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BASELINE SURVEY ON THE STATUS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER INCLUSION IN HOMA BAYA, KERICHO, AND SIAYA COUNTIES

2024

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Haki Ni Yetu
A Rights, Governance & Accountability Project for Kenyans

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List Of Abbreviations

AGPO	Access to Government Procurement Opportunity
CBO	Community-based Organization
CSO	Civil Society Organization
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GBV	Gender-based Violence
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
SMEs	Small and Micro-Enterprises

County partners







Executive Summary

The youth constitute a majority of the country's population according to figures from the 2019 census and other policy documents on youth issues. Over the years, the government has enacted a number of laws and come up with policy documents aimed at addressing and improving youth participation in socio-political and economic activities. However, there are persistent challenges that require collaborative efforts of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to address these gaps. Over the years, there has been a growth in the number of youth-led Community-based Organizations (CBOs) that seek to address these challenges at the lower levels. The persistent gaps necessitate collaboration between the NGOs and CBOs to address some of these gaps. One such collaboration is that of Siasa Place with CBOs through it Haki Mashinani program that seeks to address environmental, governance and women empowerment issues in Kericho, Homa Bay and Siaya Counties. This is by working hand-in hand with the Tilil, County Voice and Rights, and Dak Achana CBOs in the three counties respectively.

The goal of this study was to provide a baseline report on the status of youth rights in the three counties following specific issue-areas the CBOs are engaged in. To achieve this, the study adoped a mixed research approach to collect both qualitative and quantitative data. Quantitative data was collected through use of survey questionnaires administered to randomly selected respondents. Qualitative data was collected through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and open-ended sections of the survey questionnaire.

The study established that there are gaps that exist which hinders the realization of youth rights in the three counties. When it came to access to educational opportunities, the lack of finances affected the capacity of the youth to realize their educational pursuits. In addition, most youth felt they were not well equipped with skills relevant to help them secure employment opportunities. The study also established that most youth were either not aware of the Access to Government Procurement Opportunity (AGPO) program or were skeptical about applying for such due to the perceived corruption in government procurement processes. The youth also have low sense of external political efficacy where they believe their opinions aren't valued that much by decision-makers hence discouraging them from participating in community decision-making processes. However, it is worth noting that the use are leveraging on the power of social media as platforms to voice their views on communal issues

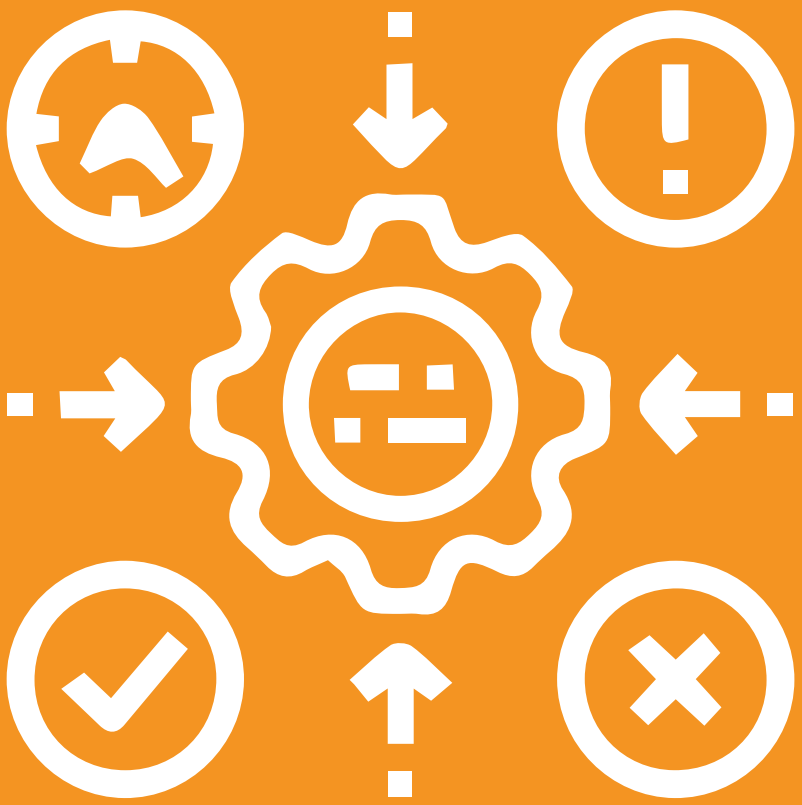
In light of these challenges, some of the study recommendations include:

- Youth-led CBOs need to create platforms that offer support to the youth in helping them access employment opportunities;
- Youth-led CBOs need to work with relevant stakeholders to come up with legal aid clinics to help the youth learn of their economic rights and how to access legal services when their economic rights are violated;
- Community decision-making platforms need to embrace technology and address youth concerns to encourage more youth to participate in decision-making processes;
- The county government should collaborate with the environmental-focused CBOs as a way of addressing environmental issues at the grassroots level;
- There is a need for communal education to address GBV issues as well as eradicate the cultural attitudes that normalize the practice. Also, the enforcement mechanisms should be strengthened so that reported cases are dealt with within a short period of time and those who report such cases aren't victimized in the community; and
- There is a need for awareness campaigns

on the AGPO program so that more young women are aware of it and how they can benefit. Also, there is need to address the corrupt tendencies in the process so that there is equal chance of everyone benefiting

Chapter 1

Introduction and Background



1.1: PROJECT BACKGROUND

Kenya's population is significantly made up of the youth, with those aged between 18 and 35 years comprising approximately 75% of the country's population (Kenya Youth Development Policy, 2019). Therefore, it is understood that they are important stakeholders in contributing to the country's socio-economic and political development. Consequently, there is need to address youth concerns in the socio-economic and political sectors if the country's development goals are to be realized. In the economic sphere, the youth present an opportunity to accelerate economic growth when engaged productively. Their potential is also in education, skills, energy, creativity, and innovation.

The Government has put in place various legal, institutional, and policy frameworks to address the issues affecting the youth. These include passing legislation and developing policies on youth development. For example, the National Youth Service Act, 2018; Youth Enterprise and Development Fund State Corporations Act, 2007; National Youth Council Act, 2009; National Employment Authority Act, 2016, and The Kenya Youth Development Policy 2019. Drawing from the Constitution of Kenya, the Kenya Youth Development Policy 2019 underscores the importance of youth in national development. The Constitution of Kenya, 2010 and Political Parties Act of 2011 also provide for increased representation of the youth in legislative bodies at both the National and County levels to address the concerns over the lack of their representation that was common in the old constitutional dispensation.

The Constitution of Kenya, 2010, provides for a detailed Bill of Rights under Chapter 4. The goal of the chapter is to provide safeguards to the rights of Kenyans, youth included, and gives them an opportunity to seek legal redress in the event their rights are infringed upon. When it comes to women issues, there are some regional imbalances in access to education, with rural areas the most affected. The education of young women is often impacted negatively by issues like early pregnancies and discriminatory cultural practices. There also exists laws and policies aimed at addressing issues on Gender Based Violence (GBV). These include the Protection Against Domestic Violence Act, 2015, the National Policy on Gender and Development, and Objectives 7 & 6 of the Kenya Vision 2030.

Despite the comprehensive policy and legal framework, youth priorities and concerns are often overlooked in government program planning and implementation, leaving them disenfranchised and hopeless. Consequently, significant resources are either lost through theft or utilized in non-priority areas, while youth struggle to meet basic needs. For instance, the Controller of Budget reported that nearly a quarter of the budget allocated to counties could not be accounted for, and as of April 2024, counties had a total of Ksh. 152.37 billion in pending bills. In predominantly one-party counties like Kericho, Homa Bay, and Siaya, effective checks and balances are challenging, underscoring the need for youth to hold leaders accountable.

Established in 2015, Siasa Place is a youth NGO dedicated to creating an environment that fosters youth mainstreaming into politics. Guided by its three pillars: Youth Employability, Devolution and Local Accountability, Politics, Tech, and Rights —Siasa Place focuses on meaningful youth engagement in civic processes and utilizes digital platforms to disseminate information through unconventional methods targeting the majority populace. In collaboration with three county-based organizations, the HAKI MASHINANI project addresses environmental, governance issues affecting youth as well as women empowerment in Kericho, Homa Bay, and Siaya Counties. Against the backdrop of these challenges, Siasa Place seeks to commission a baseline evaluation of the Haki Mashinani project in Homa Bay, Kericho, and Siaya Counties. This evaluation will provide insights into designing effective interventions and strengthening the project's results framework.

1.2: Purpose and Objectives of the Study

The study:

- Assessed the current state of human rights, with a focus on women in Siaya, youth in Homa Bay, and youth participation in environmental issues in Kericho.
- Identified key challenges, gaps, and opportunities for improving human rights protection and promotion in these areas.

For Women in Siaya the study specifically:

- Assessed the status of women's rights, including access to education, healthcare, economic opportunities, and protection against gender-based violence and any other risks for young women.
- Identified barriers hindering women's full participation in socio-economic and political activities.
- Established the extent to which existing opportunities have been utilized to realize human rights among women in governance.
- Identified opportunities in law and otherwise that the project can utilize to improve human rights realization among young women

For Youth in Homa Bay the study specifically:

- Evaluated the current state of youth rights, focusing on access to education, employment opportunities, and participation in decision-making processes.
- Explored issues related to youth empowerment, including access to resources and support systems.
- Established the extent to which existing opportunities have been utilized to realize human rights among the youth
- Established the extent to which existing opportunities have been utilized to realize human rights among the youth in governance.
- Identified opportunities in law and otherwise that the project can utilize to improve human rights realization among the youth in Homa Bay

For Youth in Environment in Kericho the study specifically:

- Examined the involvement of youth in environmental conservation and climate change initiatives.
- Assessed the challenges and opportunities for youth engagement in environmental sustainability efforts
- Establish the extent to which existing opportunities have been utilized to realize human rights among the youth in climate governance
- Identified opportunities in law and otherwise that the project can utilise to improve human rights realization among the youth in Kericho in areas of climate governance

1.3: Geographical Coverage for the Study

The study covered the three counties of Homabay, Kericho, and Homabay. To ensure the results offer an accurate measure of the status of youth rights in line with the objectives, the research strived to cover both the rural and urban sections of the three counties.

