6. Construction of innovation hubs, climate smart agriculture programs in each ward.
7. Research skill development, online writing infrastructures and training for self-employment.
8. Ajira digital platforms
9. Sensitizing youth against GBVs, early pregnancies through grass root campaigns etc.
10. Build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels that shall contribute to achievement of SDGs and the BIG4 AGENDA in Vihiga County.
11. Workshops and interactive sessions among youth in Vihiga County to encourage high participation and generation of results.

**2.6.2 ACHIEVEMENTS**

Vihiga County has adopted the National Youth Policy, 2007 as a beginning for its policy development for matters concerning youths as follows.

1. The county is gradually adopting the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) to specifically enable youth to do business with government. 30 per cent of public procurement in the supply of goods and services in all ministries and departments are reserved for youth, women and persons with disabilities.
2. The county has also adopted a gradual uptake of 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.
3. Adoption and Implementation of the Kenya Youth Empowerment Programme (KYEP), a program of the world bank to enhance youth internship and employability.
4. Additionally, youth employability in the county has been increased by adopting the Youth Employment and Opportunities Project (KYEOP) funded by the World Bank, and implemented by the Ministry of ICT, Innovation and Youth.
5. 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.
6. The county is also slowly adopting the UN General Assembly Agenda for Sustainable Development that includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which may impact positively to the youth.

## 2.7. SWOT ANALYSIS OF VIHIGA COUNTY YOUTH INTERVENTIONS

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **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 Tana River 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 and women.
 | **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
7. School dropout due to poverty
 |
| **External** | **Opportunities**1. ICT advancements
2. Vibrant social media
3. Potential to exploit youth dividend
4. Availability of Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET)
5. Unexploited talents in sport and arts
6. Access to Government Procurement Opportunities
7. Availability of minerals.
 | **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
 |

**CHAPTER THREE**

# YOUTH POLICY FRAMEWORK

## Introduction

Framework – a system of rules, ideas or beliefs that is used to plan or decide on something.

Vihiga County has a population of more than 15300 youths. The county government is committed to support young people and the issues they are facing with practical measures that reflect their priorities in supporting them to develop the knowledge, skills, and capability to be successful in Education, work, and life. As part of this commitment that is why the government of Vihiga has decided to launch a policy frame work following consultation from the youths.

The policy goal is to promote participation of the youth in socio- economic and political wellbeing for themselves, the county, and the youths.

## 3.2. Vision, Mission, Rallying call and Values

The policy goal is to promote the holistic participation of the youth in socio economic and political

 Well - being for themselves the county and the future.

**Vision**

A society where youths have equal and responsible opportunity as other citizen to realize theirfullest potential in socio economic and political aspiration through honest and hard work.

**Value**

The value given emphasizes in the policy include patriotism respect of diversity and ethical value, equality and accessibility, good governance, mainstreaming youths’ issues special interest groups the policy gives special attention to certain groups of youths because of their special needs. The special group includes youths living with disability streets youths, youths infected with HIV and AIDS, male and female youths, unemployment youths and out of school youths.

In each of the targeted youth’s groups the government and organization working with the youths will be required to give special attention and affirmative action to special interested groups in Vihiga County.

**Mission**

To create a dynamic youth sector that respond systematically to the ever-changing needs and aspirations of young people in Vihiga County.

**Rallying Call**

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 favor.

The policy respects the cultural, religious, customary, and ethical backgrounds of the local communities and conforms to universally recognized Human Rights.

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

### **Youth Policy Objectives**

The Vihiga County Youth Policy will have several objectives, among them will be;

1. To promote youth participation in community service, volunteerism, peace building and leadership among the youth in Vihiga County. Especially on matters CIDP.
2. To create proper environment for the youth to empower themselves and exploit their full potential in Vihiga County.
3. To propose ways of mentoring the youth to be morally upright citizens in Vihiga County hence reducing cases of early pregnancies, drug abuse among others.
4. To identify constraints that hinder the Kenyan youth from realizing their potential in Vihiga County.
5. To initiate, strengthen and streamline all programs and services targeting the youth in Vihiga County.
6. To build youth capacity in Vihiga County through relevant training and information sharing.
7. To influence change in mindset and transform attitude and perceptions of youths and society on socio – economic and political matters in Vihiga County.
8. To encourage youth to take internships and other opportunities in the County Government.
9. To support existing youth enterprises in Vihiga County for example small businesses, groups among others.
10. To create employment opportunities in all departments for the youth in Vihiga County especially for the educated ones.
11. To equip all vocational Trainings /Tvets with all training equipment for the youths to gain enough skills in Vihiga County.

