



# INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY 2023



## Green Skills for Youth





International Youth Day, celebrated annually on the 12th of August, is a global observance dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the immense potential, energy, and contributions of young people to society. This day serves as a platform to raise awareness about the challenges and issues faced by the youth, while also highlighting their role in shaping the world's future.

Each year, International Youth Day is organized around a specific theme that reflects the current global issues affecting young individuals. This year the theme was **Green skills for youth** focusing on climate action and empowering the youth to show their innovations around the same.

One of the most significant aspects of International Youth Day is its emphasis on empowering young people to participate actively in society. The day highlights the importance of providing them with a platform to express their ideas, concerns, and solutions, thus giving them a voice in decision-making processes. By doing so, it recognizes that the youth play a crucial role in shaping policies, driving innovation, and bringing about positive change.

To this end, Pathways this year, supported the planning and actualization of three youth activities across Kenya, that allowed for the youth to express their ingenuity and prowess.

The first event took place in collaboration with **The Link Empowerment Center in Githurai, Nairobi**. The week-long event spanning from Tuesday to Friday, involved a series of activities:

The event had a unique theme aimed at raising awareness about youth-related issues "Celebrating ways youth lead as agents of change for the global goals." Its purpose was to draw attention to various challenges facing young people worldwide, particularly in Kenya, where political and economic difficulties such as unemployment, high inflation, and food insecurity have had a negative impact on the youth, leading to poor decision-making.



# THE LINK EMPOWERMENT CENTER IN GITHURAI, NAIROBI

## DAY 1

Ahead of the Main event, there was a dialogue involving 50 participants, including community leaders, administrators, and youths, aimed at identifying key issues to be addressed during the open-air event. Notably, the dialogue was graced by the presence of local authorities, including the Area MCA, Roysambu youth officer, Area ward admin, social development officer, and representatives from partner organizations. Simultaneously, a sensitization campaign, led by a partner caravan, The LINK dancers, and peer educators, emphasized the importance of Youth Week and the upcoming activities. This approach to mobilization took Githurai youth by storm and made them very excited for the



## DAY 2 & 3

The second and third days involved more sensitization to the public by the Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) and peer educators. The sensitization campaign continued through partner caravans, The LINK dancers, and peer educators, all playing crucial roles in promoting the significance of Youth Week and the various planned activities.

## DAY 4

The event commenced with the national anthem, followed by a welcoming address by Zachariah Kahwai on behalf of The LINK Empowerment Initiative, the event's convener. He introduced the event's objectives and theme, encouraging young people to participate fully in the day's festivities and access the services and information provided.

The day had three activities that took place simultaneously, Integrated Youth-Friendly Services: The event offered free health services to young people and the wider community of Githurai. The Beyond Zero truck, stationed at the event grounds, provided general medical treatment, and had a dedicated space for sexual reproductive health and rights services. This allowed for impactful reach to the youth.

Secondly, in a space designated for fun learning, peer educators engaged the youth in peer education activities to provide accurate information on sexual health and rights, dispel myths, and address misconceptions.

Finally, to climax the day various talent competitions, such as dancing, spoken word, and beauty pageants took place to engage young people. The Beauty pageants had the youth cheering and supporting each other and served as a platform for selection of role models for the younger youth who had never experienced pageants before, The Mr. and Miss Githurai were crowned and as the ambassadors for the youth were assured that through The Link Empowerment Centre would be equipped with knowledge and information to share with their peers and advocate for youth issues using their titles.



Services offered:

69	Family planning services
30	HIV testing
126	GBV sensitization and referrals
128	Cancer screening
154	Beyond Zero services
3460	male condoms distribution





The second activity PPI was involved in was The Dreams Youth Expo, organised by PPI's partners Drawing Dreams Initiative.

The objectives for this initiative were to;

- Enable young people to access Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) information and referrals to relevant facilities.
- Celebrate International Youth Day 2023 with fun activities at The Youth Friend Zone, organized by PPI in collaboration with The Leo Project.
- Provide a platform for exhibitors to showcase their goods and connect with potential clients.
- Offer exhibition space for youth involved in SMEs, Creative & Digital Economy to promote their products and services.
- Connect young people in business and those out of school with key stakeholders, including National/County Governments, Corporates, Financial Institutions, Learning Institutions, NGOs/NPOs/FBOs/CSOs/CBOs.
- Raise awareness about the role of youth in circular economy models and the importance of sustainable ventures in reducing future carbon footprint.
- Provide exposure to new ideas, emerging trends, and technologies.

Allow established market players to access new markets, gain insights into consumer trends, expand customer base, and access untapped business opportunities.



The event kicked off with a tour of exhibitor booths by the Guest of Honor, The Deputy governor of Laikipia County Hon. Reuben Kamuri, Ms. Grace Wanene (Founder of the Drawing Dreams Initiative), and Lucky Namunyak (Policy Associate at Pathways Policy Institute) among other Partner organisations representatives.