1.4: Scope of Work Undertaken

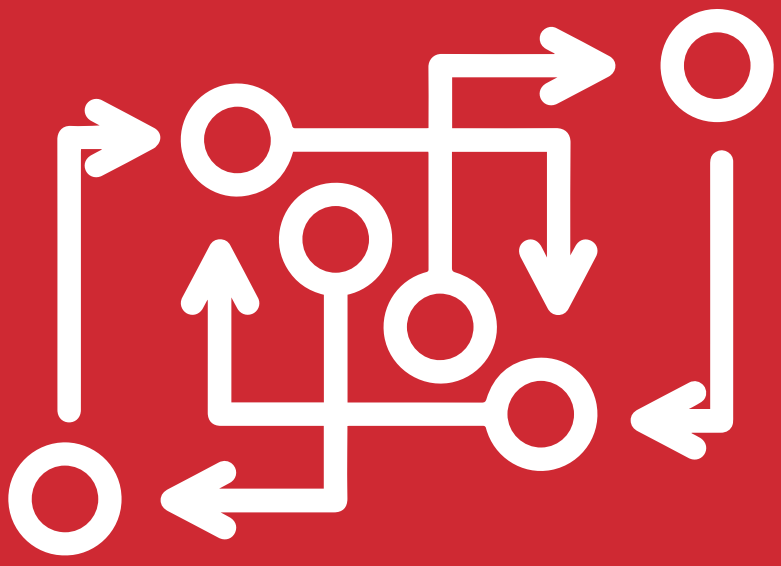
- Preparation of a comprehensive baseline report that includes findings, analysis, and actionable recommendations.
- Review of the Haki Mashinani project proposal and suggest possible adjustments.
- Developing a detailed research methodology and work plan in consultation with SP and in collaboration with the implementing partners.
- Conducting desk research and reviewing relevant literature, reports, and policies related to human rights, women's rights, youth empowerment, and environmental issues in the targeted counties.
- Engaging with key stakeholders, including government officials, civil society organizations, community leaders, and the target populations, through interviews, focus group discussions, and surveys.
- Collecting and analyzing data to establish baseline indicators for human rights in the three focus areas.
- Identifying existing initiatives, programs, and policies addressing human rights issues in the targeted regions.

1.4: Scope of Work Undertaken

S/No	Name	Role
1.	Dr. Oscar M. Otele	Lead Consultant (Project Supervision, Monitoring and Evaluation)
2.	Ms. Mollyne Achilla	Research Assistant (Homabay & Siaya)
3.	Mr. Ignatius Odanga	Research Assistant (Kericho)

Chapter 2

Methodology



2.1: INTRODUCTION

The study collected data from the three heterogeneous programmes from the three county civil society organizations: Siaya, Homa Bay, and Kericho. The study sought to establish baselines to enable the monitoring of change over time. At each of the three sites, the study collected data on indicators aligned priority areas of each of the following CSOs:

- **Tilil** (Kericho County): Focuses on environmental issues involving young people.
- **County Voice and Rights** (Homa Bay County): Engages young people in governance issues.
- **Dak Achana** (Siaya County): Works on women empowerment.

Data was collected using a survey questionnaire and focus group discussions. The survey data provides a baseline measurement of the status quo regarding key objectives of the HAKI MASHINANI, while the focus group discussion elicits qualitative data that enriches this information and provides an understanding of the life circumstances of participants to inform improvements in project implementation. Survey data was collected using a mobile application developed for this purpose, while focus groups were collected either online or face-to-face. Participation in the study will be voluntary. The three data collectors were trained by the Consultant.

1.2: Data Collection Approach

1.2.1: Qualitative Approaches

Qualitative data was collected in two ways: through the survey questionnaire and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). The survey questionnaire had sections with open-ended questions to allow the respondents to express their views on particular issues, which would be better understood when described qualitatively. Focus group discussions elicit qualitative data that enriches this information and provide an understanding of the life circumstances of participants to inform improvements in project implementation.

1.2.2: Quantitative Approaches

Quantitative data was mainly be collected through the use of a survey questionnaire that was administered to target respondents from the general population. This allowed for the establishment of a baseline measurement of the Haki Mashinani project in line with the study objectives for the different County CSOs.

1.3: Data Collection Instruments and Target Respondents

The survey questionnaire was designed using the Survey Monkey data collection tool. This allowed for a real-time measurement of the progress in data collection. It also allowed for ease of visualizing the data collected with summary data and charts. The research assistants administered the survey while inputting the responses in the online tool.

1.4: Sampling Design

1.4.1 Sampling Frame and Sample Size Determination

- Youths (male and female), educated residing in urban and rural areas of Homa Bay, Kericho (30 in every county) and young women in Siaya County (30).
- Three Barazas in every county
- Relevant stakeholders (national & county government) in Homa Bay, Siaya and Kericho= 5 in every county

1.4.2 Sampling Procedure

- Youths were randomly selected in every sub-county
- Relevant stakeholders were purposely sampled

1.5 Fieldwork and Data Management

1.5.1. Data Quality Control

- Triangulation of data from multiple sources

1.4: Sampling Design

- Collected data was edited and then transcribed
- Data entry
- Cross-checking of data entry

Chapter 3

Study Findings

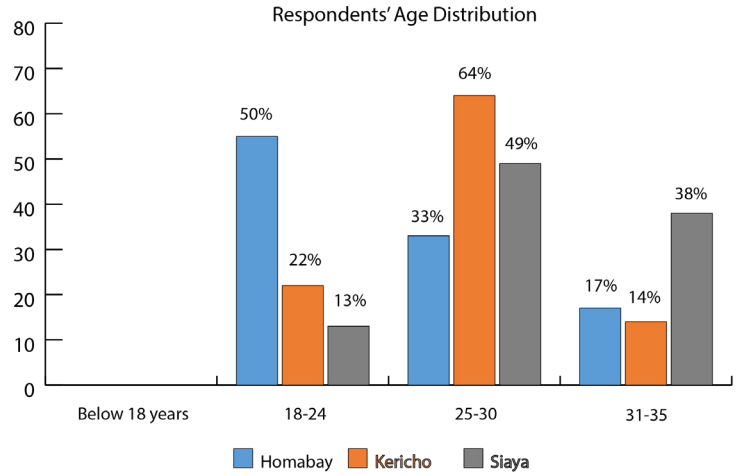


3.1: RESPONDENTS' DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

The sample size for Homa Bay and Kericho counties was 30, while that of Siaya was 48. The response rate for the three counties were: Homa Bay, 97%; Kericho, 93%,; Saiaya, 160%.

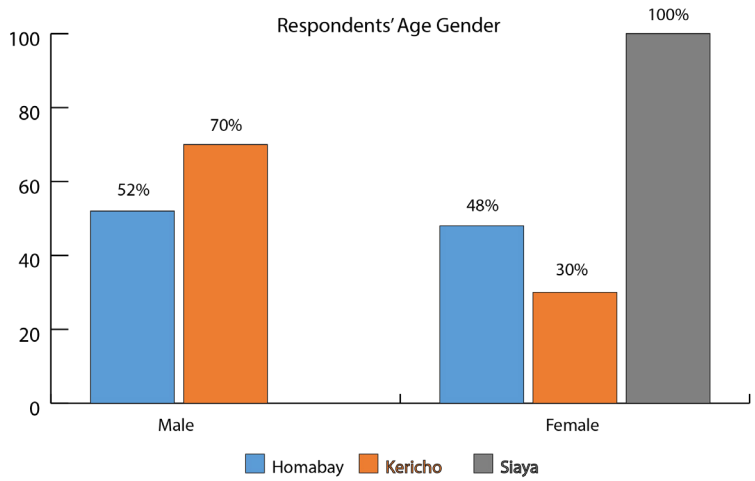
Basing on the nature of the study and homogeneous nature of target respondents, their demographic characteristics are summarized together.

Figure 3.1.1: Respondents' Age Distribution



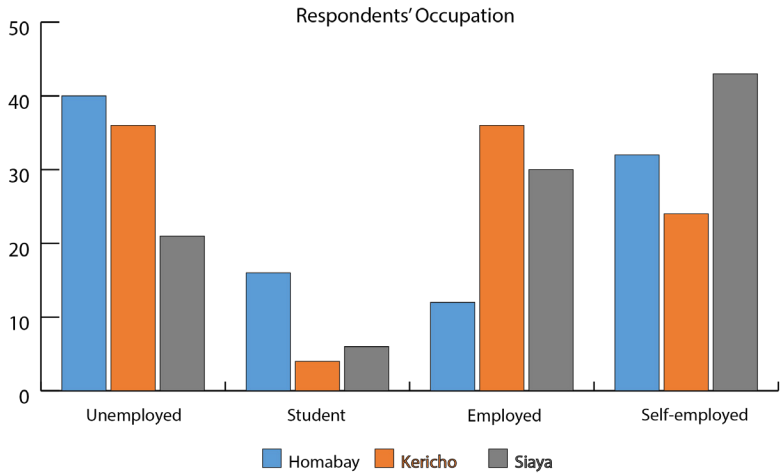
For Homa Bay County, 50% of the respondents were between ages 18-24, 33% were between ages 25-30, and 17% were between ages 31-35. For Kericho County, 22% of the respondents were between ages 18-24, 64% were between ages 25-30, and 14% were between ages 31-35. For Siaya County, 13% of the respondents were between ages 18-24, 49% were between ages 25-30, and 38% were between ages 31-35.