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

1. **Youth Policy Statement**

 The desired outcome is empowered in young people who possess information, knowledge and skills that enable them seize opportunities, play their roles, and take responsibility in making a meaningful contribution to the development of a non-racial, non-sexist, equal, democratic, and prosperous Vihiga County.

1. **Youth Priority Areas**

This is evidence-based measures and interventions that the county government of Vihiga should implement with a view to empowering the youth into the mainstream development platforms in realization of their aspirations.

**Employment**

Minimal involvement of young people in gainful employment and economic participation as well as their exclusion from decision making poses a threat to security, cohesion, and stability in Vihiga County. This is demonstrated by the fact that 80 percent of the unemployed population is the youth. In addition, 92 percent of the unemployed youth have vocational or professional skills training. On the other hand, about 500,000 graduates enter the job market every year.

The unemployment scenario among the youth leads to an increase in crime rates which may explain the increasing formation of youth criminal gangs and groups in Vihiga. Related events clearly demonstrated that having a significantly large number of relatively well educated but unemployed youth is not just a serious deterrent to economic growth but also poses a real threat to security.

Enormous challenges facing the youth were exposed such as their exclusion and marginalization from decision making policies that directly affects them. It is therefore evident that there is a lack of operationally effective mechanisms of integrating most of the youth into mainstream economic activities. In addressing the youth unemployment issues, it is incumbent for the county government of Vihiga County to pursue the following policies and programs

**Interventions**

1. Declare Youth Unemployment a National Disaster -This will ensure that all Government efforts go into working towards creating employment opportunities and job-creation for the youth. In addition, support from the development partners will also be deemed critical in this noble undertaking.
2. Tax Incentives - As a fiscal policy requisite, the county government should provide tax rebates for companies that employ a certain percentage of youth as an incentive to spur Youth Employment. Tax incentives will also facilitate the growth of Small and Medium Enterprise for the youth and protection of property rights.
3. Promote agribusiness amongst the youth - Agriculture contributes directly to more than 25 percent of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and provides a source of livelihood to majority of youths in Vihiga. It is thus critical to promote this sector among the youth through irrigation, marketing, subsidized inputs, extension services and credit facilities, as well as stressing on value addition of crop and livestock products.
4. Develop and operationalize a Youth Employment Policy. The Ministry of Devolution and Planning should facilitate the development of an elaborate empowerment policy in Vihiga County to nurture different youth talents and to provide markets for youth to highlight their talents in the form of youth market days and youth talent days.
5. Review of procurement laws and regulations - Include as a key performance indicator for all county government agencies, the requirement to show that at least 30 percent of all their procurements are given to companies owned by youth. This will enable the youth set-up many firms thereby contributing towards employment creation, wealth generation and poverty reduction.
6. Restructuring of KEPSA - There is need to restructure and strengthen the operation of Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) and Ministry of Sports, Culture and Arts and Ministry of Labor, Social Security and Services as regards to Youth Employment to provide opportunities for internships, apprenticeship, mentorship, role modeling, franchising, contract and outsourcing and private sector joint ownership of department producing relevant skills required by the private sector such as mechanic department being jointly owned by government – or parastatals and private sector institutions such as General Motors or Toyota Kenya.
7. Develop Business Start-Up policy – There is need to develop a policy to compel all Universities and other institutions of higher learning in Vihiga County to establish mandatory Business Start-Up Post Graduate Courses for their graduates.
8. Review employment policies at Devolved levels - The Governor of Vihiga County should ensure all Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and County-based Labor-Intensive Work employ a significant proportion of young people.Review labour laws - In terms of legislation, it is imperative to amend the law to prohibit the issuance of Work Permits for jobs for which young people are qualified and available.
9. Develop a clear Youth Fund Framework – There is need to develop legislation on the administration of the youth fund such as the Hustler Fund.
10. Establishment of ICT Park. Vihiga County should establish an ICT Park to enable youth to get employment In-Call Centers, Digital Villages, and ICT-based innovation. This will reverse high unemployment levels.
11. Establish County Youth Employment Bureau - To operationalize Job, connect for the youths in Vihiga County, it is recommended that the county government should establish fully functional, well-funded and staffed County Youth Employment Bureau. Additionally, it is imperative to establish a structured Labour Export Programs through a division in the County Youth Employment Bureau that guarantees at least 100,000 jobs for youth annually. The Bureau should maintain a database of all youth registered who are unemployed and have the capacity to link employers with the data.
12. Youth Training Manual - Lack of capacity building and training on entrepreneurship is still an impediment to youth in terms of accessing critical skills to run businesses. Thus, it is equally important for the county government to develop a Youth Training Manual with other key stakeholders to enlighten the youth on how to do business with county government of Vihiga.
13. Promote the informal sector – As a key job creation avenue amongst the youth, it is recommended that the county government should invest massively in technological research in the informal sector coupled with establishment of many Small and Micro Enterprises (SMEs) towards promoting rural based income generating activities.
14. Establish a County Loans Guarantee Program in Vihiga - This will enable young people to access credit from commercial banks given that lack of collateral is a major stumbling block in access to credit among the youth.

