PATHWAYS
MEANINGFULLY ENGAGING COMMUNITIES

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Meaningfully Engaging Communities

Chairperson
Faith Lynkoi Kaesha

It is with immense pride that I present the Pathways Policy Institute's annual report for 2024, a year defined by progress and impact internally and also in the counties where we operate. Our mission to champion equitable policies and empower communities to own and lead change has driven remarkable achievements, reflecting the dedication and expertise of our talented team and the resilience of the women, men, girls and boys who we work with.

This year, we have successfully advanced research, advocacy, and partnerships that address critical societal challenges in Primary Health Care, Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, Environment and Climate Change issues. Our commitment to evidence-based policy solutions continues to shape conversations and create meaningful change across diverse sectors with counties investing more finances into cross sectoral approaches that have better return on investments and are sustainable.

Our progress would not have been possible without the remarkable dedication of the Pathways team, the unwavering support of our long-standing donors and partners, and the enthusiastic collaboration of those who joined us this year. We remain steadfast in our dedication to transparency, collaboration, and innovation.

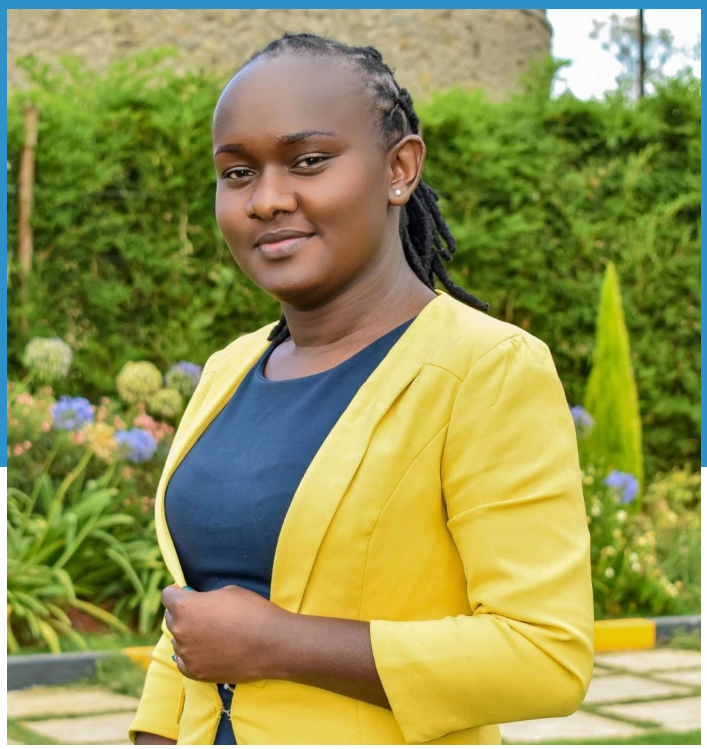
Together, we look forward to continuing this important work in the year ahead. Thank you for being part of our journey toward a more just and inclusive future.

Communications
Betty Wangui Muchiri

As the Communications Associate at PPI, it has been a privilege to amplify the voices, stories, and milestones that shaped 2024. This year, we deepened our commitment to clear, impactful messaging that not only informs but also inspires action across the counties we serve. From spotlighting our grassroots engagements to showcasing policy wins in health, gender, and climate justice, communications played a central role in building trust and visibility for our work. I am proud of the strides we made in strengthening our digital presence, producing people- centred narratives, and supporting strategic advocacy through evidence-driven storytelling. These achievements are a testament to the collaborative spirit of our team, the support of our partners, and the resilience of the communities we walk alongside.

As we look to the future, I remain committed to ensuring our stories continue to reflect the power of collective action in driving lasting policy change.

I invite you to enjoy this edition and join us in celebrating another year of growth, impact, and transformation.



Policy and Advocacy - Lucky Namunyak

In 2024, Pathways Policy Institute expanded its community-led advocacy work, with a focus on the intersections of health, environment, and climate justice. This year marked a significant milestone for PPI as we expanded our presence into Isiolo and Narok Counties , , ensuring adolescents and youth are not only heard but are meaningfully involved in shaping policies around population and development, sexual and reproductive health, and gender-based violence. Through continuous SMART Advocacy training, evidence generation, County Government key decision-maker sensitisation, and community capacity strengthening forums, we created new avenues for community voices to influence budgets and primary health care and environmental policy processes in Kenya.

We also leveraged Community Health Promoters (CHPs) as a critical link in climate response and preparedness, integrating maternal and child health services during the 2024 flood emergency response. CHPs reached over 30 households per community, distributed dignity packages, and facilitated access to reproductive health services and mobile medical clinics, ensuring that no one was left behind. These integrated efforts strengthened our partnerships with county health departments, increased community trust, and catalyzed grassroots policy advocacy around climate resilience and gender-responsive health systems.

In 2024 PPI also became an official members of HENNET and joined the Kenya Primary Health Care (PHC) Coalition. We began to impliment the PHC Advocacy Grant supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, implemented in Isiolo and Laikipia Counties. Our advocacy work under People Powered continued as we promoted participatory democracy in addressing complex local challenges. We continued with our work on budget analyses in Narok, Isiolo, and Samburu counties revealed encouraging trends, with notable increases in county allocations toward health and efforts to end gender-based violence (END GBV), particularly in Isiolo. As we move forward, PPI remains grounded in its mission—to amplify local solutions and empower communities to advance health equity, social justice, and climate resilience.

Youth and women- Njeri Muthaura

As the Youth and Women Associate, i am excited to highlight our 2024 successes! Throughout the year, the department has promoted diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) by providing opportunities for young people and women to be included in sustainable community development through budget cycles, social accountability training, Jasiri youth champion training, and Community Participatory Democracy. These programs focuses on strengthening community health systems in Laikipia County, addressing the unique challenges faced by Youth and Women in rural areas. As well provides platforms for these groups to advocate for their needs, prioritising health and climate justice in policy discussions.

This year, the JASIRI Youth Initiative Program trained 62 Youth Champions across eight counties, bringing the total of all Jasiri champions to 149 across six cohorts, equipping them with essential advocacy skills. Through thematic areas like SMART Advocacy, Budget Advocacy, SRHR and Family Planning, Climate Justice, Stakeholder Mapping, and Communication Skills, these champions have gained the tools to address pressing challenges such as environmental degradation, policy gaps, and barriers to participation in decision-making processes. Armed with this knowledge, they are prepared to advocate for equitable health systems, climate resilience, and reproductive health rights. These initiatives empower Youth and Women to take on leadership roles, ensuring their voices are central to health, climate change, and social equity conversations.

Through community outreach and engagement efforts to support youth and women, the department also supports and empowers youth and women to take on leadership roles in community engagements as well as assists in the development and implementation of programs and policies related to youth and women's rights and welfare by assisting the department in advocacy efforts for youth and women. Join us as we champion the voices of Youth and Women, shaping policies and driving change that matters. Let's build a better tomorrow, together!

Finance department Micheal Gathoni

The Finance Department has had an exceptional year 2024, comprising significant achievements despite the pronounced global turbulence, both economically and politically.

Key highlights have been the adoption of diversified funding sources to compensate for reduced global donor funding by adapting to more rigorous fund application processes and leveraging existing relationships to improve resource mobilisation techniques. This has also been strengthened through networking and collaborations with more donors and partners both locally and globally.