Figure 3.1.2: Respondents' Gender



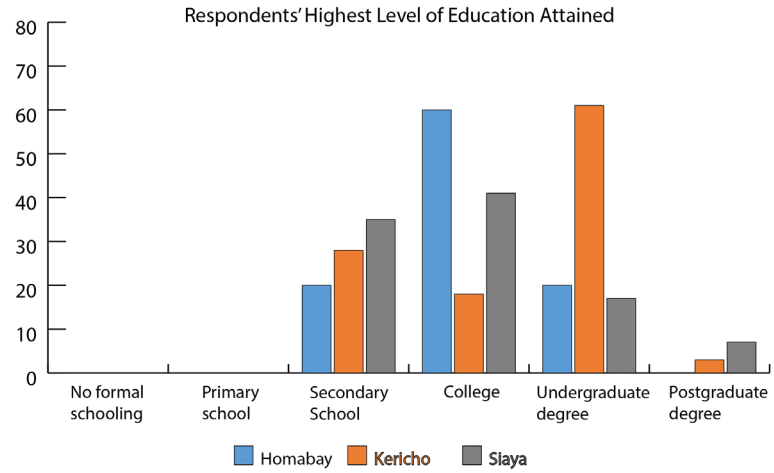
Regarding the respondents' gender, 52% were male, and 48% were female in Homa Bay County. For Kericho County, 70% were male, and 30% were female. For Siaya County, all respondents (100%) were female.

Figure 3.1.3: Respondents' Current Occupation



The study also aimed at determining the current occupation of the study respondents. For Homa Bay County, 40% were unemployed, 16% were students, 12% were employed, and 32% indicated they were self-employed. For Kericho County, 36% indicated they were unemployed, 4% indicated they were students, 36% were employed, and 24% were self-employed. For Siaya County, 21% were unemployed, 6% were students, 30% were employed, and 43% indicated they were self-employed.

Figure 3.1.4: Highest Education Level of the Respondents



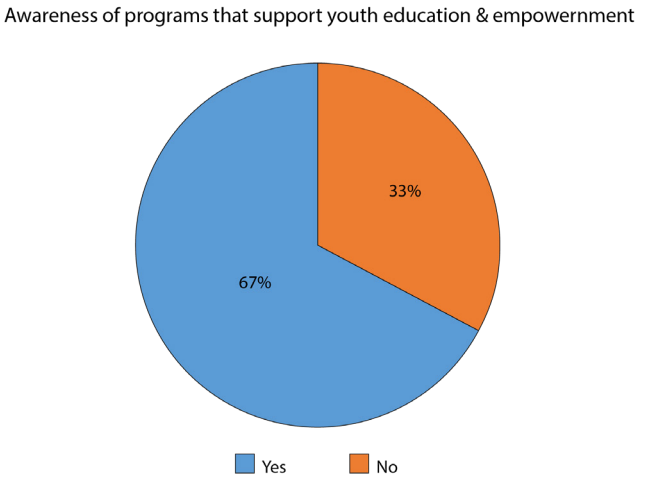
The study also aimed at identifying the highest level of education the respondents had attained. For Homa Bay County, 20% had attained secondary school education, 60% had attended college, and 20% had an undergraduate qualification. For Kericho County, 18% had attained secondary school qualification, 18% had college qualification, 61% had attained an undergraduate degree, and 3% had postgraduate-level qualification.

3.2: HOMA BAY COUNTY

3.2.1: Access to Educational Opportunities

Figure 3.2.1: Awareness of Programs that Support Youth Empowerment and Education

The sample size for Homa Bay and Kericho counties was 30, while that of Siaya was 48. The response rate for the three counties were: Homa Bay, 97%; Kericho, 93%,; Saiaya, 160%.



The study first aimed to establish awareness of programs that support the education and empowerment of the youth in the County. It found that a majority (67%) of them were aware, and 33% were not aware.

Some of the programs that were mentioned include the County government's Fins to Swin Program, the Homa Bay Youth empowerment program, Siasa Place, Genowa Scholarship, Ajira Digital, Inua Jamii Initiative, and Oyugis Project.

Table 3.2.1: Ranking of Factors that Influence Access to Education

Factors/Rank	Rank
Availability of schools/programs	55%
Government (both national and County) policies	10%
Peer Influence	5%
One's economic status	20%
Support from one's family	10%

Respondents were also tasked with ranking some of the factors that influence access to education of the youth in the county. From the survey, the most important factors was availability of schools/programs (55%), followed by one's economic status (20%), government (both national and county) policies, support from one's family (10% each), and peer influence (5%).

Inadequate financial support was the most serious challenge that the youth face in their effort to access educational opportunities. Others include the unavailability of sanitary pads for young girls, poor infrastructure and lack of parental guidance.

When it came to financial challenges, one of the participants in the FGD observed that:

"Some youth drop out due to lack of funds, and, at times, are forced into early employment or alternative sources of income."

Another observed that:

"Many schools in the county lack the necessary infrastructure and trained staff to cater to the needs of disabled students, making education even less accessible to people living with disabilities."

The study also aimed to establish how the educational opportunities have prepared the youth to enter the workforce in the future or pursuing further education. Some of the ways mentioned included:

1. Shaping of their communication skills;
2. Providing them with knowledge of the job market; and
3. Providing them with knowledge on the skills that are useful in the different economic sectors;

When it came to the responsiveness of the educational opportunities to the needs of the youth in the community, there were mixed responses. Some were of the view that they were not responsive and that they only benefited those with political connections. Others highlighted the politicization of access to opportunities as a factor that locks out some of them from benefitting. However, some believed the technical and vocational colleges equip them with relevant skills that are useful in securing jobs that require practical skills.

3.2.2: Access to Economic Opportunities

The study first aimed at establishing the status of youth's access to economic opportunities by looking at ease of accessing job opportunities and skills possessed. Respondents were asked the extent to which they agreed with three statements.

Table 3.2.2: Accessibility of Economic Opportunities

Statement	Strongly Agree (S.A)	Agree (A)	Neutral (N)	Disagree (D)	Strongly Disagree (S.D)
It is easy to access job opportunities in my community	-	-	14%	50%	36%
The youth have the skills needed to help them compete for available jobs	43%	50%	-	-	7%
I have received adequate support to help me find employment	14%	-	15%	50%	22%

From the survey, a significant majority of the youth (50% disagreeing and 36% strongly disagreeing) were of the view that it was not easy for them to access job opportunities in their community, and 14% were neutral to this view. When it came to possession of skills needed to help them compete for available jobs, a significant majority of the youth (43% strongly agreed, and 50% agreed) agreed with this, and only 7% showed strong disagreement to this.

Some of the respondents observed that:
"While many youth have theoretical knowledge, they lack practical skills, especially in entrepreneurship and

technical fields."

The study also aimed to establish whether the youth have received adequate support to enable them to find employment. Here, 14% strongly agreed with this, 14% were neutral, 50% disagreed with this, and 22% strongly disagreed with this.

Table 3.2.3: Involvement in Informal Economic Activities

	Type of Activity	Highly Involved	Involved	Moderately Involved	Not Involved	Not involved at all
a.	Agricultural activities	23%	39%	7%	36%	8%
b.	Small and Micro-enterprises	31%	15%	46%	8%	-
c.	Chamas or Saccos	8	31%	54%	7%	-
d.	Craft/artisan products	31%	46%	23%	-	-

The study further sought to establish the extent to which the youth were involved in informal economic activities. The study established that most of the youth were involved in informal economic activities. A significant majority (23% highly involved, 23% involved, and 39% moderately involved) reported that the youth are involved in agricultural activities, 7% were not involved, and 8% are not involved at all. When it came to SMEs, a significant majority (31% highly involved, 15% involved, and 46% moderately involved) reported that the youth are also involved, and only 8% are not involved.

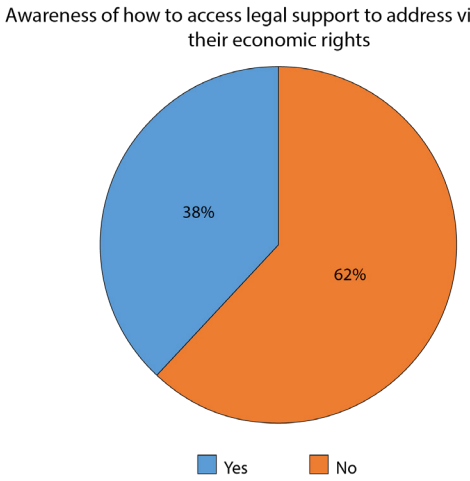
When it came to involvement in chamas or Saccos, majority (8% highly involved, 31% involved, and 54% moderately involved) reported that the youth were involved and only 7% reported that the youth are not being involved. When it came to involvement in craft/artisan products, 31% were of the view that there was high involvement of the youth, 46% reported that the youth were involved, and 23% reported moderate involvement of the youth.

To ensure there are more youth engaging in the above-mentioned informal economic activities, the following are suggestions that could help promote this:

1. Creating more awareness sessions to educate the youth on the importance of engaging in informal economic activities;
2. Providing them with financial support to start and run their own ventures;
3. Providing them with avenues to showcase and market their skills, especially those who are engaged in making of artisan products;

The study also sought to establish whether the youth have received any kind of support within their community to help them find employment. All (100%) reported they had not received any kind of support.

Figure 3.2.2: Awareness of how to Access Legal Support to address Violation of their economic rights



In establishing the awareness of youth on accessing legal support in the event they encounter discrimination or violation of their economic rights, 38% were aware of how to go about it, and 62% were not aware.

For those who are aware of how to access legal support, they mentioned filing a case in court, reporting to relevant state actors and using the toll-free 1195 hotline for cases of Gender-based discrimination.