**Market Accessibility**

**Interventions**

1. Develop the 24-hour Street Market Policy. Vihiga County government should develop and implement a 24-hour market policy on major roads to provide a ready and accessible market for young entrepreneurs.
2. Establish distribution Savings and Credit Cooperative Organizations (SACCOs) for agricultural produce to capitalize on economies of scale to negotiate better prices.Establish one-stop business registration centers in the County to reduce the time it takes to establish a business in Vihiga County.
3. Establish Capacity/ Mentoring Forums where entrepreneurs meet mentors, share skills and successes, and obtain information on the latest/ best methods of production.
4. Promote the informal sector – As a key job creation avenue amongst the youth, it is recommended that the county government should invest massively in technological research in the informal sector coupled with establishment of many Small and Micro Enterprises (SMEs) towards promoting rural based income generating activities.
5. Establish a National Loans Guarantee Program - This will enable young people to access credit from commercial banks given that lack of collateral is a major obstacle in access to credit among the youth in Vihiga County.

**Quality Education**

Vihiga county bedsides its commitment to provide quality education, training and research for sustainable development as per the national development goals on education experience challenges like: Upgrading of tertiary institutions such as polytechnics and Teachers Training Colleges and other Technical Industrial Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training Institutions (TVETs) into universities hence lack of critical employment skills to guarantee meaningful employment for the youth who drop out of schools; low transition rates, high regional disparities in access to education, gender disparity; impacts of HIV/AIDS and opera-tonal and challenges in regard to teacher management; lack of policy framework for development, management and mainstreaming of youth polytechnics in education and training sector; and inadequate mechanisms for quality assurance, internship, research and curriculum development.

**Interventions**

1. Adult Education Policy - The Ministry of Education should develop and implement Adult Education Policy through expanding access and increasing participation in adult classes, improving quality and operational efficiency of adult education programs, reviewing legislative and regulatory frameworks on Adult Youth Education, and promoting e-learning for out of school youth and adults in Vihiga County.
2. Curriculum Review – There is need to integrate- into the entire school curriculum- training on the National Values and Principles as outlined in Article 10 of the Constitution. Secondly, the Ministry of Education should ensure that every university reviews its curriculum after every three years with the help of employers to conform to the most current best practices for competitiveness in job market. This also calls for private sector to take lead in participating in the curriculum review to ensure conformity with labour market needs and global competitiveness.
3. Entrepreneurship Classes - It is suggested that the county government should include entrepreneurship as a practical course in the school curriculum system from primary school through tertiary institutions, where students visit existing businesses and learn practical lessons from successful firms and entrepreneurs. This is geared towards enhancing skills development on business and entrepreneurship in Vihiga County.
4. Tax Rebates - Reduce and eliminate taxes on learning materials such as books and other stationeries. Another key area of intervention is provision of tax incentives for the private sectors which fund research activities in local colleges and which are also involved in developing tertiary institutions.
5. Informal Education - Promote non-formal education, life skills development and vocational marginalized areas of Vihiga County. Furthermore, the rapid increase in enrolment at all levels of education without commensurate increase in infrastructure and personnel have compromised the quality of education in public schools.
6. Strong linkages - Create linkages between educational institutions and the private sector through research, technical education, internship opportunities and financing in Vihiga County.
7. Skill Gap Assessment - Establish a 5-year Employability Skills Gap assessment tool to enable the county identify the skills gap and design appropriate training programs that are needed towards addressing those gaps with more emphasis on critical employment & entrepreneurship skills in a knowledge- based economy.
8. Training – It should be made mandatory that all students undertake adequate trainings in established Career Development Centers in the County. In addition, the government should establish vocational training programs to local youth that strengthen business and agricultural practices.
9. Secondary Education – Key constraining factor to secondary school enrolment is the fact that growth in the number of secondary schools has not adequately matched the growth in primary schools. Thus, the county government should guarantee a 100 percent transition rate from primary to secondary Schools by building Secondary Schools and other educational infrastructures within all the existing primary schools.
10. Youth Polytechnics - There should be a robust program of ensuring that county government of Vihiga builds at least one Youth Polytechnic in every location to equip young people with requisite knowledge and skills necessary for labour market. Moreover, the county government should establish more publicly funded Technical Industrial Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training Institutions (TIVETs).
11. Triple funding to HELB - With rapid expansion of university enrolment; it is incumbent to ensure adequate financing to Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) to expand access to higher learning. In this regard, the HELB Act should be reviewed to enable it operate as a fully-fledged student bank with maximum capacity to meet students’ financial needs both at institutions of higher learning.
12. Strong linkages - Create linkages between educational institutions and the private sector through research, technical education, internship opportunities and financing.
13. People with Disabilities (PWDs) - Lower the entry level for children with disabilities and introduce scholarships for such vulnerable groups in Vihiga County.