Besides the external resource constraints, the department has been able to maintain a balance between programmatic and administrative costs ensuring operational efficiency, and through adoption of well-calculated allocations, the organisation has remained financially safeguarded. In addition, our annual audit has received an unqualified opinion, reflecting on our strong financial management and compliance.

All these achievements have underscored the department's commitment to the overall growth and sustenance of the organisation in 2025 and beyond.

PATHWAYS
MEANINGFULLY ENGAGING COMMUNITIES

INTRODUCTION

Pathways Policy Institute (PPI) is a community-based policy and accountability non-profit organisation, Meaningfully Engaging Communities (MEC) on Population Dynamics, Primary Health Care, Environment, and Climate Justice. Pathways aims to realise local, community led solutions by strengthening community systems response to health and climate challenges .

PPI provides community-based advocates with avenues where their communities can meaningfully influence Primary health, sexual reproductive health, and environmental policiesby conducting research, training, and capacity strengthening. PPI is an independent, non-partisan, and non-religious entity.

Mission

To realize local solutions by strengthening community systems to respond to health and climatechallenges at the county and sub county levels.

Vision

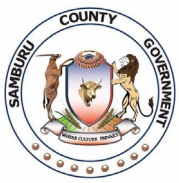
Meaningfully engaged communities that are actively involved in developing and shaping community facing policies, implementation and accountability in Kenya.

Pathways Objectives

- Undertake policy and budget review, research, and analysis to inform public policy in Kenyaand to utilise the results for community-led policy dialogue.
- Promote participatory democracy and public engagement in county policy development and implementation.
- Capacity strengthening of Youth-serving and community-based civil society organisations and County Government departments on public policy development and tracking through Social Accountability.

Our Donors and Partners

Thank you for your unwavering support and commitment to meaningful change.



+1 Global Fund for Health

RODDENBERRY FOUNDATION skoll VitolFoundation

USAID TUJENGE JAMII

Deloitte.

GoldStar Kenya

TUPEPEE2HIGHSCHOOL 4TH EDITION

Pathways Policy Institute has implemented the #Tupepee2High-School mentorship program for the past three years, focusing on helping adolescents transition from primary to secondary school. This period is often marked by excitement, anxiety, and the onset of puberty, making it crucial to equip young people with the correct information to make informed decisions.

The program aims to:

·Provide knowledge to help adolescents handle social and peer pressures.

·Prepare them for a smooth transition to high school.

Address key topics like menstrual hygiene, substance abuse, relationships, career goals, peer pressure, SRHR, STIs, and gender-based violence.

·Distribute sanitary packs to girls to combat menstrual poverty.

Through engaging with both in-school and out-of-school adolescents, PPI identified a significant gap in information, as many African parents avoid discussing puberty and related changes. This often leads teenagers to seek guidance from peers, who may share inaccurate information.

In its fourth cohort, the mentorship program has reached around 250 adolescents in Kagondo, Nyandarua, and Kwa Maina, Laikipia County. The most recent sessions in January 2024 included open discussions, breakout sessions for boys and girls, and personal storytelling from facilitators to ease students' anxieties. Participants raised concerns about high school expectations, including relationships, harassment, and peer pressure.

A total of 404 sanitary pads were distributed to 101 girls to support menstrual hygiene.

Dive in to read more on this link.

https://pathways.co.ke/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Tupepee-2024-opinion-piece.pdf

https://youtu.be/znN2tltdZSY?si=go3rRQfrh3VgX7Hv

INTERNATIONAL CONDOMS DAY 2024

We, Pathways Policy Institute (PPI), in collaboration with Laikipia Health Service, the Department of Youth Sports and Social Services, and partners such as Drawing Dreams Initiative, The Leo Project, CHAT, Hope Worldwide, NEPHAK, and Light for the World, commemorated International Condoms Day on February 11, 2024. The event featured a vibrant procession from Leo Local Nanyuki to Nanyuki Municipal Stadium, where we held football and Para volleyball tournaments alongside free health service provision.

Our initiative was driven by findings from the KDHS 2022 report, which highlighted Kenya's reproductive health challenges, including a 14% unmet need for family planning and a 15% prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) among women aged 15-49. These statistics underscored the urgent need for intensified awareness, accurate information, and accessible services. In response, we adopted a culturally sensitive, educational approach to break misconceptions, promote informed reproductive health choices, and enhance access to family planning. Our annual #RideonaC campaign, launched in 2021, played a pivotal role in raising awareness and dismantling the stigma surrounding condom use in Laikipia County.

Procession Walks and Bike Ride - #RideOnaC

The #RideonaC – 2-100CDtwendedraw procession took young riders and the para volleyball team on wheelchairs through Nanyuki town, distributing condoms at pubs, miraa vendors, shops, roadside stalls, and boda-boda stops. Public engagement varied—some eagerly took condoms, while others hesitated, raising questions that we addressed through MCs and healthcare workers. In total, we distributed 2,880 male condoms to the public.

Throughout the ride, a public address system amplified messages about safe sex, condom use, and the free services available at the stadium, where Laikipia Health Service and CHAT healthcare workers provided services such as family planning, HIV/AIDS testing, cancer screening, NCD screening, and condom distribution.

Inclusion and Support for Vulnerable Groups

Upholding the spirit of Leave No One Behind, Light for the World supported wheelchair riders and three hearing-impaired individuals in the condom distribution exercise, ensuring inclusive participation. The Para Volley team showcased their skills, challenging societal perceptions of disability and encouraging families to embrace and support persons with disabilities.

Hope Worldwide facilitated the participation of key populations at higher risk of HIV/AIDS and STIs. By involving them in International Condoms Day, we created a space for awareness, prevention, and access to critical health services.

Addressing Period Poverty Through Sports

Together with Drawing Dreams Initiative, we distributed 72 packs of sanitary pads to young girls in the tournament. This effort aimed to combat period poverty, enabling girls to manage their menstrual health and participate fully in sports. Their engagement in athletics, supported by parents, families, partners, and the County Government of Laikipia, reinforced the importance of gender-inclusive sports and personal development.

Our efforts on International Condoms Day 2024 reaffirmed our commitment to reproductive health education, stigma reduction, and inclusive health services in Laikipia County.

To read more, click on the link:
https://pathways.co.ke/wp-content/loads/2024/03/ICD-24-OP-2.pdf

EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION: OUR REFLECTIONS FROM THE 5TH JASIRI YOUTH CHAMPION BOOT CAMP

At Pathways Policy Institute (PPI), we believe in the power of youth to drive transformative change. This belief was reaffirmed during the 5th JASIRI Youth Champion Boot Camp, where we convened 33 passionate young advocates from across Kenya for a four-day immersive training in advocacy, budget analysis, and social accountability. Held from February 12th to 15th, 2024, at Mount Kenya Villas and Eco Camp Lodge in Laikipia, this milestone event strengthened our commitment to nurturing youth-led policy influence in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR).

The overwhelming response of 916 applications highlighted the growing interest among young people in advocacy. After a rigorous selection process, we welcomed 33 youths—15 males and 18 females—who demonstrated exceptional dedication and potential. Our training was designed to equip them with practical skills through interactive learning methods such as group discussions, role-playing, and hands-on exercises. We covered key thematic areas, including SMART Advocacy & the ABC Advocacy Model, Budget Advocacy with a focus on SRH budgets in Laikipia, Nakuru, and Nyeri, SRHR & Family Planning exploring contraceptive methods and accessibility, Climate Justice linking environmental sustainability with reproductive health, Stakeholder Engagement & Power Analysis mapping key influencers and decision-makers, and Strategic Communication crafting compelling advocacy messages.