Table 3.2.3: Effectiveness of current Legal Protections and Regulations in Preventing Discrimination and Promoting Equal Economic Opportunities for the Youth

Effectiveness of Current Legal Protections	Frequency
Not effective	39%
Somehow effective	46%
Effective	15%

The study also aimed at establishing the youth's views on the responsiveness of current legal protections and regulations in preventing discrimination, and promoting equal economic opportunities for the youth. From the survey, 39% were of the view that they were not effective, 46% believed they were somehow effective, and 15% believed they were effective.

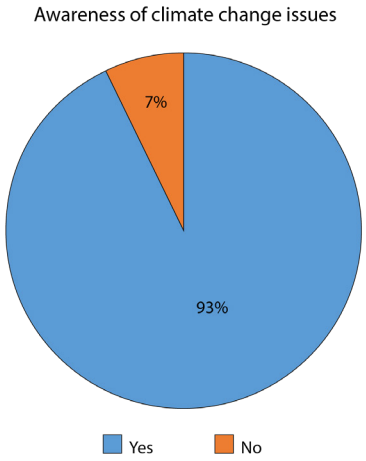
For those who believed the legal protections were not effective, some mentioned that the legal system tends to side with the powerful people hence making it hard to access justice, some believed the legal system is slow in responding to reported cases of economic discrimination. For those who believed they are effective, they mentioned the availability of officers handling GBV issues.

To address some of the weaknesses in the current legal challenges, respondents believed the youth need to be sensitized of their economic rights and the process of accessing legal support if their rights are violated. Others were of the view that there should be equal treatment so that those without political connections can also access justice in the face of violations of their economic rights.

3.3: KERICHO COUNTY

3.3.1: Awareness of Climate Change and Climate Change Issues

Figure 3.3.1: Awareness of Climate Change Issues

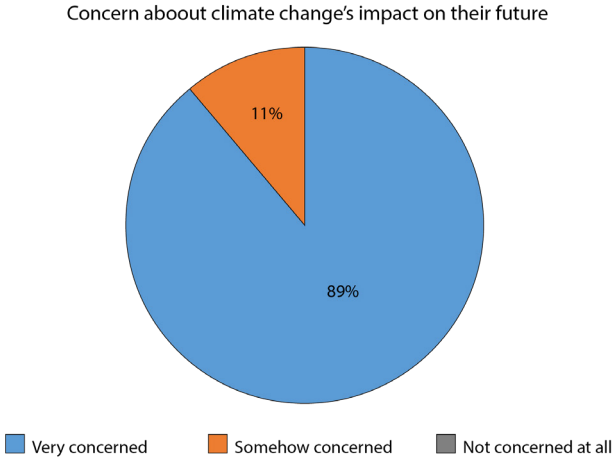


The study first aimed to establish whether the youth have heard of climate change. It established that a significant majority (93%) had heard of it, and only 7% had never heard about climate change.

In the FGD, respondents also highlighted how they came to understand about environmental and climate change issues. One of the them observed that:

"The issue of garbage collection which has caused a lot of problems in my area and also sewerage management which has been so poor in my community. This has caused a lot of problems by contaminating rivers hence causing water borne diseases in my community."

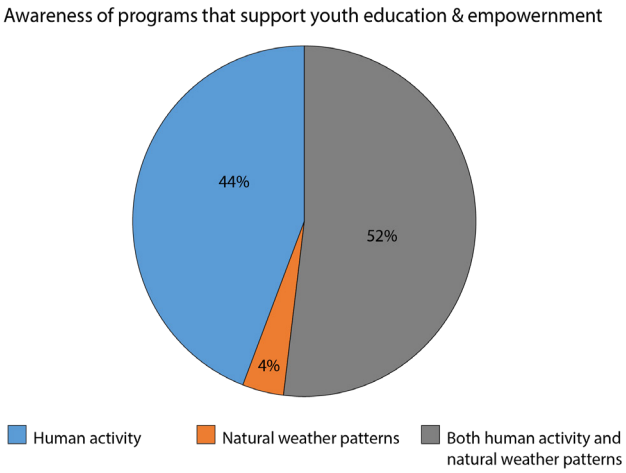
Figure 3.3.2: Concern about Climate Change's Impact on their Future



The study also aimed to establish the extent to which the youth were concerned about the impact climate change has on their future. A significant majority (89%) were very concerned, and 11% were somehow concerned about the impact it has on their future.

Some of the reasons why the youth were concerned about the impact of climate change on their future include (1) frequent droughts that have led to deaths of both domestic and wild animals, and also negatively impacting their food security, (2) direct negative impact on their agricultural activities (output), (3) flooding, and (4) health-related concerns that are a result of climate change.

Figure 3.3.3: Main Cause of Climate Change



The study also aimed at getting the views of the youth on what they thought was the main cause of climate change. From the survey, 44% believed it was mainly caused by human activity, 4% that it was caused by natural weather patterns, and 52% believe the main cause is both human activity and natural weather patterns.

Table 3.3.1: Responsibility for Limiting Climate Change and its Impact

Stakeholder	Frequency
Ordinary Kenyans	56
Business and industry	37%
Government (both national and County)	59%
Youth	48%

Thethe study also aimed to establish the perception of the youth on who they thought had primary responsibility for trying to limit climate change and reduce its impact. Majority (59%) were of the view that it was the government's (both national and county) responsibility, 56% that it was the responsibility of ordinary Kenyans, 48% believed it was the youth's responsibility, and 37% that it is the responsibility of business and industry.

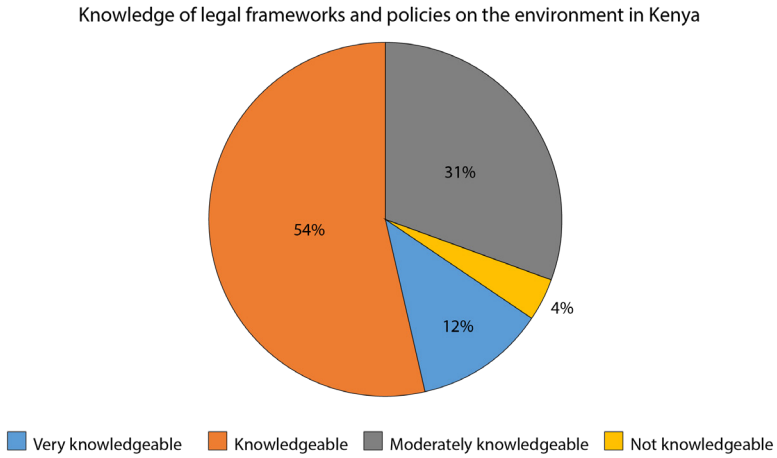
Table 3.3.2: Sources Relied on to seat Informed about Environmental Conservation and Climate Change Issues

Source	Frequency
Traditional news media	15%
Social media platforms	81%
College/University programs	15%
Friends or peers	7%
Community Organizations	48%
Personal research	22%

The study also looked at some of the sources the youth rely on to stay informed about environmental conservation and climate change issues. A significant majority (81%) reported using social media platforms to stay informed. Other sources the youth relied on include traditional news media (15%), college/university programs (15%), friends or peers (7%), community organizations (48%), and personal research (22%).

3.3.2: Knowledge of Legal Frameworks and Policies on Environmental Issues

Figure 3.3.4: Knowledge of Legal Frameworks and Policies on the Environment in Kenya



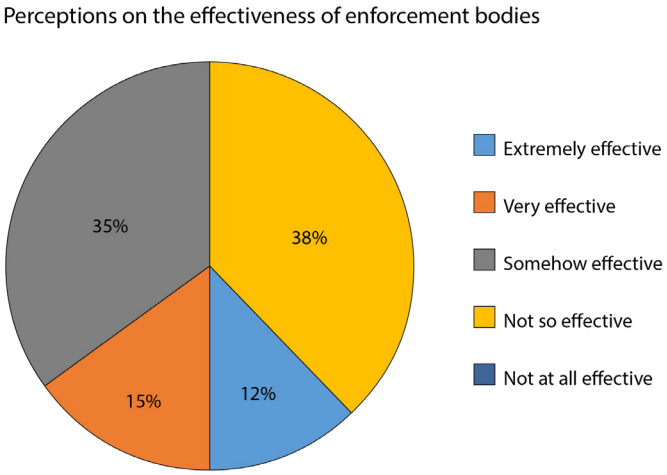
The study also aimed to establish the extent to which the youth were knowledgeable of the legal frameworks and policies on environmental issues in Kenya. The first part focused on a self-assessment of their knowledge of legal frameworks and policies on the environment in Kenya. The survey showed that 12% believed they were very knowledgeable, 54% believed they were knowledgeable, 31% were of the view that they were moderately knowledgeable, and only 4% thought they were not knowledgeable.

Table 3.3.3: Youth's Knowledge of Environmental Laws and Policies in Kenya

Legal Framework or Policy	Frequency
The Constitution of Kenya, 2010	72%
The Environmental Management & Coordination (Amendment), Act, 2014	44%
The Forest Conservation and Management Act, 2016	48%
The Water Act, 2016	44%
The Climate Change Act, 2016	72%
The Energy Act, 2019	36%
The National Environment Policy (2013)	48%

The second part focused on establishing some of the laws and policies on the environment in Kenya that the youth were aware of. Majority were aware of the provisions in the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, and the Climate Change Act of 2016 (72% each). Other laws and policies the youth were aware of include the Environmental Management & Coordination (Amendment) Act of 2014 (44%), The Forest Conservation and Management Act, 2016 (48%), the Water Act, 2016 (44%), the Energy Act, 2019 (36), and t48% were aware of the National Environment Policy (2013).

Figure 3.3.5: Effectiveness of Enforcement Bodies in addressing Environmental Issues



The study also aimed at establishing the perceptions of the youth on the effectiveness of enforcement bodies in addressing environmental issues. Very few (12%) thought they were extremely effective, 15% thought they were very effective, 35% that they were somewhat effective, and 38% thought they were not so effective.