**Public Participation**

Vihiga County is a signatory to other regional and national commitments which calls for enhanced youth participation and representation in national institution where youth presence is almost non-existent. Institutions such as National Gender and Equity Commission (NGEC) and other Commissions do not have youthful face. Therefore, concerted efforts should be done within the reach of The County Government to ensure that Youth participation in development issues is accorded maximum attention and prominence.

**Interventions**

1. Develop the Youth Affirmative Action Policy and Legislation – The County government should enact law and develop a policy to operationalize Article 55 of the Constitutions in terms of youth social, economic, and political rights and opportunities for young people though developing of clear and elaborate policy and legislative frameworks towards deepening affirmative action as stipulated in the constitution. Monitoring the roles of youth in political parties will also be critical intervention for ensuring Affirmative Action.
2. Ensure 30 percent Youth membership in decision making organs such as Commissions, Boards and Committees.
3. Re-constitute the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) by appointing a youth commissioner to represent youth interest.
4. Provide technical and financial support to build institutional capacity of the County Youth Council and other youth organizations
5. Provide training in entrepreneurial, leadership and management skills for the youth and their organizations.
6. Encourage youth to engage in discussions on economic, political, and social issues at all levels (local, national, regional, and international forums.

**Sports and Arts**

The youth potential is always demonstrated in sports and it is high time the County Government of Vihiga developed this sector to address the challenges that the youth face in sports such as weak policy and institutional frameworks, inadequate resource allocations among others. It is recognized that through sports, youth can gain skills to promote leadership and development of talents to realize their potential.**Interventions**

1. Implement the Sport’s Act to ensure that it will ensure promotion, preservation, development, and promotion of talent in sports, film, music, and culture.
2. Promote local arts and culture through establishment of cultural centers and theatre
3. Promote traditional games as way of recreation and culture preservation.
4. Encourage representation of young people on sports decision-making bodies’ county wide.
5. Build and equip a multi-disciplinary Sports Stadium in every Constituency. Establish a Sports Academy in Vihiga County and introduce sports scholarship in line with Kenya Vision 2030.
6. Establish a County Sports Sweepstake in Vihiga.
7. Improve the quality of training in all sports disciplines and the development, coordination, harmonization, and promotion of sports in Vihiga County.
8. Use sporting platforms to advocate for important issues in the society such as HIV/AIDS prevention and inter-ethnic cohesion in Vihiga County.
9. Inclusion of youth in key committees that make decisions on sports.

**Environmental Conservation**

The County Government of Vihiga aims at enhancing access to clean, secure, and sustainable environment, water, and sanitation. It is noted that the environment sector contributes approximately 42 percent of Kenya’s GDP. Sound environmental conservation results in preservation of natural resources thus, assuring continuous supply of environment goods and services.However, the sector continues to be plagued by numerous challenges such as: environmental degradation; decreasing forest cover; pollution and waste management; and recently the adverse effects of climate change and global warming.**Interventions**

1. Develop, Enact, and Implement an integrated Environmental Conservation Policy.Strengthen the involvement of the youth in environmental conservation programs as well as ensuring youth representation in committees at all levels.
2. Establish collaborative linkages and networking between environmental committees at County and sub-county levels with environmental clubs in all learning institution. Improve access to information at the local level by setting up resource centers.
3. Establish a County-wide Tree Planting as a program of Kazi Kwa Vijana, spearheaded by the Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources. This will help in engaging the youth to address the National and Global campaign on environment conservation and help increase the forest cover
4. Educate the people on Carbon-Credits redemption programs to encourage environmental conservation as a means of earning income.
5. Providing vocational training and disseminating environmental researches in Vihiga County.

**Information and Communication Technology** The County Government of Vihiga takes cognizance of the fact that ICT forms a cornerstone for national transformation as the sector is key to economic development. On this front, the County Government has endeavored to improve the ICT infrastructure towards bridging the digital divide and lower cost of communications, thus the sector must be leveraged, secured, and preserved to enhance national security.