We emphasised the importance of practical application, encouraging county-based groups to develop SMART advocacy objectives. These focused on pressing issues such as increasing family planning budgets, reducing female genital mutilation (FGM), and addressing mental health concerns. We aimed to ensure that each participant left with a clear action plan tailored to their local context.

The boot camp also served as a platform for past champions to share their impact. Youth leaders like Moses Otieno, Laureen Maina, and Prudence Kanana demonstrated how our advocacy training had opened doors to meaningful opportunities, including participation in health conferences, climate initiatives, and community dialogues. Their success stories reinforced our belief that when young people are empowered, they create tangible change.

We were honoured to host Laikipia County's Deputy Governor, Reuben Kamuri, whose presence underscored the government's commitment to youth-led advocacy. He engaged directly with the participants, encouraging them to take leadership roles in shaping policies that address community needs.

One of the most insightful sessions was on Climate Justice and SRHR, where we explored how climate change affects reproductive health. From disrupted healthcare access due to extreme weather events to the vulnerability of young girls in climate-related displacement, the discussions illuminated the need for integrated solutions. We emphasised that youth have a critical role in advocating for climate-resilient healthcare systems and policies prioritising SRHR.

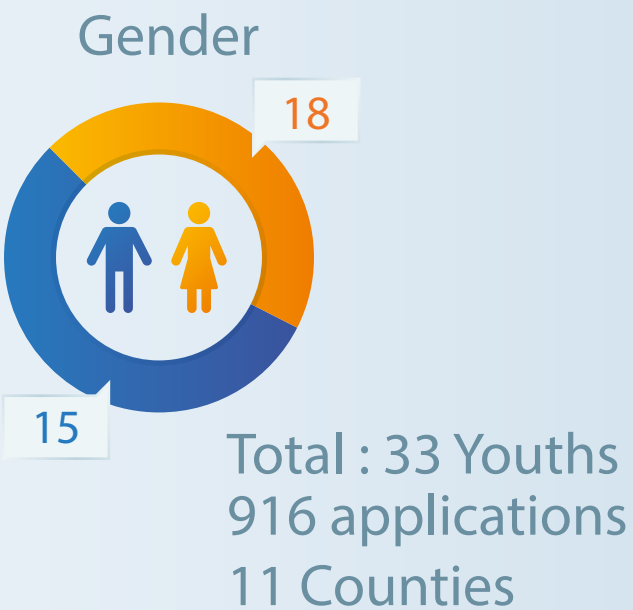
The energy from the boot camp extended beyond the training sessions. Our champions took their voices to mainstream media, engaging with outlets like K24 and Kameme TV to amplify their advocacy efforts. A symbolic tree-planting exercise further reinforced our commitment to sustainability, while networking opportunities fostered collaborations that will sustain their advocacy journey.

As the event concluded, the participants expressed a deep sense of readiness to influence policies in their counties. Equipped with knowledge of advocacy, budget processes, and stakeholder engagement, they are now positioned to be formidable voices in policy spaces.

Watch the coverage on:
Kameme TV: https://www.youtube.com/live/EJEtE-fnK_5U?si=uoHcyion6g4Auao4

KBC TV: https://youtu.be/x0ZxSaRU-e8?si=Nj4_QlXo_uCCsiCx

Read more about this here: https://pathways.co.ke/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/5th-Cohort-JASIRI-Opinion-Piece.pdf

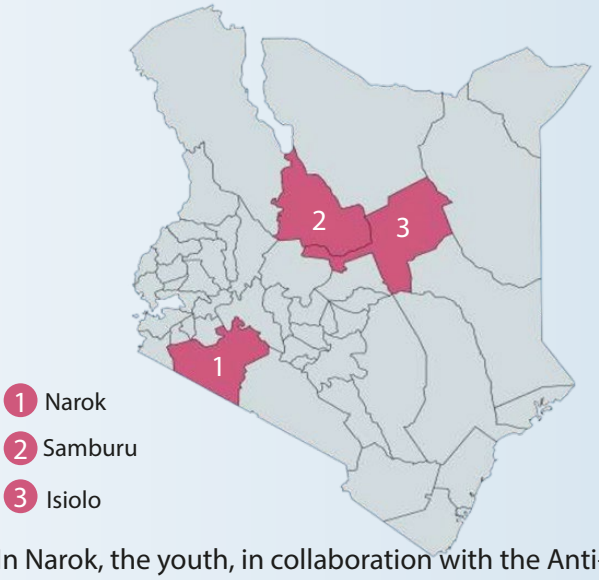


JASIRI 6 BOOTCAMP

The JASIRI 6 Youth Boot Camp on SMART Advocacy, held from August 18th to 21st, 2024, in Samburu County, was an incredible opportunity for us at PPI to empower young advocates from Samburu, Narok, and Isiolo Counties. Our primary objective was to equip these youth with the skills and knowledge they need to actively participate in county budget advocacy, enabling them to influence change and push for increased funding for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) programming in their counties.

We had 19 participants, aged 19-24, from diverse backgrounds, who were eager to learn and engage. Through fun and interactive sessions, we helped them understand the key RH indicators in their counties while guiding them through the SMART advocacy approach. The youth practised using data from PPI's analysis of the 2023-2027 County Integrated Development Plans (CIDP) and the 2024-2025 Annual Budgets for Isiolo, Narok, and Samburu counties. This analysis helped us assess how well the counties allocated resources for SRHR and FGM programs and highlighted the key stakeholders involved.

By the end of the boot camp, we successfully trained 19 youth advocates who were empowered to identify local issues and develop effective strategies to address them. The participants then drafted memoranda to the county authorities, advocating for increased budget allocations for SRHR and FGM programs. The youth from Samburu, for example, identified the high rates of teenage pregnancy, which contributed to school dropouts, malnutrition, depression, and overburdened healthcare services. They recommended implementing sex education programs, community dialogues, and providing contraception to help address these issues.