The tour engaged 65 exhibitors from different sectors. The deputy governor interacted with exhibitors, even making purchases from some booths. There was a particular interest in informing young business owners about resources tailored for their demographic, such as the Youth Enterprise Support (YES) Fund and the Hustlers Fund.



The opening ceremony was led by Mr. Epiphany Muriuki, the event's official MC, who initiated the program with the national anthem and a warm welcome. Attendees included government representatives, partner organizations, and curious onlookers who were very eager to join in on the fun. The event received extensive media coverage from K24, Inooro Tv, Citizen Tv, and local radio stations. Participants from various fields exhibited enthusiasm, creating a lively atmosphere.



Pathways Policy Institute, in collaboration with The Leo Project, integrated fun games, entertainment, and education into the expo with a "GameZone" offering engaging activities, including games like darts, card games, and chess. Participants also had candid discussions about contraceptive choices and reproductive health with a nurse from Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital.

Within the GameZone, diverse contraceptive methods and models of the reproductive system were displayed, sparking conversations and dispelling misconceptions. Notably, the event encouraged men to understand female-focused contraceptive methods and their implications on women's health.

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The Drawing Dreams Initiative received support from Light for the World, promoting inclusivity and showcasing products made by entrepreneurs with disabilities. Potential partnerships were explored, with Light for the World proposing an inclusive training program for PPI staff and volunteers, aimed at empowering individuals with disabilities and fostering equal representation and participation.

The Dreams Youth Expo has consistently served as a valuable platform for engaging Laikipia's youth, fostering connections with leaders, and promoting products and services. The event's inclusive nature has facilitated fruitful interactions and partnerships. The event addressed crucial themes, including Sexual Reproductive Health, conservation, disability inclusion, youth and women's empowerment, and the fight against gender-based violence. It also explored sectors such as fashion, food preservation, co-working spaces, hospitality, and recycling initiatives.

PPI climaxed the event with a condom blowing and water game that involved carrying water with a condom to show its elasticity. This preceded a runway show that wowed the participants gave a beautiful end to the very vibrant and impactful day.

The Dreams Youth Expo successfully combined education, entertainment, and inclusivity, creating a vibrant and informative platform for young people and entrepreneurs alike.





# LAIKIPIA YOUTH WEEK

HELD ON THE 10TH OF AUGUST 2023 AT LIKII PRIMARY SCHOOL.

POWERED BY YOUTH FOR CHANGE AND CHARITY – YCC.

*THEME; Green Skills for youths towards a sustainable world*



The event aims to motivate the younger generation to become proactive agents of change by equipping them with essential skills and knowledge to tackle environmental challenges. It underscores the importance of nurturing youth who understand eco-friendly methods, renewable technologies, and sustainable development principles.

The event started at 10:30 AM at the Kanu grounds and featured a lively procession to Likii Primary School, where the festivities unfolded.

Distinguished figures, including Laikipia County's CEC of Health, Albert Taiti and a representative of Governor Joshua Irungu office, oversaw the proceedings. County officials pledged to revise strategies to involve youth in county initiatives and prioritize their concern while Partner organizations introduced themselves and discussed their efforts to address youth employment and combat drug abuse. The event provided youth-friendly services, including family planning, health checks, and referrals.

Njeri Muthaura, representing the youth at Pathways Policy Institute, emphasized the importance of youth engagement and personal growth. The event featured captivating performances from different youth groups, a tree-planting session, and a youth football match to climax the day. The Laikipia Youth Week aimed to empower youth, encourage sustainability, and celebrate their contributions to the community.

In a world characterized by rapid technological advancements, social change, and complex global challenges, International Youth Day served as a reminder that the energy, creativity, and determination of young people are vital resources for creating a better future. By acknowledging their potential and addressing their needs, PPI believes our societies can harness the power of the youth to build a more inclusive, sustainable, and equitable world for everyone.

To celebrate the significant role played by Laikipia's youth in shaping the youth development agenda, Pathways also in collaboration with the Youth for Change and Charity (YCC) organized a three-day event dubbed "Laikipia Youth Week" from August 10th to 12th, 2023. The main agenda for this event was to;

- Advocate for the full implementation of the Laikipia Youth Bill, establishing a dedicated youth Directorate with a chief officer overseeing youth programs.
- Lobby for the resumption of paid internships for Laikipia youths in higher education.
- Push for the creation of youth empowerment and wellness centers in every ward, serving as innovation hubs and recovery centers.
- Recognize the importance of safe spaces for youth and their role in youth development.
- Engage youth in activities related to their needs, interests, and decision-making processes.

This year's theme aligns with International Youth Day and highlights the vital role of young people in addressing climate change, conserving natural resources, and promoting a more eco-conscious future. The theme emphasizes the need to integrate sustainable practices across various sectors, such as agriculture, energy, construction, and innovation, where youth can make meaningful contributions.