Currently, the sector is faced with myriad of challenges such as: Weak institutional and legal framework for ICT integration; limited ICT awareness that always hinders cultural and attitudinal change; financial and human resource constraints; wide internal digital divide between rural and urban areas; high cost of ICT utilization and maintenance; and challenge of obtaining a better integration of ICT into company and public policies.

**Interventions**

1. Facilitate introduction of IT systems into all levels of education including primary schools, targeting skill building and job training in technology sector.
2. Ensure young people with disability have equal access to ICT Trainings such as Ajira Digital Training.

**Alcohol and Substance Abuse**

The peril of drug abuse is still a major concern that plagues the young population of Vihiga and is detrimental to the economy.

**Interventions**

1. Provides for a mandatory rehabilitation program for drug addicts.
2. Strict enforcement of the Mututho Law to ensure that young people spend their time productively.
3. The County government needs to clamp down on brewers of deadly local brews to protect young people from their detrimental effects.
4. Set up publicly funded rehabilitation centers in every constituency to help reintegrate young people into society.
5. Intensify youth rehabilitation programs for drug addictions and criminals.

**Institutional Strengthening**

1. Need to strengthen the capacity of County Youth Council to undertake its work and access funds and amendment of the Youth Council Act and Regulations to ensure total compliance with the Constitution.
2. Need for a state department responsible for youth affairs at the Office of the Governor or Deputy Governor with a clear Strategic Plan autonomy to discharge its mandate, and with youth leadership.
3. The Public Service Commission should also be restructured to include the representation of County Youth Council in their organizational structure. This will ensure that the youth constituency is fully represented during recruitment processes for public service jobs to guarantee equality in job acquisition in Vihiga County.
4. Review of the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) Act at County Level.In terms of policy support, the County Government should undertake a comprehensive review of the Youth Policy and align it to the needs of young people. Policy alignment will also will ensure that youth aspirations are integrated and mainstreamed into the development polices and planning processes at both County and National Government

**CHAPTER 4**

**4. YOUTH POLICY COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK**

## 4.1. Introduction

The overall coordination of the youth’s activities in the County Government of Vihiga shall be anchored in the office of the Governor. The department for youth’s affairs shall ensure establishment of effective institutional framework for collaboration of all stakeholders in the implementation of the youth’s activities and programs in the County.

## 4.2. Implementation and Coordination mechanisms

Implementation may be carried out by formal as well as by informal actors, includinglegislators, courts, bureaucracies, pressure groups, community organizations, and even individuals. Power is widely shared among and diffused throughout government institutions.

**The public policy implementation and coordination mechanisms**, in simplified form, can be understood as a sequence of four phases: agenda setting, formulation, implementation, and evaluation. Agenda setting is the first phase, the issue-sorting stage, during which some concerns rise to the attention of policy makers while others receive minimal attention or are neglected completely. The importance of this phase lies in the fact that there are thousands of issues that might occupy the attention of policy makers, but in practice only a handful actually do gain their consideration.

**The Process of the Policy Phases**

1. **Agenda setting** refers to the first stage in the process when a problem is initially sensed by policy actors and a variety of solutions put forward as in this case the Youth in Vihiga County.
2. **Policy formulation** refers to the development of specific policy options within the Vihiga County Government when the range of possible choices is narrowed by excluding infeasible ones and efforts are made by various actors to have their favored solution ranked highly among the remaining few.
3. **Decision making** refers to the third stage in which formal actors in government (NYC, Vihiga County Government) adopt a particular course of action.
4. **Policy implementation**, governments put their decisions into effect using some combination of the tools of public administration to alter the distribution of goods and services in society in a way that is broadly compatible with the sentiments and values of the Youths.
5. **Policy evaluation** refers to the fifth stage in the processes in which the results of policies are monitored by both National Government – County Government and societal partners such as **UNDP**, often leading to the reconceptualization of policy problems and solutions in the light of experiences encountered with the policy in question and the start of a new iteration of the cycle.

This idea of policy making existing as a set of interrelated stages provides a general ‘framework’ for understanding the policy Implementation and coordination process and points to several of the crucial temporal activities and relationships that should be examined in furthering the study of the issue. Although a useful conceptual or analytical tool, the policy cycle model has some limitations as an empirical description of policy-making reality due to its simplification of highly contingent and complex policy processes.

The reality of policy making is not as systematic and linear as the model might suggest. Also, the stages are often compressed, skipped, or change their order entirely. For example, policy formulation can sometimes precede agenda setting, as ‘solutions seek problems’ to which they can be applied (Kingdon, 1984; Howlett et al., 2009).