1 Narok
2 Samburu
3 Isiolo

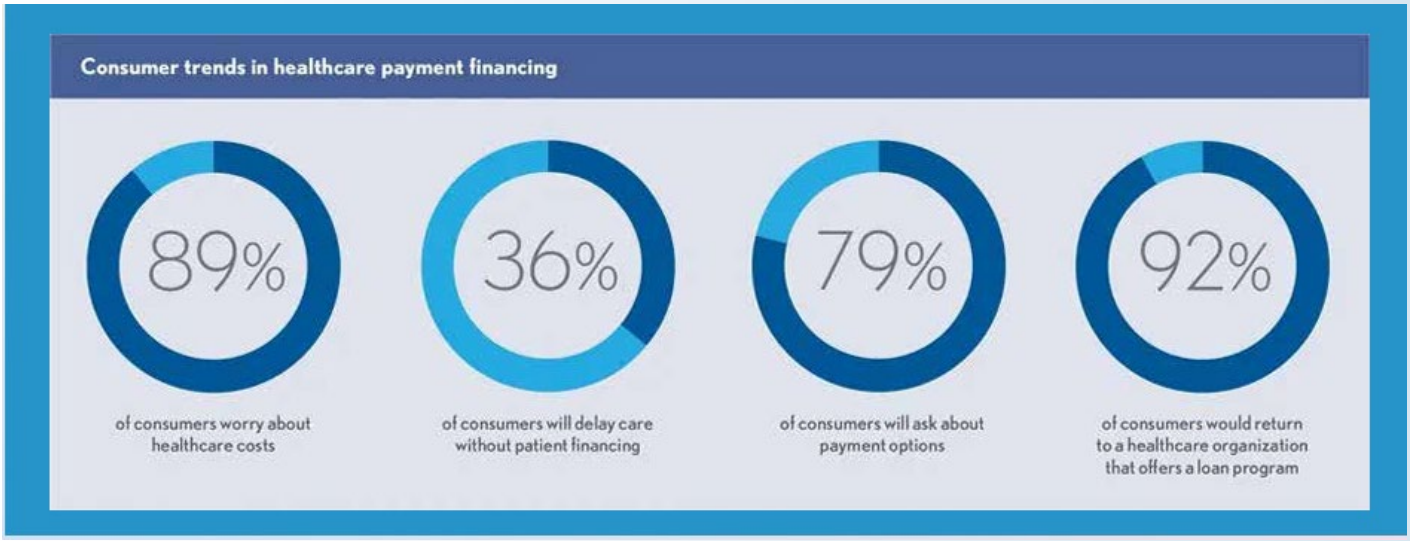
In Narok, the youth, in collaboration with the Anti-FGM Board and the Tasaru Intomonok initiative, set a goal to reduce the FGM rate from 50% to 35% by 2030. They also advocated for an increase in health and sanitation funding. Meanwhile, in Isiolo, the youth recognised a gap in SRHR and gender education and set out to reach 50% of adolescents in local schools by March 2025 with crucial information on these topics.

The boot camp ended with a session that tied together all the lessons learned. The youth displayed impressive mastery of the material and engaged in healthy competition. After a fun break for swimming and refreshments, we came back together for group discussions, where each participant crafted a SMART objective to present the following day. We then gathered around a bonfire, where the youth shared their experiences and discussed the effects of FGM in their communities. Many shared stories of how girls undergo FGM due to stigma from older women who have gone through the procedure, making them feel socially excluded.

For more information, please access the following link.

https://pathways.co.ke/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/6-JASIRI-OP_c.pdf

Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OOP) Study 2024

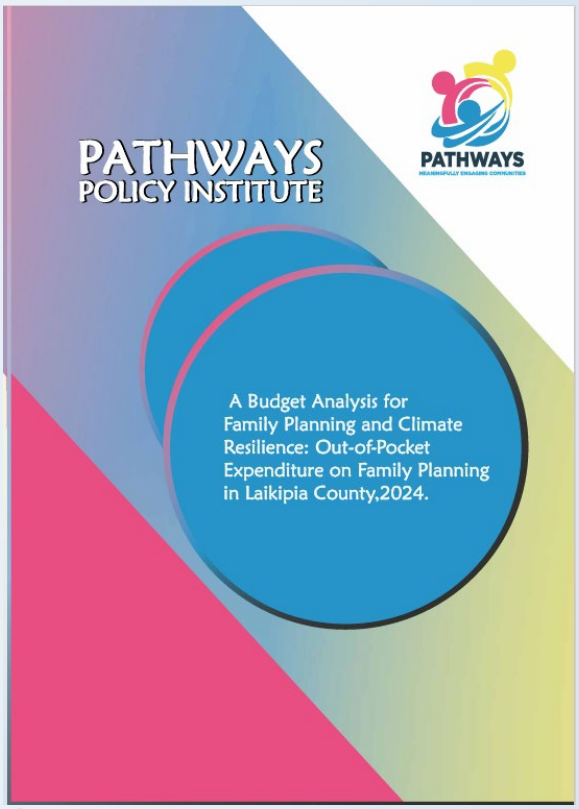


The third edition of the Pathways Policy Institute (PPI) Out-of-Pocket (OOP) study focused on Laikipia County, specifically assessing two public facilities—Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital and Nyahururu County Referral Hospital, both of which are Level 4 facilities—alongside Nanyuki Cottage Hospital, a private facility.
The study aimed to answer the following questions:
The average expenditure per woman on Family Planning (FP) and Reproductive Health (RH) services.
The preferred payment methods among clients.
The revenue generated by the facilities, particularly from RH/FP services.
The potential benefits and current implementation status of the Facility Improvement Fund.
Challenges faced at the facility level, including client satisfaction, stock-outs, healthcare worker training, and fund disbursement.
The 2024 Out-of-Pocket Expenditure study explored the financial barriers to accessing reproductive health and family planning services at both public and private healthcare facilities in Laikipia County. The report primarily focuses on understanding the economic burden women face seeking these services and identifies key payment preferences. Additionally, the study highlights the revenue generated by these facilities from RH/FP services, offering insights into their financial sustainability.

A critical component of the study was evaluating the impact of the Facility Improvement Fund, particularly in terms of its benefits to the facilities and its implementation status. Challenges faced at the facility level, such as client satisfaction, stock-outs, insufficient healthcare worker training, and delays in fund disbursements, were also thoroughly examined to provide a comprehensive overview of the healthcare ecosystem in the county.

For more details on the 2024 OOP Study, please visit

https://pathways.co.ke/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Out-of-Pocket-expenditure-Study-2024.pdf



Out of Pocket Expenditure Study Dissemination Forum For The Laikipia County Women Caucus and Budget Committees

On May 9, 2024, PPI convened a strategic forum with the Laikipia County Women Caucus and Budget Committees to present findings from a comprehensive budget analysis. The analysis focused on Family Planning (FP), Reproductive Health (RH), Maternal and Child Health (MCH), and climate resilience—highlighting the importance of integrated planning for sustainable development.

Participants included county health and environment budget officials, the County Reproductive Health Coordinator, JASIRI youth champions, LACCSOF, and other key stakeholders. The forum aimed to sensitize policymakers on the urgent need for increased and better-targeted investments in health and climate adaptation.

Key Findings:

•FP, RH, and MCH remain underfunded despite growing demand, forcing families to pay out of pocket for basic services.
•Climate change intensifies health risks, yet current budgets lack provisions for community resilience.
•Investing in family planning is a powerful tool for climate resilience—helping reduce pressure on resources and improving long-term adaptability.

Recommendations:

•Increase funding for RMNCAHN services.
•Promote registration to the Social Health Insurance Fund to reduce financial barriers.
•Strengthen collaboration between health and environmental sectors.
•Improve healthcare infrastructure and workforce capacity.
•Standardize and subsidize FP service pricing.
•Incorporate RH into climate policies and revise the Climate Change Act to include community-centered solutions.
•Empower communities through participatory budgeting and public engagement.

Looking Ahead: Stakeholders committed to engaging policymakers and integrating findings into county decision-making. There was strong support for joining the **Financing Locally Led Climate Action (FLLoCA)** program and setting up local climate committees. Plans also include installing menstrual pad dispensers in public spaces and mobilizing for the upcoming National Menstrual Hygiene Management Day.

This forum marked a critical step toward building a healthier, more resilient Laikipia, where climate and reproductive health priorities go hand in hand.