For those who believed the enforcement bodies were not effective in handling environmental issues, some believed this has been caused by corruption in enforcement. Others observed that the County government have failed to take an active role in environmental conservation, and that the public lack basic knowledge on environmental conservation initiatives.

3.3.3: Participation in Environmental Conservation Initiatives

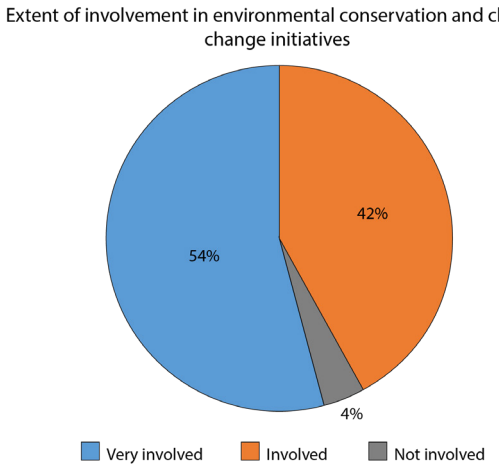
One of the focus of the FGD was to identify factors that motivate the youth to be involved in environmental conservation and climate change initiatives. One of the respondents observed:

"Growing up in this village and seeing how our community has been struggling with the issue of sewage management and garbage really disturbed me as a youth and that's why I am very passionate about environmental issues."

Another one responded that:

"I have been a victim of climate change in this area because my brother's grave was exposed when climate issues affected us and this gave me a desire to contribute to change."

Figure 3.3.6: Level of Involvement in Environmental Conservation and Climate Change Initiatives



To establish the participation of the youth in environmental conservation and climate change initiatives, the study first aimed to measure the extent of their involvement. A majority (54%) reported they were very involved, 42% were somehow involved, and 4% were not involved in environmental conservation or climate change initiatives.

Table 3.3.4: Participation in Environmental Conservation and Climate Change Initiatives

Ways of getting involved	Frequency		
Community clean-ups	92%	Lobbying and policy advocacy	39
Creative campaigns e.g. using art, music etc. to raise awareness	38%	Public speaking and educational awareness	65
Tree planting	92%	Social media activism	65
Recycling programs	46%	Volunteering and service	54
Research and innovation projects	42%	Facilitating capacity-building workshops	27
Promoting green spaces	27%		

The study went ahead to establish the ways in which the youth were involved in environmental conservation and climate change initiatives at the community level. The most popular way in which the youth were involved in environmental conservation and climate change activities was through participation in community clean-ups and tree planting exercises (each at 92%). Other ways in which the youth involved themselves included creative campaigns (38%), recycling programs (46%), research and innovation projects (42%), promotion of green spaces (27%), lobbying and policy advocacy (39%), public speaking and educational awareness (65%), social media activism (65%), volunteering and service (54%), and facilitating capacity-building workshops (27%).

Table 3.3.5: Youth's Perception on the Efficacy of their Involvement

Ways of getting involved	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
My involvement has had a positive effect on my community	31	58	11	-	-
Youth-led initiatives are more effective in addressing environmental and climate change issues	42	54	-	4	-
There have been measurable improvements in environmental conditions in my community as a result of the initiatives I have been involved in	23%	62	15	-	-

The study also aimed at measuring the self-efficacy the youth had in their involvement efforts. This was measured by the extent to which the youth agreed with three statements. Generally, the youth had high measures of self-efficacy in their involvement. When it came to the view that their involvement had a positive effect on their community, 31% strongly agreed, 58% agreed, and only 11% were neutral. On the idea that youth-led initiatives are more effective in addressing environmental and climate change issues, 42% strongly agreed, 54% agreed, and only 4% disagreed with this. On whether their involvement has led to measureable improvements in environmental conditions, 23% strongly agreed, 62% agreed, and 15% were neutral.

For those who believed there were measurable improvements as a result of their participation, they highlighted the number of trees planted, improvement in garbage collection and the increased participation of community members.

In the FGD, one of the participants observed that:

"Youth led efforts are not effective. I don't know if there are youth-led initiatives in my community because the youth are not always involved in these things."

Table 3.3.6: Challenges Faced by the Youth in participating in Environmental Conservation Initiatives

Challenge	Frequency	Challenge	Frequency
Time	31	Lack of support from family or peers	-
Limited resources (or funding)	42	Inadequate opportunities or programs	4
Inadequate information on how to participate	23%	Lack of awareness	11
Inadequate training			-

The study also aimed to establish the challenges the youth face in their efforts to participate in environmental conservation efforts. A significant majority (81%) believed limited resources (or funding) was the most serious challenge. Others were of the view that the most serious challenges were time (4%), inadequate opportunities or programs (4%), and lack of awareness (11%).

From the study, the following are measures the youth believed could be adopted or implemented to improve the levels of youth engagement in environmental conservation and climate change initiatives:

1. Awareness creation programs to educate the youth on the importance of engaging in environmental conservation and climate change initiatives;
2. Funding for environmental-related projects;
3. Offering certifications on green technologies;
4. Incentivizing participation;
5. Promoting leadership and advocacy;
6. Incorporating environmental conservation and climate change initiatives in the curriculum; and
7. Incorporating technology in awareness creation;

In the FGD, respondents was of the view that there is need for more education on climate change to encourage more youth involvement. One observed was of the view that:

"Offering training programs on climate action could help more youth understand environmental issues and get involved. Many don't participate because they don't know where to start."

3.4: SIAYA COUNTY

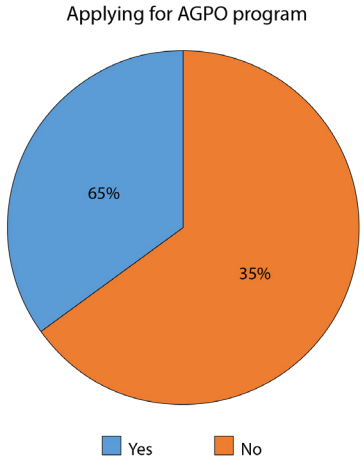
3.4.1: Access to Educational Opportunities

The study first sought to establish the accessibility of educational opportunities. To achieve this, respondents were asked to state whether they agreed or disagreed with some statements to measure their perceptions and views on issues touching on their education.

Table 3.4.1: Respondents Perceptions of Access to Educational Opportunities

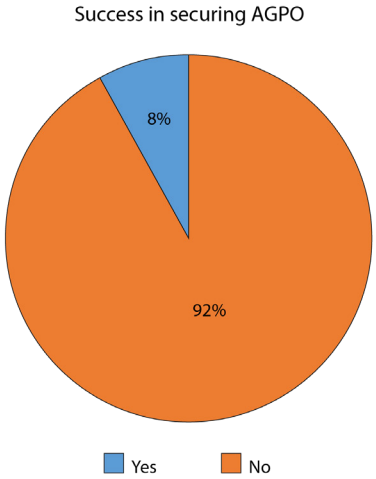
Statement	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Girls are prevented from attending school because their families prioritize the education of boys	3%	26%	8%	41%	22%
University education is more important for young men than young women	-	5%	3%	38%	54%
Young women have equal access to educational opportunities compared to boys	31%	21%	8%	23%	10%
There is availability of qualified teachers and mentors to support the education of young women in the County	15%	31%	33%	18%	3%
There are effective policies aimed at addressing gender inequality in education	26%	31%	15%	23%	5%
There are adequate support systems for young women with special educational needs or disabilities	21%	10%	31%	26%	12%
Girls who have had children at an early age find it hard to be allowed to go back to school	26%	33%	5%	23%	13%

Figure 3.4.2: Applying for the AGPO Program



The study further sought to establish whether those who were aware of the AGPO program had applied for a procurement opportunity. Here, a majority (65%) had never applied, and only 35% had applied for an AGPO opportunity.

Figure 3.4.3: Success in Securing an AGPO



The study also wanted to establish whether those who had applied for the program were successful or not. A significant majority (92%) indicated they had no success, while only 8% indicated they had been successful after applying.

Some of the changes respondents felt would improve the ability of youth to secure an AGPO program opportunity include: (1) improving the procurement process to reduce cases of corruption, and (2) creating awareness in the community for young women to be aware of the program.

	Type of Activity	Highly involved	Involved	Moderately involved	Not involved	Not involved at all
a.	Agricultural activities	24%	24%	42%	10%	-
b.	Small and Micro-enterprises	24%	28%	45%	3%	4%
c.	Chamas or Saccos	48%	24%	17%	11%	-
d.	Craft/artisan products	7	24	35	34	

The study further sought to establish the extent to which young women were involved in informal economic activities. The study established that most of the young women were involved in informal economic activities. A significant majority (48% highly involved, 24% involved, and 17% moderately involved) reported that young women are involved in chamas or saccos, and only 11% aren't' involved. When it came to agricultural activities, a significant majority (24% highly involved, 24% involved, and 42% moderately involved) reported that young women are also involved, and only 10% are not involved.

When it came to involvement in SMES, majority (24% highly involved, 28% involved, and 45% moderately involved) reported that young women were involved and only 3% reported not being involved. When it came to involvement in craft/artisan products, 7% were of the view that there was high involvement of young women, 24% reported that young women were involved, 35% reported moderate involvement of young women, and 34% reported that young women were not involved.

Table 3.4.4: Barriers to Young Women's Participation in Economic Activities

Barriers	Frequency
Young women lack the necessary education and skills	17%
Lack of childcare support for young women with children	7%
Employers prefer hiring men	10%
It is not socially acceptable for young women to work outside the home	-
Lack of remote or flexible working arrangements for young women	10%
Inadequate support for young women entrepreneurs	56%

The study also aimed to establish some of the barriers that young women face in trying to take part in economic opportunities. Respondents were asked to choose the barrier they felt affected young women the most. A majority (56%) believed inadequate support for young women entrepreneurs was the most serious barrier. This was followed by a lack of necessary education and skills (17%), employers' preference for hiring men (10%), lack of remote or flexible working arrangements for young women (10%), and lack of childcare support for young women with children (7%).

