



YOUTH AND WOMEN DEPARTMENT 2023.

Hello from the Youth and Women Department at Pathways Policy Institute (PPI)! We're excited to bring you the most recent developments and initiatives revolving around population, health, and the environment, with a special emphasis on security (PHEs). At PPI, our goal is to create a secure space for communities to participate in public policy-making on both national and sub-national levels. Through policy analysis, dissemination, and capacity building, we equip community members especially women and youth to champion evidence-based decision-making using the SMART Advocacy methodology.

In my role as the Youth and Women Associate, I am dedicated to advancing the mission and objectives of our department, particularly advocating for the rights and well-being of youth and women within our organization. Throughout the past year, our department has actively participated in a range of initiatives.

1. 3rd JASIRI Youth Champion Boot Camp Advocacy Training.

An initiative based on the power of informed youth to influence change. The project's first phase trained 17 youth champions evenly distributed across Laikipia County's three sub-counties: Laikipia North, Laikipia East, and Laikipia West. The second phase included Nakuru and Nyeri counties, training 22 youth champions from the three counties; Laikipia, Nyeri, and Nakuru. The third phase included Narok, Isiolo, Samburu, Machakos, and Marsabit counties training a total of 38 youth champions from the eight counties; Laikipia, Nyeri, Nakuru, Narok, Isiolo, Samburu, Machakos, and Marsabit. The fourth phase included Isiolo and Samburu counties training 24 youth champions. Making a total of 101 trained JASIRI youth champions. As a result, they make better-informed decisions that result in better outcomes, which strengthens their commitment to understanding and protecting human rights, and democracy, and eventually become leaders and change agents. Youth champions obtain a deeper understanding of SMART advocacy and budget advocacy skills.

<https://pathways.co.ke/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Jasiri-Youth-Boot-Camp-1.pdf>

2. #Tupepee2HighSchool Program

Using our mantra of meaningfully engaging communities (MEC) we developed a transitioning mentorship program dubbed #Tupepee2highschool an initiative that is anchored on the power of informed youth to influence change and make informed choices. Transitioning from Primary to Secondary school is a time of excitement and anxiety for teenagers. This transition period coincidentally is also the stage at which puberty has begun and teenagers are

experiencing many physical and emotional changes. This stage comes with a need to show that they are independent which to parents and society is viewed as indiscipline. Outcome; Provide them with information and knowledge to navigate social and peer pressures effectively.

<https://pathways.co.ke/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Tupepee2High-School.pdf>

3. Betterboyz Program

An initiative that targeted adolescent boys in upper primary and high school in Laikipia County. Engaged in conversations about sexual reproductive needs, Menstrual hygiene management (MHM), Boy-girl relationships, life skills, and Career development. This was implemented in four schools in Laikipia county; Muramati Primary - 30 participants, Muramati Secondary - 14 participants, Neibor Primary - 32 participants, and Neibor Secondary - 42 participants making a total of 118 boys aged 11-19 years. Its outcomes were the promotion of gender-equitable fatherhood, Advocacy against discriminatory laws and policies in SRHR, Changing attitudes and behaviours that are a cause and consequences of sexual and gender-based violence and women's inequality, helping to challenge dominant gender norms and contribute to improving gender equality and the SRHR context for all. This understanding will ensure the boys respect girls' privacy in the use of these products as well as the DE stigmatization of menstruation management products. <https://youtu.be/XlaqXcVR2Lw>

4. International Youth Day.

International Youth Day which is celebrated under the Youth and Women department 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. This year the theme was Green Skills for Youth focusing on climate action and empowering the youth to show their innovations around the same. Pathways supported the planning and actualization of three youth activities across Kenya, that allowed for the youth to express their ingenuity and prowess.

<https://pathways.co.ke/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/International-Youth-Day-2023.pdf>

5. People Powered Partnership.

Our partnership with People Powered has enabled us to participate in webinars and initiatives to promote women's inclusion in participatory democracy. Through this collaboration, the Nyeri Youth and Women Associate from Pathways Policy Institute led discussions on barriers, challenges, and best practices for ensuring women's active participation. People Powered (PP), a global hub for participatory democracy, strongly advocates for direct community involvement in policy decision-making. Their initiatives, including participatory budgeting, policymaking, planning, and citizen assemblies, empower organisations and leaders worldwide to foster more participatory democracy, an event held in Mexico City.

<https://pathways.co.ke/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/A-messy-participatory-process-is-indicative-of-democracy-at-its-best..pdf>