Civil Society Organization (CSO) Memo Development Forum for the 2024-2025 County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP) and Capacity Building on Budget Process-Making Program .

Budget advocacy is an essential tool for CSOs to ensure public resources are allocated in the best interest of citizens. By developing and submitting a consolidated memo, CSOs can effectively engage in budgeting and hold governments accountable for their decisions. The forum facilitated this process, enabling CSOs to develop a unified memo that addressed priority areas with evidence-based recommendations.

The forum's primary objective was to review the County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP), identify gaps in resources allocated to various departments in Laikipia County, and create a consolidated memo representing the collective concerns of the attending CSOs. The CFSP is a document prepared annually to guide the county's budget-making process, focusing on analysing past and present budgets to inform the upcoming fiscal year's budget decisions.

The forum's agenda focused on generating a consolidated memo that addressed strategic budget priorities for key departments, including Health, Education, Youth, Sports and Social Development, ICT and Public Services, Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Water, Environment and Natural Resources, and Climate Change. Additionally, the workshop aimed to enhance CSOs' understanding of the budgeting process, equip them with the tools for effective budget advocacy, and build their capacity to monitor budget implementation at the local level. Participants were provided with an overview of the budget process, which included stages such as formulation, approval, implementation, and audit. They were also trained on techniques for budget analysis, advocacy strategies, and monitoring and evaluation practices.

Participants reviewed the CFSP in small groups, focusing on Health, Youth, Education, and Sports in one group and Environment, Water, and Agriculture in the other. As a result of these discussions, members of the Laikipia County Civil Society Organizations Forum (LACCSOF) collaborated to craft and present a unified memorandum to the County Assembly. This memorandum called for an increase in the budget allocation for Family Planning/Reproductive Health/Maternal and Child Health (FP/RH/MCH) from the current Ksh 2,000,000. It also recommended the establishment of a dedicated budget line for climate change and resilience within the Laikipia County Department of Environment for the 2023/24 fiscal year.

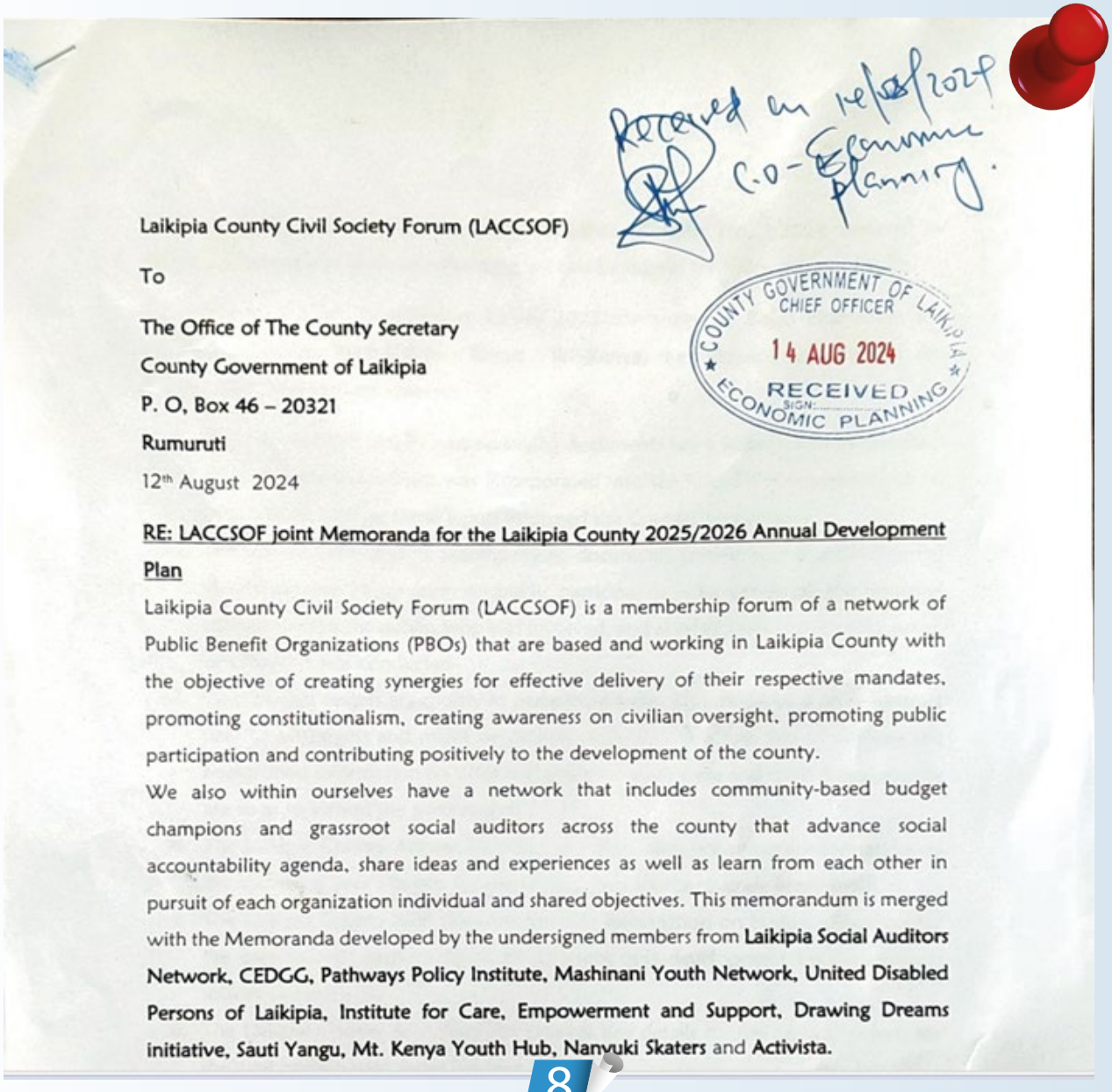
This initiative reflects the ongoing commitment of Pathways Policy Institute and its partners to empower CSOs and youth champions in advocating for crucial policy reforms to address pressing issues in Laikipia County.

LACCSOF Combined memoranda development meeting for the ADP 2025/26

In response to a call for memo submissions by the Laikipia County Government, the Laikipia County Civil Society Forum (LACCSOF), led by Pathways Policy Institute, convened to develop a memorandum to address key issues within the county's health sector. The objective of the meeting was to create a combined memorandum for submission to the County Government. Following a call for memo submissions by the County Government of Laikipia, members of the Laikipia County Civil Society Forum (LACCSOF), in collaboration with various stakeholders, developed a comprehensive memorandum addressing key issues within the county.

The memo was developed through a participatory process involving public benefit organisations, budget champions, and social auditors and focused on health, primary health care, and dispensaries, providing several recommendations to enhance service delivery in these areas. The memo highlighted several concerns regarding the health sector, including the need for specific details on facility upgrades, the inclusion of essential equipment like CT scans in major hospitals, and the operationalisation of Youth Friendly Centres. It also emphasised the importance of budgeting for menstrual health management, ambulance services, and mental wellness centres. Additionally, the memo suggested increasing the budget for maternal and child health (MCH) and HIV/AIDS programs, as well as considering persons with disabilities (PWDs) in assessment fees. The memo underscored the need for comprehensive planning in the primary healthcare sector, including integrating equipping and operating costs in facility construction budgets. It also called for formulating Facility Improvement Fund (FIF) regulations and ensuring that all health facilities had adequate water harvesting and storage systems. Recommendations:

The memo concluded with a series of recommendations, including providing a comprehensive public participation report for the 2024/2025 ADP, detailed financial reports, and increased transparency in the publication of budget documents. The CSOs advocated for including disability and gender indicators in all planning documents and for a transparent breakdown of capital projects, revenue, and grants. The memo also called for the timely publication and publication of these documents to ensure accountability.