Some of the ways in which young women can receive communal support to improve their economic rights include: (1) Linking them with financial resources to start their business ventures, (2) capacity-building for young women to enable them get skills they can utilize to improve their economic fortunes, and (3) using of CBOs to link them with remote jobs.

3.4.3: Healthcare Rights

In establishing the access to healthcare rights for young women, the study focused on the availability of healthcare services and barriers that young women face in accessing healthcare services.

Table 3.4.5: Accessibility of Healthcare Services

	Healthcare Services	Accessible	Somehow accessible	Not accessible
a.	Contraception	46%	46%	8%
b.	STI testing	29%	64%	7%
c.	Maternal care	57%	36%	7%
d.	Newborn care	46%	50%	4%
e.	Education on safe and healthy relationships	25%	64%	11%
f.	Family planning	52%	44%	4%

Generally, respondents were of the view that healthcare services were available for young women in the community. The most accessible healthcare services were maternal care (57% accessible), and family planning (52%). Education on safe and health relationships (25%) and STI testing (29%) were the ones that respondents reported lower levels of accessibility.

Barriers	Frequency	Barriers	Frequency
Cost	32%	Negative in-person encounters	-
Transportation	7%	Lack of information about available health services	14%
Discrimination and bias	7%	Inadequate staff at healthcare facilities	7%
Poor health literacy	14%	Lack of equipment	5%
Social stigma and privacy issues	14%	-	-

The study further went on to establish the barriers that young women face in accessing healthcare. Here, respondents were asked to choose the barrier they believed young women face the most in trying to access healthcare. The study established that most (32%) believed cost was the most serious barrier. It was followed by poor health literacy (14%), social stigma and privacy issues (14%), and lack of information about available health services (14%). Only a small number believed that transportation (7%), discrimination and bias (7%), and lack of equipment (5%) were barriers that young women faced in accessing healthcare.

3.4.4: Status of Gender-Based Violence against Young Women

Table 3.4.7: Types of GBV faced by Young Women

	Frequency
Physical abuse	27%
Sexual violence	15%
Emotional/psychological abuse e.g. threats	39%
Economic abuse	19%

The study first aimed at establishing the most common type of GBV that young women face in the community. Most of the respondents (39%) reported that emotional/psychological abuse was the most common type of GBV that young women experience. This was followed by physical abuse (27%), economic abuse (19%), and sexual abuse (15%).

Table 3.4.5: Accessibility of Healthcare Services

Issue	Very common	Fairly common	Not very common	Not common
Sexual assault/rape	23%	42%	31%	4%
Men and boys hurting young women?	35%	46%	19%	-
Men and boys making unwanted sexual comments/gestures towards young women	38%	31%	19%	12%
Young women trading sex for money	31%	42%	23%	4%

The study also aimed to establish how common these types of GBV were in the community. When it came to sexual assault/rape, 23% were of the view that it was very common, 42% thought it was fairly common, 31% thought it was not very common, and 4% thought it was not common. When it came to the issue of men and boys hurting young women, 35% reported that it was very common, 46% that it was fairly common, and 19% that it was not very common.

On the issue of men and boys making unwanted sexual comments/gestures towards young women, 38% thought it was very common, 31% that it was fairly common, 19% that it was not very common, and 12% that it was not common. When it came to incidents of young women trading sex for money, 31% believed it was very common, 42% thought it was fairly common, 23% that it was not very common, and 4% that it was not common.

The study also sought to establish the attitudes of young women on GBV issues with respondents asked the extent to which they agreed with some statements

Table 3.4.9: Young Women's Attitudes and Perceptions towards GBV Issues

	S.A	A	N	D	S.D
A woman should tolerate violence to keep the family together	8%	-	-	31%	61%
Men may use violence to keep their women in line	-	15%	-	15%	70%
No one else should interfere when it comes to violence within a family	4	4%	4%	16%	72%
There are instances where cases of violence are justified	8%	23%	15%	19%	35%

The first statement was on whether they agreed with the idea that a woman should tolerate violence to keep the family together. The study established that 8% strongly agreed with this, 31% disagreed, and 61% strongly disagreed with this. When it came to the idea that men may use violence to keep their women in line, 15% agreed with this, 15% disagreed, and 70% strongly disagreed.

A third statement was on the view that there should not be external interference when it comes to violence within a family. On this, 4% strongly agreed, 4% agreed, 4% neither agreed nor disagreed, 16% disagreed, and a majority (72%) strongly disagreed with this.

The last statement focused on their perceptions when it came to the idea that violence is justified in some

cases. Here, 8% strongly agreed, 23% agreed, 15% neither agreed nor disagreed, 19% disagreed, and only 35% strongly disagreed with this.

From the survey, some of the strategies that can be used to prevent GBV cases include:

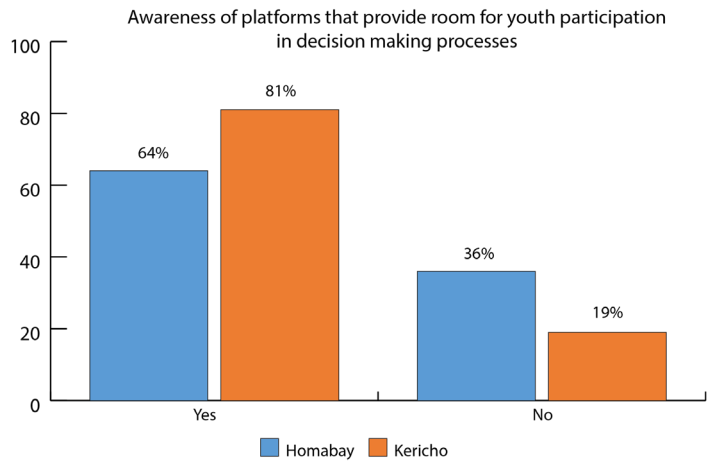
1. Training both men and women on GBV issues so as to promote cultural change and attitudes on GBV issues;
2. Having proper reporting mechanisms;
3. Punishment of offenders;
4. Sensitizing lower level administrators such as Chiefs and Assistant-Chiefs on handling and referring such cases to senior-level administrators;
5. Educating couples on healthy relationships; and
6. Encouraging men and women to speak up when they experience or witness GBV cases;

3.5: PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES

The final objective was examining the level of youth participation in decision-making processes. This section presents a summary of with different thematic areas and a comparison of the three Counties.

3.5.1: Awareness of Platforms for Participation

Figure 3.5.1: Awareness of Platforms that Provide Room for Youth Participation in Decision-Making Processes



The study first aimed to establish whether the youth were aware of the platforms in their community or County that provide room for their participation in decision-making processes. In Homa Bay County, 64% of the youth were aware and 36% were not aware. In Kericho County, 81% of the youth were aware, and 19% were not aware.

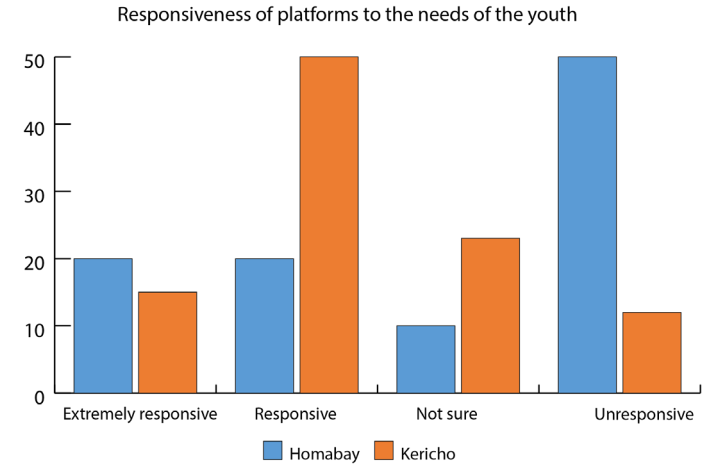
Some of the platforms mentioned were the Chief's Barazas, County Voice and Rights (Homa Bay County), Youth groups, Public participation forums, Tilil Environmental Group (Kericho County), social media, and registered Community Based Organizations (CBOs).

Some of the factors that motivate the youth to be engaged in community decision-making processes include (1) championing girl child's issues such as early marriages, and GBV, (2) increasing their knowledge of current affairs, (3) personal experiences, and(4) to have a sense of belonging.

One of the youth, in explaining what motivated their participation in decision-making processes observed that:

"I attended purely out of curiosity and anger from lack of representation."

Figure 3.5.2: Responsiveness of the Platforms to the needs of the Youth



The study also aimed to establish the perceptions of the youth on the responsiveness of these platforms in addressing the needs of the young people in their communities. In Homa Bay County, 20% thought they were extremely responsive, 20% thought they were responsive, 10% were not sure, and 50% thought they were unresponsive. In Kericho County, 15% thought they were extremely responsive, 50% thought they were responsive, 23% were not sure, and 12% thought they were unresponsive.

In the FGD, one participant observed that:

"In some cases, community leaders are open to hearing youth voices, but there is still a feeling that our opinions don't carry the same weight as those of older members."