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

**4.3.1 Making Market Work**

As market system development and making market work for the poor are now common approaches to elevating poverty and economic inequity in our county. The county government and other stakeholders must understand how youth in Vihiga County are engaging and thriving within these systems.

Male and female youth have unique constraints in accessing jobs, ensuring their voices are heard, gaining leadership position, and braking through market barriers.

The county government of Vihiga must understand how youth in the county play a role in a labor market. Making market work for youth, the county government must look at the full picture to understand how to make market system work efficiently and effectively for youth in the county.

The county government and other stakeholders must understand the following about youth especially when focused on labor market;

1. **The world of work is changing-so most of our approaches**

In the past a worker or employee could spend long duration of time as dedicated employee to just one employer and in the present youth are not reliant on one long term job but rather expect to pursue flexible and multiple income streams.

The county government should ensure and motivate youth not to train only one course that builds skills in one area.

1. **Youth are the heart of these systems.**

The county must enable youth take the lead; the county should understand that youth are not just part of the system rather they are the system. Development programs should not just serve youth in Vihiga County but instead should engage, uplift, and empower youth to lead.

**4.3.2 Transport**

Vihiga county government and other stakeholders should encourage active participation of youth in advocating sustainable mobility and funding transport related opportunities across the county, the county should do so by promoting the integrated use of public transport and other transport means for striving better wellbeing and increase quality of life for youth in the county and reduce unemployment rate among the youth in the county.

The involvement of youth in transport by the county will encourage innovation and sustainability in the whole transport sector which will lead to different projects and activities in the county.

**4.3.3 Information, Communication and Technology**

Youth bulge is a reality in Vihiga and this can present negative or positive consequences depending on how it is incorporated in the dynamic and complex world on knowledge and skills development. In Vihiga county and Kenya at large Youth are the most dominant resource and will ever have in future and this is the part of population that faces challenges and risks all the time largely attributed to the state of the economy and gap in the skills.

The county government and related stakeholders must devise relevant programs, strategies and policies that directly address youth challenges.

Evidence shows that Vihiga County churns about 26000 youth into the labor market every year. The county government should provide ICT programs and online work training on ICT that must be offered free of charge to the youth. The county government should equip youth in the training institutions with ICT infrastructure and skills needed in the labor market. The investment of county government in ICT will lead to notable innovations among youth in different sections.

**4.3.4Skills Development**

Every year over 26000 youth leave basic and post basic education in Vihiga County and seek access to further education and training or employment (MOE) constraints to accessing further education and training leaves most of the youth searching for work.

In Vihiga county and Kenya at large the high unemployment and lackluster economic growth are explained by several factors, mismatch in skills development and demand being one of the factors it also contributes to unemployment and sluggish economic growth. Skills development is one of the strategies to meet job retention and creation objectives.

**Recent Skills and Development Reforms in Post Basic Education**

Recent skills and development reforms in secondary education and youth polytechnics institutions and the development of short courses skills training programs reflects pressure to expand post basic education and provide skills of Jobs.

In the past 5 years the county government has supported introduction and revitalization and reforms of youth training institutions, Also the national government in conjunction with county government have facilitated a 100% transition program to secondary school and setting up implementation of several short-course skills development program.

Youth polytechnic are post-basic vocational and skills development institutions which operate under the authority of the ministry of youth affairs and sports. The county government of Vihiga should put more resources into these institutions to get more space where youth in the county will get skills needed in the labor market.

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

There will be full integration and harmonization of issues affecting the youth into every aspect of public policies and programs across all the Vihiga County. This will produce more focused, responsive, and youth-oriented strategies. This will include;

1. **Revision of education and training curriculum**; this will be conducted at all levels of learning to improve the production of skills that are demand driven. Further the curriculum will teach behavioral and life skills to impart positive character traits that will help the youth to make appropriate choices in life.
2. **Revitalization of Youth Polytechnics**; this will facilitate the training of young people in technical, vocational, and entrepreneurial skills to increase their productivity and equip them with skills to participate fully in productive activities. In addition, they will also be equipped with creative skills to deal with advancement in technology.
3. **Affirmative action policy**: The policy will ensure the youth have a 30 percent representation in appointments to public service, management and development committees, political, social, and economic sectors. The need of the youth will therefore be implemented to increase their representation and participation.
4. **One million tree planting campaign**. This campaign will be implemented to engage the youth, address county campaign on environmental conservation and help in climate change and increase forest cover of the county.
5. **County sports stadia**: The County will establish county stadia around the county to promote the development of sports within each ward as well as tap the immense talent of the youth.
6. **County Academy of sports**; this will be an institution for advanced training in all areas of sports for men and women to develop and tap talent at grass root level. It will also train sports administrators, instructors, and coaches. It will also serve as a county center of excellence in sports and contribute to the county’s tourism package.
7. **Youth empowerment center**: Centers will be established in every ward in the county. The purpose of such centers will be creatively engaged young people with a view to tap young talent and create opportunities for them. A further purpose of these centers will be to minimize the prevalence of drug and substance abuse among the youth. The centers will be equipped to provide services such as counseling, CT facilities, library and information services, performance and training facilities in music, dance, and the performing arts. The centers will also provide basic literacy and continuing education opportunities for school leavers in each ward.
8. Collaboration with other Learning Institutions e.g., Masinde Muliro University, Maseno University among others for sustainable development Goals.