Received on 14/08/2024
C.O-Economic Planning.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF LAIKIPIA
CHIEF OFFICER
14 AUG 2024
RECEIVED
SIGN:
ECONOMIC PLANNING

Laikipia County Civil Society Forum (LACCSOF)

To

The Office of The County Secretary
County Government of Laikipia
P. O, Box 46 – 20321
Rumuruti

12th August 2024

RE: LACCSOF joint Memoranda for the Laikipia County 2025/2026 Annual Development Plan

Laikipia County Civil Society Forum (LACCSOF) is a membership forum of a network of Public Benefit Organizations (PBOs) that are based and working in Laikipia County with the objective of creating synergies for effective delivery of their respective mandates, promoting constitutionalism, creating awareness on civilian oversight, promoting public participation and contributing positively to the development of the county.

We also within ourselves have a network that includes community-based budget champions and grassroot social auditors across the county that advance social accountability agenda, share ideas and experiences as well as learn from each other in pursuit of each organization individual and shared objectives. This memorandum is merged with the Memoranda developed by the undersigned members from **Laikipia Social Auditors Network, CEDGG, Pathways Policy Institute, Mashinani Youth Network, United Disabled Persons of Laikipia, Institute for Care, Empowerment and Support, Drawing Dreams initiative, Sauti Yangu, Mt. Kenya Youth Hub, Nanyuki Skaters** and **Activista.**

Public Participation for Budget Estimates in Laikipia and Samburu for FY 2024/25

Each year, PPI works to build young people's and community members' capacity to understand the budget cycle process. This initiative ensures that the public is well-informed about their rights and how they can influence changes in their communities, particularly in terms of planning and holding leaders accountable for allocating and using public funds within county governments.

Passionate community members are not only given the opportunity to influence change; PPI also connects them with their leaders. For instance, PPI links citizens to the County Executive's Office for Public Participation, the designated office where citizens can submit their concerns, ideas, and complaints. This office is responsible for addressing these issues and providing feedback.

This year, the Public Participation forums for the County Budget Estimates for FY 2024/25 for Laikipia and Samburu Counties were held between 22nd and 26th April 2024. Public participation is a legally recognised means of engaging in governance and service delivery. It allows citizens to submit their concerns, recommendations, and proposals, which may be incorporated into the final decision-making process.

The Public Participation forums focused on soliciting public input for the Budget Estimates, a crucial document in the annual budget cycle. As the final document, it sets the total spending for ministries, sectors, and programs at the county level.

Several challenges were observed:

1.**Document Availability:** According to the Constitution and Public Participation Act, budget documents should be available before the public participation forums. This gives the public adequate time to prepare and submit informed feedback.
2.**Venue Limitations:** In Samburu County, the three venues designated for public participation were insufficient to collect the community's views adequately.
3.**Low Turnout:** Turnout was low in some forums, likely due to poor mobilisation strategies, a lack of feedback after submissions, and the perception that public input is not incorporated into final decisions.

The memos presented during the forum addressed several key issues:
1.**Increase in FP/RH/MCH Budget:** In the Public Health and Sanitation sector, the current allocation for Family Planning, Maternal, and Child Health Services is Ksh 2,200,000. Given the rising demand for these services, we advocate for an increase to at least Ksh 4,000,000 to meet Laikipia's needs.

Staff at a Public participation in Laikipia County

2.**Water and Sanitation** – FLOCCA: The Financing Locally Led Climate Change Adaptation (FLOCCA) program currently allocates Ksh 15,000,000 for desilting dams for irrigation. We propose reallocating these funds to establish water harvesting and storage facilities, such as gutters and tanks, in health facilities across the county. This shift is justified by the existing Ksh 32,250,000 allocated for dam desilting under the Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries sectors.
3. **Civic Education Allocation:** The Directorate of Public Participation should allocate a minimum of Ksh 4,000,000 for civic education. This funding would support comprehensive initiatives to raise awareness about the County Planning and Budgeting Cycle.
4.**Citizen Scorecard:** We propose that funds designated for the Citizen Scorecard initiative be allocated to an independent, non-state entity for administration. This would ensure impartiality in evaluating public services.
5.**Increase in Public Participation Funds:** It is recommended that the allocation for Public Participation under the Department of Finance, Economic Planning, and Development be increased from Ksh 240,000 to at least Ksh 4,000,000. This will enable the department to conduct more inclusive and effective public participation activities.
6.**Response from the Department of Finance:** The memorandum also requests that the Department of Finance, Economic Planning, and Development provide a comprehensive response to the concerns raised in the memo and deliver a detailed report on public participation activities after the ongoing forums in Laikipia.

For Samburu County, the memo emphasised:

1.Transparency and Youth Inclusivity: We recommend several actions to enhance transparency and inclusivity, including:
oUpdating the county website with budget, planning documents, and policies as required by law.
oEstablishing youth-friendly platforms to ensure active youth participation in public forums.
oStrengthening civic education efforts to foster an informed citizenry, particularly among youth.

2.Expansion of Public Participation Forums: Given the concentration of citizens in Samburu West, we propose adding more public participation forums, especially in Suguta and Maralal, to ensure broader representation and engagement, particularly from youth. This would increase the number of forums from three to four.
This collective effort underscores the commitment of Pathways Policy Institute and its partners to continue advocating for vital policy changes in Laikipia and Samburu counties, ensuring that public funds are used to address the communities most pressing needs.

Samburu County CSO memo development forum

Patrick Wahome a Youth Leader and a Mashinani Development Committee Member at Laikipia County Public Participation

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE BOY CHILD

The International Day of the Boy Child celebration occurred on May 16th, 2024, at the Nanyuki Showgrounds. The event focused on raising awareness about the challenges boys face while promoting their well-being and development. At Pathways Policy Institute, we played an active role alongside schools, government representatives, and NGOs in advocating for boys' rights and empowerment.

The celebration started with a procession through Nanyuki town, where boys, public members, and participants marched together to the Nanyuki Showgrounds. Once we arrived, the event shifted to speeches and life experiences shared by the boys. We and our partners delivered impactful speeches emphasising the importance of supporting boys' well-being and addressing their challenges.

Boys from various schools participated, including Chumvi Secondary School, Likii Secondary School, Nanyuki Vocational Training Center, Sirimon Laikipia, and Thingithu Secondary School. We were also joined by notable guests such as Dr Taiti, the County Executive Committee (CEC) of Health in Laikipia, and representatives from the Ministry of Health in Isiolo County.

Pathways was proud to showcase our BetterBoyz project at the event, which focuses on mentoring boys in schools across Laikipia County. We believe that engaging men and boys is crucial for promoting gender equality, as they often hold significant power in areas such as personal decisions, relationships, government policy, and program decisions. This includes advocating for gender-equitable fatherhood, challenging discriminatory laws, and addressing behaviours that contribute to sexual and gender-based violence and women's inequality.