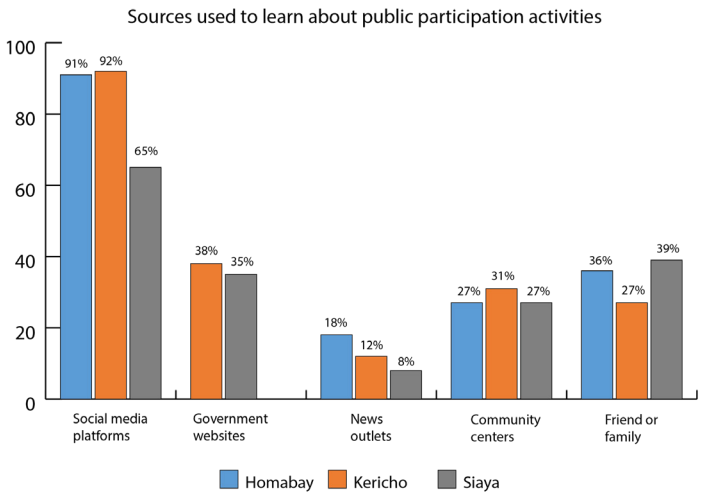
To help make these platforms responsive, participants observed that:

"There should be dedicated youth forums where young people can raise issues, and leaders can address them separately from adult forums.

"Youth representatives should be included in all community meetings or committees to ensure youth concerns are voiced and considered."

3.5.2: Sources used to learn of Participation Opportunities

Figure 3.5.3: Sources Relied on for Information on Public Participation Activities



The study also aimed to establish the sources the youth rely on to learn about public participation activities available in their communities. From the survey, it was established that social media is the most relied-on platform. In Siaya County, a majority (65%) of the young women relied on social media, 35% relied on government (both national and county) websites, 8% relied on news outlets, 27% relied on community centers, and 39% relied on their friends or family. In Homa Bay County, a significant majority (91%) of the youth relied on social media platforms, 18% relied on news outlets, 27% relied on community centers, and 36% relied on their friends or family. In Kericho County, a significant majority of the youth (92%) relied on social media platforms, 38% relied on government (both national and County) websites, 12% relied on news outlets, 31% relied on community centers, and 27% relied on their friends or family.

Other sources of information included communication from the Chief's office, village elders, and local CSOs.

Table 3.5.1: Youth Perceptions of their Efficacy in Participation in Decision-Making Processes

Statement	S.A	A	N	D	S.D
It is important for the youth to be involved in decision-making processes that affect them	91%	9%	-	-	-
My opinions and ideas are valued in decision-making processes	73%	27%	-	-	-
I believe I can influence decisions that affect my community	82%	18%	-	-	-
I have confidence in my ability to communicate my views/opinions to decision-makers	73%	27%	-	-	-
The youth are well equipped with the relevant information to make their participation in decision-making processes effective	64%	27%	-	9%	-

In Homa Bay County, the study also focused on the internal and external efficacy measures when it comes to youth participation. The respondents were asked to state the extent to which they agreed with five statements measuring their self-efficacy. Generally, there was a high sense of self-efficacy among the youth when it came to their participation in decision-making processes. When it came to the idea that they need to be involved in decision-making processes that affect them, 91% strongly agreed and 9% agreed.

When it came to the notion that their views are valued, 73% strongly agreed, and 27% agreed with this. When it came to the belief in their ability to influence decision-making, 82% strongly agreed, and 18% agreed. In the FGD, one participant responded that:

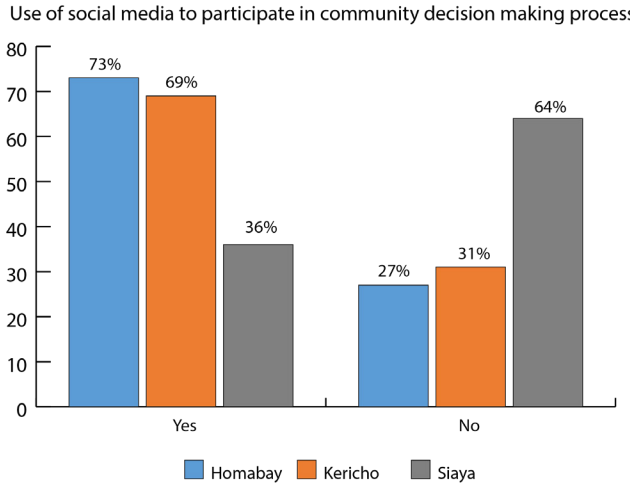
"Our ideas are not always valued. In many cases, youth ideas are heard but not acted upon, possibly because leaders think our concerns are not urgent or practical."

When it came to their confidence in their ability to communicate their views to decision-makers, 73% strongly agreed with this, and 27% agreed. When it came to the notion that they are well equipped to make their participation in community decision-making effective, 64% strongly agreed, 27% agreed, and only 9% disagreed with this.

3.5.3: Social Media Use for Participation in Decision-Making Processes

The study also aimed to establish the extent to which the youth make use of social media platforms to participate in community decision-making processes.

Figure 3.5.4: Use of Social Media to Participate in Decision-Making Processes

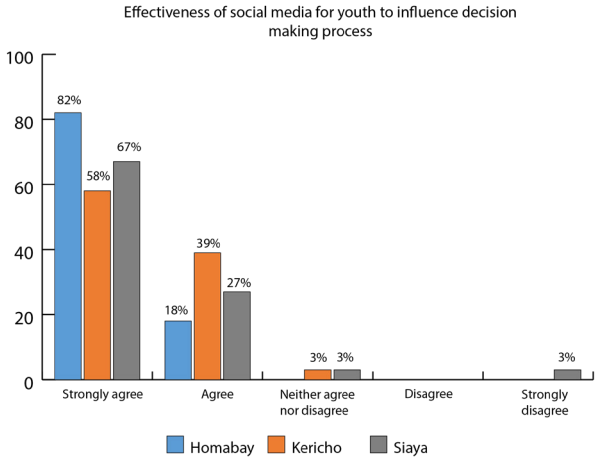


To begin with, respondents were asked to state whether they had participated in decision-making processes via social media platforms. In Siaya County, 36% reported they had, and 64% reported they had not. In Homa Bay County, 73% of the respondents had, and 27% had not participated in decision-making processes via social media. In Kericho County, 69% reported using social media platforms to participate in decision-making processes, and 31% had not.

Some of the social media platforms used by the youth include WhatsApp, Facebook, X, and Instagram.

"We often use WhatsApp groups to discuss local issues and to coordinate activities like clean-ups and youth meetings which helps us stay organized and united."

Figure 3.5.5: Effectiveness of Social Media Use in influencing Decision-Making Processes



In establishing the utility of social media for youth to influence decision-making processes, respondents were asked the extent to which they agreed it was an effective tool. In Homa Bay County, 82% strongly agreed, and 18% agreed with this. In Kericho County, 58% strongly agreed, 39% agreed, and only 3% neither agreed nor disagreed. In Siaya County, 67% strongly agreed, 27% agreed, 3% neither agreed nor disagreed, and only 3% strongly disagreed.

Some of the participants in the FGDs believed that the youth could leverage social media to increase their influence. They observed that:

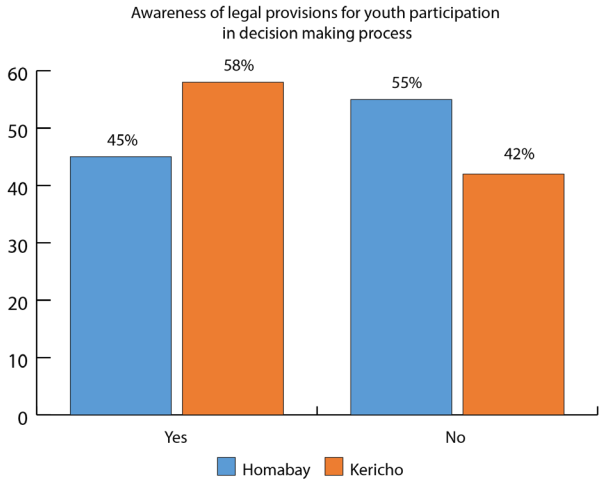
"The youth can use social media to create awareness on specific issues affecting us, tagging local leaders and influential figures to bring attention to these matters."

"We can use social media to organize online campaigns, such as hashtag challenges. This could help us mobilize support for key issues and show decision-makers the level of interest and concern among the youth."

3.5.4: Legal Provisions on Participation in Decision-Making Processes

The study aimed to establish whether the youth were aware of legal provisions that provide for their participation in government decision-making processes.

Figure 3.5.6: Awareness of Legal Provisions for Youth Participation in Decision-Making Processes



In Homa Bay County, 45% of the youth were aware, and 55% were not aware. In Kericho County, 58% of the youth were aware, and 42% were not aware.

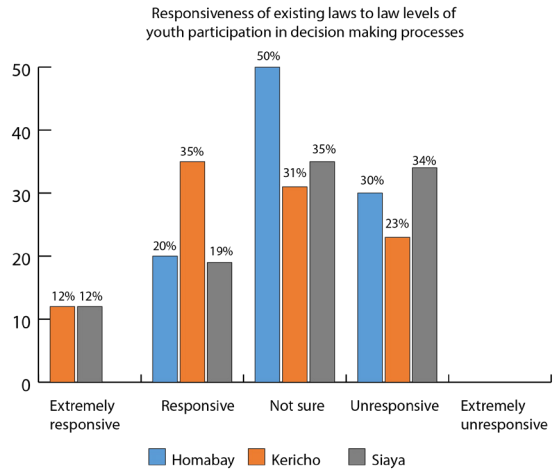
Some of the laws and provisions mentioned included:

1. The Constitution of Kenya, 2010 (Articles 10, 55 & 69);
2. The Public Participation Act, 2016
3. The County Government Act, 2012
4. The National Youth Council Act, 2009

For Homa Bay County, the study also sought to establish youth's views on whether the existing laws have enhanced youth participation in decision-making processes. From the survey, 60% believed they had, and 40% thought otherwise.

The study also aimed at establishing the views of the youth on the responsiveness of these laws to the low levels of youth participation in decision-making processes.

Figure 3.5.7: Responsiveness of Existing Laws to Low Levels of Youth participation in Decision-Making Processes



In Homa Bay County, 20% of the youth believed they were responsive, 50% were not sure, and 30% thought they were unresponsive. In Kericho County, 12% thought they were extremely responsive, 35% thought they were responsive, 31% were not sure, and 23% thought they were unresponsive. In Siaya County, 12% thought they were extremely responsive, 19% thought they were responsive, 35% were not sure, and 34% thought they were not responsive.