## 4.5. Resource Mobilization and Financing of the Policy

The resources that will be required to implement this policy have been estimated. Thepolicy objectives will largely depend on the goodwill of the National and County Government, Civil Society Organizations, and other development partners.

**The table provides the policy's costing of its objectives and programs to be funded over the plan period:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **OBJECTIVE** | **FINANCIAL YEAR****AMOUNT IN MILLIONS****(000000)** | **TIMELINE****2023-2027** |
| **Youths Empowerment**  |  |  |
| Organizing joint sports culture, trade fairs for all youth groups. | 5.5 |  |
| Promoting best practices among all YSO, CBO and youth groups. | 2.5 | **8m** |
| **Education and Training**  |  |  |
| Database for all training and learning institutions and the programs they offer | 8 |  |
| Incorporating training on basic job skills  | 12 |  |
| Expand loans and bursary schemes  | 5 |  |
| Free meals and free education in all ECD institutions  | 8 | **33m** |
| **Youth and Information**  |  |  |
| Establish county youth website  | 2 |  |
| Establish county youth office and help desk | 4 |  |
| Create networks with other youth partners, private sector, and stakeholders  | 6 | **12m** |
| **Environment**  |  |  |
| Mobilization, sensitization, and registration of youth groups  | 3 |  |
| Formation of 4K Club and Young Farmers Club and out of school youth environmental organization  | 5 |  |
| Collaborate with NEMA and other forestry stakeholders  | 4.5 |  |
| Training youths and YSO in innovative forums of agriculture  | 2.5 | **15m** |
| **Health** |  |  |
| Train peer educators  | 9 |  |
| Conducting community-based campaigns on mental health  | 15 |  |
| Train and incorporate the youth on basic health campaigns | 6 | **30m** |
| **Crime and Drug abuse** |  |  |
| Conducting baseline surveys in crime, drugs, and substance abuse | 3.8 |  |
| Involving relevant agencies and stakeholders  | 1.3 |  |
| Initiate and establish programs and projects reducing drug and substance abuse | 2.7 |  |
| Establishing and identifying centers of advocacy  | 2.2 | **10m** |
| **TOTAL**  | **108m** | **108m** |

##

## 4.6. Implementation matrix

Is also called an action plan matrix

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

## 4.7. Roles of stakeholders

To strengthen youth empowerment in Vihiga County, the policy must bring on board different stakeholders as stated in the table below;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **NO.** | **STAKEHOLDER** | **ROLES**  |
| 1.  | National/County Government | * Provide conducive working environment for the youth
* Set aside the budget for the implementation of youth policies
* Formulating and implementing youth policies
* Ensure the youth participate in all program implementations in the county Government and National Government.
* Provide employment opportunities for the youths.
 |
| 2. | Youth Department at the County Level | * Provide overall leadership, monitoring and reporting on the youth policy implementation
* Mobilize resources for the implementation of youth policy in Vihiga County.
 |
| 3. | The Youth  | * Explore opportunities and seek sustainable solutions
* Promote positive youth development activities
* Maintain good values of the society
* Mentor the teenagers and the young generation.
 |
| 4.  | Faith-Based Organizations  | * Provide moral guidance to our youth in Vihiga County
 |
| 5. | Parents  | * Promote responsible parenting
* Provide positive role models to their children
* Offer Guidance and Counseling
* Offer financial support to the youth projects
* Challenge the youth realize their goals
* Provide any kind of support at any level of life.
 |
| 6. | Non- state Actors (NGO’s and Civil Societies) | * Join the County Government; formulate a policy framework and practical guidelines for National action and international support to improve the situation of the youths.
* Addresses the problems of the young people and increases opportunities for the youth.
 |
| 7. | Media | * Creating awareness on youths’ programs
* Dissemination of information
* Platform of youth expression
* An agent of promoting social change
* Source of entertainment to the youth
 |
| 8. | Academia (Educational Institutions) | * Education, Training and Research on Youths issues
 |
| 9. | Private sector | * Financing youth trainings and entrepreneurship
 |

**CHAPTER FIVE**

# 5. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING

## 5.1 Introduction

Monitoring and evaluation will aid in project assessment. Its main goal is to improve outputs, outcomes, and impact by providing detailed information on assessed projects and areas that needs improvement.