The event highlighted the importance of breaking rigid gender norms to achieve gender equality. These norms often undermine sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) practices. We emphasise that reproductive health initiatives involving men and boys as agents of change can challenge harmful gender norms and create a more equitable SRHR environment for all. Men support their own reproductive health and play a vital role in supporting women's reproductive health. By challenging societal norms that restrict women's and girls' reproductive rights, we strengthen gender equality.

2nd Menstrual Health Managment Summit In Kiltamany Samburu

On May 16th, 2024, PPI, in collaboration with Drawing Dream Initiative, celebrated the Menstrual Health Management (MHM) Summit in Kiltamany village, Samburu County. The event emphasised the critical connection between menstrual health and climate change, particularly in the context of pastoralist communities. It aimed to advocate for the right of individuals to manage their menstrual cycle healthily, affordably, and free from stigma.

The summit gathered diverse community members, including men and boys, to break the silence around menstruation. The inclusion of men was crucial to dismantling longstanding taboos and fostering open, supportive conversations. By empowering boys and men with knowledge about menstrual health, the event cultivated allies in the fight for sexual and reproductive rights.

Breakout sessions, led by the Pathways team, focused on creating safe spaces for discussion. Groups of young women, women, adolescent girls, boys, and men explored how to improve menstrual health management and address challenges. The dialogue aimed to raise awareness, share best practices, and develop cross-sectoral approaches to achieving menstrual equity, emphasising innovation, collaboration, and sustainability.

For more, read the full article: https://pathways.co.ke/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/MHM-2024-Opinion-Piece.pdf

7th RHNK Annual Scientific Conference on Adolescent & Youth SRHR held in Sarova White Sands Hotel, Mombasa County .

The 7th Annual Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (AYSRHR) Scientific Conference, held at Sarova White Sands Beach Resort in Mombasa, Kenya, from June 18-21, 2024, brought together over 1,000 delegates to discuss advancing AYSRHR across Africa. Key topics included digital health interventions, gender equity, and community norm shifts, with youth-led solutions taking centre stage.

Pathways Policy Institute (PPI) proudly participated, with several champions presenting impactful work on digital health, integrating AYSRHR into national development, and addressing sexual harassment in institutions. John Murage, Prudence Kanana, Faith Moraa Obunga, Betty Muchiri, and Ruth Namnyak shared their research and insights on improving access to SRHR for marginalised youth.

The event emphasised the importance of youth voices in shaping policies, focusing on mobile health technologies and ensuring that AYSRHR is integrated into national agendas. Key outcomes included a commitment to policy advocacy for accessible, stigma-free SRHR services and expanding youth-led initiatives.

For more details, visit -
https://pathways.co.ke/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/RHNK-OP-2024-fin.pdf

International Youth Day 2024: A Moment of Empowerment in Narok and Samburu

We proudly partnered with the County Governments of Narok and Samburu to mark International Youth Day on August 12, 2024. With a focus on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), the celebrations highlighted how digital tools can empower youth to drive sustainable development.

In Narok County, the theme **"From Clicks to Progress"** took center stage. Activities included a town clean-up and a lively event at Ole Ntimama Stadium, featuring music, exhibitions, and youth-led innovations. Youth leaders presented a memo to Deputy Governor Hon. Tamalinya Koech, calling for the passage of the Youth Policy and addressing issues like unemployment and FGM. PPI used the platform to showcase ongoing projects and engage with key county officials. The Narok Beyond Zero initiative also provided youth-friendly health services, including family planning, HIV testing, and cervical cancer screening. In Samburu County, celebrations at Kenyatta Stadium in Maralal were marked by the launch of an ICT hub with 67 computers, aimed at bridging the digital divide. JASIRI Youth Champions led discussions on **FGM, teenage pregnancy, and youth empowerment policies**, pushing for greater investment in reproductive health and gender programs. The Samburu Beyond Zero team offered SRH services to over 200 youth.

The events in both counties highlighted the critical role of young people in driving community development and influencing policy. County leaders reaffirmed their commitment to youth inclusion, and PPI pledged ongoing collaboration to amplify youth voices in decision-making and budgeting processes.

Today, we focus on an urgent and pivotal issue, The **ADOPTION** and **IMPLEMENTATION** of the Youth Development policy. This policy Your Excellency, which has been under consideration in our County Assembly for an extended period, is fundamental in addressing the pressing needs and unlocking the immense potential of the youth of Narok County. It represents a critical framework designed to address youth unemployment, enhance skill development, internship opportunities and to promote entrepreneurial opportunities. The prolonged delay in its implementation has left many of us in a state of **UNCERTAINTY** and **FRUSTRATION**!

In line with the provision of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 specifically Article 55, which mandates the state to take measures to ensure youth participation in governance and development as read with Article 43 which guarantees economic and social rights

including but not limited to employment, it is imperative that we act swiftly and decisively. The County Government, in exercising its powers as envisaged in the County Government's Act of 2012, has a constitutional and statutory obligation to prioritize and facilitate the implementation of policies that promote the welfare of its youth.

Your Excellency, We urge the County Assembly of Narok to expedite the adoption and implementation of the Youth Development Policy. This policy is not just a document, it is a vision for the future, a blueprint that promises to transform the lives of young people

World Contraception Day 2024 Laikipia County Edition

The **World Contraception Day (WCD)** 2024 in Laikipia County was a memorable occasion, filled with engaging activities aimed at raising awareness about contraception, promoting SRHR (Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights), and fostering community involvement. Here's a breakdown of the activities and initiatives that took place:

Pre-event Vikao (Community Engagement)

Leading up to the main event, we launched a **digital campaign** across various social media platforms—Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn—focusing on contraception awareness. We shared informative videos and messages, including a **mainstream video** that helped spread crucial information about contraception.

In addition, **pre-event outreach programs** reached over **1,200 people**, spreading awareness about contraception services and providing essential healthcare.

Key Attendees and Remarks

Dr. Timothy Panga, Chief Officer of the Department of Health, attended the WCD commemoration in Rumuruti, Laikipia County. He emphasised that while the main event was held in Laikipia West, residents across the county had access to medical services. Pre-WCD outreaches were conducted in Laikipia East and other parts of Laikipia West, with a post-event outreach planned for Laikipia North to ensure equitable access to services across the county.

You can watch the full video coverage of **Laikipia County's World Contraception Day 2024**

Innovative Solutions: Youth Kikao & Overflow Beauty College Partnership

As part of our pre-event activities, PPI held a Youth Kikao (dialogue) with 80 students from Overflow Beauty College in Nanyuki. This session provided a safe space for young people to discuss contraception and SRHR openly, empowering them to make informed choices about their health and future.

Why Overflow Beauty College? We chose to partner with **Overflow Beauty College** because salons and barbershops are spaces where personal and often sensitive conversations occur, including those about contraception and family planning. By providing young beauticians with accurate information about contraception, we equipped them to become health ambassadors within their communities. This creates a ripple effect where clients receive reliable health advice, promote healthier choices and better access to healthcare services.

Pre-WCD Community Kikao (Dialogue)

In addition to engaging youth, and held a **community kikao** with **60 community leaders**, including women, youth, and men. These leaders are critical influencers in shaping opinions and behaviours within their communities, and their involvement ensures that the information shared about contraception and SRHR is trusted, accepted, and normalised. By fostering their support, we can break down stigmas and create an environment where the wider community encourages and embraces conversations about family planning and healthy reproductive choices.

