



THE JASIRI REVOLUTION



**Building the Capacity of Youth SRHR and Anti-FGM
Champions on Budget Advocacy and Accountability in
Samburu, Narok, and Isiolo Counties**



**JASIRI
Tuko
Ground
Tunazozana na
Facts!!!!
(We are on
the ground
armed with
facts!!!)**

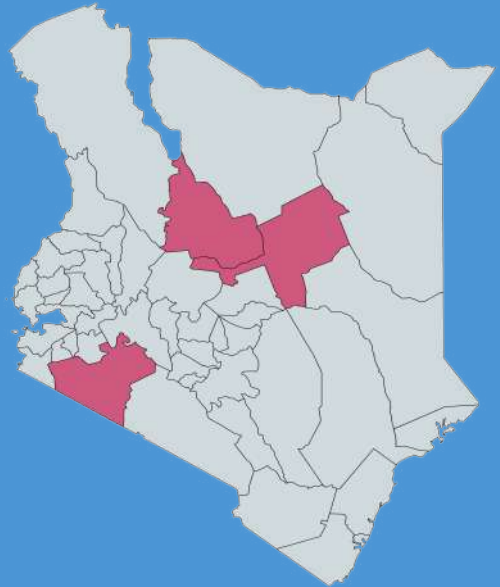
Kenya has seen a recent uproar that left many shaken. A generation that for the longest time was considered clueless or rather apathetic to matters of politics, the GenZ, known for their audacious characters, love for Urbantone music, and as the social media bunch who document anything and everything online, and will allegedly cut anybody off if they feel their mental health is compromised. They were the last group people would imagine would lead a protest.

The GenZs and a bracket of the younger millennials (let's call them Millen-Zs) recently took to the streets to march for their futures and communities, arguing that the country's duty bearers did not have the concerns of the local mwananchi (citizen) at heart. A march for accountability that lasted over a month saw youth injured and killed, many businesses closed, and a lot of anger from both the government and its citizens. This movement was a wake-up call even for older generations, who had grown quiet due to a lack of change despite their pleas. The GenZ demonstrations were observed all over the country and were termed a revolt against the government, with some saying they were not authentic and were a guise for goons to steal from other hard-working Kenyans.



however, behind the noise, there were moments when it was clear that among the marchers were kenyans who genuinely wanted change, likely because they had at some point tried talking to the county and national governments but kept hitting a proverbial dead end. this moment for kenya turned every kenyan into a lawyer, with everybody rushing to aggressively quote the constitution every chance they got. however, among those who had valid reasons for participating, some got lost in misinformation. they couldn't explain who does what in government, what happens when in the country and county budget processes and fiscal calendar, and misquoted different offices and their mandates. but from an unbiased perspective, beyond the lost police horses (yes, someone stole a police horse), the creation of great anthems that fueled the movement, and a brave, tribeless, and leaderless movement that was important for the country, it was clear that this was just a generation tired of impunity, trying to find their voice in their country's decision-making.

Pathways Policy Institute held the 6th JASIRI SMART Advocacy Boot camp, centered on the belief that when youth are given the right information, they can represent themselves and their communities. This boot camp, supported by the UNFPA 10th Country Program, aimed to empower adolescents and youth by increasing their capacity and opportunities to participate in and lead policies and programs on population and development, sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence, and harmful practices at all levels.



Youth Engagement Highlights

Total Participants: 19

Counties Represented: Samburu , Narok , Isiolo

Age Group: 19-24 years

Throughout the two-day training, the champions participated in discussions around **Climate Justice, FGM, and SRHR** and were able to identify real and county-specific problems from these topics that would guide their advocacy work in their respective counties. This information also guided and provided a base for other topics in the SMART advocacy approach, including **making sense of county budgets, problem tree analysis, defining SMART objectives, stakeholder mapping and power analysis, memo development, and finally, communication**. All these sessions were delivered in a fun approach through roleplaying and educative games like Mentimeter, Kahoot, and question-and-answer sessions. Each session ended with a group assignment that was presented before all the participants. This was a strategy to ensure active participation from all champions while sharpening their public speaking and presentation skills. After day sessions full of information, the champions ushered in the nights by swimming before dinner and then participated in bonfire conversations. These sessions allowed the youth to talk about issues they face in their daily lives, including issues around FGM, consent, experiences with contraception, and the barriers they face while accessing SRHR services, while also sharing funny stories, and debating controversial topics, including how to navigate the world as they watched the starry night sky.

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#YouthAdvocacy
#YouthLeaders
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The primary objective of this boot camp was to equip young advocates with skills and knowledge for active participation in county budget advocacy, enabling them to influence change and advocate for increased funding for SRHR and FGM programming in their respective counties. Participants engaged in sessions on county-specific reproductive health indicators, guided by facilitators through the SMART advocacy approach. They practiced evidence-based advocacy using data from the **Isiolo, Narok, and Samburu County 2023/27 County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP)** and the **2024/25 Annual budgets**. The analysis focused on how well county resources were allocated to SRHR and FGM





Narok: In partnership with the Anti-FGM Board and Tasaru Intomonok initiative, and financially supported by Robert K. Simotwo, CEC Gender of Narok County, the youth aim to reduce FGM rates from 50% to 35% by 2030. They also advocate for increased health and sanitation funding, targeting an increase from 3.2 million to 4.2 million by 2026, with support from the Narok County Health Department.


Isiolo: Youth recognized a lack of civic education on SRHR, gender, and harmful practices. The founder of Girl Concern will work with school heads across three wards to ensure that 50% of adolescents receive education on these topics by March 2025.

The boot camp concluded with an African-themed dinner and karaoke night where champions showcased their counties through song, dance, and attire. The evening ended with a certificate-awarding session, recognizing their achievements and commitment. The just-graduated JASIRI champions danced and sang till the early hours, having set clear goals and measurable targets to achieve tangible results in their advocacy work.

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