## 5.2 Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework

Here are the main benefits of monitoring and evaluation:

1. Gives clear and concise information on what is happening.

When carrying out any project among the youth of Vihiga County, it is crucial to keep in mind data clarity. When carrying out surveys, it is possible to end up with tons of information and results that can be time consuming when working through it.

1. Input Monitoring

The monitoring aspects help during the assessment of the results which the input has on the project. With monitoring, the youth of Vihiga County can know whether they are benefiting or wasting the resources which might not bring positive results. The youth should also check if there are resources that need to be added to ensure that they achieve success. They can now decide to implement more resources into the projects or to with draw resources before they are wasted.

1. Risk and reward evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation help the youth to check the risk that might be encountered verses the benefit or reward. Established organizations may have a lot of information used during decision making, unlike newly established organizations, youth groups

Innovation and diversity of opinions and thoughts.

1. Monitoring and evaluation can help fuel innovative thinking and methods of data collection among the youth of Vihiga County. While some fields require specific methods; others are open to more unique ideas. Innovative tools provide new perspectives on data and new ways to measure success. The more information the better. Every team member offers an important perspective on how a project or program is doing. Encouraging diversity of thought and exploring new ways of obtaining feedback enhance the benefits of monitoring and evaluation. In good monitoring and evaluation plans, all voices are important.
2. Wrap up

Equipping yourself with monitoring and evaluation skills is very crucial when carrying out any project and it can help the youth make decisions and spend the resources wisely. Carrying out a blind project may lead to failure hence it is good to monitor projects and determine their success. Without proper monitoring and evaluation, you can easily lose the trust of stake holders.

**CHAPTER SIX**

# 6. COMMUNICATION, PUBLICITY, AND INFORMATION

## 6.1. Introduction

The communication channels are channels to be incorporated by the county government of Vihiga to communicate the county youth policy to its ultimate beneficiaries, the youth. The policy communication between the county government and youth was ascertained from a few youth of Vihiga County between the ages of 18-34 years who are aware of the existence of the youth policy.

## 6.2. Communication channels

The county ministry in charge of youth in Vihiga County shall formulate and develop mechanism using formal and informal channels of communication, print, electronic media in developing an effective and efficient communication strategy for the county youth policy and the programme involved to all stakeholders concerned. This will also involve capacity building of youth groups on the policy and the roles in implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the youth policy.

## 6.3. Publicity and Policy Information Sharing

The Ministry in charge of the youths of Vihiga County shall develop mechanisms using formal and informal channels, print and electronic media in communicating the policy to all relevant stakeholders. This will also include capacity building of youth organization on the Policy and the roles in implementation, monitoring and evaluation and impact assessment.

Dissemination and distribution of Youth policies will be a joint effort. Dissemination strategies will involve the relevant County departments in charge of Youth affairs in collaboration with the County Youth councils, Youth serving organizations, civil society groups, private sector, development partners, media and other stakeholders.

Youth policy will be made available online to ensure a wider reach. Youths of Vihiga County have embraced internet use and are more likely to access the policy online.

Also, it will be vital to reach Youth in their spaces (bases) through innovative strategies like community dialogue forums.

**6.4. Policy Review**

This policy shall be reviewed externally after five years. Internal reviews shall be done annually based on the annual work plans and the policy implementation matrix.

7. Conclusion

The Kenya Youth Development Policy **(Vihiga Chapter)** and its implementation framework were developed through a consultative process while giving cognizance to the dynamic nature of issues that affect the youth of Vihiga County mainly consisting of **Sabatia, Luanda, Hamisi, Emuhaya and Vihiga Constituencies**. Consequently, the Policy shall be reviewed as the need arises to take into account emerging issues on youth development and empowerment, and sustainable development; and to remain relevant to the dynamics in socioeconomic environment and development priorities. With our Vihiga County motto as **“Umoja na Kazi”** we hope the County administration will ensure coordination with the various Government ministries, stakeholders and youth in particular to Rectify, Endorse and Implement the goals and objectives of this Youth policy draft into action. Lastly as a well-coordinated research team we would like to thank all the Youth participants, Vihiga County Government, National Youth Council, Ministry Of Gender and Youth affairs and the United Nations Development Program for their active role in guidance and assistance towards formulation of this Youth Draft Policy.

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Implementation Matrix is at Section 4.6