For those who believed the existing laws were unresponsive, some of their justification included (1) Lack of implementation of Public Participation resolutions, (2) limited youth voice and engagement in decision-making, and lack of awareness of the policies among the youth.

Some of the barriers faced by the youth in their effort to participate in decision-making processes include:

1. Lack of proper communication on the dates and venues of public participation forums. Communication might also be done in an untimely manner;
2. Their views being considered as less significant by older members of the community;
3. Lack of proper information to rely on when participating in decision-making processes;
4. Time is also a factor as most are focused on trying to look for money to cater for their needs;

The study also highlighted the impact these barriers have on youth participation in decision-making processes. One participant in the FGD observed that:

"There is need to improve on the communication challenges to allow more youth to participate in decision-making processes."

In addressing how these barriers affect their participation, another observed that:

"These barriers have discouraged us as youths and we have stopped participating in decision-making processes"

Some of the ways the youth believe youth participation would increase include:

1. Reaching out to youths at the grassroots level in the rural parts of the Counties;
2. Educating the youth on the laws that provide for their participation in decision-making;
3. Utilizing social media for community dialogue;
4. Ensuring there is accountability in addressing youth concerns;
5. Creating youth-friendly processes such as flexibility of meeting times and using simplified language during decision-making processes; and
6. Educating the youth on the importance of their participation in decision-making processes;

Chapter 4

Conclusions & Recommendations



4.1: GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

The study's main objective was to establish the current status of human rights issues with a focus on Youth rights in Homa Bay County, Youth participation in environmental conservation and climate change initiatives in Kericho County, and Young women's rights in Siaya County. Some of the gaps the study identified were the low levels of youth engagement in decision-making processes and challenges in accessing economic opportunities.

4.2: HOMA BAY COUNTY

A majority of the youth are aware of programs at the community level that support their education and empowerment. The study also established that the lack of finances to support their education was the greatest challenge the youth faced in trying to access educational opportunities. In terms of participation in informal economic activities, a good number of the youth are involved in these activities. The biggest challenge faced by the youth in terms of their economic rights is the lack of support in accessing employment opportunities. There is also limited knowledge among the youth on how to access legal support in the event their economic rights are violated. When it comes to participation in decision-making activities, the youth are utilizing social media platforms to make their voice heard. There are also high efficacy levels among the youth when it comes to their participation and ability to influence decision-making.

4.3: KERICHO COUNTY

The study established that there were high levels of awareness among the youth about climate change and that a majority of the youth utilize social media platforms to stay informed about environmental and climate change issues. Most of the youth are also knowledgeable about the legal frameworks and policies on the environment in Kenya but believe that the enforcement bodies have been ineffective in executing their responsibilities. A majority of the youth are also involved in environmental conservation initiatives. When it came to the efficacy of their involvement, there was a high level of self-efficacy about the impact of their involvement. One of the biggest challenges the youth face in their efforts to participate in environmental conservation initiatives is inadequate finances. When it came to participation in decision-making processes, most of the youth were aware of platforms that provide room for their participation and most have utilized social media platforms to increase their voice in decision-making processes.

4.3: SIAYA COUNTY

One of the main challenges young women face in accessing educational opportunities is the lack of financial resources that is a result of the general economic conditions they live in. The majority of the young women are also not aware of the AGPO program, which seeks to provide government procurement opportunities to young people to uplift their economic conditions. When it comes to access to healthcare rights, there is a general sense of accessibility to these services. However, cost constraints act as a stumbling block to young women trying to access these services. Issues of GBV are still prevalent in the County, especially those touching on the psychological and emotional well-being of young women. The study also established there are some low levels of acceptance/normalization of GBV among young women which needs to be addressed through proper awareness programs that will promote a cultural change towards GBV issues in the community.

4.3: RECOMMENDATIONS

The study makes the following recommendations for each of the three Counties.

For Homa Bay County:

1. Government officials should collaborate with CSOs and CBOs to create awareness among the youth on the programs that support their education and empowerment at the community level;
2. Relevant political offices need to design financial support strategies for youth beyond the secondary school level to support their educational pursuits;

3. Youth-led CBOs need to create platforms that offer support to the youth in helping them access employment opportunities;
4. Youth-led CBOs need to work with relevant stakeholders to come up with legal aid clinics to help the youth learn of their economic rights and how to access legal services when their economic rights are violated; and
5. Community decision-making platforms need to embrace technology and address youth concerns to encourage more youth to participate in decision-making processes;

For Kericho County:

1. Relevant stakeholders (both public and private) need to establish financial support mechanisms to youth-led CBOs to support their environment conservation efforts;
2. The county government should collaborate with the environmental-focused CBOs as a way of addressing environmental issues at the grassroots level;
3. There is need to have more sensitization/awareness campaigns to encourage more youth as well as community members to participate in environmental conservation initiatives; and
4. Stakeholders should provide capacity-building forums to members as well as leaders of youth-led CBOs in the environment sector to equip them with the relevant skills and enable them improve their advocacy and lobbying capacity;

For Siaya County:

1. Stakeholders need to device financial support strategies and mechanisms to support the education of young women;
2. There is a need for effective policy frameworks on the re-integration of young/teenage mothers into the education system;
3. There is a need for awareness campaigns on the AGPO program so that more young women are aware of it and how they can benefit. Also, there is need to address the corrupt tendencies in the process so that there is equal chance of everyone benefiting;
4. Relevant stakeholders at the County level need to establish financial support mechanisms to support young women entrepreneurs in the informal economic sectors; and
5. There is a need for communal education to address GBV issues as well as eradicate the cultural attitudes that normalize the practice. Also, the enforcement mechanisms should be strengthened so that reported cases are dealt with within a short period of time and those who report such cases aren't victimized in the community;

APPENDICES

Appendix I: Survey Questionnaire on the Status of Young Women's Rights in Siaya County

INTRODUCTION

This survey has been commissioned by **Siasa Place** in partnership with **Dak Achana** to collect data and analyze the perception and attitudes on the status of women's rights in Siaya County. You have been randomly selected to participate in the survey.

A. RESPONDENT'S DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

1. Age: Below 18 years [ ]18-24 years [ ] 25-30 years [ ] 30-35 years [ ]
2. Ward & Constituency: ----------
3. What is your current occupation? Student [ ] Employed [ ] Unemployed [ ] Self-employed [ ]
4. What is the highest level of education you have attained? No formal schooling [ ] Primary School [ ] Secondary School [ ] College [ ] Undergraduate degree [ ] Postgraduate degree [ ]

B. ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

1. On a scale of 1-5 (1: Strongly Agree, 2: Agree, 3: Not Sure, 4: Disagree, 5: Strongly Disagree), to what extent would you agree with the following statements with a focus on Siaya County?

		1	2	3	4	5
a.	Girls are prevented from attending school because their families prioritize the education of boys					
b.	University education is more important for young men than young women					
c.	Young women have equal access to educational opportunities compared to boy					
d.	There is availability of qualified teachers and mentors to support the education of young women in the County					
e.	There are effective policies aimed at addressing gender inequality in education					
f.	There are adequate support systems for young women with special educational needs or disabilities					
g.	Girls who have had children at an early age find it hard to be allowed to go back to school					

2. In your opinion, what barriers do young women face in accessing education opportunities?
3. What can be done to improve young women's education access?

B STATUS OF YOUNG WOMEN'S ECONOMIC RIGHTS

1. Focusing on your community, to what extent would you agree with the following statements? (1: Strongly Agree, 2: Agree, 3: Not sure, 4: Disagree, 5: Strongly Disagree

	Statement	1	2	3	4	5
a.	Societal or cultural attitudes impact on the ability of young women to participate in the workforce or economic activities					
b.	Young women face barriers from their families when seeking economic opportunities or financial independence					
c.	Young women face societal pressure or discrimination related to their economic roles or activities					

2. Are you aware of the Access to Government Opportunities (AGPO) program for the youth? Yes [ ] No [ ]

b) If yes, have you ever applied for a procurement opportunity either as an individual or in a group? Yes [ ] No [ ]

c) If Yes, have you been successful in getting such an opportunity? Yes [ ] No [ ]

d) What changes or improvements can be made to the AGPO program to ensure more youth can benefit from it?

3. To what extent are young women involved in the following economic activities in your community? (1: Highly Involved, 2: Involved, 3: Moderately involved, 4: Not involved, 5: Not involved at all)

	Type of Activity	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
a.	Agricultural activities					
b.	Small and Micro-enterprises					
c.	Chamas or Saccos					
d.	Craft/artisan products					

4. Which of the following barriers is the most serious regarding young women's ability to participate in economic activities?

	Barriers	**5**
a.	Young women lack the necessary education and skills	
b.	Lack of childcare support for young women with children	
c.	Employers prefer hiring men	
d.	It is not socially acceptable for young women to work outside the home	
e.	Lack of remote or flexible working arrangements for young women	
f.	Inadequate support for young women entrepreneurs	

4. What improvements or changes would you suggest to better support young women's economic rights and opportunities in your community?

C. HEALTHCARE RIGHTS

1. How would you rate the accessibility of the following healthcare services for young women in your community? (1: Accessible, 2: Somehow accessible, 3: Not accessible)

	Type of Activity	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
a.	Agricultural activities					
b.	Small and Micro-enterprises					
c.	Chamas or Saccos					
d.	Craft/artisan products					

CONTACTS

SIASA PLACE

Ngong Road, Kirichwa Lane Court - Hse No. 29,
Nairobi

@siasaplace Siasa Place @siasaplaceke Siasa Place Siasa Place

P O Box 86197- 00200, Nairobi, Kenya

support@siasaplace.com

+254 757 840 552

www.siasaplace.com