World Contraception Day at Rumuruti Stadium

The main event occurred at **Rumuruti Stadium**, Laikipia County, filled with energy and valuable learning opportunities. The day began with a **procession** from the **Governor's office** to the stadium. Once at the stadium, healthcare workers from the **Department of Health** provided free health services, including contraception services and health talks, to educate participants about contraception and the importance of supporting reproductive health decisions within families.

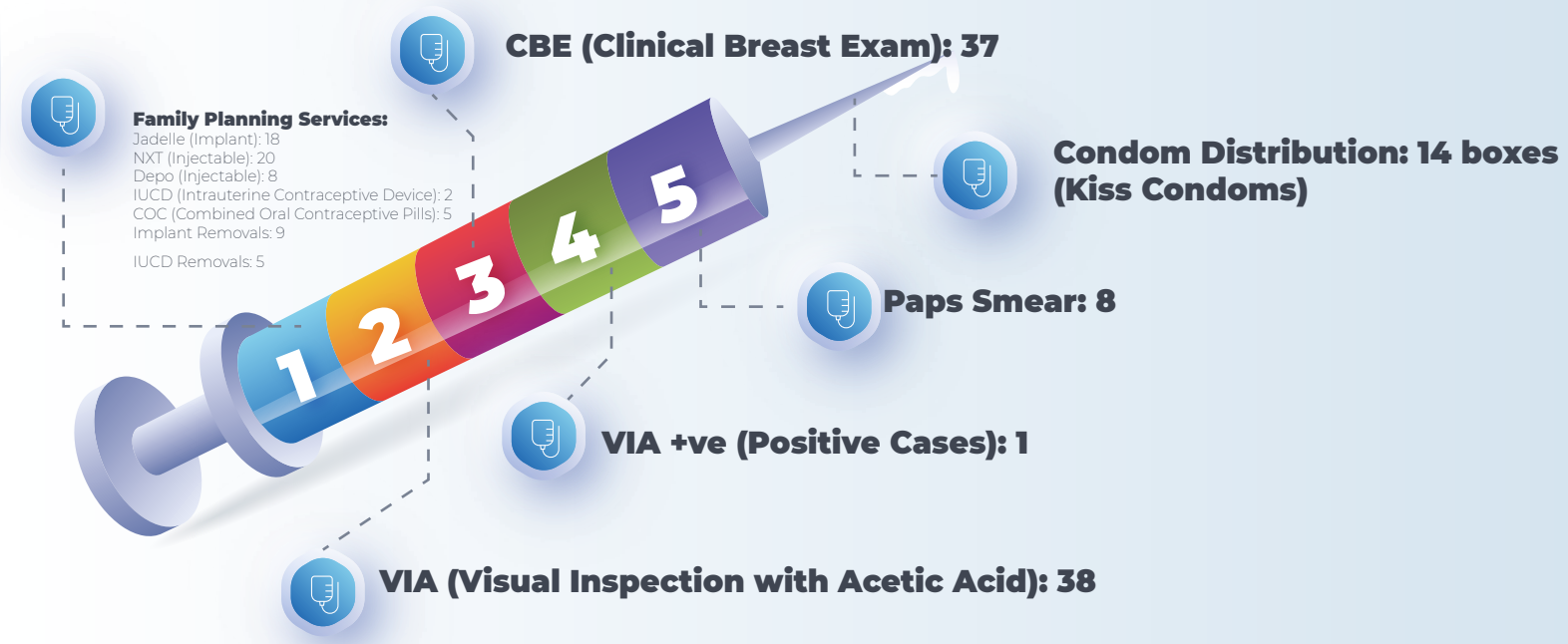
We also hosted a variety of fun activities to make the event more engaging, such as:

-Traditional dances
-Youth dance groups
-A colour festival

A condom-blowing competition, which helped showcase the dual role of condoms in contraception and STI prevention. The activity also highlighted the strength and elasticity of condoms, making it a fun yet educational experience for all.

Service Provision Corner

At the service provision corner, we offered a wide range of health services, including:



This event was a great success for PPI. It offered critical health services and created an environment where people of all ages and backgrounds could engage in meaningful conversations about contraception and reproductive health. We look forward to continuing these important discussions and empowering more individuals to make informed choices about their health. For more about this event-: https://youtu.be/Jn7XysEZl34?si=Q7NZyLrjc1EeyYdC

PAMOJA :Empowering Communities Through Participatory Democracy.

PPI launched the PAMOJA Climate Democracy Accelerator Project supported by People Powered, a bold initiative promoting inclusive and equitable climate governance in Ngobit Ward, Laikipia County. This project is rooted in the belief that communities, particularly those often left out of decision-making, such as pastoralist and farming populations, should have a direct say in shaping climate and health policies that impact their lives.

At its core, the PAMOJA Project uses a participatory democracy approach to bridge the gap between policy and people. Through grassroots committees, community forums, and collaborative planning sessions, PPI is enabling residents to engage in budget-making and policy discussions, especially in critical sectors like water management and health services.

The PAMOJA journey began with two major engagements in October and November 2024, laying a strong foundation for collaborative and community-led climate resilience efforts in Ngobit.

On 29th October 2024, PPI convened the first inception meeting bringing together Laikipia County's Departments of Health, Water, Public Participation, and Economic Planning, along with Ngobit community leaders. The meeting explored how multi-sectoral partnerships could address water and health service challenges in Ngobit, particularly through integrating community voices into planning and resource allocation. Leaders endorsed a joint approach, blending technical expertise and local knowledge, to improve access to clean water, adopt renewable energy in health facilities, and bolster climate resilience. One immediate outcome was the agreement to co-host planning forums with citizens to align priorities and implementation efforts.

Building on this momentum, the Governor's Office held a County Water Sector Stakeholders' Workshop in November in which PPI participated. The workshop focused on assessing the status of Laikipia's water sector, highlighting disparities in rural water access, underinvestment in infrastructure, and governance challenges. Participants, including civil society and government actors, proposed concrete actions like drilling boreholes, expanding rainwater harvesting systems, and enhancing public-private partnerships. Importantly, they emphasised the central role of community participation in designing sustainable water solutions.

This commitment to community voice came to life during the PAMOJA Community Forum on 22nd November 2024 at Ngobit Health Center. The forum served as a launchpad for civic engagement under PAMOJA, introducing residents to participatory democracy and equipping them with tools for social accountability and budget advocacy. Facilitated by PPI staff and Mr. David Muraguri, Laikipia County's Head of Budgets, the sessions demystified the county budgeting process and taught participants how to advocate for equitable allocation of resources.

A key achievement from the forum was the election of **10 community social auditors**, five each for the health and water sectors, ensuring gender balance and youth inclusion. These auditors will serve as watchdogs and community liaisons, monitoring project implementation and holding duty bearers accountable. Through this structure, PAMOJA is institutionalising community participation and paving the way for deeper civic engagement.

PAMOJA

NAROK COUNTY ASSEMBLY

PATHWAYS
MEANINGFULLY ENGAGING COMMUNITIES

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Thank you for being part of our journey.

Contact us :
Physical address: Mt Kenya Eco Villas Estate,
Chezlynk House
Email: Path@thepathways.org
Phone: +254 720245732

Pathways Policy Institute Pathways Policy Institute Pathways Policy Institute @PublicPathways